

St Andrew's Anglican Church in Moscow:

Религиозная Организация «Англиканская церковь в Москве»

Voznesensky pereulok, 8/5 Tel: 7 495 629 9889

www.standrewsmoscow.org

administrator@standrewsmoscow.org

chaplain@standrewsmoscow.org

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

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. St. Andrew's has only had four permanent chaplains in that time: Reverend Canon Chad Coussmaker, OBE, who retired in 1999, and died on 27 August 2018; 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.

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. 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%.

Administrative information and volunteers

Church Council members who have served from April 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

The Reverend Malcolm Rogers (Incumbent and Chairman).
Sara Harris (secretary and electoral roll officer)

Elected members:

Giles Walker (warden and, from June 2018, representative on Archdeaconry Synod)
Donald Levens (warden and treasurer)
Elizabeth Bearman (representative on Archdeaconry Synod)
Glen Ruffle (Representative on Archdeaconry Synod) (left Moscow June 2018)
Dan Culbertson
Michael Gibson
Louise Nanchen
Sarah Parry
Patricia Szymczak
Daniel Wamriew
Helen Watson

3. 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, 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.

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 expulsions 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.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2018 IN SUMMARY.

2018 was dominated by events that were out of our control. As a result of the Novichok attack in Salisbury, and the diplomatic expulsions, we lost 14 members of our congregation. However, the deteriorating political situation did not affect very good relations between ordinary people, and in particular the football world cup was a fantastic time for people from all countries to meet together and celebrate. Many English fans were both surprised and delighted by how warm a welcome they received in Russia.

For St Andrew's the significant event of 2018 was our inclusion in the City Restoration programme, and finally the beginning of restoration work on the West End.

As a community we celebrated Samedi Gras in February, the Royal Wedding in May, the summer fete in June, a tour of the foreigners' cemetery in Vvedenskoe, a special service and reception for St Andrew's day and our annual Christmas bazaar. We also continued to have several gardening days, hold our pub quizzes in aid of Mary's meals, not to mention the many lunches that were provided after the Sunday services and a summer BBQ with MPC (the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy)

We opened a bookshop selling second hand books for the restoration and hosted the launch of a book in Russian on Anglicanism. We also began to develop one of the upper rooms as a museum about St Andrew, and have begun to run Tower Tours.

We had several visitors from the UK. John Witcombe, the Dean of Coventry, which is the mother church of the Community of the Cross of Nails, was in Moscow in January. He was followed by Bishop Jonathan Goodall, who conducted a Wednesday communion. Tony Redman, our UK based church surveyor, arrived in August for our quinquennial buildings inspection. In September, we welcomed Ann Tyndall who put on safeguarding training for all who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. And we also welcomed Bishop Jonathan again, but this time with a group of clergy and ordinands who were on a course put on by the Institute of Kiril and Methodius. At the end of October, Bishop Richard, Lord Chartres, visited Moscow in order to conduct a confirmation service for us.

We were delighted when Glen Ruffle qualified as a Reader in the Church of England, and was then accepted for training to become an ordained minister. Glen will go down in history as the shortest serving Reader at St Andrew's! He was licensed in June on the Sunday and left Russia on the Monday, in order to support his parents and prepare to go to theological college. He was obviously exercising ministry before he was licensed, and we have missed him. We were however delighted to welcome Josh and Nina Cleaver who spent a month with us in November. They are, God willing, going to join us permanently in March 2019, when Josh will come as a ministry assistant.

Finally, we were very grateful to Bishop Robert for making St Andrew's the focus of his diocesan appeal. Money was raised from the Diocese and beyond to enable us to install a kitchen.

A. MISSION AND MINISTRY

I. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Services

We hold regular Sunday worship services at 8.30 am and 11.00 am. The 8.30 Holy Communion service uses the Book of Common Prayer and attracts about 5-10 people. Our principal worship service is Holy Communion (using Common Worship order one) held at 11.00 am. Once a month we have an All Age service, which usually includes a drama written and produced by Mike Gibson and performed by our children and young people.

A service of Holy Communion is also held each Wednesday at 19.00, with about 8-15 people, and daily morning prayer usually on Monday – Thursday.

Average Sunday attendance at the 11am service, excluding the major services, in 2018 was 78 (58) adults and 10 (8) children under the age of 16. Our Electoral Roll in April 2018 stood at 37 (43) and represents worshippers from approximately 12 different countries. Figures for 2017 are in brackets.

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

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 220; in 2017: 227), our carol service (attendance 240; in 2017: 251) and midnight communion (attendance 355; in 2017: 319)

The Chaplain led an ANZAC day celebration at the New Zealand Embassy.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's had 12 baptisms in 2018 (4 in 2017).

We had a confirmation service, conducted by Bishop Richard, Lord Chartres, the former Bishop of London and current Dean of the Chapels Royal, with 15 adult candidates.

We are not legally able to solemnise weddings at St Andrew's, but in 2018 we celebrated the marriage of Olga and Simon Fabrikant-Burke. There were 12 other wedding blessings conducted in St Andrew's by ministers from other churches (4 in 2017)

Church Music

We are immensely grateful to Nicolette Kirk, our Director of Music, for faithfully providing the music each week, for leading the singing, and for getting together a choir for Remembrance Sunday and the Carol service. We were also grateful to Dima Maximenko for bringing along his choir, Lux ex Orient, to sing choral evensong on St Andrew's day.

Children, Young People and Sunday School

Our Sunday School welcomes children of all ages with classes taking place during the 11.00 am service from early September to mid-June. Our Sunday school leaders, Mike Gibson and Louise Nanchen have been joined by Alison Rogers and Rachel Culbertson.

We experimented splitting the age range, but do not really yet have the consistency of numbers of children or helpers, to make this viable. We hope to see this area develop in 2019. We currently use resources from www.sermons4kids.com

The Creche (Nursery), ages 0-4, use the Chapter room next to the Church hall.

Working with Other Moscow Churches

St Andrew's has a close working relationship with many of the other Christian denominations represented in Moscow. Many Evangelical, Baptist and Pentecostal churches use our building to celebrate weddings, and for occasional events.

We support the work of the Salvation Army with our Advent collection of food, and Josh Cleaver and the chaplain were able to take our gifts to them.

We also have a positive relationship with both the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholics. The chaplain serves as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and in 2018 was able to meet with Metropolitan Hilarion, the chair of the Department of External Relations, to express our gratitude for his help in ensuring that we were part of the City Restoration Programme. We have good relations with our neighbouring Orthodox churches: The Church of the Ascension, and of the Glorious Resurrection. It was very good to welcome their representatives at our St Andrew's day service.

II. TEACHING

In 2018, we ran a Confirmation group, a Lent course on prayer, a bible study in the parsonage and an Advent course. A ladies bible study has also begun, and grown significantly.

On Sundays, we followed the lectionary with a focus on the Gospel readings, but also had three weeks looking at the subject of giving. I am grateful to those who help by occasionally stepping in to speak – both for giving the chaplain a break and, of more importance, for giving the congregation a break from listening to the chaplain!

III. SERVING

St Andrew's has a number of regular initiatives, which enable us to reach out to the local community and beyond. We held regular pub quizzes in aid of Mary's Meals, who provide lunch for children in a school context in impoverished regions and countries such as Malawi. We also gave gifts to be used by MPC in their work with refugee families, to the Salvation Army for their work with those who are homeless, and to the Awareness Foundation, supporting Christian communities in Syria. A big thank you to Elizabeth Bearman for her work in overseeing our outreach.

In 2018 St Andrew's building was also home to a number of other organisations

Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, hold services in St Andrew's every Sunday afternoon, and provide food parcels to pensioners on every other Wednesday

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). Step Up are not able currently to make any significant contribution toward the costs of the building.

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous. Both English and Russian language AA groups meet regularly at St Andrew's, along with a NA group.

St Andrew's Orthodox Theological Library moved out of St Andrew's in March 2018. Sadly, it was not being used by sufficient numbers of people to make it viable for St Andrew's Orthodox Institute to justify maintaining it. The books and periodicals have been moved to the Kiril and Methodius Theological Institute.

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

Heavenly Bridge Cultural Fund arranges three or four concerts a week in St. Andrew's (principally of organ music, but also involving other instrumentalists and vocalists). We are working with Heavenly Bridge to install a Church organ imported from Germany, for mutual use, at their expense.

There were also an increasing number of other concerts held in St Andrew's.

IV. WITNESSING

St Andrew's is, like every Christian church, committed to proclaiming the gospel, seeking for 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. It was a joy to have had 12 baptisms in 2018, including adult baptisms, and also to have had 15 confirmation candidates.

ST ANDREW'S BUILDING

In 2016, St Andrew's 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 recognises us as the lawful and rightful occupiers of the church. St Andrew's 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.

The main work in 2018 was the restoration of the West Wall. St Andrew's paid for the design project, and the City Restoration Programme paid for the main works. We are immensely grateful to the dedicated and extremely time demanding work that Pat Szymczak, the chair of our restoration programme, has put into making Restoration and our participation in the City project possible.

5. FUTURE PLANS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our hope for 2019 is to see a continuation of the growth in congregation numbers and giving, to establish more small groups, to develop our children's ministry and our music, to encourage those who are considering licensed ministry, and to run at least one enquirers group.

We hope to increase the number of times when we serve a simple lunch after the service and, as in previous years, to continue with our pub quizzes, summer fete and Christmas bazaar.

On the administration side we need to prepare for a fire inspection in 2019 and to ensure that the building is as safe as we can make it. Our quinquennial inspection noted that there is far too much rubbish in the church building. And we seek to establish a more positive working relationship with Step-up.

STAFFING

We hope to be joined by Josh Cleaver, who will come to us as a ministry assistant. Josh is exploring the possibility of ordained ministry, and God willing, will be with us till summer 2020.

BUILDINGS

Our hope is that, in 2019, we can raise \$350,000 toward architectural and engineering designs, and for emergency work on the foundations. This would then release the pledged promise of up to \$2.5m from the Moscow City Restoration Programme, for façade and roof works. Those works would take place in 2020 and 2021. Much of our focus for 2019 will therefore be on fundraising.

It is hoped that the organ, being installed by Heavenly Bridge, will be completed in 2019.

Whilst our priority has to be restoration, we will also explore how we might use some of the money raised by Bishop Robert's Advent appeal in order to provide a kitchenette in church.

We do 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, of the Friends of St Andrew's (USA) for their support in restoration, to Luke Conner and the British Business Club, to anonymous donors and former members of St Andrew's who continue to support us 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 Grigory (premises manager), and guards (Vladimir, Volodya, Sergei, Nikolai and Alexander). 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 and Giles, our wardens and, in Don's case, our treasurer.

Approved by the Church Council on 31 March 2019, and signed on its behalf by The Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers, Incumbent and Chairman