

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 2020

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 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

2020 IN SUMMARY.

Despite COVID, or maybe because of COVID, there have been many things at St Andrew's to give thanks for over the past year.

We are grateful for the fact that we were able to continue having services in St Andrew's throughout the year and for the discovery of online church and zoom bible studies. We've had zoom coffee, Sunday school, children's skit, quiz and bible studies. Because of zoom we have been able to join a virtual Archdeaconry synod and Diocesan services. The Archdeacon was able to 'visit' us and preach virtually, and Bishop Robert joined us for a bible study. We began to live stream morning prayer and included a 'what have I just read' section. We had special (online) services to mark Holy Week services, the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and Ascension day, and we have been able to adapt so that we could celebrate Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service in person. We've been able to discover and use people's musical abilities: Emma Marie, Yukta, Hilka, Dima and others have played during our services, and Nicolette did not miss one service from the beginning of lockdown until the end of December. She was our singing voice. We also thank God for the work we were able to do on the garden during lockdown, removing one of the greenhouses and re-turfing the back garden. Sadly, we had to take down the fir tree in the courtyard, which had grown too large. In summer, the new space has meant that we have been able to create a lovely

flowerbed, but it was missed in the winter.

Vverh, also known as Step Up, the post orphanage education centre, who have used St Andrew's as a base for over 20 years, found a new home in March, and we have fresh opportunities for making use of our building. We created a temporary chapel downstairs and work began on turning room 10, under the sanctuary, into a chapel. We had a successful fire inspection. The new organ, although not completed, is now working and was first used at the carol service.

We are also grateful that we had sufficient money to continue to pay all our staff over the year, and also to support a number of people who were in need during lockdown and subsequently. In 2019 God gave us sufficient reserves to sustain us for this year (it is a bit like Joseph's 7 years of plenty before the 7 years of famine). But we continue to be dependent on your generosity for the provision of the mission and ministry at St Andrew's.

While we were not able to have a summer fayre or Christmas bazaar, we did have a special choral evensong celebration to mark the 135th anniversary of St Andrew's consecration in January, a pancake party and a socially distanced BBQ to mark the end of lockdown, and both actual and online pub quizzes. We have celebrated Bala and Enewa, Sierra, Mark and Dina's baptisms. In the last few months we have been able to run a confirmation group and the youth group, led by Mary Kilikidi and Daniel Wamriew, has been reestablished.

We were delighted that Olga Fabrikantova-Burke, one of our 'alumni' was ordained in October and appointed chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge. Two of our congregation, Mary Kilikidi and Dan Culbertson, are currently exploring the possibility of ordination, and we pray for Josh and Nina Cleaver and their family who left Russia in July. Josh is now in training at Cuddesdon to become a vicar.

We've celebrated the birth of baby Mark to Lev and Vasilisa, Emma to Olga and Tom, Audrey to Mattie and Tyler, Juno to Ksenia and Roman, Raphael to Josh and Nina, and Anna to Ben and Tatyana.

We said goodbye to several people who left Moscow this year: the Hills, Hallpikes, Cleavers, Mark Willson and Hilka Piipponen. Several of our congregation left for the US and are waiting for permission to return. Do pray for Mattie and Tyler, for Miriam and Angela. Liz Bearman is taking a year out, working as a volunteer at a retreat centre in Lia Gård, Norway. Alexander stepped down after 15 years as our head guard, and we welcomed Vladimir as our new head guard.

We thank God that when we grieve we do not grieve without hope. Many in 2020 have lost relatives and friends, but we particularly commend into God's care Dima Pankov and Michael Barry, both of whom occasionally worshiped at St Andrew's.

i. MISSION AND MINISTRY

a. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Services

We held regular Sunday worship services at 8.30 am and 11.00 am, although after lockdown the 8.30am service moved to 9.00am.

The following figures are based on physical attendance throughout the year, but do not include the weeks from 29 March to 7 June inclusive, when there was a strict lockdown, and only between 12-14 people were able to get to the Church to help with the service and live streaming.

The 9am Holy Communion service uses the Book of Common Prayer and attracts on average 10 (2019-7) people. Our principal worship service is Holy Communion (using Common Worship order one) held at 11.00 am. It attracted on average 57 (2019-84) adults and 7 (2019-14) 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 (2019-14).

Our Electoral Roll in September 2020 stood at 55 (2019-51) and represents worshippers from 8 different countries.

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 at all services was restricted to 100, and there was a congregation of 99 (2019-195). Regrettably, Russian veterans were unable to join us for the service in 2020. We had 99 (2019-270) at our carol service and 99 (2019-360) at our midnight communion.

There was no ANZAC day service.

We began to live stream daily morning prayer and our 11am Sunday services during lockdown, and have continued to do so.

Statistics for online attendance are difficult to calculate. However, during lockdown we had, on average, 300 views of our live streamed services, and over 2000 views for our Easter service. Since opening after lockdown, we have about 20 people joining with us live for Sunday services and a total of between 50 and 150 'engagements'. These are only the Facebook statistics. We also live stream direct on our website homepage, but do not have the figures for the numbers who engage with us. Daily morning prayer and 'What have I just read' usually have between 3-10 people joining live, and a further 60 'engagements'.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages & Funerals

St Andrew's had 5 (2019-5) baptisms in 2020

There were 11 (2019-19) other wedding blessings conducted in St Andrew's by ministers from other churches.

Church Music

We are immensely grateful to Nicolette Kirk, our Director of Music, for providing the music each week, especially in this very difficult year. For much of the year, congregational singing was not permitted and Nicolette, occasionally together with Helen Watson, Uminuga Nglass, Steffan Jebamani and Alison Rogers, led the singing. Nicolette was able to get together a choir for the Carol service. We are also grateful to Dima Maximenko for playing for us most Sundays.

Children, Young People and Sunday School

Our Sunday School sadly had to close in March because of COVID. Since lockdown was lifted, we have provided online Sunday school material, together with small 'activity bags' each week for those children who do come to the service. We are thankful to Rachel Culbertson and Alison Rogers for the work that they have put into preparing activities for children online. We use resources from sermons4kids.

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

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

Working with Other Moscow Churches

St Andrew's has a close working relationship with many of the other Christian denominations represented in Moscow.

In January 2020 we celebrated the 135th anniversary of the founding of St Andrew's with a choral evensong at which representatives from a number of other churches attended.

Our closest relationship is with MPC who meet in our building on Sunday afternoons, although they have been meeting online since April 2020. 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 were able to do so again in 2020. We also have a positive relationship with both the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholics, and the chaplain was able to attend the service of prayer for Christian Unity in January 2020.

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 Maly Voznesensky (who gave us a 10kg Kulich for Easter), and the Church of the Glorious Resurrection.

b. TEACHING

In 2020 we continued to use the lectionary as the basis of our teaching through the year on Sundays, with a focus on the Gospel readings

Before lockdown we began a contemplative bible study after our Wednesday communion service, and this resumed in the summer.

We also began a zoom bible study on Tuesday evenings, which has a regular attendance of between 10 and 12. This was a bit of a breakthrough, because we have always struggled to get people together midweek because of the large distances people need to travel in Moscow.

In the Autumn we ran a confirmation group, with 9 potential candidates.

c. SERVING

In 2020 we gave essential financial support for about 15 people (members of our congregation) during lockdown, and Margret and Louise worked with Caritas helping provide meals for those who had nothing.

We continued, when we could, with 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 and we made a donation of \$535 to the Bishop's Advent Appeal for Anglican communities worldwide who had been worst hit by COVID.

Unfortunately, the MPC programme providing food for pensioners was not able to continue through 2020.

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. In addition there are now about 7 different 12 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. It was interrupted during lockdown, but resumed in late summer.

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

Belcanto also organized other concerts, as well as a range of other organisations.

There were no concerts during lockdown and subsequently, when they were permitted, total attendance was initially restricted to 25% and then 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 2020 we had 5 baptisms.

ii. ST ANDREW'S BUILDING

In 2020 we completed the external design project (architects drawings and plans for the restoration of the facade and roof) and completed emergency works on the foundations. Sadly, fundraising and physical work came to a halt because of lockdown.

Towards the end of 2020 we put in an unsuccessful application for funding from the City subsidy fund for works on the roof in 2021. Following a meeting organised by the Patriarchate with St Andrew's and the Department of Culture and Heritage, we have been assured of the Patriarchate's support, that we are still in the City Programme, and that we can resubmit plans for funds for work to be done 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, and Grigory Sidoretz, our premises manager.

4. FUTURE PLANS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our hope for 2021 is to regrow the congregation after lockdown, to establish more small groups (online and in person), to re-establish our children's ministry, 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.

STAFFING

We are hoping to be joined by Glen Ruffle as curate and assistant minister of St Andrew's

BUILDINGS

Our priority in 2021 is to raise \$135k for the internal design projects and architects drawings for both the parsonage and church. These are required before we can do any further actual works.

We plan to do some repairs to the windows in the basement of the parsonage.

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). The exceptional surplus of 2019 allowed us to increase this buffer to about \$75,000 and we broke even in the general fund for 2020. Our forecast at the time of last year's annual report was that we expected total income and net result for 2020 to be between \$30,000 and \$40,000 less than for 2019, and this proved remarkably accurate with the total income and net result for 2020 being lower by about \$34,000 compared to the previous year. Funds received for restoration purposes and expenses therefrom are recorded separately.

Financial Outlook

We hope that income for 2021 will gradually return towards the levels seen in 2019. Our day-to-day expenditure is more or less predictable, being subject only to the vagaries of movements in 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 decreased in US\$ by about \$40,000 compared to 2019, which reflects the effect of restrictions on users of the building arising from COVID-19. In 2019 there was one non-recurring donation of US\$16,000 received from the Diocesan Bishop's Appeal, which was used to finance the kitchenette and for other restoration purposes. Expenses decreased by about \$6,000, mainly due to the weakening of the Russian rouble by about 20% during 2020. A large net exchange loss of about \$8,000 is also reflected in the general fund, where most of the cash at any time is in Russian roubles.

At a high level, about 49% of total income came from the congregation and other supporters as either collections in services or lump sum donations (2019 - 26%); 25% from other users of the building (2019 - 31%); 16% from concerts, film and photo shoots and fund-raising events including the summer fete and Christmas Bazaar (2019 - 31%), and the remaining 10% was grants from the Russia Company (2019 - 8%) with the Bishop's Appeal providing another 4% in 2019.

Our biggest single expense is salary costs of \$121,000, compared to \$122,000 in 2019. Diocesan common fund contributions are almost identical to 2019; 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 2021, the expense will be GBP 8,532 (the same as for 2020), currently equivalent to \$ 11,945.

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 slightly less expensive than in 2019 but we are always surprised at new needs and their costs.

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 2020, donations received were mainly from a large corporation and through the forgiveness of the loan from the Friends of St Andrew's in the USA, each of which amounted to about \$17,000.

The restoration fund had a surplus for the year of approximately \$38,000 because spending in 2020 was very limited. This surplus has eliminated the deficit brought forward, but we have already made commitments to spend \$36,000 in 2021 on design works for restoration of the parsonage and are seeking to raise at least a further \$100,000 to progress with the next stage of design costs for the main church building.

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 2020 (one of which was fully on zoom) with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Because of COVID our annual meeting was delayed until 13 September 2020

Administrative information and volunteers

Church Council members who served from September 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

The Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers (incumbent and chair)

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, Suresh Rose

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, 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 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 who stepped down as warden in September 2020, but continues as treasurer, and to Dan Culbertson and Daniel Wamriew who serve as wardens.

Approved by the Church Council on 23 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers, Incumbent and Chair.