



Friends of St Andrew's Church
Stratton, Cornwall
Newsletter Spring 2014
Volume 6 Issue 1



Stratton Circa 1918

Dear Friends,

I write this letter as the wind howls around the chimney pots and the rain batters the study window and branches are being snapped like match wood from ancient yew trees across the road. Over the last few months the weather has been horrendous to say the least. I can only stand in wonder and imagine what difficulties some people have gone through with the mixture of howling gales, high tides and torrential rain.

In spite of being in a very prominent position St. Andrew's church has weathered the storms well. Some might say it's good luck. I'd like to think it is due to a well organised and ongoing program of restoration and repair. Any repair and restoration work is as you know an expensive business and it is only through the help and collaboration of the supporters of St. Andrew's church that this is possible.

Christmas and the period leading up to it was extremely busy at St. Andrew's church. The community carol service was very well supported and this year the Old Cornwall Society held their carol service at St. Andrew's with carols sung in a mixture of English and Cornish. Stratton primary school also held their end of term Carol service in church and it was very well supported by great numbers of parents. The Christingle service held on Christmas Eve was a great success but it wasn't without its challenges. The greatest challenge being trying to shoe horn all the people into church. All the services over the Christmas period were very well attended and my grateful thanks to Fr. Brian Dorrington who helped to make this possible.

As Spring approaches St. Andrew's looks forward to its Lenten observations in preparation for the great and glorious feast of Easter.

On the weekend of the 28th/29th March the annual BookFest will be held in Church. Over the past few years this particular event has grown to the extent that it is visited by people from far and wide.

This year's theme will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the first world war.

St. Andrew's church is built and has its being at the centre of its community and long may it remain so. Many thanks to all our friends who give so generously enabling this to happen.

Yours in Christ's service,

Fr David



Val Barker writes:

Carpe Diem.

Time is running: seize the day ...

It is quite amazing to think that six months has gone by since I last wrote my article for the newsletter. Where does the **time** go? Life seems to be terribly busy but with never enough hours in the day - perhaps I need to be better organized!

At present I am reading a book, recommended and lent to me by my sister-in-law, called *The Morville Hours* by Katherine Swift. She felt it would suit me as much of the rhythm of my life is brought about either by the church calendar or my garden. The book is about **time** and the making or re-making of a garden and takes the form of the medieval Books of Hours, recalling the monastic past of the house in which the author has come to live.

I am being taken on an enchanted journey and at the same **time** am experiencing, learning and meditating on daily life, the seasons and the Hours of the Divine Office. Each chapter unfolds starting with Vigils and then to Lauds, Prime and so on through to Compline covering the basic structure of the monastic day. I have learned also

that the Book of Hours describes much of the horticultural and farming year – I must get the magnifying glass out to look closer at my own little pocket sized version but I'm sure the illustrations will be nothing as compared to the versions Katherine Swift so eloquently describes. I'm enjoying too the familiarity of it all: memories of days gone by when country folk talked of doing this or that at the quarter days; Lady Day, Midsummer Day, Michaelmas or Christmas, reference points in life and the essence of all things rural – the annual country rhythm of ploughing, sewing, reaping, harvesting, thanksgiving, resting and laying aside.

I spent this last Christmas in Ohio, USA. It was a sheer delight to be with our family there, to be enveloped by the demonstrative affection of three little boys and to be welcomed and indulged by a loving son and daughter in law.

There were pre-Christmas activities at school and church, school musicals, baking and crafting, icing the cake together and all the usual general preparations. Prime family **time**. And yes, we awoke on Christmas Morning to a magical white world. Those of you who are Grandparents will appreciate our pleasure in receiving presents the Grandchildren had chosen and purchased themselves, with hard earned pocket money, from the school Christmas Store. (No item cost more than a dollar!) But, for me the best gift of all was sitting, all of us together to share our meal and hearing my eldest Grandson who is 12 saying the Grace - a short pause, after being asked to do so by his Mother, and then an eloquent thanksgiving for many blessings including a special 'Thank You' for having Grandma and Grandpa there to share in their Christmas.

It wasn't easy being away from home: we missed the rest of our family and friends and St Andrew's most of all. We missed all the usual services at Stratton but before we left there was the evening with the Old Cornwall Society when we had all things Cornish;

language, carols and readings about a Stratton childhood from a book written by Ethel Jewell. A wonderful occasion when the church was nearly full with a great **time** being had by all and with the rendition of the Stratton Carol almost lifting the roof! We hope very much to repeat it this year.

Our FoStA Christmas cards sold well and Thank You to those who made the production possible with photographs and artwork. Thanks too, to all of you who kindly supported the effort by buying cards in considerable numbers.

Anne and Geoff Day were unable to have their usual supper party at Christmas but they are very much hoping to arrange something in the **Summertime**. It is always nice to have an event to look forward to.

Arrangements for the BookFest are coming along well under Nicola Nartowski's specialist care and supervision. (See separate article.) Already several FoStA members are arranging to be in Stratton for that event. It promises to be extra special this year.

The dates of other church activities and fundraising events can be found elsewhere in this publication.

We are also indebted to another FoStA member, Patricia Greenwell, who has encouraged us to produce a booklet about gardening. It is written by 'Greenfingers' who writes regularly in the 1 Voice, our cluster monthly magazine, and all the illustrations are from original dedicated artwork by Pat. There is a section for each month of the year with an extra one at the end regarding gardening in tune with moon; a snip at £4.75 and ideal for putting in an envelope to send as a little gift. Thank You to Pat and to 'Greenfingers' for giving of their **time** and for all the help and support. The money raised from this

project is to be shared equally with St Michaels and All Angels, Bude Haven and the Friends.

My report for the Annual Parish Meeting has been prepared and the accounts for the year 2013 are ready for the independent examiner.

Another Year. Another Opportunity.

As Katherine Swift says in her book,

*The concept of **time** being sanctified by use is fundamental to the Hours: to waste it is to waste our most precious asset, **time** upon this earth.*

Thank you all, as ever, for everything you do and will do.

With every good wish from us all at St. Andrew's,

VB



Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 28th & Saturday 29th March
BookFest at St. Andrew's
- Fri 23rd to Mon 26th May inclusive
Flower Festival at St. Andrew's
- Saturday 21st June
Stratton Summer Fete
- Sunday 21st September
Harvest Thanksgiving
- Saturday 29th November
Gift Day and Mini Fayre

Although some of these are not specifically FoStA fundraising events I know there are many who like to put these dates in their diary. More information will be found on our website or on A Church Near You in due course.

Membership News and Comment

Addresses

Please remember to inform the membership secretary if you have a change of postal address or e-mail. Keeping in touch is really important to us.

Standing Orders

Even more of you are now paying by Standing Order – the majority in fact – and that is a great help as it saves on administration costs but please be assured that we are quite happy to continue with all the other means of payment if it's more convenient for you.

Donations

Thanks are due to those who have very kindly made donations this year or who have enhanced their membership subscriptions. It is appreciated.

Membership

There is a need to keep adding new members to FoStA if we are to continue to grow.

If every member reading this could encourage one other person to join it would be amazing. Why not download the information and application form from the website and pass it on to a friend or family member or even buy a membership for someone as a gift?

There are now 25 Friends who have become fully paid up Life Members and special thanks are due to them for their support and generosity. Some have very kindly continued with donations. In any event, it is good to know that we keep in touch via the Newsletter if not in any other way.

Contributors

We are genuinely grateful to those who fundraise; those who help find new members; those who write articles for the newsletter; our volunteers and the committee who are forever supportive and especially to all our membership who have made it all possible.

Newsletter

If you would be willing to print your own newsletter or read it from the website instead of receiving a hardcopy in the post, could you kindly let me know. It looks much better in colour!

OBITUARIES R.I.P.

Elizabeth Cardale. Miss Elizabeth, as she was known to many old Strattonians, was the daughter of Commander and Mrs Cardale, late of Sanctuary, Stratton. She died in October 2013 at St. Vincent's Nursing Home, Plympton St Maurice where she had lived for some time. Her funeral service took place at Plympton and the committal at St. Andrew's where she now lies next to her parents in the churchyard. Elizabeth was a member of FoStA and she took an immense interest in all things to do with Stratton and the church and had been a regular visitor over a number of years, often staying with Miss Bidy Carrick. She will be remembered, with fondness, by many.

Michael John Crowell. It is with sadness that I report the death, on 18th December 2013, of Mike whose funeral was held at St. Andrew's Church on 8th January 2014. There were a huge number of family and friends who came to the church to say a fond farewell and to take part in the celebration and thanksgiving service for the life of a country boy come home. He will be sorely missed.

Mike's association with St Andrew's went back a long way and he was one of our first FoStA members always ready to give his support and share information about Stratton.

Sonia Mary Boynton Slater. Mary died at Stratton Hospital on 8th January 2014. Her funeral service took place at St. Andrew's Church where she had been a regular worshipping member and much respected choir leader. Illness finally prevented her involvement and attendance and we sorely missed her for her own sake, her singing voice and her generous nature. We have lost a good friend.

Our condolences and prayers are offered to all the bereaved.

VB



The Churchwarden writes about some activities of the PCC and the church community.

St Andrew's Patronal Festival. Invitations to the Gift Day were distributed to nearly 2000 homes in the Parish of Stratton and the Mini Fayre and Bell Ringing competition brought a lot of interest on 30th November. The tradition of receiving gifts for the church from the people of Stratton was maintained. A new team led by Anne Day provided welcome refreshments and the whole day was a great success.

St Andrew's Lodge of the RAOB joined us for the Patronal Mass a few days before and Yvonne Jacquet coordinated the provision of refreshments after the service.

Christmas 2013. We were pleased to act as hosts for the Bude, Stratton and District Old Cornwall Society for their Carols of the Stratton Hundred in early Advent, followed in the middle of the month with our own Nine Lessons and Carols when readers came from the wider community. Stratton Primary School had their Carol Concert at the end of term and with Christingle on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass statistics were produced for the diocese of 704 children and adults in church for the Christmastide celebrations.

Lent is now approaching with plans for lunches every Tuesday starting on 11th March in St Andrew's Church and the suffragan Bishop Chris Goldsmith is running a course for our Stratton Deanery on Mondays from 10th March at 7.30 pm in the Parkhouse Centre in Bude.

Fabric Committee.

Following the 5 yearly Electrical Inspection last year the PCC decided that the lighting wiring should be up graded as a matter of urgency and safety. This is being done as we go to press.

The Quinquennial Report of May 2011 had recommendations for work to be carried out in the following 5 years. The PCC have decided to apply for grants from national and local bodies with the ultimate intention of making the church drier and more welcoming. The Chancel Roof needs the slates stripping and relaying, replacing where needed with similar Delabole slates. The Ridge Tiles of all the roofs need re-mortaring and the North side Guttering has to be replaced. Redecoration of the North and South walls inside the church will complete a very valuable set of improvements.

Discussion with the PCC at the December Open Meeting centred on the need to “Do Church Differently”. Several ideas as to how greater use of the back of the church had previously been shared. The Diocesan Advisory Committee visited and English Heritage was consulted which gave much thought to the values behind any possible changes. The “Bishop’s Den” fund mentioned in the autumn newsletter proved to be not intended for our type of project so an application was not made.

A new bookcase is now being made to fit below the pillar on the right as you come in the south door and this will give more space for tables and chairs but any thoughts of removing some or all of the back pews has been left until more need is established.

This winter we realised the path from Diddies Road is rather dark at night so some solar panelled, movement activated lights have been installed on the adjacent wall. Any obstructing branches from street light illumination will be attended to when the usual fabric committee spring working party tidy up the hedges and tree

branches that droop too low over graves. The churchyard grass has become rather long with the extended wet weather but our grass cutter Mike Yeo will overcome that, when possible, using our recently overhauled mowers.

Ongoing work in the churchyard is supported by FoStA members and for this St Andrew's is always very grateful.

Dr Ian Barker. Churchwarden.

BookFest 2014

Another chapter for Stratton BookFest



Three years and thousands of books later and BookFest is back with its unique style, at the very end of March. If you are a book browser you will love the chance to leaf through the variety of volumes on offer at bargain prices and linger in the theatrically dressed thematic sets - from Nordic Noir to Baking Boutique, there will be books on every subject.

The famous comfy sofa makes its return, as does last year's unsurprising hit, Mr Charles Cox ILAB who will be on hand to appraise your much loved books and perhaps make you cherish them even more ...

BookFest III will also be launching its partnership with the Imperial War Museum's 1914-1918 Centenary Project, which will give you direct access to add your family's Great War records and photographs to their online digital archive.



BookFest is honoured and privileged to be one of only 1,000 organisations across Britain and Ireland to be able to undertake this work, so come along and find out more.

Don't forget, all our children's books are FREE, as are many others and Michael Portillo (ex Cabinet Minister and presenter of Great British Railway Journeys) is amongst our many supporters, generously autographing a Bradshaw's Guide for our renowned Signed Book Raffle.

The place to be:

St Andrews Church, Diddies Road, Stratton EX23 9DW

Friday 28th March and Saturday 29th March - 10am to 5pm

Entry is free, extra parking will be provided and we are wheelchair and buggy friendly.

Home-made soup and hot lunches will be available alongside our usual yummy cakes and scones.

For further details/updates please contact
strattonbookfest@talktalk.net or telephone 01288 353570

If you wish to make room on your groaning bookshelves then your donations will be more than welcome at any of our book drop off points:

Bude:

- The Box of Secrets, Belle Vue
- Royal British Legion, Burn View
(Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10am to 1pm)

Stratton:

- Hair Evolution
- Tree Inn/Post Office
- St Andrews Church

Nicola Nartowski



Members' Musings

Thank You Faye for your article in the Autumn edition of the Newsletter - and 'Yes', Florence's baptism at St. Andrew's was a very special occasion.

Our congratulations also to Tony and Anne Spiers - two other FoStA members - who came with their Grandson, Ernest, for baptism at St. Andrew's last year.



Items for sale

St Andrew's Churchyard Survey (Book Form)	£10
St Andrew's Churchyard Survey (CD)	£5
Chimney Corner Tales by Joan Heard	£3.50
Inspired by Stratton – Poems by Derek Ward	£3.50
Growing Pains – Anthology of poems by Derek Ward	£1.75

All the above items can be sent by post, free of charge, to FoStA members but please note that multiple items may incur some costs.

A selection of Greetings cards and Notelets are available through the Membership Secretary. Orders can be made by post or e-mail. Please see the enclosed colour supplement.



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Members are sent a copy by post;
a PDF version is available on the FoStA web site - www.fosta.org.uk

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YOUR GARDENING YEAR



by Greenfingers

with illustrations by Pat Greenwell

Neighbourhood Planning

The current coalition government introduced the Localism Act in 2011. The Act sets out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people.

For those who remember Urban and Rural District Councils, whose powers were subsumed in the 1970s by District Councils (and more recently coming under the control of larger county, metropolitan or unitary authorities) the Localism Act sets out a process for developing Neighbourhood Plans.

For a neighbourhood plan to reach the approval stage, it must be based on evidence gathered from “public consultation and engagement”.

For local residents, Bude-Stratton Town Council has embarked on the work of generating a community led plan. If you have not already completed the questionnaire published in January 2014, you are urged to do so.

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BudeStrattonNPSurvey> - and for those without computer access, paper copies are available from the Bude-Stratton Town Council offices.

Useful links:

- BSNP web site: <http://www.budestrattonnp.org>
- Email: budeneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/budestrattonnp>
- Twitter: [@BudeStrattonNP](https://twitter.com/BudeStrattonNP)

If you don't live in Bude/Stratton, you may want to find out if any work is being undertaken on neighbourhood plans in your area.

They could give local people rights and freedoms to make a difference in their communities.

JBG