

## **APCM Report 2025**

2024 saw the departures of firstly James Simister and his family in February and then Ian Birkinshaw and his wife Adele, at Easter. Both had been with us as Youth, Children and Young Adults Leader and Rector respectively, for a number of years. This meant that much of the activity of 2024 was focussed on the one hand in filling the gaps which James and Ian (and Adele) left behind, and on the other of putting our energy into the recruitment of first Aimee Crossland to replace James, and then Ben Brady to replace Ian.

During this season many people undertook extra work in the church in order to maintain the ministry levels which were in place. A massive thank you to everyone for stepping up here.

One of the many lovely healthy characteristics of All Saints and St Andrews church family is the embracing of every member ministry. Rather than attempt to thank everyone, I would rather say a massive thank you to you all who volunteer in any capacity. Some of the ministries we recognise are very visible, those associated with Youth and Children's work, Brigade, Cake and Company or the Building Projects. But others are much more hidden. The folk who look after the church yards, and those who keep the communion sets and linen clean. A massive thank you to you all.

Another of the healthy aspects of the life of this church is the giving. Having the two seasons in the year when we prayerfully consider our giving - Stewardship Sunday and the Gift Day, along with the many generous givers, has meant that we only need to talk about money some of the time, when some churches need to talk about money most of the time.

The most significant achievement of Ian Birkinshaw's time here I believe has been the unity created across the whole church family. An example of how we see this played out today is the way that musicians who would normally worship at St Andrews are very happy to help at All Saints, and where folk who normally worship at All Saints are very happy to help with the children's work at St Andrews. During the vacancy, in order to nurture this unity we had a joint service at the beginning of each month. This also helped to reduce the pressure on our people resources.

Today God is leading us into a new season here in the life of All Saints and St Andrews. This is God's season personified by the arrival of Ben Brady.

Rev Chris Park  
Associate Vicar  
7 April 2025