



2025/26

ANNUAL REPORT

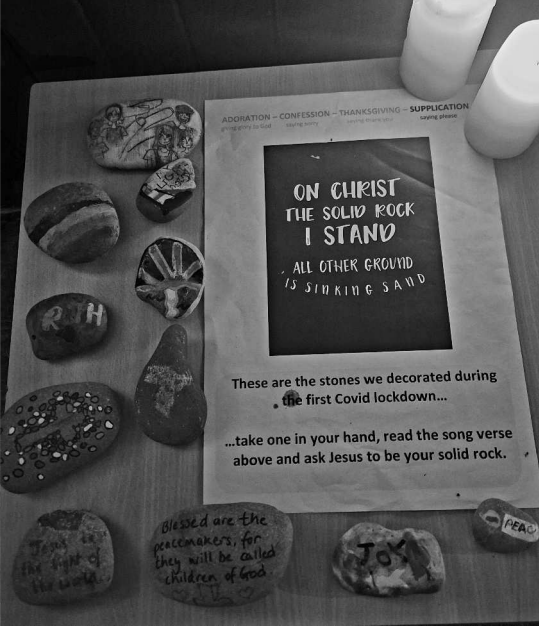
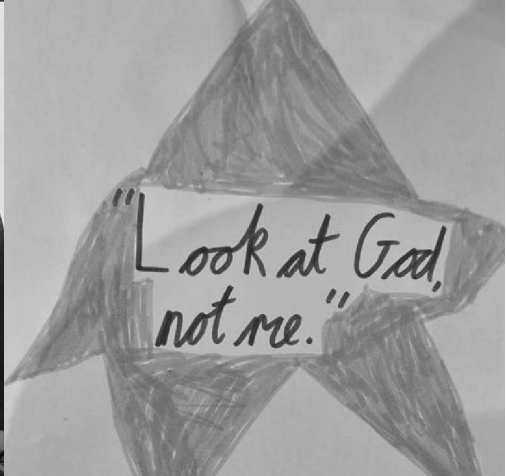
Our church vision
is to...

Love GOD
&
Love HOVE
like Jesus

and see our world
transformed
for the better



ST ANDREW'S
HOVE





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A WINDOW INTO OUR FINANCES & BUILDING PLANS

This year has involved trees.

Partly because we've had to commission Arboricultural reports of the trees in the churchyard in preparation for the exciting landscaping and improvements that our neighbours Tesco are helping us make to our grounds...

...but also because of this beautiful iron statue that you can see in the gardens of The Martlets Hospice in Hove. It's so often the case that things strike us at times of darkness or we see glimpses of beauty in sadness. I took this picture after visiting a St. Andrew's church family member who sadly died not long afterwards.



As a church we go through trials, we go through sadness and God knits us together and strengthens us. He reminds us that we need each other. He reminded me of that as I saw members of the church family gathering round those who were grieving. And he's reminded me that we need each other at some many other points this year as well...when I've seen our young people encourage each other, our ministry teams lead us in worship, our fellowship grow and God work through this church in so many ways to bless this community.

Revelation 22 describes the tree of life in the middle of the New Creation when, as the song says, 'troubles cease and sorrows die and every longing satisfied'. That's the hope we have in Jesus and that's the hope we have to bring to this parish.

'On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.' Revelation 22:2



A word from the Vicar...

YOUTH & CHILDREN

MEET OUR NEW Y&C MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

In January 2026, Jody Johnson was appointed as Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator...here's a chance to learn a bit more about her!

"Five years ago, I would never have guessed I'd end up working in a church again. In fact, I probably would have laughed at the idea. And yet here I am."

In 2023, my family and I moved from Canada to the UK. Why? Honestly – why not. Life felt too short not to take the risk and try something new.

I heard St Andrew's was looking for someone to help with admin a few hours a week. I was told (half jokingly, half seriously) to say yes to everything when starting a new life in a new country. So I applied. I was offered the role. And I said yes!

That role, starting in January 2025, became something I genuinely looked forward to. Without really noticing it, I stopped feeling like I was working for the church and started feeling like I belonged in it.

I knew St Andrew's was looking for someone to step into a children's and youth leadership role. That brought something unexpected back into view. Before my corporate career, I trained in theology in Canada, was ordained as a minister, and worked as a youth and children's pastor in my twenties. But after transitioning to corporate work, I had not expected to ever return to that world. But as one chapter quietened, I began to wonder whether my earlier experience – combined with everything I had learned since – might actually be needed now.

After some reflection, I spoke with Rev. Dan. I was encouraged to apply for the role. The rest, as they say, is history!

An Open Invitation

I want you (kids, youth, and adults) to know that you matter here. You are welcome here. You belong here. We are not a perfect church, but we are working every day to be the best representation of Jesus, and Christianity that we can be. That's the best we can do. One of my favourite sayings is "when you know better, you do better", and I think this is who St Andrew's Church wants to be.

Jody

MINISTRY

JUST SOME OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING...



DIOCESAN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

As well as our own 'Great St. Andrew's Marathon Trek' which raised £6k for our ministry the youth of the church joined with other young people (and Bishop Ruth!) in the Diocese to walk across the South Downs visiting, hearing God's word preached and worshipping in three different churches.

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

We've joined the Diocese in focussing on Matthew's gospel this year and all that it has to teach us about Jesus the King and his Upsidedown kingdom



SOLAR PANELS & AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

After the crisis of our condemned gas boiler in December our buildings and fundraising team secured grants from the Church of England Net Zero fund and transformed our energy use by installing solar panels and air source heat pumps. This contributed to St. Andrew's being awarded Silver Eco-church status and will help sustain our ministry.

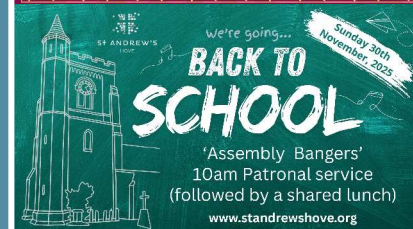
BAPTISM & GROWTH

It was a privilege for us to welcome a number of people into the family of God at St. Andrew's through baptism this year and it was great to have our first full immersion baptism. Sami shared her testimony and encouraged us all that Jesus can work in our lives. We're planning a Beach Baptism in 2026 and it's amazing to see the church growing in faith and number.



SERVICES & WORSHIP @ ST. ANDREW'S

As well as celebrating Jesus's birth, death & resurrection through our Christmas and Easter services we all went 'Back to School' for St. Andrew's Day to praise God for songs we were taught in assemblies that grew our faith and to pray for the schools in our Diocese as they grow faith in their students. We were also blessed by church family members launching a regular 'Prayers for Peace & Planet vigil.'







ST ANDREW'S

HOVE

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