

# **ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2026**

## **Agenda, Minutes & Reports**

**'Worship God, love our communities, grow in faith'**



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

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7pm in the Church**

### **Vestry Meeting 2026**

*This part of the evening 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 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm
4. Matters arising.
5. Election of Churchwardens.
6. AOB.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026**

*This part of the evening 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 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm
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 2025.
6. Election of Electoral Roll Officer.
7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2025.
8. Treasurer's Report 2025.
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church.
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2026-2029 and Deanery Synod representatives 2026 / 2029.
12. AOB *please let the Rector or the church office know of any items in advance.*
13. Closing Prayer.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Richard Field, Gareth Williams, Hugh Thomas and Dot Lucas

### 2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The minutes were proposed by Pat King and seconded by Pauline Atkins

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Brief Reflections on the life of our churches, and ministry across the Parish

Ana's full reflections are here: I have written a 'reflective' report on the life, ministry and witness of our wider benefice which is on pages 5 – 6 of the agenda, minutes and reports document under 'Rector's Annual Report 2024'.

Much of what I shared there looks back over the past year at what has happened, both the good and encouraging as well as the more challenging aspects of our church life.

As a benefice, we are primarily here to share God's love in our respective communities. This should be at the heart of all we do and are as Christians.

Therefore, as I said in my written report: 'My heart and prayer is that our mission statement 'worship God, love our communities, grow in faith' continues to underpin all that we are and do within the life of the benefice of Street, Walton and Compton Dundon.'

Also, in my report, I reflected on the numerical growth we have experienced taking the benefice as a whole. This is of course exciting, and yet growth brings new and different opportunities and challenges. In order to minister to our growing congregations and beyond we are going to need more resources in terms of people to step into a whole range of ministry areas.

To give one example of the reality of what is needed. Recruiting church wardens has not always proved easy as this role can be perceived as too busy and demanding for many. In response, going forward, we are looking to develop this role as more collaborative, involving working within a wider team, particularly in the churches where we don't currently have wardens or not the full quota.

Beyond the role of warden, there are countless opportunities to serve in and beyond the life of our churches. For example, with growing numbers of young people, we need more leaders and across our churches, I want to release people to welcome, lead prayers, do bible readings, serve refreshments etc.

Often in church life, the bulk of the work is done by relatively few, but I'd love to see everyone involved. We are a church family that works best when everyone is helping to share the load and ease the burdens so that we don't risk the few burning out. 'The Harvest is indeed plentiful but the labourers are few'

Alongside our ministry day by day and Sunday by Sunday, there is a lot else going on in SWCD Churches, including bell project and reordering projects in St Andrew's and Walton respectively. These are great examples of where church members are using their gifts and talents in the service of God's Kingdom.

We've talked a great deal about finances, some would say too much, but this is also part of our ministry. Whether by regular giving, Fundraising or other activities, how we give to the life of our churches forms a part of who we are and how we reach out beyond ourselves. There's been some fantastic progress and answers to prayer in this area but we can't be complacent.

Because it's really important, I want to quote what I wrote in my report: 'I also sense a growing depth in faith with church family seeking to 'go deeper' in their faith journeys. Two well attended weekly prayer meetings, growing midweek house groups, Celebrate@6 services are just some examples of this. Let's continue to want to go deeper and see what God will do in our midst.'

Finally, as I say in my report, we're not done yet! Let's dream big, let's pray big, let's be a people who are ambitious, not for ourselves, not for our churches but for God. We serve a God who we believe can do great things. Are you up for exciting times ahead?

I can't conclude these comments without offering public thanks, again this is in the report in more detail, but can I here extend my thanks to our Parish Safeguarding Officers, Sonia, our benefice administrator, our wardens, our Treasurers and the PCC. 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, Sister Rachel Pengelly & Rev'd David Hatrey for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together.

#### **5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2024**

The electoral roll report was on page 17 of the Annual Report. The electoral roll now stood at 72.

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

Peter Robertson agreed to stand for another year. He was proposed by Julie Gordon and seconded by Gill Williams. Ana thanked him for his work this year.

#### **7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2024**

This could be found along with other documents in the APCM papers. Ana thanked everyone who had submitted reports. The reports from the Treasurer, the Electoral Roll Officer and on the Fabric were all required reports, but the other reports were for information.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report 2024**

The report was attached. Julie Gordon was available to answer any questions. Geoff Walker asked that in her Financial Report on page 4, paragraph 1, line 5, the words 'for our community outreach work' be added. This was agreed. Ana thanked Julie for doing a very demanding job. Julie pointed out to those attending that St Andrew's had to find £70 a day to pay all the bills and all that money had to be raised by us. She pointed out that there had been a £6000 shortfall last year. Pat said that there was no need for the roof and ceiling repair costs for the next year as this did not need doing.

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Debbie Shields was happy to continue for another year. This was proposed by Olive Holland and seconded by Trish Cox.

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

Ana thanked Pat for her work. Pat showed the meeting the copy of the Terrier, the list of all St Andrew's contents. There had been no change to this.

**11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2025/2026 and Deanery Synod Members 2023/2026**

Pat King was willing to continue as Deanery Synod representative and there was one vacancy still outstanding. There were no new nominations for PCC members and Judy Skelding had decided to step down. Ana thanked her for all her efforts, particularly with the Bell Appeal, and also Helen Thomas who would probably be stepping down soon too as they were hoping to move house shortly. She said that members could be co-opted onto the PCC during the year.

**12. AOB.**

There was no other business but Pat thanked Ana for all that she did and said how very grateful we were that we were able to have a service every Sunday. Pat also said she felt we could do so much with energy and drive and that we were fortunate to have so much. She thanked all for their support.

**13. Closing Prayer**

Ana closed the meeting with a prayer and we said the Grace together.

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

## **RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BENEFICE 2025**

Reflecting back on the past year, it continues to be a privilege to be your Rector and to be serving in the benefice of Street, Walton and Compton Dundon. Whilst there is much that each of our 3 parishes holds in common, there is also much that makes our parishes unique, distinctive and with their own particular 'flavour'. I have the joy of being part of all 3 and love to embrace the variety and the richness of our church family as we seek to worship, love and grow in our respective church communities.

It's also been good to meet together as one benefice, whether at our quarterly joint benefice services, discipleship courses, house groups, or social activities and other events.

We have continued to see, overall, sustained growth across the benefice which has been an encouragement in a national climate that tends to speak of church decline. Within that, we have welcomed new people to our congregations as well as saying farewell to others who have relocated during the year.

Our children's and young people's ministry has thrived and the inauguration of a fortnightly youth space based at the Mission Church has been a blessing to those who attend and indeed those who help and lead.

Other highlights of the year include the Alpha Course with around 12 guests, followed by the Bible Course attracting around 25 attendees.

The completion of the bell project and the celebration service at St Andrew's Compton Dundon was a memorable occasion attended by many and it was good to welcome Bishop Michael as he dedicated the new set of bells in the wonderfully created new ringing chamber.

Our weekly house groups have grown with now 4 groups meeting on different weekday evenings.

All of our parishes have continued to wrestle with church finances as costs rise and church members face the reality of an ongoing cost of living crisis. Whilst we have done much to build a sense of church family across the benefice, there also remains much more that could be done to encourage more of us to worship together, socialise together and share our Christian journey.

From time to time, I remind church family of our benefice mission statement:

'At SWCD Churches we are a church family who aims to: worship God, love our communities, grow in faith' and within these 3 distinctive areas of the mission statement, these are some of the things that come to mind:

### **Worship God**

This is central to who we are and all that we do and we continue to offer a variety of worship styles and experiences across our churches. The growth of the worship band at the Mission Church, more people involved in reading, praying etc at St Andrew's and Walton and the development of a distinct vibrant worshipping community at our early morning parish church service are just some of the highlights. As a benefice, we are extremely unusual in having a Sunday service in every church each week, an evening service and a well-attended weekly mid-week service.

I hope this demonstrates our commitment to the centrality of worship.

### Love our communities

Each of our parishes operates in different contexts and how they seek to love their communities will therefore look different. There is some great work going on whether it's through coffee mornings offering food and hospitality or addressing practical need through the Cox's Charity, but there is always more that we can do.

### Grow in faith

Growing numbers of house groups, a well-attended bible course and engagement with the bible through teaching on Sundays and mid-week are just some of the ways we are seeking to go deeper in our faith. A group went to New Wine whilst others engaged with Thy Kingdom Come and the Thrive initiative. We are all life-long Christian learners and this journey will continue.

We are a busy benefice, you only have to read a copy of Lifeline to see how busy we are. With growth and busyness come new pressures. These may be great problems to have but they are issues we need to tackle if we're not simply to exhaust our key people. I have begun a conversation about what we need to do to continue to grow and thrive and expect to hear more in due course.

Thinking about our church family, as well as welcoming new members, we have also bade some sad farewells as we mourned the deaths of amongst others Bill Ingham (Compton Dundon), Roger Forsey (Street), Marion Hicks (Street), Liz Selway (Walton). These faithful Christians will leave a huge gap.

I am grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officers (Steve King, Pauline Hatrey and Jenny Martin) 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 our wardens, Edd Reeve (Street until April 2025) Tim Hindle and Julie Sinclair (Street, supported by our Street Caretakers, Roger and Pam Harmsworth), Gill Williams (Compton Dundon until April 2025) Pat King (Compton Dundon), Sandra Gristock (Walton), our Treasurers, Sonia Beaty (Street and Walton), Julie Gordon (Compton Dundon) and the PCCs. 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, Sister Rachel Pengelly & Rev'd David Hatrey for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together. I'm particularly grateful to all those who covered to allow me to have extended leave in January / February 2025.

And yes, I know that in writing this last paragraph, inevitably I will have missed someone. I believe that we are all called to serve and so however and wherever you serve, thank you.

Ana Lawrence, Rector

### **2025 APCM REPORTS**

### **BENEFICE REPORTS**

## **Safeguarding Report**

### **PSO Meetings:**

The PSOs for Street, Walton & Compton Dundon met regularly this year, continuing our ethos of mutual support and information sharing relative to DBS checks, Dashboards and Safeguarding Hubs. In early 2025 we were very happy to welcome Pauline Hatrey to the group to take on the PSO role at Walton, but sad to see Sandra leave the group after many years of dedication to the role.

### **Parish Safeguarding Hubs & Dashboard:**

Compton Dundon accomplished Level 3 on its Safeguarding Dashboard, giving full access to the Parish Hub software. We now welcome the fact that access to the Hub is open to *all* Parishes regardless of the level that they are operating at on the Dashboard. Steve had planned to trial the 'HR' aspect of the hub that looks at staffing, recruitment and certification in order to report back to Pauline and Jenny, but time pressures have not resulted in much data being uploaded to the software. This notwithstanding, the group has worked very hard to populate an up to date spreadsheet of roles, training, and DBS checks ready to upload, this being essential in order to streamline future data entry. We are particularly cognisant of the very complex role taken on by Jenny, who oversees the PSO role in two churches, one of which has had an influx of worshippers who are willing to undertake various volunteer roles.

### **Training:**

We have striven to ensure that all levels of safeguarding training that is required for specific roles are up to date and documented. We have tried to introduce face to face training led by the Diocese, but lack of staffing at Flourish House has led us to arrange for in-house delivery. So our thanks to David Hatrey for carrying out training in order to deliver Basic and Foundation levels to Benefice participants.

### **Safeguarding Focus Service – 23<sup>rd</sup> March:**

As the Safeguarding focus service forecast for December 2024 was postponed by Walton and Street parishes due to a clash with a large Baptism Service, this was rescheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. The Focus Service looked at safeguarding in general but also touched on the INEQE Audit and the need for CofE Safeguarding reform. As a result of this audit, Safeguarding software such as Hubs and Dashboards have been influenced by an independent board of employees outside of the CofE. More robust evidence of events, actions and protocols are now required to complete these safeguarding tools.

Pauline Hatrey, Jenny Martin, Steve King, Parish Safeguarding Officers.

### **Prayer Support Group – Our work in 2025**

Tucked away on the inside back cover of Life are the contact details for the Prayer Support Group.

We are a small group of people from across the Benefice who have committed to prayerfully stand alongside you and those dear to you when you/they need prayer.

Our overarching rule is that of confidentiality. First, what we pray for within the Group stays in the Group. This is to respect that some situations where prayer is desperately needed have a sensitivity which is felt should not be shared in a public forum such as "Lifeline". Secondly, we expect those who request prayer to have a direct link to the person/s or situation at the heart of the request. During 2025 there have been a couple of requests for prayer where that direct link was not apparent and therefore were not adopted as this may have led to a breach of confidentiality.

During 2025: -

- We welcomed two new members to the Group,
- We received more prayer requests than had been received in 2024.
- We have seen prayers answered

For all this we give thanks.

We would love to see an increase in both the numbers of requests for prayer we receive and in the number of prayerful people who are prepared to commit to pray as part of the Group.

Please get in touch if you would like the Group to be with you in prayer or if you would like to be part of the Group praying for others.

We would love to hear from you – with all blessings

Jeff Brewer (Walton Church) [jeffbrewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffbrewer@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Coffee, Chat and snacks**

We have had a very busy year! Our group is growing in number, and we have welcomed new people through our doors. We are continuing to reach out to more people and making the warm space known to a wider community. We are now also advertising the Warm Space in St. John's Glastonbury as well as local GP surgeries and communal spaces. Currently, we are serving on average 19 people per session. We have had some amazing meals served and some wonderful events at Christmas and Easter for example. We were lucky to receive a grant from the Parish Council for Festive food of £200 that made for a wonderful celebration of Christmas with Carols and festive food for those who would perhaps be alone. We have received an anonymous gift of £1000 for this mission. We have seen friendships flourish and people flourish. We are always looking for more volunteers to step forwards. We have welcomed several new volunteers. There will be a re-set next winter to a simpler menu. We move now into the warmer months and return to snacks and drinks and a change to summer timings.

Sister Rachel Pengelly

### **House Group Benefice Report**

During 2025 there were 4 house groups meeting across the Benefice:

- The **Explore@Monday** (Steve King, Compton Dundon) evening group which meets at the Mission Church on Monday evenings (the group has 8 members)
- **The Walton group** (Sonia Beaty, Walton) which meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings during school term times (the group has 9 members).
- **The Wednesday evening group** (Kay Savage, Mission Church, Vanessa Adams, Walton or David Hatrey) which meets at the Mission Church on Wednesday evenings (this group normally has between 8 and 12 members attending)
- **The Morning Group** which met at the Mission Church on Thursday mornings.

### **Group Participation and Activities:**

All house groups welcome participants from any of the churches within the Benefice, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone is encouraged to join in the discussion. These groups serve as a space for

members to spend time together, strengthening their social connections and sense of community. Alongside socialising, members are able to engage in thoughtful study and discussion of various themes relating to their Christian faith and dedicate time to praying together.

During the year, all groups came together to focus on shared study topics, which aligned with the sermon series being delivered at church, such as the book of Nehemiah, topics from the Psalms, and themes surrounding Communion. Outside these times, each group had the flexibility to select their own subject matter or book of the Bible to explore, allowing for a varied and enriching approach to study and discussion.

Steve King, on behalf of the house group leaders and co-ordinators

### **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2025, in different parishes across the Deanery.

Discussion has centred around a range of issues:

#### **Pastoral Reorganisation**

Throughout the year, there are ongoing conversations and meetings around the transfer of Middlezoy and Othery parishes (currently part of the MOMSS benefice) to a new benefice within the Sedgemoor deanery and Taunton Archdeaconry. Meanwhile, the remainder of the MOMSS benefice (Moorlinch, Stawell with Sutton Mallet & Greinton) will be moving to the Polden Wheel to create a new and enlarged benefice. This process is complex, protracted and needs the support and prayers from across the deanery.

#### **Deanery Mission Plan**

The missional focus shifted to 'tell' (telling the good news of Jesus) and we had presentations from Rev'd Rich Tweedy (Vicar of Polden Wheel) who was the deanery champion for 'tell' and Cheryl Govier (Diocese Board of Education) on how we can better 'tell' within our schools and colleges.

#### **Parish Share**

The new methodology of the parish share, agreed at Diocesan synod was discussed.

**Thrive** – please see separate report

#### **Finance**

Sonia Beaty is our deanery treasurer and has kept our finances on track during the year.

#### **Personnel**

We welcomed Reverend Alice Watson as the new vicar of Glastonbury St John's and St Ben's with Meare. Ana Lawrence continues as our Area Dean, with Jane Durham continuing as Assistant Area Dean.

There are still vacancies for Deanery Synod members in our Benefice, and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in being part of the team.

Pat King, Sandra Gristock, Hilda Grint

### **Charitable Giving**

During 2025, SWCD Churches continued its tradition of supporting a range of local, national and international charity partners as recommended by church members and selected by our PCC's. In addition to the ongoing support we also held a number of fund raising events such as a Macmillan coffee morning in Walton and collections at special services such as for the Royal British Legion in Compton Dundon.

In total, over the year, our three parishes gave over £8,000 to these organisations, a result of which we can be very proud in the context of the significant financial challenges we face as a church family.

Most of our charities had a designated 'champion' for the chosen charities. News from the charities was shared in Life magazine, prayer requests were included in Sunday intercessions and we also welcomed Anni Makoni, supported by Walton to an evening event and a representative from the YMCA foyer project in Street, one of St Andrews' supported charities, to a fundraising event in the church. We would love to do more to encourage church members to engage with the charities that we support financially.

Across the benefice, we agreed longer term support for Mfuwe, our partner parish in Zambia. We were able to fund the completion of the priest's house there and agree new projects we could support going forward, as well as exchanging news, prayer requests and pictures of parish life via WhatsApp/.

Kevin Lawrence

### **Discipleship Courses**

It has been encouraging to host and run two discipleship courses as we have sought to 'grow in faith'. The first of these was the Alpha Course which ran in the summer months, finishing in mid-September. We had around 12 participants who came to explore the basics of the Christian faith. The evening began with a meal, a relaxed time of food, fellowship and getting to know one another. This was followed by the Alpha video presentation which tackled a different theme for each session, such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'How does God guide us?' and 'How can I have faith?' After the video, there was a time of discussion in small groups where guests were able to share openly and in a safe non-judgemental space.

In mid-September, we hosted the 'Bible Course' – an 8-week journey through the bible with superb video presentations from the Bible Society and stimulating questions in discussion groups alongside delicious desserts. We hosted around 25 participants a number of whom joined from the Alpha Course.

It has been good to welcome people from both within the church and outside (with little or no faith background) to both of these courses. A big thanks to all those who led discussion groups, prepared and served meals and who brought desserts each week.

Ana Lawrence

### **The Hub**

A youth group was set up last May attracting young people from school years 6 and upwards from our growing numbers of young people coming on a Sunday morning to the Mission Church. The group came up with the name 'the Hub' which meets for an hour on alternate Monday evenings. The hub enjoys a variety of games and activities. In the Summer months going outside for badminton where the shuttle cocks variously end up in the Rectory Garden or the Mission Church Roof! In the colder months, the young people have decorated cakes, played indoor badminton, table tennis and pool and also card and board games. The evening begins with food: pizza, or toast and hot chocolate, or hot dogs, or pancakes. There is also a God-slot during the evening as we seek to grow in faith. Big thanks to all the wonderful young people who come along and to the team who set-up and lead.

Ana Lawrence (on behalf of the hub team – Tim and Hannah Hindle, Jackie & Richard Houlden, Ana Lawrence)

### **School engagement**

**Walton VA Primary School:** during the year we have taken whole school collective worship on a number of occasions and continue to support the school through our two foundation governors, Vanessa Adams and Rev David Hatrey. Children continue to perform at the Walton Coffee morning on occasions, Messy Church runs 5 times a year and those who attend are mainly from Walton School. As well as regular school services in the church at Festivals, the tradition of the popular annual Christingle continues.

**Elmhurst Junior School:** As well as through RE support, well-being support for pupils and staff and leading a traditional school Remembrance service, Rev Ana Lawrence also continues to be involved as a community governor. The school come to Holy Trinity, Street for the annual Christmas carol services and for the Experience Easter, hosted by a team from church retelling the Easter story with the children engaging in an interactive way.

Ana Lawrence

### **Brookside Academy and Compton Dundon.**

Over the past year it has been a joy engaging with our local schools. We have had lively assemblies at Harvest and Christmas and talks about the liturgical calendar. Compton School enjoyed a living Harvest festival with real farm animals to learn about. They will be following the life of 'Belle' the calf as she grows.

The children in Brookside Academy have benefitted from us supporting RE sessions with subjects such as 'Why did Jesus have to die?' and 'Forgiveness' as well as seasonal assemblies and teaching.

Compton Dundon children enjoy coming up to the Church for the sessions and engaging with a living, breathing Church following its life through the calendar. They boys are also helping at CAMEO giving the team support with taking orders etc and giving them life and employability skills in the future.

In February 2025 I enjoyed a weeklong school placement at Walton School looking at how a Church of England School is distinct from a non-church school; how they worship and how faith and Christian values underpin the life of the school. I also gave a couple of talks, one on Ash Wednesday and another about faith and science for their science week.

Sister Rachel Pengelly

### **Open the Book Annual Report 2025**

We have enjoyed another successful year sharing the Bible stories in the Primary and Junior schools in Street and Walton. We are a dedicated team of nine volunteers who give our time to this important children's outreach and mission.

All the materials are produced by the Bible Society. We use the Lion Storyteller Bible as well as Open the Book Storyteller Stories. Everything is scripted for us, so it is easy to deliver to the Primary school children. We always feel really uplifted when we have been into the schools.

We share the Bible stories in Walton, Elmhurst, Hindhayes and Brookside Schools either weekly or fortnightly depending on the school. Our storytelling sessions are met with real enthusiasm from the school communities, children and adults alike. The children so enjoy dressing up and acting out the story as

well as singing the action songs. The school communities are always very pleased to see us and are very welcoming. We feel it is a real honour to be able to share the Bible stories with the children, who probably would not hear them otherwise. As a team we support each other well with prayer, care and love.

Pauline Hatrey, Open the Book leader Street, Walton and Compton Dundon

### **Thrive**

Thrive is a two-year deanery wide course devised by CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) aiming to encourage multi-parish benefices to grow well and 'thrive' within the context of more than one church in a benefice.

Locally the course has been run for the benefices in the Glastonbury deanery, led by Rev'd Jane Durham and Caroline Bruce (parish support from the Diocese of Bath & Wells). With three sessions over three mornings during the year, the focus has been prayer, our 'stories' and our leaders respectively. The sessions were delivered with presentations and group discussions and between each of the three sessions, the 'Thrive' group from our benefice discussed ideas that were raised and begun to introduce one or two ideas to enable our benefice to thrive as well as sharing best practice from our churches. The Thrive team comprises Sandra Gristock, Andy Savage (from Walton), Pat King (Compton Dundon), Tim Hindle & Julie Sinclair (Street) & Ana Lawrence & Rachel Pengelly.

Ana Lawrence

### **Bereavement Café**

The Bereavement Café has been serving the local community and surrounding areas for four years now. The Bereavement team under the leadership of David Hatrey continues to meet on the first Sunday of each month at the Mission Church in Street, where we welcome all of those that have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Hospitality is an important part of what we do, with each person being warmly welcomed with the offer of tea/coffee, and homemade cake on their arrival. Cakes are lovingly baked and served by volunteers, Glynis and Val. This helps to create a warm and safe environment for people to express and their emotions and feelings.

We use a variety of resources, including emotions cards that are designed to help those experiencing grief to talk openly about their feelings and the journey that they find themselves on.

Each session concludes with a reading which is often in the form of a poem. This is a time for the group to pause and reflect. An invitation is extended to the group to light a candle in the memory of their loved one(s).

We have a duty of care to the group, so at end of the session David checks in with the facilitators to establish if there were any safeguarding concerns.

Unfortunately, a member of the team had to step aside towards the end of last year, leaving the team short of facilitators. If there is someone within the church community that feel they have a calling to serve and would like to know more about the Bereavement Café, then we would welcome a conversation with them.

Kevin Wall, member of the Bereavement café team

## **Eco Church**

At the beginning of the year the Eco Church group committed to working towards a Gold Award. This aim was endorsed by all three PCCs in March. Suzie Williams and Helen Thomas left the group. We are grateful for their support during their time with the group and wish them well in their new homes.

Activities in each of the Eco Church survey categories have continued:

Worship and Teaching - preaching, prayers and hymns help to reflect care for Creation

Buildings and Energy - working towards net zero, Energy Footprint Tool completed for 2024, as energy contracts came up for renewal 'green' tariffs are chosen, heating and reordering plans reflect the need to be energy efficient

Land and Nature - managing churchyards for wildlife

Lifestyle - articles related to Eco Church in Life magazine, relevant reminders of e.g. Carbon Fast for Lent in Lifeline

Community and Global Engagement - members of SWCD congregations actively supporting Street Repair Café

Thank you to the Group members, Trish Cox, Sandra Gristock and Andy Savage for their continued assistance and to all who continue to demonstrate that as Christians we care for the environment that we and others live in.

Susan Ripley

## **Book Group Report**

With 10 members we continued to meet every other month. We chose books to read that raised interesting and varied discussion topics from a variety of genres. The books we read in 2025 were:

The Windsor Knot by S J Bennett

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce

The Spire by William Golding

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

The House at Riverton by Kate Morton

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome.

Susan Ripley

## **Stewardship**

Money is one of those things that nobody really likes talking about in our culture, but Jesus had plenty to say on the subject and so we too, have not shied away from being open both about the financial pressures that we face as a church family and some of the Biblical teaching about giving and stewardship.

You will find full details of the 2025 financial position for your parish elsewhere in this report. During the year we have tried to keep these issues before the congregation through, for example, articles in 'Life' magazine. During the year we also promoted the 'Parish Giving' scheme and other ways of regular giving, as well as 'Easyfundraising,' an online portal that makes free donations when shoppers purchase online. To date, however, take up of these schemes remains more limited than we might like. Contactless giving machines in three of our churches are increasingly used, despite ongoing technical difficulties! We also agreed, at our PCC's, a cash handling policy to ensure those handling money on behalf of the church are fully protected.

We also, again, sent thank you letters to everyone in the church family for their financial support, but will review how much this is appreciated and its value going forward.

Finances across the benefice remain under pressure, particularly with ongoing cost increases and a rising Parish Share. However, the figures show that, for 2025 at least, each parish is financially solvent, with many signs of encouragement.

Kevin Lawrence

### **Communications**

As a people who are called to share good news, we continue to work hard at communicating both internally, to the church family, and externally to the local communities whom we are called to love.

Online, our Facebook presence continues to grow with over 310 followers, the majority not regular worshippers with us, at the end of the year and some posts getting over 1,000 views. We have also launched an Instagram account, reflecting changing trends in online platform usage. Our website attracts around 3,000 'hits' per month. We would love to see more church members who use social media following our accounts and liking and sharing our posts as this will raise our profile further.

'Life.' Lifeline' and our church notice boards continue to be regular and valued sources of information and news from across the benefice. We have also set up a 'Google diary' where all church events and bookings are recorded, which replaces a paper diary system and can be accessed by those who need to know without the need to contact or visit the church office.

Three particular issues we have faced:

1. Developing consistent use of our logo and links to our web site on posters and publicity produced by church family members.
2. Internal communication of planned events and activities. Put simply, I can't communicate about events I am not told about.
3. Our current systems involve considerable duplication, which takes extra time. We are looking at ways we can improve this through the use of more modern technology.

Kevin Lawrence

### **PARISH REPORTS**

#### **Warden's Fabric Report**

Regular checks have continued on the interior and exterior fabric of St Andrew's Church throughout 2025. These include a fire check and electrical PAT testing.

The organ had its annual service in August. A keyboard has been introduced and has been used regularly for Sunday services. This gives us flexibility in our choice of instruments to lead worship.

Our yew tree specialist checked the yew tree in June and no major work was required.

We are grateful to the team who give of their time to work on the churchyard, maintaining its immaculate appearance. Both the ride on mower and the strimmer have undergone thorough servicing.

Over two days in September 2025 the church architect, Mr Mark Taylor, carried out the Quinquennial Inspection. He identified repairs that needed to be addressed, with a useful timescale. We have already

begun to remedy those requiring immediate attention, whilst seeking and comparing estimates for those outstanding. Several works may benefit from grant funding, such as repairs to the chest tombs near the South door, and grant applications are currently being completed.

Pat King, Churchwarden, St Andrew's, Compton Dundon

### **PCC REPORT FOR 2026 APCM**

In 2025, St Andrew's PCC met for four PCC meetings as well as the APCM. Three members resigned from the PCC in 2025; Helen Thomas, who was a member for many, many years and served as a Churchwarden; Judy Skelding who steered the Bell Appeal with such success; and Gill Williams, also a Churchwarden and a great support to Andrew's during her time on the PCC.

Various subjects were discussed during the year and included the regular topics of:

Finance

Upkeep of the fabric of the buildings and churchyard including the care of our 1700 year old yew tree

Ministry and Mission

Safeguarding

Charitable Giving

Outreach and Fundraising events

In 2025, in addition, we discussed:

The progress of the Reordering project.

The Bells project and the arrangements for the visit of Bishop Michael for the Service of Dedication of the Bells at a Benefice Service in St Andrews, followed by a lunch, on 8 June.

Susie Robertson, PCC Secretary, St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon and Littleton

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – 2026**

As required by the Church Representation Rules a completely new Electoral Rolls has to be compiled every 6 years. This exercise was completed during the early part of 2025. The review resulted in a large reduction in numbers on the Roll from 72 to 54.

Since then the following individuals have been removed:

Katharine Ingham; Deceased, Judy Skelding: Relocated.

And the following have been added:

Kathleen Chiffers, Patricia Heap, Joan Priestley and Geoffrey Walker.

The Electoral Roll now stands at a total of 55.

Peter Robertson, Electoral Roll Officer

### **Events Report**

A small but hardworking group from St Andrew's has continued to organise events for all to enjoy and to raise funds for charitable causes and for St Andrew's Church.

Our first major event was the Open Gardens. There were nine gardens opened to the public, with refreshments served in the hall and the church. Many visitors from the village and further afield enjoyed

visiting the afternoon in late June. Almost £2000 was raised and shared between St Andrew's Church and Addenbrookes Hospital.

The Cream Tea in September supported one of our chosen charities - Bonny Downs Church in East Ham, London - who are undergoing a major redevelopment community project. A cheque for £500 was presented in person to Bonny Downs by Gill, Gareth, Steve and Pat.

The now famed annual Big Breakfast took place in November. It was a successful and enjoyable event, with £1,100 being raised for church funds. We thank our Curate Rachel and her husband Jon for stepping in as chefs.

In mid-December we held our first ever Nativity Festival over two weekend afternoons. We were delighted to donate £300 to the YMCA Street foyer, supporting the homeless across Somerset.

Thank you so much from St Andrew's Church for both helping at and supporting our events and we look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Pat King, Churchwarden, St Andrew's, Compton Dundon

### **Reordering Report**

During the last year there has been promising progress in terms of the reordering process as the faculty was granted by the Chancellor on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025. As part of the decision by the Chancellor, it was determined that reasonable efforts were to be made to find 'new homes' for the children's choir stalls.

Once evidence of these efforts is established, the Chancellor will decide upon the full faculty.

The reordering group have met on a number of occasions to discuss such things as time scales for the selling and movement of pews. These logistical issues will undoubtedly prove more complex than the actual building works as the church will wish to retain what little under pew heating there is during the colder periods of the year and disturbing services as little as possible. The need also exists to accommodate upcoming baptisms, weddings and funerals.

In a recent email exchange with our church architect, Mark Taylor estimated our current funding target for the total project cost going into 2026 will be in the region of £178,080 based on price increases secured in 2024 from previous tenders. This figure allows for inflation and the inability to reclaim all the VAT from the now defunct LPW (Listed Places of Worship) scheme.

Although we have experienced a number of months 'in limbo', I am convinced that significant events will occur in 2026, and I wish to thank the Reordering group and the many other supporters for their patience and encouragement with this project.

Steve King

### **Bell Report for the St Andrew's Compton Dundon 2026 APCM**

2025 was an auspicious year for the bells of St Andrew's Compton Dundon. After having been removed towards the end of 2024 to Nicholson's Engineering in Bridport, the newly restored bells were brought back to St Andrew's in April 2025 where they rested in the aisle for everyone to admire. A special "hallowing

service” was then held to welcome the bells back, attended by a wide range of people from the village and beyond and children and teachers from the Compton Dundon School. The lovely service was conducted by Ana and Rachel.

The bells were rung in full circle on the 24 April – a wonderful occasion with the village hearing the bells for the first time in over 100 years. We were thrilled when the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Rev’d Michael Beasley, came to St Andrew’s to bless and dedicate the bells on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Benefice service was a real celebration for the whole community with refreshments in the churchyard following. Local and national television covered the event, with interviews on BBC (local and regional) the ITV and across radio stations.

Since then, the bells are rung every fourth Sunday of the month and the automatic chiming system calls the village to worship on the remaining Sundays.

The St Andrew’s Bell Restoration Appeal was put forward for The William Stansell Somerset Historic Buildings Awards 20026. We were delighted to receive a Commendation with the following comments made “ The project to bring the bells of St Andrew’s, which were originally cast in the village, back into full use required a new ringing floor cleverly inserted to maintain the view through to the west window, new access from the tower stair and new bell frame all carefully detailed and executed. An exemplary community project the village can be proud of”

Everyone included in the project should be congratulated on all that has been achieved and we are all very proud of our wonderful bells.

Judy Skelding 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2026