

St Andrew's Anglican Church in Moscow:
Религиозная Организация «Англиканская церковь в Москве»
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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, MOSCOW

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S

The history of St Andrew's begins in 1829, over a decade after Napoleon's sacking of Moscow. British merchants, living in what was firmly established as the commercial capital of the Russian Empire, purchased a small estate with a dwelling house which they fitted as a chapel 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 old chapel which became too small for the congregation 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 Richard Knill Freeman of Bolton, an architect whose style, described as muscular Anglo-Catholic Gothic, would have appealed greatly to the congregation in Moscow. 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, rooms for the Finnish embassy and a girls' dormitory. In 1957, 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, Dr Hugh Carpenter, OBE, 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. The Anglican community was given a 49 year lease for the Church in 2016, and for the parsonage in 2018. This recognises us as the lawful and rightful occupiers of the building. Restoration work began in 2017.

St. Andrew's has only had four permanent chaplains since 1994: Reverend Canon Chad Coussmaker, OBE, who retired in 1999; Reverend Canon Simon Stephens, OBE, a retired Royal Navy chaplain, who was with us for over 14 years; Reverend Clive Fairclough, from 2014 to end of 2016, and the current incumbent, Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers.

THE TRUSTEES REPORT

1. AIM AND PURPOSES

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

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St. Andrew's is in the Eastern Archdeaconry, under the canonical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, Bishop of the Diocese in Europe.

We strive to be a Christ-centred, worshipping, teaching, serving and witnessing community. We seek to offer a place that all (irrespective of faith) who are away from home can consider to be a home, and to be a bridge between East and West, a place where Westerners and Russians can meet and serve together. In 2002, we became a partner church of the Community of the Cross of Nails, which originated in Coventry Cathedral.

St. Andrew's seeks primarily to serve the expatriate English speaking community in Moscow, and all our services and events are in English. Inevitably, we have a transient congregation, and our community is mainly comprised of teachers, students and people who are here on business. We have a few from the diplomatic communities. Sanctions and COVID have hit our community hard and currently there are fewer UK and US expats in Moscow than there have been since St Andrew's was re-established. However, we have several expats who have made Russia their home, English speaking people from about 27 different countries and an increasing number of Russians who have chosen to make St Andrew's their spiritual home.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2021 IN SUMMARY.

2021 was a year for rebuilding after the difficulties in 2020, and we have much to thank God for.

Our congregations began to rebuild, and we are now almost at the level that we were before COVID (averaging about 100 at our 11am service). We have also been able to resume our Sunday school and monthly skits. Indeed, the church is now often over-full on a Sunday because of restricted seating and we plan to begin an additional service on Sunday afternoons at 3pm in 2022. Meanwhile we have seen some small growth at our Wednesday service, and for the last few months the chaplain has been doing a series on the icons that appear on the Festival Row in the Orthodox iconostasis. Several members of the congregation, including Glen Ruffle, Michael Gibson and Giles Walker have visited the St Petersburg Anglican community to take services. The chaplain visited the community five times in 2021, including conducting a carol service.

We have been hosting the Lavochka, a second hand clothes store - offering both clothes for people who have nothing and also selling clothes and raising money for charities. The store has been run by Sasha, the daughter of Vladimir, our head guard, and Saida. Sasha has adopted a little girl, and needs more time with her, and so is now stepping down. We are grateful for all that she has done in starting this up but will need to take on more responsibility for the project ourselves.

It was fantastic to be able to run the summer fayre, Christmas bazaar and pub quizzes again. We had more people than in any previous bazaar. Other highlights were our St Andrew's day choral evensong (a huge thank you to Nicolette, Dmitry and singers not only for that, but for all their work during the year), the fact that we were able to livestream the funeral for Prince Philip, a gardener and a gardening team who have made a significant difference, the Pentecost BBQ, History day and the work done by Crescendo, a Christian organisation set up to minister to professional classical musicians. It has been good to work with Emma Marie Kabanova on a couple of projects, Kiss on Wood, during Lent, and a project on the Psalms in the early autumn.

There has also been deep sadness. Hong, Ming's husband, died of COVID in June, and we continue to pray for her and for her daughter Wenyu. She still has not been able to get to the UK to see her daughter [update: she was able to travel in February 2022]. Luke Conner also died. Luke was the president of the British Business Club and had been a huge supporter of St Andrew's, and particularly the restoration. It was good to be able to host a fundraiser for Sasha Conner and the family. We also had the funeral service of Anthony Louis, who had been associated with St Andrew's for many years.

We've continued to be a place where people can explore licensed ministry. Olga Fabrikantova Burke, who found her vocation here when Father Simon was here, was ordained priest in 2021 and now serves at Trinity College, Cambridge. Josh Cleaver, who was here from 2019-2020, continues to study for ordination. Pray for him as he looks for a parish. Mary Kilikidi, who set up and ran our youth group, was accepted onto the Ministry Experience Scheme, and is currently serving in a parish in Salcombe in the UK, to see whether she is called to ordination. Dan Culbertson has started training for ordained ministry, and of course we have been joined by Glen Ruffle. It is wonderful to have Glen back, but now as curate of St Andrew's.

Our restoration fundraising stalled in 2020, and we have been particularly blessed by the support of Leonid Sevastianov, who has arranged a couple of fundraising concerts with his wife, Svetlana Kasyan, the opera singer, for St Andrew's restoration. One was at the residency of the British ambassador and one at St Andrew's in partnership with leopard-fund.ru, who preserve the far Eastern snow leopard. In total this year we have raised, with concerts and other events, including Helen Watson's tower tours, about 4m roubles (\$50k) towards the work of the restoration. We still have a long way to go, but in the current climate that is remarkable. We will be eligible to be part of the city restoration project for 2022, which means that we can do work on the roof. As always, a huge thank you to Pat Szymczak, head of restoration, and to Dmitry Denisov, our lawyer, for the work that they have done on the restoration.

Administratively, changes in visa requirements and regulations have caused difficulties for us this year, and two of our families had to leave because of the increasing political tensions between East and West. As far as the staff and building are concerned, several of our guards have struggled with sickness, but have done a great job covering each other. We have said goodbye to Grigory Sidoretz who has been our premises manager for many years and have welcomed Dmitry Kochurov. We have managed to repair the windows in the basement of the parsonage, and Louise Nanchen has done significant work improving the space that the playgroup uses.

i. MISSION AND MINISTRY

a. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Services

We held regular Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11.00 am

The following figures are based on physical attendance throughout the year

The 9am Holy Communion service uses the Book of Common Prayer and attracts on average 9 (2020-10) people. Our principal worship service is Holy Communion (using Common Worship order one) held at 11.00 am. It attracted on average 78 (2020-57) adults and 9 (2020-7) children under the age of 16.

A service of Holy Communion is also held each Wednesday at 19.00, with an average attendance of 12 (2020-12).

Our Electoral Roll in September 2020 stood at 55 (2020-55) and represents worshippers from 8 different countries.

Major services include the annual Remembrance Day service, when members of the wider diplomatic corps gather to remember fallen comrades and to lay wreaths. Attendance at all services continued to be restricted to 100, and we were full for our Remembrance Day service, carol service and midnight communion. We held an ANZAC day service at the bequest of members of the Australian and New Zealand communities.

We continued to live stream daily morning prayer and our 11am Sunday

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's had 5 (2020-5) baptisms in 2021, we conducted 4 wedding blessings (2020-0) and 3 funeral services (2020-0)

There were 25 (2020-11) other wedding blessings conducted in St Andrew's by ministers from other churches.

Church Music

We are immensely grateful to Dima Maximenko, our organist/pianist and to Nicolette Kirk, our Director of Music, for leading our music in worship. She has been assisted by Helen Watson, Steffan Jebamani and Alison Rogers

Children, Young People and Sunday School

Our Sunday School began again in September, after COVID, and we are grateful to Rachel Culbertson, Alison Rogers and Sarah Stobbart for their help

We resumed a staffed creche.

Michael Gibson once again began to produce amazing skits at our all-age services, when the COVID situation has permitted

Working with Other Moscow Churches

We were able to celebrate St Andrew's Day with a choral evensong at which we had representatives from many local churches, including our Orthodox neighbours.

It was with great sadness that at the end of 2021, we said goodbye to Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, who are moving to worship at the Lutheran Cathedral.

The chaplain serves as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and has continued to meet with representatives of the Patriarchate.

b. TEACHING

In 2021 we continued to use the lectionary as the basis of our teaching through the year on Sundays, with a focus on the Gospel readings

We continue to have a contemplative bible study after our Wednesday communion service

We continue our zoom bible study on Tuesday evenings, which has a regular attendance of between 8 and 12.

c. SERVING

We resumed pub quizzes in aid of Mary's meals.

We gave food and financial gifts to the Salvation Army for their work with those who are homeless. We established our lavochka and we made a donation of \$535 to the Bishop's Advent Appeal for Anglican communities worldwide who had been worst hit by COVID.

In 2020 St Andrew's building was also home to several other organisations, not already mentioned.

Moscow International Choir is a respected amateur group of singers, from all over the world, who rehearse and perform significant pieces of music at St Andrew's.

Twelve step groups. Both English and Russian language AA groups have met regularly at St Andrew's, along with a NA group. There are 13 different Twelve step groups that meet regularly at St Andrew's.

St Andrew's playgroup. This began to operate in September 2017 and offers a playgroup to parents who wish their children to speak English.

Concerts. Heavenly Bridge Cultural Fund and Belcanto arrange regular concerts a week in St. Andrew's (principally of organ music, but also involving other instrumentalists and vocalists).

Total attendance continued to be restricted to 50% of total capacity.

d. WITNESSING

St Andrew's is, like every Christian church, committed to proclaiming the gospel, seeking for people to come to Christ and grow in their faith. We are guests of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia and are not a proselytising church in the sense that we do not seek to establish Russian Anglican churches, but we do seek to witness to Christ to expatriates who live here or are visiting.

In 2021 we had 5 baptisms.

ii. ST ANDREW'S BUILDING

In 2021 we completed the external design project (architects drawings) for the parsonage. We have also resubmitted plans to the Moscow City Restoration Programme to do work on the roof in 2022.

We are grateful for the dedicated and extremely time demanding work of Pat Szymczak, the chair of our restoration project, and also for the work of Dmitry Denisov, our lawyer

4. FUTURE PLANS

In 2022 we plan to complete works in the chapel, dedicated to the saints and martyrs of the British Isles in the first millenium. In 2021 we commissioned an altar and credence table, designed by Pat Szymczak, and also an icon of the saints of the British Isles, paid for by donations from Natasha Davies and Pat Colley in memory of their Engels and Colley ancestors. We plan to start and develop a third service on Sunday afternoon, actively start opening a centre for reconciliation, host a visit by the former Archbishop Rowan Williams, run a confirmation course, and continue fund raising for the roof.

Much has however changed.

In view of events that took place in February 2022, St Andrew's is probably facing its most significant challenge since 1917. Our key aim for this year is to survive, to support one another, to be a presence of a foreign/Russian community who are centred on Jesus Christ, to pray for peace, to continue to preach the good news and to love our neighbour as best we can. We will seek to maintain the building, and are hoping to continue to develop our Lavochka, which we expect will become more important.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Sources of income and reserves

Our income comes from the collections at church services as well as from lump sum donations, in addition to the fundraising events outlined elsewhere in this report. Also, all those using the church for other purposes make donations, large or small (depending on their ability and generosity), towards the fixed operating costs. Anything we have left is used for whichever repair to the buildings is most urgent at the time. We have sought to keep the balance in the general fund broadly at the same level at the end of each year, to represent at least three months of expenses (approximately \$60,000). Income for 2021 returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the surplus for 2021 resulted in an increase in this buffer to about \$88,000.

Funds received for restoration purposes and expenses therefrom are recorded separately.

Financial Outlook

It is extremely difficult to predict the result for 2022, taking into account the effects of the Russian military operations in Ukraine and the volatility of exchange rates seen since that time. Having said that, local sources of income have not decreased significantly up to the date of this annual report. We would expect an overall decrease in congregational giving, following the departure of about 60 foreign members of the congregation, but this should be matched by an increase in donations for concerts. Our day-to-day expenditure is more or less predictable, being subject only to the vagaries of movements in foreign exchange rates and inflationary pressures, although we will see a reduction in the costs of a curate in the later part of the year, as we are unable to continue to offer Moscow as a suitable training post. However, the amounts required for the badly needed restoration are huge and cannot only be found from existing sources of income or members of the congregation. While the subsidy programme of the Moscow City government will pay for most of the above ground structural work, the Chaplain and the CC and other volunteers will need to devote a considerable amount of energy and prayer to this purpose, when circumstances make this possible

General fund

Total income increased in US\$ by about \$50,000 compared to 2020, which reflects the recovery of activities to pre-pandemic levels. Expenses increased by about \$40,000, mainly due to higher building occupancy costs and increased salaries for the chaplain, the new curate, and inflation increases for local employees. A net exchange loss of about \$5,000 is also reflected in the general fund, where most of the cash at any time is in Russian roubles.

At a high level, about 29% of total income came from the congregation and other supporters as either collections in services or lump sum donations (2020 - 49%); 29% from other users of the building (2020 - 25%); 25% from concerts (2020 - 15%); 8% from film and photo shoots and fund-raising events including the summer fete and Christmas Bazaar (2020 - 1%), and the remaining 9% was grants from the Russia Company (2019 - 10%).

Our biggest single expense is salary costs of \$140,000, compared to \$121,000 in 2020. Diocesan common fund contributions are almost identical to 2020 in GBP; they are based on averages of income and electoral roll over the most recent 3 completed years, so the figures for 2017 only fall out of the calculation for the calendar year 2021. For 2022, the expense will be GBP 8,353 (the same as for 2021), currently equivalent to \$ 10,200.

The buildings for which we are responsible include the Church and the parsonage, as well as a few small outbuildings. Due to their age and harsh weather conditions, there are always repairs to be considered. The most unpredictable cost with an old building is, of course, urgent maintenance as well as planned work.

Careful stewardship has ensured that we have sufficient reserves to meet the current crisis, but your new church council will need to continue to be responsible in both controlling costs and raising additional funds.

Restoration fund

After obtaining legal title under the use agreement in late 2016, we have been able to focus on raising funds for actual restoration of the buildings. The brickwork on the west wall was restored using funds from the Moscow City government's subsidy programme for restoration of historic buildings in mid-2018, but since this work was not carried out using our resources, it is not reflected in our figures (and future work carried out using funds granted from this subsidy programme will be treated similarly). In 2021, donations received were mainly from two special charity concerts, one in St Andrew's and one in the residency of the British Ambassador, courtesy of our ambassador, Deborah Bronnert.

The restoration fund had a deficit for the year of approximately \$2,000 before exchange losses, and the restoration fund had a surplus of about \$16,000 at the end of 2021. Expenditure in 2021 was limited to architects' drawings which should enable us to apply for further subsidies for replacing the church roof and work on the facade. The CC will review the next steps for restoration when it becomes clear whether the 2022 subsidy programme has been cancelled

6. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church Council (CC) is a corporate body operating under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and other relevant regulations of the Church of England, as supplemented or as applicable in the Diocese in Europe. The method of appointment of CC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's the membership of the CC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who, as regular attendees of our services, are on the electoral roll of the church. All those on the Electoral Roll are encouraged to stand for election to the CC. The CC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the chaplaincy including deciding how the funds of the Church are to be spent.

The full CC met six times during 2021 (one of which was fully on zoom) with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Administrative information and volunteers

Church Council members who served from April 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers (incumbent and chair)

Reverend Glen Ruffle (arrived September 2021)

Elected members:

Dan Culbertson (warden), Daniel Wamriew (warden),

Louise Nanchen and Giles Walker (representatives on Archdeaconry Synod)

Donald Levens (treasurer), Sara Harris (secretary and electoral roll officer), Patricia Szymczak, Michael Gibson, Helen Watson, Sarah Parry, Mary Kilikidi (left September 2021, to go to UK to serve as an intern on the Ministry Experience Team), Suresh Rose

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who have supported or participated in the life of our church community. We are immensely grateful for the continued financial support of the Russia Company, and to the Diocesan office, and in particular Nick Wraight and the financial team, for all they do for us. As for people at St Andrew's, there are too many to name individually, but a particular thank you to all the members of the Church Council. Thank you for what you do.

Also to our staff, Inna (administrator), Elena (accountant) and Dmitry (our new premisses manager) and guards (Vladimir, Volodya, Sergei, Nikolai and Vladimir). A particular thank you to Dmitry Denisov who serves as our lawyer and to Marina Putrenko, our verger. Finally a big thank you to Don, our treasurer, and to Dan Culbertson and Daniel Wamriew who serve as wardens.

Approved by the Church Council on 26 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers, Incumbent and Chair.