



*Friends of St Andrew's Church
Stratton, Cornwall*

Newsletter Spring 2015

Volume 7 Issue 1



Greetings to all Friends of St Andrew's! Allow me to introduce myself to you: My name is Sister Alison and I am the curate at St Andrew's and at the three other churches in the Bude Cluster. I was ordained deacon last June at which point I started my curacy here. On 4th July of this year, I shall be priested at Truro Cathedral and shall then continue in my curacy here for a further 3 years. (If anyone wishes to attend the ordination they are more than welcome to do so, it is to be held at 10.30 am and open to all.)

I was warmly welcomed into St Andrew's from the start and have become fond of the church and its people very quickly. For those of you who know it, the church building is not just a historical building of interest, but a long-standing place of worship infused with the presence of God through worship past and present. It has inspired me to read up on the history of St Andrew, but I have yet to learn why this particular church building was named after him: if you know, then please do pass it on!

Although I am now living here in the Bude area, my family remain at home on the family farm in Devon. They are an enormous source of support and encouragement to me, both now, and over the past few years while I was exploring and following the call to ordination. As a curate, I am still very much a student. I meet together with other curates in tutor groups and at training days and have a lengthy portfolio to put together through the year containing evidence of learning. St. Andrew's plays a crucial part in that, by providing me with opportunities to participate in and lead various types of worship services, discipleship projects and PCC activities. Members of the church support me in this and I am immensely grateful for their feedback and insights.

I hope that over the course of this year I will meet as many of you as I can and look forward to doing so. Please introduce yourselves to me.

I trust that 2015 will be a profitable and blessed year for you all.

Yours in Christ,
Sister Alison

Val Barker writes:

Thank you all again for your help and encouragement – not only to me on a personal level but for the Friends scheme in general and St Andrew's church in particular. It is always a joy to receive your communications with feedback, opinions and kind remarks. I suppose this comes about quite simply because you are a generous group of people with St Andrew's and Stratton close to your hearts.

I am delighted that our Curate has written a piece for the newsletter. It is appropriate, not only to introduce herself, but because she supports and takes an interest in FoStA. She has already been with us for nearly a year but it feels longer than that – she is very much part of the family. She has a warm and ready smile and easily engages with people. Commitment to her calling is much in evidence and we feel blessed to have her in the Cluster. As she prepares for ordination to the priesthood please remember Alison and her family in your prayers.

There will be a separate article regarding what is happening with the building, fabric of the church and the churchyard. It has not been an easy year for the Fabric Committee but with the support of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and the church architect I feel sure the necessary repairs will be undertaken and come to fruition just as soon as the funds are available now that the PCC have the faculties to hand.

The church as a building has developed over the centuries – a mix of artistic and architectural philosophy often set by artists and societies of the time – years of restoration, improvement, maintenance, re-ordering, re-fashioning – call it what you will, and the only thing that can be said for sure is that 'you can't please all of the people all of the time'. Aspects that call for change and subsequent congregational expectations do not always go hand in hand. At

some stages church architects and 'improvers' lay a heavy hand and at others merely a light touch fulfilling ideals for some and occasioning criticism from others. Over the centuries there have been periods when St Andrew's has been well cared for and years when the fabric and the building have been sadly neglected, but all things considered St. Andrew's is now in pretty good condition.

With architects and architecture on my mind I am reminded of a Christmas card received from a friend in Canada. He knows Stratton well and lived here for a while a few years ago. Although not an artist by profession he makes a record of his travels by keeping a journal with the addition of beautiful watercolour illustrations. I have his permission to reproduce parts of the card here including his written reflection of the day.

It says so much and yet much is unsaid inviting meditation...



(The building is Gaudí's superb unfinished basilica in Barcelona.)

A fleeting connection; a story for Christmas.

Late one afternoon in October 2013, I met an old gentleman while drawing the Nativity Façade of the Sagrada Família. He sat beside me on a park bench, and watched quietly as I tried to make sense of the complex brown stonework that seemed to flow downwards in a series of apertures, slits and forms, like a melting icefall. I could see few hard lines and had to build my picture as dark negative spaces. He made some appreciative remarks in Castilian as the image slowly took shape. I showed him my book, and explained, in halting phrases, how I used it and who I was. We conferred. He was a retired engineer living nearby, and came to the basilica regularly, to gaze, admire and ponder, as it gradually took final shape. He hoped it would be completed within the scheduled ten years, as he wanted to see it finished. My sketch complete, we rose and shook hands, comparing ages (he was eighty), but not exchanging names; it seemed unimportant. Then he politely wished me a Catalan "Adéu", turned and slowly walked away. Two elderly men had forged a momentary link through the common medium of my sketchbook. Our communication was limited, but we found a strong mutual interest in magnificent and unusual religious architecture, even though one believed and the other did not.

The other illustration of his features the Sundial over the South Porch of St Andrew's church. Most of you will recognise it straight away. It is listed in the register held by the British Sundial Society. Preservation has been discussed with the Chairman of the Society and his reply was as follows: *This is very much a matter for those who know and love the sundial. It is very difficult to do remedial work on slate and what we usually advise is that a brand-new copy is made by using stainless supports and for the gnomon instead of iron. The old dial would then be put on display somewhere in the church. All this would require a Faculty of course and would be expensive, around £20,000 at a wild guess.*



I have the feeling that it will have to stay in its present condition for some time to come.

Another person who has taken an in depth interest in St Andrew's is Helen Wilson. She is coming to the church on Friday 15th May at 7pm to give a lecture on the research she has been doing, into the Pinwill family, for a book she is writing on the subject. Helen is particularly knowledgeable about Violet Pinwill who undertook a great deal of the wooden carving in St Andrew's and in many neighbouring churches. It is a fascinating story and I am hoping that some of you may be able to attend. There will be opportunity for some socialising & refreshments after the talk.

With every good wish from me and all at St. Andrew's, Val.

Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 15th May 7pm at St. Andrew's Church
Local church carvings of Violet Pinwill – talk by Helen Wilson
Tickets for the event will be available from Val Barker or pay on arrival. The cost is to be £6 (£5 for Friends). All proceeds to FoStA.
- Fri 22nd to Mon 25th May inclusive
Flower Festival at St. Andrew's
- Saturday 20th June
Stratton Summer Fete

Although only one of these is specifically a FoStA fundraising event I know there are many who like to put all 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 your annual membership subscription 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 30 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 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.



OBTUARY R.I.P.

It is with sadness that we report the death, in November, of Mr Colin Fewster, late of Church End, Diddies Road, Stratton. His funeral service took place at St. Andrew's on 21st November 2014. We offer our condolences and prayers to his widow, Helen and all the family in their bereavement.

VB



A Report from the Fabric Committee

The planning of work on the church building suffered a setback at the end of November with the rejection of our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

However almost immediately the Diocese told us of a new fund being established with a grant of £15M from the government to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. This required an application to be completed by the end of January 2015 and was limited to only roof and gutter work. This application has been completed and the result should be known by the end of March. This, if successful, will largely cover the cost of the work required on the Chancel Roof, the Ridge Tiles and the North Side Guttering but we are still looking for funds elsewhere to re-mortar the leaking west wall of the North Aisle which has again this winter let water into the kitchen area.

On a positive note a Faculty has now been obtained to make the area near the font safer for the times when tables and chairs are used by removing part of a wooden plinth and replacing it with tiles similar to those adjacent. This will allow greater use of this area while the nearby pews are left undisturbed. Incidentally 3 wooden shelves were made last year to be fitted, when needed, over 3 of the back pews. These provide another 12 places for use at catering times and the cost of £24 was defrayed by a grant to the PCC.

In August a faulty floodlight at the back of the church spontaneously set itself alight, fortuitously when some fabric committee members were discussing the aforesaid flooring! The fire was extinguished with a handy dry powder extinguisher before the fire brigade arrived. A working party spent the afternoon clearing away the smoke debris. 3 other similar lights were removed and the 4 replacements are low energy units provided with a grant of £297.55p from FoStA.

In November, after permission was obtained from Cornwall County Council with respect to Tree Preservation Orders and work in a conservation area, a local contractor removed branches from trees

and bushes encroaching on the graves, headstones and churchyard paths. This work was supported by a grant from FoStA of £840.

Routine management to keep the paths safe is carried out by Fabric committee members who have also repaired and restored the Lych Gates. They have a small list of jobs pending in church and churchyard to carry out as the weather allows.

Knowing that we have your support as members of FoStA is a great help towards helping us to maintain and improve our cherished assets.

Grateful thanks, as always, to you all for your contributions and practical help.

Dr Ian A H Barker. PCC Secretary.



Members' Musings

An interesting piece of correspondence from Jonathan Howlett, Grandson of Canon Cyril Leslie-Jones Vicar of Stratton 1911 – 1932

Thank you so much for the newsletter – lovely to see (to me) photo of the war memorial and grandfather, rather blurred, hurrying in front of the Union Jack!! I don't think I had known the origin of the shaft and had always wondered why it was so tall. Good to know Sue Ryan's book is coming to fruition she was most helpful when I was doing the work on G-father's sermons.

Attached is a photo of the newly completed lychgate 1932 taken by Stuart Nicholson who also did all the portraits of Cyril in the early 1930s including the one of him playing tennis 1931 – his last summer of life. Nicholson must have had a studio in Bude or not far away??

If anyone has any knowledge of Stuart Nicholson we would love to hear from you.

Ed.



And, from Jane writing last Spring –

Yes, it is lovely to see the sunshine at last. I expect the daffodils and primroses look fantastic in the lanes around Bowden and up at Launcells. Take care, and I really enjoy the newsletter.

Social and Fund Raising Events

Thank you to all those who kindly responded and sent a monetary gift to St Andrew's at Christmas in lieu of any other fundraising event.

Thanks too, to Anne and Geoff Day for holding two social events for the Friends. Together the supper parties made a total just shy of £400.

We are trying to organize other events during the year and information will be sent out when there are definitive dates, venues etc. Hopefully the

website will be fully functional before too long which will help a great deal with communications in general.



The FoStA Committee

You may remember that in the last newsletter I appealed for a Minutes Secretary and I am very pleased to say that a volunteer came forward almost immediately. She is Meryll Goodwin or Meryll Dean as she is known by many and we are very pleased to have her. Also we are delighted to be joined by Sheila and Simon Waring who have been associated with St Andrew's for many years and who, like Meryll and her husband David, have recently retired and now live in the area on a fulltime basis. WELCOME!

Ed.

**FoStA Newsletter is published by
St Andrew's Church, Stratton, Cornwall. EX23 9DW**

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a PDF version is available on the FoStA web site - www.fosta.org.uk

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