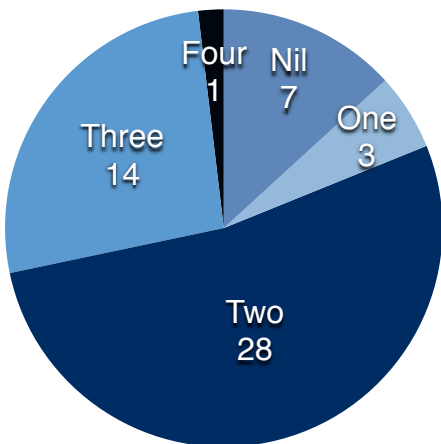


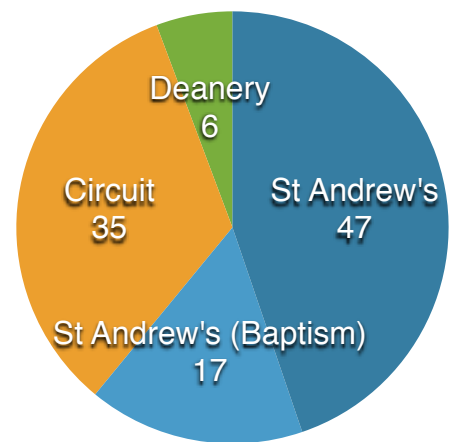
## The Context and Vision for future ministry in The Ecumenical Parish of St Andrew’s, Carters Green

### The context on Sundays.

The usual worship pattern for St Andrew’s on Sunday is a Eucharist at 9.30am with Junior Church. At least once per month there is a Baptism at 11.15 am. St Andrew’s is a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist Church and I have Authorised status as a Presbyterian Minister in that church. When I came to St Andrew’s in 2003 there was no expectation that I would have a role on the Circuit. However I offer a number of appointments on each Preaching Plan on a voluntary basis.



**Figure 1 (left)** shows the number of services I led, or assisted in leading, per Sunday during 2013. Average of 2.2 per Sunday.



**Figure 2 (right)** shows how the services I led were distributed at St Andrew’s and across the Circuit and Deanery.

**Figure 3 (right)** shows how my leading of sacramental worship was distributed. Key: E = Eucharist, B = Baptism, N = Non Sacramental

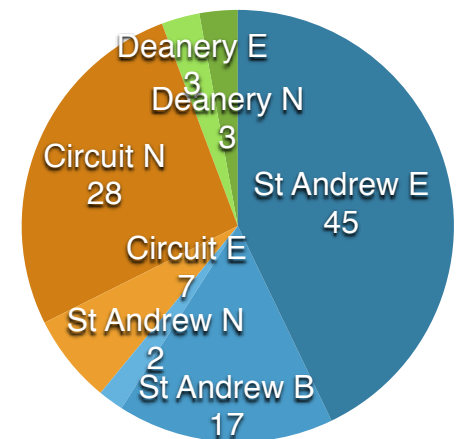


Table One:		
<b>The Context of Tipton and West Bromwich Methodist Circuit.</b>		
<b>Churches:</b>		
Number of Churches (including LEP):		14
Number holding one service per Sunday:		7
Number holding two services per Sunday:		7
Usual services per Sunday:		21
<b>Sacrament (Eucharist)</b>		
Usual Services of Sacrament per month:		24
Average services of Sacrament per week:		5.5
<b>Ministers:</b>		
Presbyters	(Stipendiary):	3
	(Authorised - C of E):	1
	(Supernumerary):	3
	(Without Appointment):	1
Deacons:	(Stipendiary):	1
Children’s Worker:	(Currently vacant)	1

**Table One** shows the current staffing and congregation situation, including myself and St Andrew’s, within Tipton and West Bromwich Circuit of the Methodist Church. It is relevant when considering the vision of the future of ministry.

## ***The context during the week.***

### **Role of the Church Building:**

The church building occupies a prominent position at Carters Green. It is in excellent repair and facilities include kitchen, toilets, office and meeting rooms. The building is used by regular groups on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. There are funerals in church (22 in 2013), school services, Jumble Sales, monthly Mothers Union and Ladies Fellowship gatherings and other events. The office space is used by Peter Carmody Heaton in his Deanery role. Other meeting facilities are used on occasion by other groups especially Ryders Green Primary School for interviews and seminars. There are no regular weekday services.

### **The Vicar's Role**

I see my role as a link between the church as a congregation, who meet primarily on Sundays and most travel in from outside the parish, and the wider community. Key in this is my role at Ryders Green Primary School where I am Chair. The role has led to a many pastoral opportunities with the families of pupils and staff at school. This has included many occasional offices. Often there is little church contact other than through my ministry in school. That work generally is demanding, rewarding and very time consuming. The specific role of Chair likewise. I have found school work vital in all contexts I have served. The other principal community contact point is The Wheatsheaf PH. The importance of the contacts and discussions held there cannot be overstated. Again those contacts have resulted in a large number of pastoral opportunities at key points in people's lives. We have also held carol singing in that and other pubs.

As regards pastoral responsibilities within the congregation I am fortunate in having a number of excellent individuals who do the bulk of the visiting, leaving me free to concentrate on community contacts, worship preparation, meetings and involvement with the school.

As my role leading worship on the Methodist Circuit is voluntary there are currently few pastoral roles. However I try to attend Circuit, Leadership and Staff Meetings. Also preparing worship on the Circuit is a bigger task than preparing Anglican worship as it usually involves compiling liturgy from scratch rather than following set resources.

### **Future Vision**

I have already proposed that the post of Vicar at St Andrew's should be jointly funded by the Church of England and the Methodist Church. That suggestion is under consideration by both churches. It would need to be in the context of also being a half post reduction in Methodist staffing. That could happen either with existing structures, but probably not before 2016, or maybe sooner if the likely further amalgamation of circuits takes place.

A 50:50 funded post would have to have greater pastoral responsibilities on the Circuit. Apart from that the role is already in existence. It is helped by the worship time I inherited of 9.30am thus allowing a minister to lead two main acts of worship on a Sunday morning. This is an important consideration, especially in the context of Eucharistic ministry.

A post holder needs to be able to use their existing skills. In my case that includes work with schools, but with any successor that might of course be different. However I see the community role as crucial within any future development of the post at St Andrew's.