

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Donhead St Andrew
in the Benefice of St Bartholomew

REPORT ON
COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2023
for the 2024 APCM

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning for the village community on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.30 am to 12 o'clock has become a popular fixture in the village. Numbers attending inevitably vary from month to month but its contribution as one core part of St Andrew's Church's mission and outreach is apparent.

Our thanks to the regular team that sets up and tidies the church and prepares the refreshments.

PILATES

In 2022 Andrea Hill began to run a twice-monthly Pilates Class on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10.45 am until 11.30 am. This has become increasingly popular with villagers and one to two others from further afield.

THE SALON GROUP

This group of local artists, established by Lynda Appleby, meets twice a month in the church to talk and create.

JAZZ SUPPER

In March 2023, we organised a Jazz Supper, featuring Art Themen (his third gig for St Andrew's Church) and some of his outstandingly musical friends. Every place was sold and deservedly so; the music was superb and the commentary by Art delightful. Our thanks to the catering team which gave us such a delicious supper. We raised £1,000; half of which went to the National Youth Jazz Orchestra to work with young people in communities where there is no music in local schools and half to St Andrew's Church.

FAREWELL TO THE BELL FAMILY

We held a lovely party for the Bell Family after the March Family Service, just before they left the village. The Service and the Party were very well attended as we thanked them for their support over many years. We thanked Emma in particular for her years of devoted service as one of the three organisers of the monthly Family Service at St Andrew's. We wished them well for the future in their new home.

WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

In late April and early May St Andrew's Church hosted a group of exhibitors in the Art Trail who had decided to show together rather than in their own homes. It was a great success and attracted large numbers of people from outside the village. There

were many positive comments about what a beautiful church we have and how versatile it is whilst remaining so clearly a place of worship.

CORONATION DRINKS PARTY

On Sunday 7th May the church hosted a Drinks Party for the village to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Major General Sir Simon Cooper proposed the Toast to The King and we sang two rousing verses of the National Anthem.

BIG GREEN WEEK

St Andrew's Church hosted an exhibition for Big Green Week in June.

JO JOHNSON'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS A LAY MINISTER

After Sung Matins on 13th August, the congregation celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Jo becoming a Lay Minister.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Patronal Festival of St Andrew was marked on Sunday 27th August with a sung celebration of the Eucharist followed by fizz and cake.

POST-FETE PARTY

In September, over eighty villagers enjoyed a gathering in the church with wine and nibbles to see the video and photographs of the Fete and to hear the financial out-turn; as a result of which substantial donations were made to county and local charities.

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

The well-attended Harvest Festival Service took place on 17th September. Thirty members of the village community then enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by a talk by Elizabeth Hockney on the creating of a wild flower, bird and animal habitat in the churchyard. The church collection and the proceeds from the Lunch went to support the Trussell Trust, as did a large quantity of foodstuffs.

MACMILLAN CANCER COFFEE MORNING

This popular annual event made very good use of the church's many facilities and raised over £600 for Macmillan.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

For the second year running, the large congregation at the Remembrance Service was offered refreshments afterwards; this was very well received. The Service itself was very moving and reminded everyone about sacrifice.

SELLING EXHIBITION BY LOCAL ARTISTS

In November the third annual Selling Exhibition by local artists took place. This one was even more successful than in previous years with more exhibitors and more visitors. Using the church's exhibition panels, the church lent itself so well to this venture, which was successful both for the exhibitors personally and for the charities supported, including St Andrew's Church.

CAROL SERVICE

The traditional Service of Nine Lessons with Carols continues to attract a large congregation and was followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The Choir sang three anthems for Christmas. The church was beautifully decorated and lit by many candles.

BAPTISMS, FUNERALS AND SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING

It is always a privilege for the Church to be able to offer St Andrew's for a gathering after these services. The church's flexibility and facilities make this very straightforward.

During 2023 the congregation and village said farewell and offered thanks for the lives of Colonel John Hill OBE and Major Roly Shaw; both stalwart supporters of the church and the village community.

We also hosted a Wedding Blessing and drinks party in October.

Just before Christmas, we welcomed a large congregation for the baptism of Olivia Macdougald's grandson from America, followed by refreshments.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to hold its meetings and its AGM in the church, usually on Thursday evenings.

OTHER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

The PCC, Fete Committee and the Benefice Council all use the church. The Choir practiced in the church throughout 2023. A Lent Lunch was held in March 2023. Once a month, the Friday Communion Service is followed by coffee.

Michael Hockney

April 2024