

## **St Andrews church ACM April 2018**

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### **Item 1: Church Wardens report**

2017 was an exciting, busy, challenging, but we do hope you will all agree, hugely rewarding year in so many ways for all of us here at St Andrew's. We have been truly blessed as we continued to identify and manage necessary changes which will allow us to fulfil our agreed key values as a church.

Mark, with the steadfast support of Helen and family, continues to lead us in our mission to reach out responsibly and joyfully with the Gospel to the local community and beyond. We have seen the launch of a new and vibrant monthly service, St Andrew's at 6. Our Messy Church and now established STARS have continued to grow. Hall usage has continued to grow and provides vital income alongside our own giving to ensure that we continue to meet our financial commitments to the Diocese and to the day to day operations of our Church.

St Andrew's continues to be blessed with so many people wanting to be involved and to give so much in so many ways. We would particularly like to pay tribute to Chris Sutton who has served in various roles over the years and is now stepping down from his current position as an Almoner this year. Chris is a very valued member of our Church Family and it is our hope he will continue to provide us with his wisdom and knowledge even though he will now no longer hold an official role. We would also like to pay tribute to Angela Sevant who has served her term of office on council and is also stepping down this year. Angela, like Chris, is a very valued member of the congregation and we hope that she will continue her contribution to the church in other ways. And finally we want to acknowledge the huge contribution that John Rosser has provided to St Andrew's over many years and is now stepping down as a Service Leader. John we have so much to thank you for but mostly we would like to say thank you for "leading by example". You are a great example of how a Christian should be.

Alongside our established flourishing house groups we have seen the continued development of 3 new house groups and we know there are other ideas for growth in the pipeline.

Lou and I together with Mark and with the added assistance of Jonathan continue on your behalf, as agreed at our last ACM, to seek to establish sufficient information for our long term strategy to address the current inadequate heating, lighting and seating.

Lou in her capacity as Church Administrator continues to efficiently maintain the necessary administrative function whilst remaining a great support to all of us.

2017 saw the arrival of Stephen Lamb and his wife Louisa. Stephen was selected to fill the newly agreed role of Centre Manager because of his vision and commitment to seeing people of all ages come to faith. Stephen is now an established member of the team and has made an impact on all who have come into contact with him. We feel very blessed that he has joined us.

As in previous years our social events were many and varied. These are always great opportunities to enjoy fellowship with one another, strengthen relationships and form new friendships.

Men's and Ladies Breakfast Groups, Fellowship lunches, Monday Fellowship, Busy Bees, St Andrews Bowls Club all continue to be enjoyed by those involved and we are grateful to the various hard working groups of people whom without their time and effort these events would not take place.

Mothers and Toddlers lead by Sue Le Gallais and her team continues to provide a vital introduction to Christian life for toddlers and in some cases adults as well.

We have been delighted to see the introduction of a new St Andrew's Pastoral Team developed to come alongside existing pastoral congregation members to ensure that our older congregation members and others are supported where needed.

In February of this year we held another Church away day for the leadership team focusing on our morning services and the future strategy of the church.

Any Church should be a place of peace, open and inclusive to all, every language and culture and an amazing place of hope. We focused on how we would manage our church if we were a congregation of 500 or more. At 500 we would have a more biblical culture of leadership. At 500 we would have to be a church of multiple services with multiple leaders. At 500 we would have to be more socially diverse.

Our church away day will help us to form our strategy for the coming year. Several exciting ideas were discussed including a dedicated prayer room and prayer training. It was recognized by all in attendance that it is always difficult to ensure everyone's needs are properly considered and met, but this must be a focus for our future services.

Finally, it is a privilege for Lou and I to be elected as Churchwardens for St. Andrew's Church. We could not do what we do without the help of so many especially our Almoners Louise and Chris, Robyn our treasurer, Steve Harzo, Neville and many, many others. We would like to thank you all and look forward to working with you all in the coming 12 months.

Adrian & Lou

## **Item 2: Vicar's report**

I would like to start by saying thank you for coming to St Andrew's Church ACM or, if you were unable to make it, thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. Having been away for three weeks Helen and I are deeply thankful to be a part of a spiritual family who are so passionate about the life of their church. It's also an amazing blessing to know that when you step away from your desk things continue to tick along perfectly well. This is due to a large extent to the tireless efforts of our two church wardens, Lou and Adrian (I couldn't do my job without them), our officers Louise and Chris, our treasurer Robyn, and our current council of Ashley, Michelle, Mark, Sue, Angela, Steve, Jeffrey, Donna, Jackie, and last but certainly not least our centre manager and resident evangelist, Stephen. Added to this are those of you who give of your time week after week through leading, praying, making teas and coffees, welcoming, sound and songpro and the list goes on. Thank you.

## **God's space, our space, community space: plan and purpose**

As a church family we have been blessed with a wonderful church building and centre set in beautiful park. I would argue that we have some of best facilities of any church on the Island. Not only has God blessed us with facilities but he has also blessed us with growth both spiritually, through people joining St Andrew's, and commercially, we are almost at full capacity in those that use the centre.

But with all this blessing must come responsibility. This is the responsibility to acknowledge that everything we see around us, the buildings, the car park, coffee cups, the chairs, the money, the trees, belong to God. He made them he sustains them. Even you belong to God. Paul says in Ephesians 1 that we were chosen before the creation of the world.

Acknowledging this helps us to remember three vital things:

Firstly this is not only God's church but his plan and purpose as well. And really it's not rocket science: Jesus said:

***Acts 1:8, '... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'***

Simply put that means working - with the Spirit's power (not by our own strength) - to see new people from different cultures and backgrounds, young and old encountering Jesus and entering into a living relationship with

him. And in turn seeing those same people go on to help others encounter Jesus. Simple! That's what God wants to see happen in His space. Secondly this space on loan to us at this particular stage in the life of the church and we pass it on to the next generation of Christians called into God's plan. In 50 years' time most of us won't be attending St Andrew's but we pray earnestly (I hope you pray) that those who are watching TV downstairs (our STARS group) will still be attending along with their friends and family.

Thirdly, everything begins with prayer! It seems obvious to say but I think we all forget very quickly that everything we do including our very existence depends on prayer.

***Ephesians 3:20 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'***

Do you see that again: **'His power', '...more than we can ask or imagine...'**

This year as a council we have been talking about how we can integrate prayer more into the life of the church. The 20<sup>th</sup> May is Pentecost Sunday where Jesus' disciples met together in a room to stop and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts chp 2). This year we have decided - in conjunction with the Church of England's 'Thy kingdom come' week of prayer - to take the step of devoting that weekend to prayer. There will be no formal services but prayer stations will be set up across the church for you to come and spend time with God for an hour or indeed five hours. That's up to you. You won't be expected to pray out loud or put on the spot in any way. This is simply an opportunity in our very busy lifestyles to stop and listen to our Heavenly Father as we pray for the needs of our world, the future of our church and loved ones. Further details will be communicated closer to the time.

### **God's space: Sunday mornings**

For a detailed explanation of our Sunday morning pattern of worship please refer to Appendix A at the back of the report.

### **God's space: our building fabric**

For a detailed explanation of progress within the interior of the church please refer to the separate feasibility presentation prepared by Gallagher Architects.

**God's space: caring for our community**

This is just a short note to highlight the amazing pastoral visiting work of Beryl and her team. As I have said before I want us to become known as a church who cares, not just for our own member but for the community that God has laid on our hearts. If you think you would be able to give some of your time to this great work. Beryl, Maureen and Jan would like to hear from you. (See additional letters of appreciation from various sources).

**God's space: becoming part of the whole.**

And finally, whether you have been coming to St Andrew's for many years or just a short time can I invite you to prayerfully consider becoming part of our membership. We are currently updating the information we have on all our members. However, with the new data protection laws coming into force we will rightly require your permission to hold this information. Attached to the back of these reports is a sign up sheet for you to fill out and hand back. If you call St Andrew's your church and are happy to receive information via email or post about our various up coming events then please could you fill out the form accordingly.

All that's left is for me to thank you for another great year and the amazing privilege to be part of the family at St Andrew's

### **Item 3: Centre Manager's Report**

Louisa and I both feel honoured to be a part of the St Andrews community. 6 months into our time living here, we are both settled and are thankful for the way we have been welcomed. I am enjoying the various aspects of my work and am excited to be a part of what God has got planned for the church, local community and Jersey as a whole.

The varied nature of my job has led me to keep a detailed record of what I'm doing during a working week. I've identified 7 main areas, listed below. Although there are aspects of my work which crossover and don't fit rigidly in any one box, I'm finding it helpful to reflect on what I do.

- B Building, clean, set up/down, maintenance
- A Admin, emails, bookings, promote events
- P Plan, prep week ahead, StA@6 etc
- D Discipleship. Bible, pray, worship, encourage, inspire
- S Staff Planning
- C Creative, craftsmanship
- O Outreach - building relationships, share Jesus

Here is the last three weeks in terms of the percentage of the working week spent in each area.

Wk ending Sun 18 Feb Total 31 hrs 10 min

- B 35%
- D 21%
- P 19%
- A 13%
- O 10%
- C 2%

Wk ending Sun 25 Feb Total 42 hrs 45 min

- P 30%
- B 27%
- D 20%
- C 14%
- O 5%
- A 4%

Wk ending Sun 4 March Total 39 hrs

- B 52%



P 18%

D 11%

C 10%

A 7%

O 2%

Things which I've most enjoyed about my role at St Andrews include:

- Louisa and I leading a young adult group at our house and building those relationships.
- Leading activities or doing talks as part of Messy church
- Building relationships with the children and parents at toddlers on Thursdays.
- Taking on the organisation of St Andrews@6 and working with others in church to set up in the hall.
- Spray painting with the Garage Youth Club on two occasions.
- Having a Friday night get together for some children where they made pizza and watched a film. This has helped Katie's children engage with us and feel at home here. Also, Autumn and Willow, two of Stephen and Lucy's children really enjoyed it.
- Christmas movie night.
- My Dad and Me dad's toddler group
- Building relationships with people who visit our church, such as Tom and Paul, both of whom are keen on a 'man shed' space.

In terms of cleaning the building, this is my weekly routine which I have found helpful to follow.

**Mon** - Mop hall (ready for Pilates)

- Hoover main church and entrance area

**Thursday** - Empty all bins up and downstairs

- Hoover up and downstairs
- mop upstairs kitchen, downstairs kitchen.
- mop toilets downstairs
- replenish paper towels, toilet roll, sanitary towel disposable bags, soap, hand towels, bleach the toilet.

**Friday/ Saturday** - Hoover church entrance area. Check bins and toilets.

**A developing role.**

I am keen to explore how I might develop relationships with local schools in the area, particularly, First Tower. I know I can't take on everything but I do feel there is more that I and we as a church could do to meet the needs of families and children in poverty or facing issues of alcoholism and domestic violence. The away day was fantastic and it's a real blessing to be part of a church where we are united and where evangelism and reaching out are paramount. There is more that I could write and much more to pray into over the coming months but this is a brief report to give you a picture of where I am in my role at St Andrews.

Thanks for your prayers and support.  
Stephen

## **Appendix A: Sunday morning worship pattern**

Further to my initial email, our council away day and all your comments and discussions in between, I think we can now agree on a way forward for Sunday mornings as follows:

**9:45am** More traditional/ liturgical communion service (Please see notes i. and ii. justifying this below)

**10:40am** People from the first service move into the hall for tea and coffee. Those who need to set up for the second service arrive and begin setting in up in the hall.

**11:00am** People attending the second service arrive for tea and coffee in the hall with those from the first service (a bit like a normal Messy church Sunday). See note iii.

**11:30am** Soft start to the second service in the hall. See note iv. below.  
12:30-45pm Second service ends and we pack away.

### **Notes:**

i) I appreciate that the 9:45 start may not always suit our more frail members of the congregation but we have had many comments back from both services to say that things are quite rushed on Sunday mornings. I also feel rushed and very rarely get to chat to members of the first service as I am getting ready for the second. I don't think it's fair to push the 11:30 service further into lunch when we are only setting things back by 15mins and now offering a communion every Sunday. I think with the right planning via care homes this doesn't have to be an issue going forward.

ii) I wanted to do communion every Sunday for 3 reasons: a) There is confusion as to when there is communion and when not. b) We are actually obliged to give communion every Sunday by Anglican Canon law see Canon B13 attached for your info. As we are entering a season of change I would prefer to be as far as possible on the right side of the powers that be. Bishop Trevor is coming to take communion of 1st July this year c) There is level of consistency that actually helps my brain from going into a fuzz and there are plenty of retired clergy who would be able to take communion should I need a Sunday off. P.S. I am happy to keep breaking the law on not wearing robes (Canon B8) - this law has recently been changed in England leaving things to the discretion of the church wardens - and no doubt will eventually filter down to Jersey.

iii) It is vital that each service gets to know and appreciate those from the other service. This is not achieved simply by having a combined service where we are all facing the front. We need the time to connect facing each other over coffee etc. Also resources can be pooled more harmoniously as those from the second service can be part of the rota for serving teas and coffees as well without having to rush away for the the start of the second service in the church. Currently some from the second service have coffee in the church and others go to the hall but then arrive late in the church. It feels a little chaotic.

iv) The hall will be set up with tables as usual with the band at the south end of the hall. Stars Sunday school group will use the downstairs rooms which are more comfortable and versatile. Some from the first service may wish to stay on for the second service or leave during the first few songs. The first few songs at 11:30 will be chosen sensitively for their calmness so as not to push people out. The hall is warm, well lit and an easier transition for those who have only attended a Messy Church. Also there will necessarily be disruption later in the year when the heating, lighting, seating is being done inside the church and so this is a good opportunity to get technically prepared if we need to temporarily move out of the church. We have already had a trial run in the hall for the St Andrew's @ 6 service and apart from some teething the worship worked really well. This is also a good reminder that church is about people before the buildings - (See Ephesians 2: 19-22). We would continue to have communion once a month in the second service.

v) We would plan to announce this at the church ACM on 29th April and then give people a month to prepare with a kick start at the beginning of June.

I hope that is all helpful however if you have any questions do feel free to chat to me or one of the officers.

God bless

**Mark**