

St Andrew's Anglican Church in Moscow
Религиозная Организация «Англиканская церковь в Москве»

Voznesensky pereulok, 8/5
Tel./Fax: (7-495) 629-98-89

www.moscowanglican.org
administrator@standrewsmoscow.org
chaplain@standrewsmoscow.org

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL OF
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, MOSCOW

THE TRUSTEES REPORT

1. AIM AND PURPOSES

St. Andrew's Chaplaincy Council (CC) 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 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.

2. 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-centered, worshipping, teaching, serving and witnessing community. We seek to offer a place that all who are away from home can consider to be a home, a bridge between East and West, and a centre where we can hear the Word of God and grow in our understanding, faith and love.

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 comprised of members of the foreign diplomatic community, as well as students, teachers and others whose time in Moscow comes with a fixed term. Sanctions have hit our community hard and currently there are fewer expats in Moscow than there have been since St Andrew's was re-established. We also have several expats who have made Russia their home, and a number of Russians who have chosen to make St Andrew's their spiritual home.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2017 IN SUMMARY.

During 2017 St Andrew's went through a period of vacancy, and we are immensely grateful to Rev Patrick Irwin, Rev John Summers and Rev Michael Bullock, who served here as locums. Sadly we said goodbye to Marina Komarova, our administrator, and were grateful to Vasilisa Voronina who served as an interim administrator during the university holidays. It was a delight to celebrate her wedding to Lev Buinov in St Andrew's in September. In September, we re-established the St Andrew's play group. Also in September the new chaplain, Rev Canon Malcolm Rogers, was licensed by the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe; in October we appointed Inna Osipiva as our new administrator, and in November we had the privilege of welcoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to St Andrew's for a question and answer session and the licensing of the chaplain as his Apokrisarios to the Patriarch. The Archbishop was in Moscow for the first official visit of an Archbishop to the Patriarch since the 1980s, during which appreciation was expressed for the support of senior officials of the Orthodox Church to St Andrew's, in both ecumenical matters and specifically in our efforts to secure legal title to buildings and to become registered for the subsidy programme of the City of Moscow.

A. MISSION AND MINISTRY

I. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Services

We hold regular Sunday worship services at 8.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. The 8.30 Holy Communion service uses the Book of Common Prayer and attracts a small, but dedicated congregation. Our principal worship service is Holy Communion (using Common Worship order one) held at 11.00 a.m. Once a month we have an All Age service, which usually includes drama performed by our children and young people. A Holy Communion service is also held each Wednesday at 19.00, and daily morning prayer usually on Monday – Thursday.

Average Sunday attendance, excluding the major services, in 2017 was 58 (65) adults and 8 (12) children under the age of 16. Figures for 2016 are in brackets.

Our current Electoral Roll stands at 44 and represents worshippers from approximately 12 different countries.

We have occasional joint services with the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, especially during Lent, and for Pentecost.

Major services include the annual Remembrance Day service, when members of the wider diplomatic corps and Russian military associations gather to remember fallen comrades and to lay wreaths (attendance in 2017: 227), our carol service (attendance in 2017: 251) and midnight communion (attendance in 2017: 319)

The Chaplain also celebrates ANZAC day at the Australian and New Zealand Embassies (in rotation).

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's had 3 (3 in 2016) baptisms in 2017, and 1 thanksgiving service for the birth of a child. Confirmations depend on the availability of a visiting bishop.

Because in Russia State and Church are quite strictly separated from each other, the law does not allow us to solemnise marriages at St Andrew's. From time to time, the chaplain does receive requests to bless civil marriages, and in 2017 there were several blessed by our locums and we had the joy of celebrating the marriage between Vasilisa and Lev Buinov in September. Other Churches also use our building to have services of blessing for marriage.

Church Music

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 Remembrance Sunday and 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. 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, use the Chapter room next to the Church hall.

The Sunday School currently combines all age groups from 6 – teen, and currently uses 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 Representative to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. This involves maintaining a close diplomatic relationship. Despite doctrinal differences, the Anglican and Russian Orthodox Churches share some surprising similarities.

II. TEACHING

In 2017, we were able to run a Confirmation group, and an Advent course. On Sundays, we have been following the lectionary and focusing on teaching the Gospel readings.

III. SERVING

St Andrew's has 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 for distribution to those in need.

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

Other 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 once a month

Communication and Social Media - In 2017 we updated our website (www.standrewsmoscow.org) and rebuilt our chaplaincy database. We send out emails to all who wish to receive information about St Andrew's and also have a lively facebook page.

IV. WITNESSING

St. Andrew's is, like every Christian church, committed to seeing people 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 Autumn 2017 we ran a baptism/ confirmation preparation course for those wanting to find out more about the Christian faith.

B. ST ANDREWS BUILDING

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 four 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, and the current incumbent, Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers.

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 two or three 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).

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, along with a NA group. A Moscow **Al Anon** group is also co-ordinated via St Andrew's.

St Andrew's Orthodox Theological Library is an academic resource, belonging to the St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute, 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 49 years under a formal usage agreement from the Ministry of State Property, which was complemented by a similar agreement for the parsonage signed in early 2018. 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.

4. FUTURE PLANS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our hopes for 2018 are to see a growth in congregation numbers and giving, to focus on prayer – particularly in the first part of the year, to establish small groups, to develop our children's ministry and our music, to run at least one enquirers group and to have a confirmation service (if we are able to get hold of a bishop!).

On the social front, we hope to continue with our pub quizzes, run a festival at the beginning of Lent, a celebration event for the Royal Wedding, a summer fete to tie in with the Football World cup being held in Russia, and our Christmas bazaar, along with other events.

Administratively, we hope to revise the job descriptions for our staff, and particularly the guards, and to establish a more positive working relationship with Step-up.

Financially we would like to increase giving, with a teaching programme on giving.

BUILDINGS

We are also hoping that in 2018 restoration work will begin on St Andrew's. Towards the end of 2017 we were given a strong indication we would be part of the Moscow City Restoration programme, and this was confirmed in early 2018. The City Programme pays for the actual building work and technical supervision thereof, but the church needs to find the funding to pay for the design work and fees. The foundations need to be secured, the brick and stonework is suffering because of the severe Russian climate, the pipes and cables have not been touched since they were installed and some of the interior is crumbling. We estimate that the total cost of the restoration work will be about \$2.5m, of which we need to find \$350k. This does not include the cost of installing the new organ, which is being met by Heavenly Bridge, or the cost of any internal decoration such as restoring the stained-glass windows or the beautiful mosaics in the porch and sanctuary.

We therefore need to do some serious fundraising, so that a building which is a little piece of the United Kingdom situated in the centre of Moscow, dearly beloved by Muscovites, is secured for the next century, so that it not only continues as a place of worship, a popular venue for concerts and as a home for those who work with some of the most deprived people in the community, but also as a building which brings expatriates and Russians together and therefore a symbol of the hope that there can be reconciliation between East and West.

5. 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 CC are to be spent. The full CC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%.

Following the resignation of the former incumbent from his position on 25 December 2016, the CC meetings were held during the period of vacancy with one or other of the wardens taking the place of Chairman, and were attended in a non-voting capacity by the locum at the time until the licensing of the new chaplain in September 2017, after which he assumed his rightful role as Chairman of the meetings.

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 2017 are

Ex Officio members:

The Reverend Malcolm Rogers (Incumbent and Chairman from his licensing - 3 September 2017).

Sara Harris (secretary and electoral roll officer)

Elected members:

Miles Jones (warden from 1 January to 2 April 2017)

Giles Walker (warden)

Donald Levens (council member from 1 January to 2 April 2017, thereafter warden)

Elizabeth Bearman (representative on Archdeaconry Synod)

Glen Ruffle (from 2 April 2017, representative on Archdeaconry Synod)

Patricia Szymczak (Archdeaconry Synod representative to 2 April 2017, thereafter council member)

Nicolette Kirk (1 January to 2 April 2017)

Dmitry Denisov (1 January to 2 April 2017)

Michael Gibson

Louise Nanchen

Dan Culbertson (from 2 April 2017)

Helen Watson (from 2 April 2017)

Coopted members

Sarah Parry (from September 2017)

Daniel Wamriew (from December 2017)