**CHURCH WARDENS REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

2024 was a busy year for St Andrew’s. We held a number of funerals both in our church and the crematorium. We also had a few baptisms.

We opened the church for a few concerts, the Scouts had their carol service and Greenfield Primary School also returned this year for their carol service.

Sunday services were well attended with increasing numbers during the year.

During the second half of the year, we were without a caretaker but people were quick to volunteer with their help and we coped well. Pettitts now arrange cleaning of the Cornerstone themselves and that is working well.

The garden team take care of the community garden and our maintenance team of Geoff Kirk, Trev Ainge and Malcolm Payne have been busy doing lots of small repairs, clearing drains, sweeping paths, weeding and generally taking care of our churchyard and buildings.

We had a new boiler fitted in the Cornerstone and a great team of volunteers made sure the Cornerstone was spotless in time for the Autumn term.

We had a number of fundraising events during the year and started a special restoration fund for forthcoming building repairs.

A few people have taken on roles, ie intercessions and being welcomers, and we have a group that has taken on the teaching in our newly formed Sunday school.

Jacqui and Dave McAughey have guided us in our responsibilities regarding safeguarding training and our thanks go to them.

I must offer special thanks to Josh Stokes in his role as honorary church warden. He is very conscientious and when he does have a Sunday off we really miss him, as he knows exactly what is required.

During the year it came to our attention that cracks were appearing around the chancel stained glass window. We contacted our architect John Dodson and he inspected it. John then said he was retiring and recommended Simon Bird to take over and we duly appointed him. A close watch is being made and we hope to get a specification and quotes for that and also tower repairs mentioned in the quinquennial. Margaret Seville and Edward Thomas have researched a list of possible grants we may apply for once we have a faculty in place.

Towards the end of 2024 we appointed Tony Cuthbert to be our new premises officer and cleaner. He did volunteer to clean the church for a few times in the lead-up until Christmas before starting officially in January 2025.

During the year the lights in the church were all changed to LED to save on future expenditure. The outside lighting on the Bridge will also be changed to movement sensitive lighting.

Thanks go to the Parish Council for mowing the lawns, tree maintenance and yearly maintenance of the clock. They will also be repairing the path this year.

Thanks also to David Burley for playing the organ at services and funerals during the year. A big thank you to Richard, Cam, and the rest of the ministry team and our musicians who all freely give their time and their gifts.

We have now taken over management ourselves of our rental properties and have saved money on letting fees.

Thanks must be given to our administrator Emma Adams. Nothing is too much trouble for her and she always has a smiling face in the office when greeting people.

St Andrew’s is very much a team effort and Stephen, Sally and I, feel supported and encouraged by everyone here.

Anne Jelves