

# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW CASTLE COMBE

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2014



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### BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

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St Andrew's Castle Combe is a parish of the ByBrook Benefice. The clergy in the Benefice are collectively responsible for all ten parishes in The Benefice; Revd Jonathan Philpott as Priest in Charge of the Benefice has been assisted by Revd Sarah Evans (Team Vicar), Revd Velma Oxley (Ass. Curate) and Revd Gillian Parkin (Ass. Curate) together with a group of retired clergy and the lay ministry team. Within the overall aims and aspirations of The Benefice, the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's has six specific objectives:

- The PCC in conjunction with the clergy are responsible for promoting the whole mission of the Church for the present time and in the future.
- To provide the opportunity for a variety of regular worship for all members of the parish including the lower and upper village engaging all ages.
- To keep the church open daily throughout the year as a place of inspiration, witness and prayer for parishioners and the thousands of visitors to Castle Combe.
- To support the local community and national charitable organisations through a positive policy of charitable giving.
- To support the mission of weddings and blessings to the local community and wider world.
- Development of the use of the Church and Churchyard.

Based on a New Vision Statement of Worshipping, Growing & Sharing our desire is:

To love, serve and worship God

To love and serve one another, our local community, and the wider world

To live and share with others the good news of Jesus Christ

- Because we know that we are loved by God.

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### TRUSTEES

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The Trustees of St Andrew's Church is the Parochial Church Council, which has the responsibility of working with the clergy team in promoting the whole work of the church in the ecclesiastical parish.

**PCC Membership.** Members of the Parochial Church Council are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members:

*Team Priest in Charge:*

The Revd Jonathan Philpott

*Team Vicar:*

The Revd Sarah Evans

*Churchwarden:*

Mrs Sally Constable (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

*Elected Members:*

Mr Michael Constable (*Treasurer & Covenant Secretary*)

Mrs Ciara Davies (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Mrs Karen Munnings                      Mr Mike Roberts

Mrs Sue Wiles-Teoh

Mr Gerald Ruggles (*Electoral Roll Officer*)

*Independent Examiner:*

Mrs Hermina Fleming Castle Combe

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### PERSONNEL

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We again extend our thanks to Mrs Hermina Fleming for acting as the independent examiner of our accounts. The Revd Alun Glyn-Jones continues to take our Eucharistic Service on the first Sunday of each month. We thank him and his wife Chris for their continued enthusiasm, work and support in the life of St Andrews.

We also thank Jonathan & Sarah, other clergy and lay readers who have helped us, and with our services this year. Thanks must be given also to our church cleaner Caroline Watts and to Liz Taylor who looks after the churchyard. They have both helped to keep our lovely church looking clean and tidy. Also thanks to The House of Flavours, Carol & Annie for their support to us.

We are also indebted to all volunteers from the village that act, on a monthly basis, as, key holders and enable the church to be open every day of the year by opening and closing the church each day.

We thank Revd Velma Oxley for joining us at a number of our PCC meetings earlier in the year. Mrs Sally Constable was re-elected as the Church Warden. It is still hoped that someone will come forward to act as the second churchwarden in this busy Parish.

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## WORSHIP

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There were 28 people on the electoral roll. Our pattern of worship continued, with two Sunday services per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11.00am. This is for various reasons and we do hope to be able to give more energy and thought to the children of the village within our Church services in the coming year. We have welcomed the many wedding couples preparing to marry at St Andrews throughout the year. We have also hosted services for local cyclists in April. Our other special services included Easter, Harvest followed by lunch, Remembrance, Christmas Carols, Christmas Eve Holy Communion and The ByBrook School Carol Service.

At the end of 2014 The Benefice formed into 3 cluster areas of Churches, St Andrews being in the middle cluster with Grittleton & Slaughterford. The Revd Sarah Evans has taken direct responsibility for this Cluster. Our service pattern has changed to 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday H.C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Family Service.

At Easter a Sunrise Service was held at 6.00am on Easter Day. This took place at the Manor House Golf Club in Upper Castle Combe and was attended by about 30 people. Experience Easter was displayed in St Andrews church depicting three events during Holy Week – The Garden of Gethsemane, The Last Supper and The Crucifixion and proved very successful.

The content and development of our services will form a vital part of our mission in the church in the coming year.

There were 15 Weddings, 3 Blessing, 6 Baptisms and 3 Funerals. 3 members of our congregation were confirmed.

There were a total of 27 Sunday services during the year with an average of 66 people attending and 6 children. (Normal Sundays 28 people)

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## MISSION AND EVANGELISM

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St Andrews Church has experienced a very busy year again in all areas of our Mission.

Again we have centred our aspiration on the community of Castle Combe – Lower & Upper Village as well as more far reaching parishioners. Also our focus is on visitors from the wider world – in fact all over the world who visit the church, many of whom spend sometime within it. We have created areas of display that do not encroach on the serenity of St Andrews. The Castle Combe Historical Society also have displays and a touch screen within the church.

Our mission also envelopes the many wedding couples planning to celebrate their marriage within the church.

During the time they are regularly worshipping with us, we hope to get to know them better and welcome them into the family of the church. 2014 has been a busy year for weddings and blessings in the Parish with a very high concentration of them in the summer months.

Work this year has very much centred on finalising plans and the fund raising for our proposed building project (an extension to St Andrews containing disabled toilet, small kitchenette area with running water and a new vestry). See special events section for details. With the large number of big services held in St Andrews we badly need these new amenities without giving up space within the church. The old vestry will become part of the Knight's Chapel enhancing a very historic area.

As you see from all of this St Andrews needs to be an adaptable space – one that has peaceful, prayerful and reflective areas, but at the same time a living church that identifies with the community nearer to home and the many thousands that visit each year.

The need to be adaptable also flows into our services where we welcome a very diverse congregation many wanting different styles of worship. Whether young and old, families or visitors we need to be creative and aware of the variety of people coming to worship, and also be sensitive to their needs. This is not easy but we hope to make it a priority in the coming year. Many times our vision of worship is suffocated by the time taken looking after the building. We are only a small team and would dearly love more help particularly with the building and fabric of the church.

Finally, our concerns have been this year for the increasing number of older members of the village needing help, many of whom have lived here for a considerable time. The community is a very caring one, supporting one another, but still more can be done for those who are not so able. In today's fast moving world and working lifestyle, the older members of it are often forgotten.

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## RESOURCES and FABRIC

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### Heritage Project

Following a further year of hard work and frustration in persuing our progress with the project we have hit many barriers along the way.

After an application to the Council for planning, we have been advised to withdraw it and look at certain points of detail with a planned meeting of all bodies on April 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was successful and we are hoping to achieve approvals very shortly. An update will be offered at our Annual Meeting.

#### **Quinquennial Report/Necessary Repairs**

The 5 year inspection was carried out on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 with a report provided dated November 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The report highlights a number of areas that require attention with the two main areas being the roof and stonework. We have been aware of the need to undertake major works to the roof for some years and have undertaken some patch repairs to try to limit short term issues. Stonework has deteriorated over the last few winters.

Phase one of the roof programme is being progressed which an estimated cost of £81K grant applications have been made and we have just learnt we have been successful from LPOW Roof Fund to a level of 59%. Also the Porch Area at the main entrance to the church (South Door) has had repairs, stonework cleaning and has been decorated. This area is so important for a warm welcome to villagers and visitors to St Andrews.

#### **Proposed Works for the coming years.**

It is the PCC's intention to put together a comprehensive programme of works to include;

- Repairs as identified by the Quinquennial Report
- New amenities (WC, kitchenette and new vestry)
- Associated re-ordering to open up the current vestry, remove/re-position a number of pews and to introduce new display areas.
- Improve/replace heating and lighting systems.
- Redecorate internally

We do not have a budget as yet, but we anticipate that a programme is likely to cost in the region of £200,000-250,000. We are hopeful that significant amounts of grant funding can be realised.

The Turret Clock is still working well following its major overhaul in 2012. Our thanks to Adrian Bishop who has kept a close eye on the clock to ensure it keeps good time. The interest in this very fine example of a 14th century medieval clock is considerable amongst our visitors and there are many comments recorded in the visitor's book.

#### **Risk Management and Health and Safety.**

The PCC has completed a fire risk assessment and the findings of this exercise have been implemented. This runs parallel with Health and Safety assessments which are constantly reviewed. A number of benches in the churchyard have been replaced or repaired and the paving stones in main path have received attention.

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## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

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- A Special note should be made in reference to **The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Great War**. St Andrews chose to commemorate this in a number of ways.
  - Firstly in a poignant concert "Only Remembered" lead by choirmaster Grenville Jones in tribute to all those who perished and served in the war.
  - Secondly by making Remembrance Day very special in St Andrews with The Royal Corps of Signals.
  - And finally with our display of Local Soldiers who served in The Great War compiled by local historian Richard Broadhead – displayed in St Andrews.
- Palm Sunday with Cherry the pony.
- Easter Experience in St Andrews during Holy Week.
- Sunrise Service at Castle Combe Golf Club was well attended followed by Easter Day in St Andrews.
- Spring Fair and Plant Sale on St Andrews on May 17<sup>th</sup> 12 to 4pm. Great Community event and fund raiser
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Benefice Ascension Day service.
- Cyclist's annual service
- The Nelson Recorder Trio played The Byrd Mass as part of The Benefice Service.
- An Open Air Animal Lovers service took place.
- Blessing of Bench in Churchyard in Memory of Carol Brain donated by Mike her husband.
- The Churchyard wildlife area was given an Autumn Tidy by a band of villagers and some help from The Manor House Hotel. Special thanks to all villagers that took part.
- Harvest passed very successful with a lovely service – lunch in the village hall. Donations of produce to "Doorway" Chippenham and monies raised from the service collection and the lunch was sent to "Self Help Africa".
- A thank you tea party for "Church Helpers" was hosted by the PCC in The Castle Inn. A great community event.
- Three of the PCC attended Bristol Cathedral to Justin Welby's Eurcharist on September 14<sup>th</sup>. A lovely service and address.
- Songs of Praise In November was well received.
- Confirmation of 3 members of our congregation at Colerne (St John The Baptist) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Bishop Mike.
- Christmas Fair in St Andrews Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> (great success)
- Carols by Candlelight – Dec 21<sup>st</sup> very well supported with music & contributions from village children.

- ByBrook School Carols, again a lovely service from the children.
- “Crisis at Christmas” was our charity for the collection at our Christmas Eve Communion Service 11pm.
- Our community Christmas Card in St Andrews raised a good sum for the local Village Link.
- Christmas Card sales in aid of “Tearfund” for the first time in the weeks leading up to Christmas and proved successful.
- Villagers organised a Bric a Brac Jumble Sale in aid of the Church Appeal. Great success.
- 25 villagers helped with our Spring Clean of Church and Churchyard Tidy.
- Lent Lunch. Held in the village hall and attended by about 30 villagers and friends from across The Benefice. £222 was raised for The Salvation Army Chippenham “Food Bank”

**Flowers in Church.** Again the floral displays for the major festivals have been outstanding and our thanks to all the flower arrangers. There is however the need for new people to come forward to help with the rota of flowers in the Church. This is an enjoyable experience which can be fulfilled in a time to suit the individual.

DONATIONS made by St Andrews Church in 2014					
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		£			£
DEC Philippines	World Disaster	250	Christian Aid	Aid Week	120
Biblelands	Support a child	216	Bath Cancer Care	Collection	166
Three Ways Tea Cup	Bath Lent Lunch	130	Self Help Africa	Harvest	364
Doorway	Harvest	30	Wiltshire Historic Trust	Donation	100
Royal British Legion	Concert / Remembrance Service	£660		<b>Total</b>	<b>£2036</b>

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Financial Statement of the PCC has been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and Sorps 2005. The accounts are based on receipt and payment rather than accrual accounting. The accounts were approved by the PCC at their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and examined by Mrs Hermina Flemming.

**Income:** This have been driven by the following:-

- Services. There have been 54 services and 1 concert (including H/C Family Services, Weddings, Funeral, Baptisms and Festivals).
- Fundraising and Community events, 8 major activities in the church and village during the year.
- Church open and available to many locals and visitors every day of the year. Book shop and Donation Box have benefitted. The second hand books following our Fairs have been very popular.

To achieve the standards throughout the church and churchyard which are reflected so graphically in our visitor’s book there is a major cost for the upkeep and maintenance.

Our overall income has dropped by 5.7% on 2014 and our costs increased by 3.3% resulting in a deficit of £2000 on our unrestricted funds for the year. We will look at a major study with our 2015 budget.

We have supported the Diocese with an increased pledge for 2014 of £12000 and our contribution to the Bybrook Benefice last year also increased to just over £4000.

From the fundraising activities (which have been excellent community events) have also helped us to raise all important funds for our two major projects to help secure the future of St Andrews Church. Together with donations an amount of £8000 of restricted funds were transferred to our Appeal Fund.

Our overheads excluding charitable giving and development works and major repairs amounted to £28100 or **£540 per week for very week of the year.**

Our two major Projects. Initial Costings

- 1) First Phase of our roof replacement programme.

Our Estimated Cost (Including VAT and professional fees)	£81000
Successful grant application from LPOW Scheme	£48000
VAT reclaim scheme	£13500
Funds raising money available from Fabric Fund	£10000
Balance required of £10000 from further grant applications still to be finalised.	

- 2) Project for additional amenities and re-siting vestry Cost still to be finalised.

Funds raising to date and available in our STAR Appeal Fund £43000

Further monies to be raised following formal launch of our Appeal once planning permission is granted and major grant applications.

**Funds on Deposit** The 4 deposit funds are with the CBF. And the interests are still at a very low level.

**General and Conclusion** Although there is high expenditure in the upkeep of the church and churchyard the PCC feel that it is important to maintain the highest standards which is appreciated by villagers and the many visitors we attract to St Andrews.

**We are entering a very exciting and challenging time. St Andrews requires considerable commitment, hard work and planning for both the development of our worship and the Church building.**