

ST ANDREWS ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2016

The Chaplaincy Council of St. Andrew's Church, Moscow



St Andrew's Anglican Church in Moscow
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Aim and purposes

St. Andrew's Chaplaincy Council (CC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The CC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex of St. Andrew's, at 8/5 Vosnesensky pereulok, Moscow and the adjacent parsonage building.

Objectives and Activities

St. Andrew's is in the Eastern Archdeaconry, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, Bishop of the Diocese in Europe. In 2002, we became a partner church of the Community of the Cross of Nails, which originated in Coventry Cathedral.

We strive to be a Christ-centred, worshipping, loving and welcoming community dedicated to serving the local diverse population in the image of Christ. It is important to stress that we are not an ordinary English parish. By dint of the demographics of our congregation and our role here in Russia, important aspects such as visiting sick and home-bound parishioners, pastoral visits to nursing homes, prison and hospital ministry, do not constitute a major part of our regular ministry here in Moscow in the way that they would in a typical parish in England.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

We hold regular Sunday worship services at 8.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. The 8.30 Holy Communion service is for those who love the language and tradition of the Book of Common Prayer and attracts a small, but very dedicated congregation. Our principal worship service is the Sung Eucharist, held at 11.00 a.m. The 11.00 a.m. service is a 'middle-to-high' Anglican service. Eucharistic vestments are worn. For that service, we use Common Worship Order One in Contemporary Language, as being more accessible to those of our congregation for whom English is not their first language. Bearing in mind that we have congregants from not only the wide spectrum of the worldwide Anglican and Episcopalian tradition, but also from some more Evangelical denominations, we include some modern worship songs, in addition to traditional hymns. Our Sunday 11.00 a.m. service is made more solemn and special by our dedicated team of servers who always constitute a strong Altar Party. A Holy Communion service is also held each Wednesday at 19.00, and morning and evening prayer according to the chaplain's availability.

St. Andrew's is also a focus for special events which are celebrated by the British Commonwealth, in particular Remembrance Sunday, when members of the wider diplomatic corps and Russian military associations gather to remember fallen comrades and to lay wreaths. This is an inter-denominational service. St Andrew's is likewise the focus for other significant celebrations, such as Royal events. The Chaplain also celebrates ANZAC day at the Australian and New Zealand Embassies (in rotation).

Electoral Roll and profile of congregation

Our current Electoral Roll stands at 44 and represents worshippers from approximately 12 different countries. Our Electoral Roll dropped to around 30 following the advent of sanctions and the relocation of many businesses and individual expats from Russia. It is, however, growing slowly but steadily now.

St Andrew's has an inevitably transient congregation. A large part of our community is comprised of the foreign diplomatic and business community, as well as students, teachers and others whose time in Moscow comes with a fixed term. Our 11.00 a.m. Sunday services regularly attract 70-80 worshippers and major festivals such as Easter and Nine Lessons and Carols can see 200+ people at St Andrew's, which means standing room only in the nave.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's conducts both infant and adult (two and one, respectively, in 2016) baptisms on a regular basis. Confirmations depend on the availability of a visiting bishop, and over the years we have had a small but regular stream of confirmands. The last Confirmation was presided over by the Bishop of London when he led a delegation to meet with Patriarch Kirill in 2015.

Because in Russia State and Church are quite strictly separated from each other, Canon Law does not allow us to solemnise Holy Matrimonies at St Andrew's. From time to time, the priest does receive requests to bless civil marriages. There have been only four funerals over the past eighteen years.

Church Music

Music is an important part of the life of St Andrew's. Our principal Sunday service is a sung Eucharist with hymns, accompanied by piano or sometimes full concert organ, and all are welcome to swell the voice of the congregation.

We are blessed to have a small group of strong voices, coordinated by a passionate Director of Music, who help to lead the singing. For major services - most particularly the Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols - volunteers are sought from the congregation to practice and prepare some more challenging music.

Children, Young People and Sunday School

The Sunday School at St Andrew's welcomes children of all ages with classes taking place during the 11.00 a.m. service every week of the school year, from early September to mid June. There is a Family Service on the final Sunday of the month. This service follows a less formal liturgy and the children stay in church throughout and take an active part in proceedings - generally performing a short skit based on the day's Gospel reading and leading intercessions. The Sunday School is led by a member of the congregation responsible for Children's Ministries, supported by a loyal team of volunteers. The children's ministry is divided into two parts:

- The Creche (Nursery), ages 0-4. This age group is cared for by two experienced ladies who have been caring for our younger children for several years.
- The Sunday School currently combines all age groups from 6 - teen. We use materials and themes on www.sermons4kids.com - a programme with activities and materials designed for the young.

Working with Other Moscow Churches

St Andrew's has a close working relationship with many of the other Christian denominations represented in Moscow. Since the re-instatement of a permanent priest in the early 1990s, the incumbent has also been the Archbishop of Canterbury's Apokrisarios to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. This involves maintaining a close diplomatic relationship, which has recently borne fruit in the usage agreement. Despite doctrinal differences the Anglican and Russian Orthodox Churches share some surprising similarities.

It is fair to say that the Anglican Church has been the most warmly welcomed amongst all the Western Christian Churches by the Patriarchate. 2016 saw a very successful trip by the Patriarch to the UK to celebrate 300 years of Russian Orthodoxy in Britain, during which he met HM The Queen in London. The role of Apokrisarios also involves maintaining a dialogue with the Papal Nuncio.

Representatives from other Christian denominations are regularly invited to special services, such as Remembrance Sunday or the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in December.

St. Andrew's has the closest links with the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, who worship in our building on Sunday afternoons. Holy Week services and occasional other events are organised jointly with MPC.

Mission and Outreach

St. Andrew's Church in Moscow is a community of Christians who seek to:

- **Nurture** the development of our faith through an Anglican form of worship, providing regular services which communicate the Gospel of Christ;
- **Apply** our Christian beliefs to our daily lives;
- **Develop** a community to support each other while living in Moscow;
- **Encourage** oecumenical activities and initiatives;
- **Serve** the community.

St. Andrew's is not a proselytising church and we should be sensitive to this issue, as we are guests of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia. While we cannot preach on street corners, however, we do have a number of regular initiatives which enable us to reach out to the local community. These include Russian Easter cakes collected in the time for Orthodox Easter, for distribution to the homeless; and a Harvest- Advent appeal for Winter clothing and tinned food which has in various years been given to the Salvation Army, the Mother Teresa Sisters of Charity or the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy soup kitchens for distribution to those in need.

We always give the proceeds of our pub quizzes to a charity of choice, currently (2016-2017) Mary's Meals, who provide lunch for children in a school context in impoverished regions and countries such as Malawi.

Serving the Community

Some of the community events in which we engage are listed below:

Annual Summer Village Fete - a classic English fete held in the Church and garden around the date of the Queen's birthday.

Christmas Bazaar - mainly an arts and crafts fair held in the sanctuary in early December and a way for St Andrew's to raise money for funding Church activities, while giving parishioners and visitors an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts and traditional food, snacks, and homemade produce.

The "Green Team" - As most people in Moscow live in flats, we have a devoted team of people who love gardening and getting their hands dirty in our beautiful garden.

Bring-and-Share Meals - typically held after the service on Feast Days.

The Marriott Courtyard Hotel - across the street from the church, provides equipment for many of our events free of charge and hosts our pub quizzes on generous terms. In return, hotel guests enjoy our gardens and, we hope, visit St Andrew's.

Communication and Social Media

St Andrew's stays in touch via social media: Facebook, Instagram, www.standrewsmoscow.org and via a site called The City, which is a special online community designed to help organise and communicate church events and happenings.

The Church Centre Complex

The history of St Andrew's really begins in 1825, a decade after Napoleon's sacking of Moscow. British merchants, living in what was firmly established as the commercial capital of the Russian Empire, built a chapel and community complex where English speakers could gather. They purchased a small estate at 8, Voznesensky Lane, a 10-minute walk from the Kremlin, in a neighbourhood where buildings can still be found dating back to the time of Tsar Peter the Great.

Fifty years on, in 1882, a new generation of merchants - predominantly Scottish, but also English cotton manufacturers from Lancashire - replaced the fire-damaged chapel with the distinctive English Neo- Gothic church that we see today. The church was consecrated in honour of St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland (and one of the patron saints of Russia). The design came from Robert Knill, Freeman of Bolton, whom historians say sold church building designs to British expatriate communities throughout Queen Victoria's Empire. In 1894, construction work was completed on the three-storey, red-brick Victorian- style Parsonage which was funded by Jane McGill, a wealthy widow in the congregation.

The property was confiscated after the Russian Revolution and used for a variety of secular purposes, including a Bolshevik gun emplacement, a warehouse and a girls' dormitory. In 1961, on account of its fabulous acoustics, the church was re-allocated to the USSR's state-owned record label "Melodiya" for use as a recording studio. Many famous recordings were made in the church during Melodiya's legacy and to this day musicians consider St Andrew's one of the best performance halls in Moscow - second only to the Moscow Conservatoire. It was not until 14th July, 1991 that St Andrew's would again be the scene of a church service. In 1991, permission was granted for one service a month by a visiting priest from Helsinki. As the then medical officer at the British Embassy was also a licensed lay reader, services were soon conducted on a fortnightly basis, and by 1994, weekly services were presided over by St Andrew's first full- time chaplain since the revolution. St. Andrew's has only had three permanent chaplains in that time: Reverend Canon Chad Coussmaker, OBE, who retired in 1998; Reverend Canon Simon Stephens, OBE, a retired Royal Navy chaplain, who was with us for over 14 years; Reverend Clive Fairclough, from 2013 to 2016.

St Andrew's is a busy working parish. Since our congregation is scattered throughout Moscow, many are only able to come to church for the Sunday services, but there is a great deal that happens throughout the working week. St Andrew's is home to a number of organisations, principal amongst those which have not been mentioned earlier are:

- **Heavenly Bridge Cultural Fund** arranges four to five concerts a week in St. Andrew's (principally of organ music, but also involving other instrumentalists and vocalists). These concerts form an important part of our fundraising for the maintenance and restoration of the church building. We are working with Heavenly Bridge to install a Church organ imported from Germany, for mutual use, at their expense.
- **Step Up**, St. Andrew's post-orphanage education centre works with children raised in orphanages to help them catch up on their missed education. Classes take place during the afternoons and evenings on most days of the week (except Sundays).

- **Flying Banana Theatre Company** produces occasional plays both in the church and in the Queen's Garden during the summer. Their open-air productions of Shakespeare perform to packed audiences.
- **Moscow International Choir** is a respected amateur group of mainly expat singers who rehearse and perform significant pieces of music at St Andrew's.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**, both English and Russian language AA groups meet regularly at St Andrew's.
The Moscow **AlAnon** group is also co-ordinated via St Andrew's.
- **St Andrew's Orthodox Theological Library** is an academic resource housed in the St Andrew's Church tower.

St Andrew's has fought long and hard to clarify its status and secure its permanency. While outright ownership of the property may have been desirable, in 2016 we finally registered title rights for 99 years under a formal usage agreement from the Ministry of State Property. This is a huge cumulative achievement of successive generations and recognises us as the lawful and rightful occupiers of the church. It is the equivalent of a Grade II Listed Building in the UK, but at the same time, it is a burden since it is the user, not the owner, who has responsibility for repair and maintenance.

Administrative information and volunteers

Thanks must be expressed to all the members of the congregation who helped in large and small ways. These include maintaining the income from the concerts programme, making the garden attractive, making visitors welcome with tea and coffee, and sitting in December's cold weather by the door to welcome visitors to the bazaar or clearing up after the events we have held.

Many Councillors and some other members of the congregation also perform distinct roles in the work of St Andrew's, such as Director of Music, Leader of Sunday School and Safeguarding Officer, as well as participating in teams overseeing Restoration and Events. CC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Clive Fairclough (Chairman, from 1 January until his departure on 25 December 2016).

Elected members:

Miles Jones, Giles Walker (wardens from 24 April 2016),

Elizabeth Bearman, Patricia Szymczak (representatives on the Archdeaconry Synod)

Nicolette Kirk

Dmitry Denisov

Michael Gibson

Louise Nanchen

Donald Levens

Jennifer Howard (warden from 1 January to 24 April 2016)

Susan Mace (warden from 1 January to 24 April 2016)