

St Andrew's Anglican Church in Moscow:
Религиозная Организация «Англиканская церковь в Москве»
www.moscowanglican.org

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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. Restoration work began in 2017.

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 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 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 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 27 different countries and an increasing number of Russians who have chosen to make St Andrew's their spiritual home.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2019 IN SUMMARY.

In 2019 we saw continued numerical growth in the church community and we raised \$105k towards the restoration project. We installed a kitchenette, refreshed the second-hand bookshop, began emergency work on the foundations and completed the architects' plans for the roof and façade works.

Josh Cleaver joined us in February as our ministry assistant. The chaplain was appointed Area Dean of Russia and Ukraine at a simple ceremony in London in June. We were visited by Bishop Robert Innes, our Diocesan bishop, for a confirmation service in November. Bishop Robert was also able to visit the Patriarchate and City Hall, where he met Mr Vitaly Suchkov, head of Moscow City Government's Department of National Politics and Interregional links.

Fundraising was a big part of our work in 2019. It began with a Sunday lunch in February at the Residency of the Ambassador, when guests were invited to come and think through what we could do to raise funds. As a result, Stas Namin brought his theatre company to do a performance of Jesus Christ Superstar in St Andrew's and the British Business Club put on a river cruise in aid of the restoration. We were also able to have our first 'History Day' on Moscow City Day, the main feature of which were tours of St Andrew's tower. Peter Pantlin, who was recommended to us as

someone who could help raise funds by Bishop Richard Chartres, became our fundraiser in the United Kingdom, and a fundraising dinner was organised for us in London by Edward Lucas, a former member of St Andrew's. The Friends of St Andrew's, USA, also made a significant contribution.

On the social front we had our usual simple and shared lunches, Summer fete, Christmas bazaar, and charity pub quizzes in aid of Mary's Meals. We were also able to celebrate the blessing of the wedding of Daniel and Polina Wamriew as a church community.

We had joint services with Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy ("MPC") on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and a joint service and barbecue with MPC on Trinity Sunday. Mike Zdorow the pastor of MPC left in June, and the chaplain conducted quite a number of services for MPC while they awaited the arrival of an interim pastor.

We were visited in 2019 by the Harrow School Choir, who sang for one of our services; a pilgrimage group from the Lichfield Diocese; the annual Summer Institute group, led by Bishop Jonathan Goodall; and for our midnight Christmas communion we welcomed the Keystone State Boy Choir.

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 on average 7 people (figure for 2018 not available). 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 an average attendance of 14 (figure not available for 2018), and daily morning prayer usually on Monday – Thursday.

Average Sunday attendance at the 11am service, excluding the major services, in 2019 was 84 (78) adults and 14 (10) children under the age of 16. Our Electoral Roll in April 2019 stood at 51 (37) and represents worshippers from approximately 12 different countries. Figures for 2018 are in brackets.

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 was 195 (220). We had 270 (240) at our carol service and 360 (355) at our midnight communion. The Chaplain led an ANZAC day celebration at the Australian Embassy.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's had 5 (12) baptisms in 2019

We had a confirmation service, conducted by Bishop Robert, our Diocesan bishop, with 16 (15) adult candidates.

We are not legally able to solemnise weddings at St Andrew's, but in 2019 we celebrated the marriages of Ian and Sarah Woodcock and Daniel and Polina Wamriew. The chaplain also conducted a wedding blessing for Andrew and Katya Mullinder in Moscow region. There were 19 (12) other wedding blessings conducted in St Andrew's by ministers from other churches.

We held memorial services for Andrew Blythe and for Ken Bennett.

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 are also grateful to Dima Maximenko for playing for us most Sundays, and Hilkka Piiponen for playing for us most Wednesday evenings.

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.

Our closest relationship is with MPC who meet in our building on Sunday afternoons.

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.

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.

We have good relations with our neighbouring Orthodox churches: The Church of the Ascension, and of the Glorious Resurrection.

II. TEACHING

In 2019, we ran a Confirmation group and a Lent course provided by Churches Together.

We have started to see the emergence of a number of small groups. The ladies bible study continued to grow and has now divided into two, and another group started in the Brogan's home. Marina Putrenko has been leading a group on Wednesdays after our communion service, which has been looking at Anglicanism.

On Sundays, we follow the lectionary with a focus on the Gospel readings.

III. SERVING

St Andrew's has a number of regular initiatives, which enable us to reach out to the local community and beyond. We increased the number of times that we serve lunch after services, and usually do this now twice a month. We host 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 this year we gave a donation to the Church Mission Society. A big thank you to Elizabeth Bearman for her work in overseeing our outreach. MPC uses our building to provide food parcels to pensioners on every other Wednesday.

In 2019 St Andrew's building was also home to a number of other organisations

MPC holds services in St Andrew's every Sunday afternoon, and provides 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 all days of the week (except Sundays). Step Up are not able currently to make any significant contribution toward the costs of the building, although in 2019 did give a contribution to sewerage works.

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 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 arrange 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.

Belcanto also organized a number of other concerts, as have Globus music, and a range of other organisations. In December, we hosted the Moscow premiere of Benjamin Britten's 'Curlew River', by the Conservatory. We also hosted an opera performance called the 'The lie of Martin', which was written to be performed in a church, and which has been nominated for a Golden Mask award. In May, Stas Namin brought his theatre company to St Andrew's to perform Jesus Christ Superstar, and this raised more than \$8000 toward the restoration project.

IV. 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.

It was a joy to see the church grow, have 5 baptisms and 16 adult 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.

In 2019 we were able to do emergency works on the foundations - cement was poured under the building in order to reinforce them. We also replaced the sewerage pipe, and installed a new kitchenette in the chapter room (using funds from the Bishop's Appeal, for which we are most grateful), with induction hotplates, dishwasher and sink. Our architects also drew up the design plans for the restoration of the façade and roof, and hopefully this means that in 2020 we can apply for the money that the City has put aside to do those works, so that they can be done in 2021. We began the task of removing rubbish from the building and filled three skips. We had a fire inspection, which raised other issues relating to our need for an updated document stating what each room is to be used for. Our current document dates back to the days of Melodiya.

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 Grigory Sidoretz, our premises manager.

4. FUTURE PLANS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our hope for 2020 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 plan to continue with our pub quizzes, summer fete and Christmas bazaar.

On the administration side we need to implement the requirements from the fire inspection in 2019 for a follow up inspection in 2020. We need to continue to remove rubbish from the building, and we need to start to think about the future shape of the inside of the building.

STAFFING

Josh Cleaver will probably be leaving us in July 2020, and we would hope to find another ministry assistant.

BUILDINGS

Our priority in 2020 is to raise \$150k for the next stage of the foundation works. This is to protect the building from damp by using waterproof injection technology. The company doing the work is Hydroland (who, among other buildings, worked on the Bolshoi theatre). It is important to get this work done before we begin the facade and roof work hopefully in 2021. We will then need another \$100k for the internal design project, and then begin to explore ways of funding the internal works. It is hoped that the organ, being installed by Heavenly Bridge, will be completed in the near future.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Sources of income

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 means 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 three months of expenses (approximately \$50,000), and this year's surplus returns to that level after several years when it was not possible. Funds received for restoration purposes and expenses therefrom are recorded separately.

Financial Outlook

We hope for a similar amount of income to be received in the general fund in 2020 as we had in 2019; one reason being that we are not overly dependent on a single source and are always pursuing fresh ideas for raising funds. Our day-to-day expenditure is also more or less predictable, being subject only to the vagaries of foreign exchange rates and, to a lesser extent, inflationary pressures. However, the amounts required for the badly needed restoration are huge and cannot 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 in the near future.

General fund

Total income increased in US\$ by about \$51,000 compared to 2018, which reflects the hard work put into raising additional amounts from donors and events. In 2019 there was one non-recurring donation of US\$ 16,000 received from the Diocesan Bishop's Appeal, which has been used to finance the kitchenette and for other restoration purposes. Expenses increased by about \$21,000, mainly due to salaries being increased for inflation and a significant increase in building repairs. A net exchange gain is reflected in the general fund, where most of the cash at any time is in Russian roubles and that currency appreciated by about 10% against the US dollar in 2019.

At a high level, about 26% of total income came from the congregation and other supporters as either collections in services or lump sum donations; 31% from other users of the building; 31% from concerts, film and photo shoots and fund-raising events including the summer fete and Christmas Bazaar, 4% from the non-recurring Bishop's Appeal, and the remaining 8% was grants from the Russia Company.

Our biggest single expense is salary costs of \$122,000, compared to \$116,000 in 2018. Diocesan common fund contributions are slightly higher than 2018; they are based on averages of income and electoral roll over the most recent 3 completed years, so the figures for 2016 only fall out of the calculation for the calendar year 2020. For 2020, the expense will be GBP 10,441 (equivalent to \$13,782) compared to GBP 7,941 (\$10,485) for 2019 because the percentage of income used in the calculation for each chaplaincy has increased significantly.

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. Repairs in 2019 were more expensive than in 2018 and included replacement sewage pipes and costs relating to compliance with fire regulations.

Your new church council will need to continue to focus on ways of raising additional funds and controlling costs. Ideas from members of the congregation are always appreciated, and your council is focused on this task.

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 2019, significant donations were raised to allow us to carry out the next stage of design work, and all of those costs have been reflected in the figures for 2019.

The restoration fund had a surplus for the year of almost \$2,000 but continues to be in deficit on a cumulative basis and is effectively being kept afloat by a loan from the Friends of St Andrew's in the USA. Although we repaid as much of this loan as possible (about \$13,000) in January 2017, we have no fixed date for repayment of the remaining \$17,000 and, indeed, we will not be able to repay it until additional surpluses are generated. The rest of the deficit is financed by the general fund.

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 five times during the year (plus one extraordinary virtual meeting) with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Administrative information and volunteers

Church Council members who served from April 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

The Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers (incumbent and chairman)

Sara Harris (secretary and electoral roll officer)

Elected members:

Donald Levens (warden and treasurer), Dan Culbertson (warden)

Elizabeth Bearman, Giles Walker (representatives on Archdeaconry Synod)

Patricia Szymczak, Michael Gibson, Louise Nanchen, Helen Watson, Sarah Parry, Daniel Wamriew, Mary Kilikidi (appointed September 2019), Josh Cleaver (co-opted in his role as Ministry Assistant)

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 Stas Namin, 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. We are particularly grateful for the support of the Ambassador, Sir Laurie Bristow, over the traumatic years of his time here and the great encouragement that he has been to St Andrew's. We wish him well as he left Moscow at the end of 2019. 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 Dan, our wardens and, in Don's case, our treasurer.

Approved by the Church Council on 4 September 2020 and signed on its behalf by The Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers, Incumbent and Chairman.

