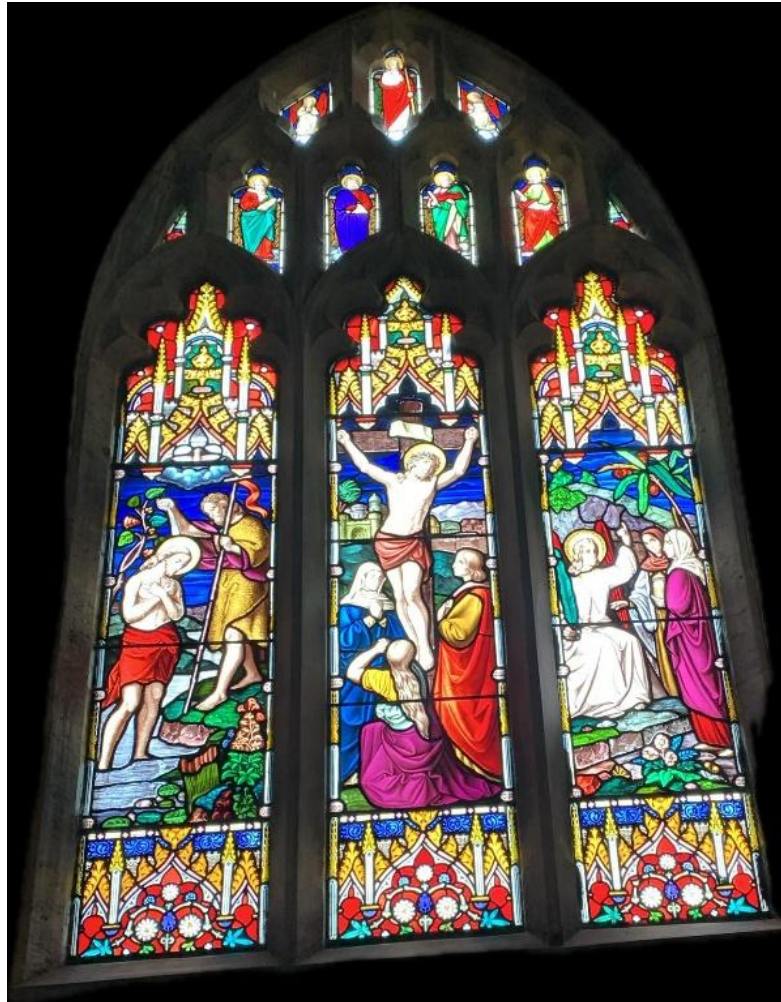


# St. Andrew's Church Ferring

## 2024 Reports



Annual Parish Meeting and  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm 2025

Written Reports for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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**Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings**  
**Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 6.30pm in the Church Centre**

**The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting of St Andrew's Church**

**Ferring held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 in the Church Hall**

## **Annual vestry meeting**

Minutes of Vestry Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Rev. Shirley opened the Meeting with a warm welcome to everyone and prayer and a reading from Colossians ch.2.

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Hankard, Sue Young, Rosie Saunders, Tim and Sue Harris, Susan Maund, Roger Miller, Lis Plummer, Alison Stevens, Gordon Uphill, Janet Birchall, Chris Ball, Wendy Handy, Stephen Tupper

Election of Church Wardens – Susan Maund and John Soper were willing to stand for the year and were accepted by parishioners and passed unanimously

The Meeting then closed at 6.20pm.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Minutes of the APCM on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Apologies for Absence: As before

Opening remarks by Shirley

You will all hopefully had the chance to read my report in the Annual report.

The APCM is a time for giving thanks. Thanks for all God has provided during the year and thanks for the assurance that we have a faithful and steadfast God who will see us through the coming year. I hope you will see this theme of thanks throughout my report in your booklet. Thanks to each and every one of you for being here tonight and on Sunday or during the week.

Thanks to all who have taken on specific roles and to those of you who are our committed prayer warriors praying quietly and diligently at home.

Thanks to the great team of clergy colleagues who not least enable me to take my allocated annual leave entitlement, not a luxury but a requirement by law and the diocese in their commitment in looking after their clergy. Clergy who do not take their leave are much more likely to burn out. For the clergy running small groups and undertaking home visits.

Thanks to those who have supported new ventures this year such as Alpha and Messy Church. And to all for faithfully supporting existing groups and activities. A particular mention must go to Ann Smart for taking on the role of treasurer. To John and Susan for coming forward as church wardens. And to Anne Harris who amongst other things, continues as PCC secretary, a task that includes reminding and prompting the vicar at times.

Thanks to those who have stepped down or who are stepping down this year. Sharron Miller as CW, and PCC and overseeing the Church Hall bookings, From the PCC and Treasurer, Sue Pratt. From the PCC and Social Committee – Sue Young. From the PCC and Safeguarding – Tony Hall.

Looking forward there is much on the horizon – God willing.

On the back of a successful Messy Christmas, we have started monthly Messy Church. Thanks to the team who put so much time and energy into creating the activities. There is still work to be done, organising our Mission and Vision action plan, holding in prayerful consideration how we grow in faith in ourselves and how we reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ to others

May we continue to ensure our words are encouraging to one another and welcoming to those newer among us. Sitting with families at coffee even if we feel a bit out of our comfort zone. Looking out for those who might be feeling isolated or left out, or who might not have bothered coming in.

As we continue to look forward, in addition to the day to day running, the Churchwardens and I are very aware that there are areas that require more extensive work this coming year: the sound system in the church, the heating in church, the sound and flooring in the hall and replacing the organ.

We look forward to the completion of the new website and facebook page which we hope will be particularly attractive and user friendly to those not yet familiar with St. Andrews. The appointment of the Parish Administrator

is great news, and a main part of her new role will be maintaining our outreach through social media and advertising.

So, in conclusion we must in all things keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, for without him we are nothing and we will build in vain. So, please keep praying for me as I lead, and for all of us that we may be discerning to the will of God in this place. May we be bold and courageous in our faith. We have something life changing to share and we should never doubt this.

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 18th April 2024

These were accepted as a true and accurate record

Proposed by Marilyn Catterill and seconded by Margaret Mason

Electoral Roll Report – Following the annual revision there were 167 names on the register. This is 2 fewer than last year. Anyone can apply to be included on the register and application forms are available in the church.

Annual Report on Parish Activities – Shirley thanked all who had written reports.

Financial Statement for year ended 31.12.2023 – This, attached at the back of the report, was prepared by Sue Pratt before she stepped down.

Appointment of Independent Examiner and Report – Shirley said that she and the new treasurer, Ann Smart, were going through all the accounts to get to know what is happening. All the investments will be reviewed. Jenny asked who looked after the investments and advised us? Shirley said she was seeking advice from Church House. We are investigating a new examiner to make sure they are fully qualified.

Safeguarding Report – Tony was retiring after 10 years. Our thanks to him. The role would be taken by Lisa Arnold who was doing the necessary training. Tony was asked what the role entailed and explained what was involved.

Shirley mentioned that the office administrator, Liberty Harris, had been appointed and would work in the office for three days a week giving a total of 9 hours starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church – John Soper reported that the fabric was in good order. The quinquennial inspection had shown the church and hall were in good repair although a few minor

repairs had been undertaken, and some outside repairs were needed when the weather improved. A few tiles had been dislodged from the bell tower. The silverware was in good condition. The silver cross, thought to have been stolen, had been found and was in good repair. Sue Maund had also been doing a lot of work but was unfortunately not here tonight. Julia said there was a leak in the office roof and water had been dripping on to the silver cross. Wendy asked if an insurance claim had been made when the cross was thought to be missing. There had been no claims on the insurance for at least 15 years. John was thanked for all he did.

Election of PCC Members and Deanery Synod Members – Ann Smart and Johanna Mitchell had been proposed as Members of the PCC and Margaret Mason was standing for a second term. All three were elected unanimously.

Peter Phelps was standing as a Deanery Synod member and Alison Gompertz and Katie Baird were willing to continue. All three were accepted unanimously.

Any other business – nothing had been received

Shirley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked PCC Members to remain.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 6.45pm

## Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ferring

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Shirley Tupper in:

- Promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- Knowing Jesus better and making him better known.

- Practical support for, and parochial care for all people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay.
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.
- Promoting and following a path of being better stewards of God's creation.

### **Our plans to achieve our charitable objectives**

When planning our activities for the year, our Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

For 2024 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Providing pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish
- Giving of funds to missionary and local organisations including Ferring Church of England Primary School
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of social activities and services which are outlined below
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as an historic centre and focus of life in
- Making our premises available for use by the community, whether for Christian or recreational purposes and keeping the Church

Building open throughout daylight hours for quiet meditation and prayer.

### **What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives:**

We started our Mission and Vision journey together back in August 2023 with our month of prayer. Then in February 2024 we had a Mission and Vision morning where exciting thoughts, ideas and suggestions were shared as to what God might be desiring for his church here in Ferring. Since then, these have been collated and prioritised in our new Mission Action Plan (MAP) and presented again at a follow up morning.

To be useful the MAP must be a living and evolving document. Ours is referred to regularly whilst planning for the PCC meetings. But it also fits into a bigger picture. We are part of the Diocese of Chichester. Bishop Martin often refers to us being a Household of Faith. Just as we are the church family of St Andrews, Ferring so we are also part of the church family of Chichester. In 2020 the Diocese of Chichester published a new Vision for Growth 2020 – 2025, under which we strive to be More Open, More Converted to Jesus Christ, More Generous and More Engaged. The St Andrews' MAP has been written with these in mind whilst giving full consideration to our unique, beautiful and individual surroundings.

There is a lot that we as a Parish could be focussing on and working towards but the ambitious, yet achievable goals selected are those we believe require the foremost attention right now. Our number one priority has to be focussed on our Heavenly Father. If we are not focussed on him then there is no point us being here. We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Our mission is for all to know a life-changing and life-fulfilling love through Jesus Christ whether new to the Parish or having been here for years.

Our vision is to be real, relevant, authentic and worthy in all we do.

The detail of the goals set can be read in the MAP which is available in church or on asking.

### **The ministry team**

We are blessed at St Andrew's to have a number of clergy with permission to officiate (PTO). Reverend Shirley has encouraged a team approach particularly during Sunday services so that all may benefit from the wisdom and ministerial expertise amongst us. We give thanks to God and to the individual themselves for the ministry of Bishop Christopher Morgan,



Canon Paul Simmonds, Reverend Alison Pattenden, Reverend Dr Alan Gregory, Reverend Ann Irvine and Reverend Don Irvine. This year we welcome Reverend Yvonne Murphy and we look forward to her ministry also.

Reverend Alison provided group sessions during Lent and Summer Bible Studies. Canon Paul continues to take Holy Communion to Greystoke Manor on a monthly basis as well as individual home communion. Reverend Shirley continues the monthly Holy Communion service at Scotch Dyke Nursing Home. Reverend Ann continues to lead a small group looking at material from the Pilgrim Course.

This year Reverend Ann and Reverend Don commenced a monthly Quiet Time with God offering a short, guided meditation and space for silence and private reflection.

Reverend Shirley is delighted that Susan Maund and John Soper continue as Church Wardens. They serve the church and its people with total commitment, dedication and focus and are a true source of support and encouragement for Reverend Shirley. They undertake so much that none of us ever see.

During the year two of our Sacristans had to step down due to ill health. We are very grateful to Gina Marion and Margaret Mason for providing cover and to the new sacristans who have stepped forward – Sheila Fenton, Tim and Sue Harris. We are grateful to all those who serve in the preparation of and serving of communion.

Reverend Shirley was elected onto Diocesan Synod this year as Clergy Representative.

In May 2024, many joined a service of celebration, thanks and praise as we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women at Chichester Cathedral. A huge thank you to all those women clergy who pioneered this step in our faith, for all the abuse received and for all the grace demonstrated.

### **The impact of our services**

St Andrews has a strong and committed regular congregation. The 8am service attracts, on average, 25 people, with the 9.30am service generally around 80 people. At each service there is a great team of sides people ready to welcome all who join us for worship and another team who read and lead intercessions. There are always changes within teams and we are grateful to those who have served but now stepped back and those who are

stepping up. We can always do with a few more particularly to lead intercessions.

Outside of our regular Sunday services we have several opportunities during the year to welcome many others for extraordinary services. During Lent and Holy week, we enjoyed a variety of services and events including The Reception of Oils with a Service of Wholeness and Healing; Maundy Thursday: From an Upper Room to Gethsemane; Good Friday: Three hours at the Cross; Resurrection Day: Celebration services. On Easter Sunday, we again held a Dawn Service on the beach at 6am where we were joined by our friends from the Baptist Church. This year we also welcomed The Rainbow Theatre on Easter Saturday who gave two fantastic performances of The Easter Story. We were also grateful for the handlers from Ferring Country Centre as they brought two donkeys to lead our Palm Sunday procession.

March saw the start of a fresh expression of church with the monthly introduction of Messy Church. Each session has a Bible-based theme and all the activities, celebration time and refreshments link to this theme. It is a great opportunity for families, and anyone who wishes to join in, to worship in an informal, creative and fun-filled way. We regularly welcome 50+ people. At Christmas the Worthing Silver Band led us in a joyful musical celebration. The Messy Church team have fully embraced the whole ethos of Messy Church and never cease to amaze Reverend Shirley with their creativity, fun and energy. It's always messy, loud, fun and comes with lots of laughter.

Our choir continue to grow in number and confidence under the talented guidance of David Gibbs and Gordon Uphill. It is a joy to hear the increasing range of pieces and witness how these enhance our worship. We are extremely grateful to David and Gordon for all their ongoing work in the preparation for and the purchase of a new organ.

It was a privilege to lead the Remembrance service in church and to lead the procession to the War Memorial where the civic act of remembrance took place. St Andrew's was full to the brim and many more villagers joined us at the memorial. Over 40 wreaths were placed, and Reverend Shirley shared this service with Reverend Robin Brenchley.

Advent got off to a great start with Christingle family service and a joint Advent service with the Baptist church at St Andrews. Everyone had chance to make their own Christingle to take home. This was followed by a fabulous Christmas Tree Festival planned meticulously by Lynda Potter and

team. Despite Storm Darragh, we welcomed over 1000 visitors many of whom came back for events later in the month. The Carols by Candlelight, Scratch Nativity and Midnight at Bethlehem services were great successes and we were able to seat more people this year by utilizing space by the font and in the chancel.

Reverend Shirley is always grateful for the extra opportunities at this time of year to represent the Christian faith out in the community. It was a joy to join the Scouting groups with their Carol Singing, to attend the Village Hall for carols despite the weather not permitting the lights turn on, having the Rainbows decorate our Christmas tree, welcoming the Cubs for an Advent evening in church, leading the Live Nativity at Ferring Country Centre.

During the year the mid-week Holy Communion service continues to serve both Sunday communicants as well as those who for varied reasons find the Thursday service suits them better. Thank you to the clergy who lead these services. It is a happy band of worshippers.

All these services take a great deal of planning, and a huge vote of thanks goes to all those who serve in so many ways and to those who attend.

### **Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers**

During the year it was a joy to undertake 4 baptisms. There was one wedding and 18 funeral services or services for the burial of ashes. These are important life events and times when the church has much to offer, not least the hope we have in the Good News of Jesus Christ. All occasional offices give a key opportunity for pastoral care and ongoing contact.

### **Work with families, children and young people**

A key component of the parish profile for a new incumbent was the work with families and young people. The parish is blessed to already have great links with the local uniformed groups. Our monthly family service is supported well by the Scouting groups. Sadly, attendance by the Girl Guiding groups has been less this year but it is hoped this will improve. The informal All-Age service with lots of participation and supported by the Music Group is always great fun and a great opportunity to share God's love and promises. Thank you to the music group members for your ongoing support.

We are so grateful for our ongoing connection with Ferring CE primary School which is a privilege and definitely not taken for granted. Reverend Shirley is the Ex-officio Governor as incumbent of the Parish and two other church members (Margaret Butler and Sue Pratt) also sit on the governing

body as Foundation Governors. Others in our congregation go in to help with reading. Reverend Shirley goes in regularly to lead Collective Worship and to participate in a variety of activities. This year she was able to introduce Faith Council which meets each month with a representative from each of the year groups 1-6. They have since gone on to help lead Collective Worship, write their own faith guidelines and share ideas for special services. We welcomed the school into St Andrews for their Easter, Leavers, Harvest and Christmas services. There have been two opportunities to join Year 6 in their studies relating to the resurrection and Advent. In June, Reverend Shirley accompanied the Year 6 class to the Leavers Service in Chichester Cathedral, always a special day. We were also able to offer the use of the Church Centre for a day long Planetarium visit. A huge dome filled the hall as each class took their turn to visit.

Naomi Walsh, headteacher, resigned in the summer and the process for a new head began. After two rounds of interviews, the governing body were delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. James Cox who took up position in January 2025. We wish Ms. Walsh well in her new headteacher role in Shoreham.

### **Communications**

The pew sheet continues to be a welcome source of information and a good means of keeping updated for those attending on a Sunday. Grateful thanks to Julia Ball and Sue Young who produce this each week.

The PCC agreed to a new website and Flock and Canvas were appointed to design and deliver the site. The company is run by two people who are already working in church administration which cut out so much unnecessary time explaining church jargon and procedures. As such they handed over our bright website in July which has the capacity and the need to be added to as we continue to grow as a church.

The PCC also agreed to the paid position of a Parish Administrator. We were delighted to welcome Liberty in April who has been involved in the final stages of development and delivery of the website. After much perseverance, she has also been able to set up and now runs the Parish Facebook page. Liberty is a huge asset to the Parish and has administrative skills and ideas that Reverend Shirley definitely lacks. Thank you, Liberty.

### **Ecumenical and community links**

We enjoy good relations with our friends at Ferring Baptist Church and enjoy the times when we meet together and share worship. We give thanks

for the opportunity to celebrate Pentecost at the Baptist Church and to invite them to join us on Advent Sunday and together at the beach early on Easter morning. (Even earlier this year as the clocks went forward!) Joint Women's Breakfasts at the Baptist Church and Men's Breakfasts at The Henty Arms are well attended. In August a small group from St Andrews joined the Baptist Church to help run Holiday Club.

The Women's Fellowship continues to be a great time of friendship and it was lovely to celebrate their 50th anniversary with them. Their president Margaret Mason stepped down during the year and we welcome Pauline Phelps as the new President-Elect.

The Parish Council are very considerate in including St Andrews in a number of events such as Remembrance, the turning on of the Christmas lights and the village fair.

Ferring Country Centre invited Reverend Shirley to once again lead their Live Nativity. In current times, clergy representation at any one of these events or activities is not a given and we are really blessed to be accepted and included in this way.

The Barn Surgery asked to use the church again this year to hold two flu clinics. This is a great opportunity for people to come into church and see what's behind the door whilst having reason to visit. Thank you to those who helped host. Reverend Shirley attends throughout and is beginning to recognize familiar faces and those who say, 'See you in a year, Vicar'.

Once again, we took part in the Scarecrow Festival. It is wonderful to see visitors sitting next to our scarecrow and having their photos taken. Thanks to the very creative church wardens.

We also welcomed Lynsey from Beehive Care for a Dementia Friends session which was very informative and thought provoking.

St Andrews offers a wide range of social events which are always open to members of the community who do not regularly attend church services. Thank you to the social group who have overseen these events this past year and to all who have helped or supported.

### **Provision of the church buildings and environment for people to enjoy**

The relevant and accessible provision of the church buildings and environment forms a significant part of the current MAP. This year the PCC have committed to replacing the pipe organ with a premium electronic

organ. The faculty process for this has been long and arduous but by the end of the year it was in its final stages.

The PCC have also committed to repairing and replacing the heating, sound, visuals and internet provision in the church. It is hoped that next year's report will conclude the successful provision of each of these.

We have also been able to secure a permanent contactless machine which has been very successful at regular services, occasional offices such as baptisms and one off social events like the Christmas Tree Festival.

Reverend Alison and team have continued to look after the area of churchyard along the north-east wall and the creation of a wildflower area. We are looking forward to what will appear again in Spring.

Grateful thanks are given to all the members of the PCC whose role is to promote in the parish the whole mission of the church. We are grateful to those of you who hold specific roles such as Ann Harris as PCC Secretary, Ann Smart as PCC Treasurer, and Lisa Arnold as Safeguarding Officer. For those stepping down, thank you for your dedicated service. For those stepping up, thank you and know that God is with you.

### **Looking ahead**

Reverend Shirley is so grateful for the ongoing support and encouragement of her ministry in Ferring. It is wonderful to see the desire of so many to see what God has in store for us next. It is already a busy year with lots of projects underway. However, may we never forget our focus and keep our eyes firmly on the author and perfecter of our faith. May each one of us know him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, day by day. And may we be always striving to grow deeper in our personal faith and to readily share the hope and joy we have in and through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## **Meetings of the Council in 2024**

There were six full meetings of the Council and six of the Standing Committee

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Vicar, churchwardens and members of the Deanery or General Synods) and members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church

Meeting (APCM). We try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible and to encourage parishioners with particular gifting to stand for election, ensuring that they fully understand the responsibilities of Trusteeship.

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev Shirley Tupper, PCC Chairman

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

-----

Date -----

## Church Warden's Report

Another year of St. Andrew's being in good health has passed. We are very thankful to those of you who give freely of your time and skills to help us keep this lovely church functioning so well. Your actions make you a part of the church's rich history.

The Terrier and Logbook have been checked, and all items of value are accounted for.

The church roof, stonework and structure are in good condition.

This year a children's space was set up with donated items to help make this a comfortable and interesting place for younger members. A new leaflet stand was purchased to allow room for the card machine to be placed by the door. Our Memorial books have been updated twice this year.

In both the church and the centre all fire extinguishers have been checked, the gas boiler has been serviced and a full electricity inspection carried out.

In the centre the kitchen door closer has been replaced and the dishwasher serviced. The cooker hood was unable to be repaired as parts are no longer available so it will be replaced. The chairs have all been checked over, some repaired and three disposed of. The Store cupboard has had a radical spring clean.

Outside the flint wall bordering Church Lane has been repaired ready to stand for many more years. The flat office roof and hall skylights were cleared of weeds and debris, as was the outside paved area and fire

escape path. The overhanging Fig Tree in the neighbouring garden was pruned hard to stop damage to the roof over the storeroom.

Much work has been done by John and his team to clear and reveal gravestones in the NW corner of the churchyard. The seats around the churchyard have been favourably commented on by visitors who come for a little time of peace and remembrance.

John Soper and Susan Maund.

## Treasurer's report

I took over as treasurer in early 2024 and thanks to Sue for your support in the early days.

The accounts have been prepared under the receipts and payments method, as in previous years. They have been independently examined by Ginny Santer FCCA Monetaire, Worthing.

### Receipts

Income is lower at £132,677 (2024) against £208,875 (2023) – reasons for this include the following:

In 2023 several legacies were gratefully received totalling £64,803 and in 2024 we were fortunate to receive legacies of £21,275, this is a difference of £43,528

investment was cashed in (2023) and realised £14,254.

Together these two reasons make up £57,782 of the reduction in this year's income against last year's income.

The rent received on Berkeley Court is £1100 per month less a management fee of £132 so we are receiving £11,616 each year – less any expenditure on repairs/renewals etc.

These accounts are only showing 6 months rental as the prior year had been in advance until June 2024.

The PCC were fortunate to receive a gift of £1,747 + valuable gift aid worth £436.75 for the piano.

Gift aid is a valuable addition to income, there may be donors who are paying tax but didn't in the past, who could consider gift aiding their donation.



## **Payments**

The Diocese Parish Share for 2024 was £81,800 - for 2025 the PCC have pledged £81,455. This is the amount recommended by the Diocese and for the past three years slightly more was paid – the PCC elected to pledge just the amount recommended for 2025 as there will be a lot of expenditure this year.

One off costs were new laptops, 1 for the administrator and 1 for the treasurer totalling £1328 for both and a new website £800.

A new projector and screen totalling £1305

An additional cost is the employment of an Administrator for 9 hours a week to assist Shirley in promoting the Church forward and running the website.

Charitable Giving Donations were made to Ferring Primary School - £10,000 (the final payment of a 3 year pledge) one was made to Ferring Country Centre £1,410 – this was made from proceeds from the Christmas Tree Festival and one of £50 for a school hardship voucher – total donations £11,460.

Donations made were 8.6% of income.

It was decided by the PCC to continue supporting Ferring School and have pledged £5,000 in 2025

## **Investments**

The value of the investments grew in 2024 by 8.8% and includes adjustments from 2023 including a previous statement that had not been received and an amendment on another. Most of the investments are accumulation funds, with just 2 producing any income at present. Income received was £1370.09.

The Blackrock Fund is holding £3,051 in dividends to be released when the authorised signature list has been updated

Funds will have to be withdrawn from investments to pay the new heating system to be installed shortly and is anticipated to be in the region of £70k. Other agreed expenditure is New Organ £45k, Carpeting for the hall £9k, New Audio Equipment, screen and router 18k

Some of these payments can be funded from the current bank accounts, but not all.

The PCC have to decide whether some of the funds should be producing more income as at the moment expenditure is exceeding income, or whether to withdraw from accumulation funds as and when required– this can be risky if markets are falling.

### **Receipts v Payments**

There was a deficit in receipts over payments of £13891.01.

The investments, with the adjustments made to the opening balances, increased by just over £53k. (including £3K to be released from Blackrock). This means that the Church finances increased by approximately 40k in 2024 – this would have been £18k without the legacies we received.

Thank you to Shirley and everyone who has helped me in this first year as Treasurer.

Ann Smart

# Independent examiner's report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Ferring, Diocese of Chichester



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ferring,  
Diocese of Chichester

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)** 1168899

**Set out on pages**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 26/3/2025

**Name:**

Virginia Santer

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

FCCA

**Address:**

Monetaire Accountants Limited, Sovereign House

22 Shelley Road, Worthing

BN11 1TU

## Charitable giving report

### Giving Co-ordinator's Report 2024

There has been a small reduction in overall giving in 2024, but this hides a much larger reduction in planned giving. Last year I reported a reduction in the number of regular givers, and we have seen a further reduction in 2024. This is due to a mixture of our congregation passing away, or moving to pastures new. This has meant that we have seen a net reduction of 6 givers to the Parish Giving Scheme. If it were not for the roughly half of donors through this scheme who allow their giving to increase by the rate of inflation each year our drop in income would have been even higher.

## Safeguarding report

I, Lisa, took over the safeguarding role in April 2024 and have been working with Rev Shirley to check which members of the congregation require training. I have been completing training too. Eventually a register of all who have completed training and have forwarded a copy of their certificates to me will be kept, thus allowing me to know when renewal is required.

There have been no reports of safeguarding concerns since I have started this role.

## Deanery Synod Report 2024

St Andrews's Ferring is represented at the Synod by Revd. Shirley Tupper, Katie Baird, Alison Gompertz and Peter Phelps. Alison Gompertz is moving away and has therefore resigned her position. We thank her for her commitment and role in representing St. Andrew's Church as Deanery Synod.

Synod meetings during the year were as follows:

### **2 May 2024 Meeting held at St George's Church, Worthing.**

Revd. Felix Smith welcomed everyone and the speaker Richard Greenhorn who spoke about Christians Against Poverty. He said 13.4 to 16 million people lived in poverty i.e. those whose income does not support the need for life. Richard based his talk on the compassion Christ showed to the

crowds in the story of His feeding the 5,000 + women and children and went on from there to talk about the structure and work of CAP. He said since 2010 CAP has helped bring 20,000 people out of poverty, 874 churches are involved, and 8,000 people have come to Jesus. This is achieved by running debt centres, providing life skills, money coaching and job support. In Worthing CAP runs a Debt Centre and some 80 people are now free from debt. He explained that demand is high, and they need help especially with funds.

### **19 September 2024 Meeting held at St Andrew's Church, Tarring.**

Rev. Earl Collins who is the Continuing Ministerial Development Officer for the Diocese of Chichester and the Priest in charge of St John's, Palmeira Square, Hove. Earl was speaking on 'Year 2025 of the Nicene Creed.'

Earl explained that 2025 is the final year of the three-year programme in the Chichester Diocese.

- Year 1 was about the Old Testament preparing a people to be an example and light to the world.
- Year 2 was the Gospel testament to the life of Jesus and the witness stories and Epistles to the Gospel message.
- Year 3, in 2025 is the Year of Faith. It marks the 95th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Chichester and Chichester Cathedral and 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which resulted in the Nicene Creed emerging.

Earl gave a fascinating account of the history of the early church, its difficulties and how they were resolved. He explained the origin of creeds, heresies, the need to develop a statement about the Mystery of Faith and a pattern for sound teaching and a key statement to the church's members with a further addition which created the longer Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed after the Council of Constantinople in 381AD.

A wide range of events celebrating both anniversaries are in the are being organised taking place throughout the diocese in 2025. The Chichester Diocesan website is where details may be found.

Deanery Synod representative Peter Phelps

## Ferring CE Primary School Report

Under the leadership of a new headteacher, Ferring CE Primary School has embarked on a promising new chapter, building upon its “Good” rating from the October 2022 Ofsted inspection. Strategic planning for the school's future development is already underway, guided by its distinctive Christian vision:

“An Inspiring Place to Grow, Believe and Achieve – Life in All Its Fullness” (John 10:10).

The school's Christian distinctiveness is nurtured through close links with both churches in the Ferring community. With the support of Rev. Shirley and the Faith Council, pupils and staff are encouraged to reflect this vision in their daily actions and choices. The Faith Council's guidelines inspire children to express their beliefs creatively and explore the Christian faith deeply, fostering an ethos where they can “Grow with love, Believe with hope, Achieve with joy.”

This collaborative work will undoubtedly play a vital role in the school's preparation for the upcoming Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS), as it continues striving for excellence.

### **Support and Wellbeing**

The school remains deeply grateful to St Andrew’s Church for its continued generosity, which directly enhances teaching and learning. Thanks to these contributions, the school has been able to retain a learning mentor and emotional support assistant, ensuring that pupils' emotional well-being remains a top priority. This provision allows the school to support a wide range of social, emotional, and mental health needs, fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment.

### **Curriculum and Christian Distinctiveness**

Ferring CE Primary School’s Christian values are embedded within its curriculum and wider school culture. Subject leaders thoughtfully plan learning experiences that encourage pupils to:

- Connect with creation and people
- Connect with self
- Connect with God

This strong foundation opens horizons of hope for all children, providing ambitious, well-balanced, and meaningful learning opportunities. The

curriculum is designed to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to become courageous advocates and agents of change, preparing them for life beyond primary school. Carefully chosen topics foster a sense of belonging, helping children recognise their role as valued members of both the local and global community.

Through this approach, pupils develop self-awareness, critical thinking, and a strong moral compass, guided by the school's Christian values and golden rules.

### **Enriching Experiences and Community Engagement**

The school continues to provide enriching opportunities through an engaging curriculum and extracurricular activities. Collective worship, regularly led by Rev. Shirley and Rev. Robin Brenchley from Ferring Baptist Church, encourages pupils to reflect on faith and the school's core values. Guest speakers, including authors and professionals from various industries, further inspire and educate pupils, preparing them for life in the wider community.

The Supporters of Ferring School Association (SOFSA) plays an essential role in strengthening the bond between the school, church, and local community. Events such as World Book Day celebrations, Easter activities, and fundraising initiatives help bring the wider Ferring community into the school, reinforcing pupils' sense of connection beyond the school gates.

### **Developing Facilities and Expanding Opportunities**

The school has recently welcomed a new premises officer, who has already begun enhancing and maintaining school facilities to ensure a safe, nurturing environment where all can thrive.

Plans are also in place to develop the modular building on-site, in collaboration with The Child Care Company, which operates the Little Fledglings nursery. This joint venture, funded by a capital grant, will introduce a wraparound care club, offering breakfast and after-school childcare for working families. Strengthening ties with the nursery will also support a seamless transition for children moving into primary education. This development aims to sustain pupil numbers and attract families to a setting that children can attend from under the age of one, through to 11 years old.

Additionally, the new headteacher and leadership team are actively forging stronger links with the wider community, including Ferring Football and Cricket Club and other local organisations. These partnerships will provide

pupils with a broad range of opportunities, ensuring that each child finds their place, develops their potential, and grows into a valued member of the community who are the future custodians of our village.

## Social Group

Social Group has had a very busy and successful year in 2024.

We held two coffee mornings, in February and May, always enjoyable and sociable occasions with stalls to browse along with coffee and cake.

We were most grateful to Anne and Beryl for heading up two very well attended and really tasty lunches at Easter and Harvest Festival. Very many thanks to all who helped in any way.

We helped out with refreshments at the performances of the Easter Story by the acclaimed Rainbow Theatre Company, which was much enjoyed, with some impromptu performances by members of our fellowship!

In June we invited the lovely Alice to come and play saxophone at our afternoon tea. It was delightful, as was the gorgeous tea on beautiful china plates, cups and saucers. The weather was warm and sunny and several of us felt that it would have been nice to get up and dance.

The Vicarage Tea Party was another sunny afternoon, and it was great to see several families and children come along to join the fun and games.

A new departure for St Andrews in October, was a concert of words and music devised by David, our organist and Margaret Mason. Hopefully this will lead to more such occasions, as it was well received.

Having had to postpone our Poetry and Puddings evening from September to November didn't seem to affect its popularity, and Lesley and Derek hosted a very enjoyable evening with some really varied readings and lots of delicious donated puddings.

And then in December, our hugely ambitious and amazingly successful Christmas Tree Festival. Doubts were cast as to whether it could be done, but huge thanks and congratulations go to the dedicated sub-committee, John and Lynda Potter, Gary Congdon and Sue Rowley who created a magical occasion. The organisation was intense, tiring and at times fraught, but the meticulous planning paid off, from the concert reception to thank our sponsors, through the nearly two days of meeting, greeting, stewarding and hard work, with the result being a large donation to the Ferring Country



Centre and St Andrew's. A successful 'pop up' Christmas Tree Café boosted funds, and our thanks go to those who spent many hours baking, serving and clearing up. Our final task for the year was to provide and man the mulled wine and mince pies following a beautiful Carols by Candlelight. The numbers were boosted by people who had attended the CTF, so much so that we thought that Rev. Shirley might have to be called upon to turn water into wine!

Margaret Mason for the Social Group.

## Church Centre Bookings Report

The hall or hall and kitchen has continued to be used most days of the week throughout 2024. We have, however, lost a couple of our regular weekly bookings due to a fall in class/participant numbers.

The church centre continues to be used for a wide variety of activities, including exercise classes, table tennis, band practice, Probus and play rehearsals. During term time the hall is used by youth groups which include Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We also have bookings throughout the year for wakes, private parties and meetings. The past year has seen an increase in the use for children's parties and some very positive feedback has been received from hirers.

Our own 'in house' church activities include coffee and fellowship after Sunday services (and once monthly following the Thursday service), regular social events, Women's Fellowship, fortnightly Friendship Lunches, Lent and Advent groups. Various meetings are held in the hall throughout the year including PCC, Social Committee, AGM and APCM. Messy Church is held in the hall on the last Saturday of the month which continues to increase in popularity. We also held the Christmas Tree Festival Cafe in the hall, which was very popular with visitors to the event.

Our hire charges have remained unchanged over the past year and our fees remain very competitive with other venues in the village.

Steve Tupper

## Church Flowers 2024

The beautiful flower displays in the church are created by volunteers who kindly give up their time to put together arrangements and keep them watered and fresh during the week, and we thank them for their time and efforts! As you can see from the photographs this adds a wonderful splash of colour to the High Altar each week and windows on special occasions of the church.



Our garden foliage has been a blessing and formed the basis of all designs. Shop bought flowers have gradually risen in price as flower growers in the UK and Europe and beyond are unable to sustain the exorbitant energy costs to heat the greenhouse, thus the customer must pay more. Occasionally we supplement fresh arrangements with dried/silk / artificial flowers, these add a focus and sparkle especially at Christmas.

During the past year our team of four arrangers have continued to provide flower and foliage arrangements on the High Altar each week, except during Lent and Advent when an Advent candle wreath is dressed in seasonal foliage.

The whole church is decorated to celebrate festivals and special occasions.

Costs for this are funded by St Andrew's PCC. The income from donations for flowers was £242. Expenditure £829.03

There is a dedicated Church Flower Fund for donations gift aided, if possible, please, details in church and on the website.

Julia Ball

## Public Access Defibrillator

Since 2015 St Andrew's has provided a fully automated defibrillator available 24/7 to the church and the community, which can be used for adults and children suffering cardiac arrest. Note it should only be used after making a 999-emergency call for advice and assistance. It should only be used as directed by the emergency 999 controller.

This defibrillator has recently been given a full "health check" and replacement of essential parts by CU Medical the manufacturer. And new battery and chest pads installed January 2025- costing £339.54, funded by St Andrew's PCC.

The defibrillator is registered on "The Circuit" the National defibrillator network, promoted by the British Heart Foundation, it is monitored and cared for by two Guardians who may receive e mail alerts when the defibrillator needs attention. On three occasions last year we were notified that the ambulance service has recorded that someone was sent to fetch the defibrillator in an emergency. In some cases, the defibrillator is brought to the scene of the emergency but not used and returned; In other cases, the defibrillator is used to help save a life while waiting for the ambulance services to arrive.

For further information please look at the British Heart Foundation website and publications.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>

Julia Ball.

## The Pew Sheet

The volunteer editorial and printing team at St Andrew's produce and print the church pew sheet every week, using our own computer and desk top editing software. The pew sheet is available at services and each day when the church is open.

This publication is the "Church's voice", it gives information including the opening of the Church, church services and parish announcements. This information is updated each week and this information is set out in the publication, together with relevant notices to inform parishioners about

happenings in the church, Ferring and Chichester Diocese. The aim is to provide a flexible and rapidly updatable communication channel.

Details/dates of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and names of those who are unwell, who have requested via the vicar and clergy special prayers for their recovery are included.

This publication is a link between the Diocese, St Andrew's Church and the parish, data protection rules apply (GDPR) to its publication, please be aware that it can be read by all on the church website!

Please contact Julia Ball if you wish to include any relevant notices or events. Details are on the pew sheet and church website.

And please take your pew sheet home after the service or when you visit for private prayer, there are always spares in the church you are welcome to take a copy; large print sheets are usually available. And as always, the weekly pew sheet may be viewed on: - [www.standrewsferring.org.uk](http://www.standrewsferring.org.uk)

Julia Ball

## Link to Hope Report

We once again supported the Link to Hope Shoe box appeal. We are pleased to report that 45 shoe boxes went through St Andrew's plus 2 that were paid for online and a further 6 taken direct to the warehouse. Along with our shoe boxes a further £385! was donated to the charity. Thank you to our wonderful knitters and to those from our congregation that helped at the warehouse. Please look at the Link to Hope notice board in the Church Centre and if you can, the Link to Hope website, to see the joy your gifts give to those most in need in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania.

Please hold the charity and those that received your gifts in your prayers.

Jean and Mike Lambert

## St. Andrew's Woman's Fellowship Report

President Elect Report 2024

At our first meeting in February, we welcomed Pauline Ford, our local beekeeper, who fascinated us all with the life and times of bees. She

brought along samples of her honey and jars for us to purchase. It was a good start to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. We ran our Lent Lunches again, raising the handsome sum of £670 pounds for our Family Support Work.

In March we had hoped that Lillian Holdsworth would be well enough to speak to us about her setting up the Retirement Club, but this was not to be and instead Rev. Don Irvine told us about his life as Naval Chaplain. The Fellowship also provided and prepared over 120 posies for a Mothering Sunday service.

With our anniversary fast approaching, our members were invited to bring along any photos and memories of 1974 to our April meeting. A wonderful display of photographs and memorabilia was created by Zoe and Susan, which was really enjoyed. We also had a lovely tea with themed cakes and distributed new copies of our Fellowship prayer and tastefully designed badge to all members.

Finally, our anniversary arrived, 50 years of St Andrew's Woman's Fellowship. Rev Shirley led us in a beautiful service which was followed by a magnificent tea! There was another chance for everyone to see the memorial board with photos and snippets from the last 50 years.

Our outing in June was to Parham House near Storrington. The weather was bright, if a little windy! There was a tour of the house, the gardens and the garden shop, all followed by a delicious cream tea. There was still some time before the coach home and several of us went over to the small church, which is fascinating and well worth a visit.

Our anniversary ended with our AGM and a strawberry cream tea. With the proceeds of our bottle stall at the village festival, we were pleased to have raised over £1500 this year, for our charity Family Support. After 6 years of steering the ship, our President Margaret Mason felt it was time to step down and hand over the baton.

Some of the Committee had stood down at the AGM in July. A depleted Women's Fellowship Committee came together for their August meeting and were able to welcome two new members to the team. It was necessary to nominate a new President, Registrar and Publicity Officer. These roles fell to the new members. Elect was added to the President title because the new appointee didn't have experience of this role.

Excited ladies came to the informal Meeting in September for membership renewal and receive the programme for the coming year. The air was filled with the ladies chatting to each other. The newly formed Committee

Members had to hastily learn their roles and between them served tea and cake which were taken out to the ladies at their tables. An exciting time all round as chatter continued whilst the lovely tea and cakes that had been provided were enjoyed.

October saw our members congregate for our Autumn Church Service which this year was led by Reverend Shirley on the Bible verse from Luke 1:45 "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!" We were also blessed with St Andrews Church Organist David playing the hymns for us to sing to. Following the service, we moved into the Church Centre for our tea, cakes and chatter.

The November meeting started with the Committee introducing themselves so that our members would know who the new committee members were. This was followed with the talk from our own SA Women's Fellowship member Barbara Cooke, who wrote the book titled "The Adventures of The Wells Cathedral Cat" aimed at Primary School Children (being a Primary School Teacher herself) and was so successful she had to have more books printed! Sold in the Visitor Shop at the Cathedral, it helped draw the public to visit the Cathedral. A fascinating story. Also this month, the SA Women's Fellowship were one of the privileged groups of Ferring to lay a wreath at the village's War Memorial.

The December meeting started by considering our annual outing for June next year. The cost of coaches being so high, we tried to think of something we could do without a coach. Hiring a private room with its direct access from the car park, visiting the large, local Garden Centre with a variety of concessions, was suggested and left for our members to consider over Christmas. The last of the decorated Hands were collected to hang on our SAWF Christmas Tree contribution to the Festival of Christmas Trees at St Andrews Church the following weekend. And so our year closed with our Christmas Party. We were blessed to have Reverend Shirley as our guest, and David, our Organist from St Andrews Church, his wife and some of the SA Church Choir who got our entertainment started. It continued with seasonal songs and singing, poems and comedic prose, our special Christmas fayre of tea and cakes, plus Raffles and the Christmas Hat Competition. We were all in good Christmas spirits when our time together came to a close.

## First Ferring (St Andrew's) Scout Group Report 2024

In 2024 the young people took part in numerous diverse activities, both in the hut and outside, earning badges of course, spending time on the water, going hiking, spending nights away under canvas, taking part in district / county events and doing community activities such as our beach clean, Christmas Post Delivery and Carolling around the nursing homes.

As a group, we love to go camping and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers take opportunities throughout the year to get out and about. From winter camp in January where we are layered up and huddling round the campfire to the height of the summer where we are sweltering in the shade, our young people get so much out of camping both skills for life and hopefully happy memories.

We invite our young people to join us for Church Parade at the monthly St Andrew's family / all age services but we have noticed that numbers have dropped off and we need to revive enthusiasm in our young people and leaders in some way. We do not make church parade compulsory although we are slightly more insistent that as many as possible join us for annual St George's Day Parade to Arundel Cathedral and Remembrance service in November which continue to have good attendance. Spiritual development remains an integral part of scouting and that can mean attending church, thinking specifically about a particular Deity or more general reflection about self / others / the world and our attitudes. A bit of thought is required as to how we can turn this around.

Among our scout district, I believe we have a good reputation as a thriving group who like to get involved and who have a positive cooperative attitude.

We have four Sections for different age groups at 1st Ferring accommodating girls and boys from 4 to 14. Squirrels are aged 4 to 6, Beavers between 6 to 8, Cubs between 8 to 10 and Scouts from 10 to 14. Between the Sections our numbers have slightly declined this year to around 90 young people through our doors every week. With some groups struggling for volunteers, we remain supported by a wonderful team of leaders and a professional and supportive team of trustees who look after the running and governance of the group. Of course, that is not to say that we wouldn't welcome additional volunteers, as there is always room for more help (we particularly a couple of people who likes gardening or maintenance to help keep our premises ship shape).



For the last 10 years or so, our Trustees have been directing our fundraising towards the gradual improvement of our scout hut, our next fund-raising goal will be to save up for a replacement minibus as while ours is still going strong, it is beginning to show some signs of age.

This year has seen a transformation in Scouts whereby some of the established practices have been renewed and updated with the goal of making the volunteering experience more rewarding. There have been name changes, team changes, procedure changes and a whole new computer system upon which we have not been fully trained, and which only partially works. I am thoroughly confused at the moment but hopefully this time next year things will make a bit more sense.

As they say – it is called the scout movement because it moves forward.

We have a packed program for 2025, and we are really looking forward to getting out and about.

## Girlguiding in Ferring Annual Report 2024

Ferring Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have had another busy and fun-filled year.

Rainbow membership has grown since we have welcomed 4year olds and we have found that this supports girls with their start at school.

Our Brownie membership has been in a constant cycle of numbers. We had to start a waiting list in the Summer of 2024 when our group reached maximum capacity of 28, but with a large cohort of girls moving up to Guides and others simply moving on to other clubs, our numbers at Christmas were a more manageable 18.

Ferring Guides continue to thrive. One of our Rainbow Leaders picked up the leadership of the group when our previous leader stepped down.

Although we have three distinctly different groups, our volunteer leaders work well as a team and it is essential that we support each other, with volunteers being such a precious, but unfortunately quite rare, asset.

We are always looking for more volunteers to support local Girlguiding and would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more.

Across our three groups, we are lucky to have a wonderful team of Young Leaders (YL), aged 14 – 17 supporting our volunteer leaders.



We have waved goodbye to some of our older YL's as they venture forward to university or work, but I am pleased that new girls follow and we have welcomed enthusiastic young leaders at Brownies this year who are proving to be hugely valuable! Our Young Leader at Rainbows turned 18 in 2024 and is now a fantastic Leader-in-training. The team are grateful and proud of her achievements and support.

Our activities in 2024 followed a similar pattern to our usual programme, with games, skills building and badges, as you would expect.

Spring is always full of energetic activities and whilst we observe and recognise all the Christian festivals in the calendar, we also learn about festivals and celebrations from other cultures.

In 2024 we shared pancake themed activities, with Rainbows decorating their pancakes with fruit, Brownies cooking pancakes on the hob and Guides cooking their mini pancakes in tin foil trays over candles.

Badgework included performing and creativity with Guiding 'Express Myself' themed activities.

Rainbows planted seeds and took them home to nurture and Brownies had fun with different types of drawing, including Australian dot painting. Our Guides visited the Worthing skating rink for an evening of adventure and, for some of them, facing their fears.

As a worldwide organisation we joined other Guiding members across Worthing to celebrate World Thinking Day in February and we ended the spring term with a trip to the Pavillion Theatre in April, to watch the Scout & Guide Gang Show. This was even more special in 2024, as 6 of our local members were in the cast!

Summer brings us opportunities to venture outside – as we are blessed to have so much outside space to venture into!

The Little Twitten is our go to space if we want to enjoy a run around and play games like tag or rounders, and as it was an Olympic year, we were inspired to put on our own mini-olympic sports evenings!

On the closest Tuesday to Fathers Day, our Brownies invited all the Dads/Grandads/Uncles and any other significant men, to accompany their Brownie to our session.

We set each Brownie and her 'Dad' a mission to walk the village and complete a quiz based on some of our fabulous buildings, amenities and village history.

When they returned to the hall, we rewarded everyone with ice lollies and then our Brownies practiced their bandaging skills, with all the Dads being our able – but somewhat reluctant - casualties!

Guides experienced camping under canvas, joining with other Guides from across Worthing at the Dappers Lane Scout campsite. For some of our girls, this was their first experience of camping, as well as other traditional forestry skills such as knotting, gadget making, whittling and fire lighting.

Autumn term is our busiest time with the community. We support the village Scarecrow Festival, Remembrance Parade and festive events.

We utilised all our community links to support our 'Take Action' programme theme.

We kicked off the autumn term with a visit to Worthing Fire Station and learnt how to create an evacuation plan at home and at the hall. We also learnt how to treat burns, what to do if we are in a burning building and how to 'stop-drop-roll' if our clothing is on fire.

Ferring Brownies supported the annual Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, and we managed to make up 19 shoeboxes to be sent to Eastern European families via the charity.

It was great to have a visit from the Link to Hope team to tell us all about the appeal and what happens with our donations when they are sent abroad.

Girlguiding in Ferring continue to support the Parkinsons UK charity by collecting used postage stamps and we are now halfway to filling our third sack!

As the year came to an end, we looked forward to all the adventures and opportunities our members will have next year.

Our Guides are fundraising to support their attendance at an international Scout and Guide camp in August 2025. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for our young members as this camp only happens every four years. There will be around 3000 young people at the camp, from 25+ different countries and an extensive programme of activities from canoeing to crafting and blacksmithing to baking.

Jo Tuck, Brown Owl, Ferring Girlguiding