

# St Andrew's Church Annual General Meeting 2017

## Secretary's Report

All change this year - farewell Fr David, welcome Fr Gerald. There we were, plodding along merrily, when the Bishop finally decided to make some changes to the Diocese! To date, I have not been asked to leave so I guess I can stay for a wee while! I think it is fair to say that I do have a few problems fitting in the work for both churches and if this were the AGM for St Columba's I might be offering apologies for the scant attention I sometimes seem to be giving them, but I do my best!

The combined bulletin means printing (and folding) 400 copies and I also type the Bidding Prayers, emailing them to the children who read at the 10 am Mass so that they can see them in advance. We are continuing with the larger format of the combined bulletin. Thank you to all who contribute to it, and keep getting the articles in on time! I continue to produce most of the Orders of Service for Christmas, Easter etc. and have a hand in funeral leaflets. For those interested in statistics, I worked out recently that over the year I print 52 bulletins which equates to 20,800 sheets of A3 paper, double sided, which is 41,600 print passes; on average throughout the year there some 10 or so 'seasonal Orders of Service and another 15 or more funeral or other special leaflets which equates to 2,800 print passes.

The bulletins, rotas and other events are published on the website which is still widely used. In the twelve months since May last year there have been over 15,000 visits. By far the most visited pages are services, bulletins and pictures! We did manage to have a 'revamp' this year, combining the websites for St Andrew's and St Columba's together, although we still maintain, for now, the two website addresses. Dave is still the webmaster - he would (really) welcome your comments and suggestions.

Facebook is still the more used on-line vehicle; St Andrew's page has more than 300 'likes.' We use the 'Event' facility to promote nursery and church events. Remember - anyone can post on our Facebook site. Although only the administrator can create an event I would be pleased to do so for you. Facebook itself drives me mad - if anyone has a better handle on its vagaries I would be pleased to have a tutorial!

This time last year, we were in the middle of the redecoration of the church. I cannot thank enough all those who gave up their time and energy to clear the church on the Saturday afternoons and strip it again on the Sunday afternoons allowing all weekend Masses to be said in (relative) cleanliness and comfort. Putting the scaffolding up - and taking it down - was a wonder to behold and really did make you think of miracles. I simply had to leave the room on one occasion - I could not watch them bridging the organ loft.



*(The picture is a composite of all the scaffolding)*

The readers and ministers rota continues to be produced quarterly, thank you to the organisers and our readers and ministers. Hall use is down but it is still used by church and non-church groups and for elections.

You will recall that in 2015 we entertained the fabulous Russian choir from St Petersburg; I am delighted to report that they will be returning on 9th November for another concert. One change this time is that I will be looking for people to host members of the choir and put them up for the night - more details nearer the time.

Finally, I would like to put in a plug for the Galloway Diocese News. Some of you may know that I set it out and publish it and it is nice to see it read.

Thank you for your help and support - it is much appreciated.

**Mary Buckley**  
Parish Secretary  
May 2017