

# St Andrew's Church, Stanton upon Hine Heath

## Report for the Parish Council

### AGM 2023



#### **Mission Statement**

We are part of our parish and community, are here to serve it as well as we are able, remaining open to opportunities to share our faith.

#### **Ministry**

The vicar of Stanton, Shawbury and Moreton Corbet moved in July 2022 to take up a post in Bristol. The parishes are currently going through the process of gathering the information to advertise for a new vicar. The parishes can only afford a half time post, this will obviously cause some challenges as the post was previously full time.

#### **Worship**

Now we are without a vicar we have services at 9.30am on three Sunday's a month and on the remaining Sunday we join the service at Shawbury or Moreton Corbet. Our average attendance on a Sunday is 11 adults, but numbers rise for special occasions, such as Harvest, and, of course, Christmas. Special services and events during 2022 included: Jubilee service, holding the parish book of condolence for Her Majesty The Queen, Act of Remembrance at our war memorial (the Lych Gate), Carols at the Stanton Arms (by the Christmas tree part funded by the parish council), and Christingle (using knitted figures borrowed from St Mary's Shawbury). The carol singing at the Stanton Arms on Christmas Eve was well attended and we were grateful to Colin and Catherine for making us so welcome again – it's great when we can work together. Also on Christmas Eve, the Christingle service was well attended this was led by lay people in the absence of a vicar and we would like to thank all those who contributed to making it so successful.

#### **Finances**

Our most recent accounts show a deficit for the financial year – we are glad to have some reserves from which to draw, but these won't last forever. We continue to be grateful to Stanton Parish Council for supporting us with a grant for churchyard maintenance,

#### **Church Fabric**

Thanks to ongoing attention by volunteers and contractors, St Andrew's Church building and churchyard remain in good condition. The repointing with lime mortar identified in the quinquennial inspection of the building, has now been completed. There are constant struggles with recurring damp, but St Andrew's is an old, grade I listed building, so issues like this are to be expected. We are trailing a rainwater collection system to top up our heating, since there is no mains water at the church; initial signs are extremely promising.

#### **Safeguarding and other matters**

We continue to take safeguarding seriously at St Andrew's, with regular training and DBS checks where necessary.

On behalf of the PCC, we would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. We would also like to remind everyone in the parish that you have a permanent invitation to join us for worship and fellowship on Sundays and festivals. We do keep everyone who lives and works in the parish in our prayers and we look forward to welcoming you to St Andrew's in the near future.