



*Stratton Circa 1918*

*Dear Friends,*

*"Tempus fugit"* is a Latin expression meaning "time flees", more commonly translated as "time flies". The older you get the more true the saying seems to be. I personally can't believe where this year has gone, one minute you are sorting out the Christmas services and the next thing you know Easter has come and gone.

Christmas was a very busy time at St. Andrew's. Our community carol service was very well attended and the singing of the old familiar carols was done with great gusto. The Christingle service was held on Christmas Eve and the church was full to capacity ensuring a good collection for the Children's Society.

February marked St. Andrew's first All Age Worship service (aka The Family Service). It was well attended and the outlook for future services of this type looks good. We are also looking forward in the near future to starting a junior church (Sunday school) that will run alongside the existing services.

The first weekend of March also heralded St. Andrew's BookFest which was a great success. (Many thanks to Nicola and her team for that) Visitors poured into St. Andrew's for this event from far and wide. The variety of books available being the first call on people's attention closely followed up by some excellent locally sourced food.

During Lent this year St. Andrew's church along with others in the Bude cluster explored the possibility of transformation. The idea of the course was to look at the core of church life, its Worship, Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Evangelism and Community and investigate how we could be more effective in these areas. It led to some interesting conclusions that would allow the church to be more relevant in today's society.

As with the Christmas services, Easter was celebrated with much solemnity and great joy, a grateful thanks to Fr. Brian for that. It was good to see so many people come to St. Andrew's to celebrate the risen Lord. This time of year also marks the time for the annual parochial general meeting and I'm very pleased to say that both our

church wardens, Andrew Davey and Ian Barker have been re-elected for a further year.

St. Andrew's church has been a veritable hive of activity over the last few months and with the flower festival and the annual Summer (we hope) Fete on the horizon there is no doubt that will continue.

Many thanks to all those who work so tirelessly to enable St. Andrew's church to be constantly open and available to the people of Stratton and its visitors.

Yours in Christ's service,

*Fr David*



## FABRIC REPORT

A fairly quiet winter with the completion of the work on our ancient Festival Frontal and Superfrontal which was expertly repaired by Mrs Susan Roscala. Two specific donations to FoStA paid for the repair.

A new 12 foot by 6 foot Union flag was purchased and paid for with the help of nine specific FoStA donations. It was dedicated and first flew on Remembrance Sunday. We should have extra Royal occasions for it to be flown this year.

The recent PCC meeting heard that Rob Varley would like to relinquish his Chairmanship of the Fabric Committee at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The new PCC will be looking for a volunteer to be chairman. Following that meeting the new Fabric Committee will be studying the respective needs of the church building, if and when money becomes available.

Work is needed this year to waterproof the kitchen which sadly has never been free of a roof leak since it was built in 1999, despite several attempts outside and cosmetic decoration inside. Despite last year's work on the ridge tiles water leaked through in one spot when heavy rain and wind coincided in December. This could be a minimal job but might become more complicated.

The north side guttering needs replacing with a cost similar to that done on the south side two years ago and only then would it be worthwhile re-decorating the North and South walls internally. A smaller but useful job will be to place some ventilation grills in the floor of the church to aid the drying out process started by the re-pointing work done on the south wall last year. Once the walls are looking smart the Nave carpet could be replaced as it is rather tatty, but not worth replacing until the decorators have left.

All these jobs are inter-related, and rather daunting financially, but with the incentive of a new Fabric Committee and the help of FoStA we hope to get started on this list fairly soon. FoStA's fund raising is continuing successfully and we would like to see the funds raised used to good effect.

Dr Ian Barker, Churchwarden.



*A small section showing the intricate embroidery of the Frontal.*

## ***Val Barker writes:***

We are extremely fortunate in that the Friends scheme continues to flourish enabling the committee to make grants to the PCC for various undertakings to help maintain and improve the fabric of our church building and the churchyard. A huge vote of thanks must go

to all the members who give generously throughout the year by subscription and donation and also to those who give of their time, talents and skills in all manner of practical ways often saving the church a great deal of money in labour costs. I am indebted to the members of the committee who have given unstinting support and without whose help and enthusiasm the scheme would be much the poorer. *Thank You All.*

During the year 2012 we have welcomed 10 new members; lost 1 member through death and 4 memberships have lapsed bringing our total membership to 145 and of these 24 are now fully paid up Life Members. The committee has remained the same apart for the necessary resignation of Mrs Betty Gimson through ill health. Thanks go to Betty especially for her input when FoStA was first set up when her enthusiasm and positive attitude was so invaluable.

The website continues to be improved with changes to both the structure and content, with a facelift due later this year!

### **FoStA Fund Raising Events during the second half of 2012.**

The Christmas Supper Party, held after the 9 Lessons and Carols and hosted by Geoff and Anne Day, made a profit of £200.

Grave Survey sales have amounted to £110.

There has been a trial of commercially printed greetings cards and it is generally felt that this venture is well worth continuing.

2013 has started off extremely well with the BookFest bringing in funds of £2,100 during the Preview Evening and the two ensuing days but more importantly we were able to welcome so many old friends and many more new friends. The whole event gave the opportunity to share friendship, hospitality and above all the ethos that is St Andrew's; a sacred spot that has been the very heart of Stratton for generations. It is also immensely satisfying to see folk leaving with armfuls of books and wide smiles on their faces. Nicola Nartowski did an amazing job in master minding the whole event and we are grateful for all her efforts on behalf of the 'Friends'.

To date, in total, FoStA has made grants to the PCC of £19,344.04.

There is, at the time of writing this report, a surplus of £8,500.00 in hand for future projects. The accounts for the year 2012 were audited by the church's Independent Examiner, Mr N Sainsbury BSc, ACA and a full report will be given at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April.

Our last Newsletter, the Autumn 2012 edition, was particularly well received due to interesting articles by members and there was lots of feedback causing memories to be rekindled. Some of the remarks will be shared in the **Members' Musings** section and, as always, we welcome any feedback you care to give.

After experiencing such a very cold Spring so far I hope you will all enjoy a really good Summer.



*Stratton Square*

From an original by  
Patricia Greenwell.

An example of the  
printed cards for sale

## **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 be assured that we are quite happy to continue with all the other means of payment if that is more convenient to you.

### ***Donations***

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

We are particularly grateful to Chris Heard for a £1,000 gift from the Pendeen Car Boot activities. 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, like someone did last year, buy a membership for someone as a gift?

As it is now more than 5 years since the inception of FoStA several Friends 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 other ways.

## ***Contributors***

I am 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 please. Looks much better in colour!

VB



## **Dates for Your Diary**

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May - St. Andrew's Flower Festival
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Annual Summer Fete

*Although these are church 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.*

# A Childhood in Stratton

As you know Members have been invited to submit articles for inclusion in the Newsletter and we are grateful to Mrs Angela Lacey-Marsh and Mr Jonathan Howlett for another interesting piece of Stratton social history; this time a little earlier to include the First World War and some interesting family photographs.

*Elisabeth was the daughter of the Revd Cyril Leslie-Jones who was Vicar of Stratton from 1911 until 1932. A much loved and highly respected Parish Priest and good friend to many.*

Childhood memories of Stratton by Elisabeth Howlett  
(nee Leslie-Jones) and written in July 1969.

I have promised my daughter Angela that I would write down some reminiscences of my childhood days before "she says" its too late or I grow too old to bother...

I was born on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1911 in the country vicarage of Stratton in North Cornwall (*now Tregarthens in Diddies Road*) which is a long time ago to some people today.

My first recollections were of looking up at an intensely blue sky through the leaves and swinging branches of an hundred year old weeping ash tree which I was placed under in a bassinette - my first recollections of sound was the cawing of the rooks in the rookery whose trees surrounded the grass tennis courts beyond the ash tree, and the chimes that rang from the church tower across the road. The famous peel of eight bells on Sundays, the sweet smell of magnolia blossoms, then as the song goes 'I turned around' and I was four years old and the terrible First World War had begun...

In August we used to have the church fete on the tennis courts with stalls all around - there were many friends and parishioners who came and were kind to me - we had a very pretty parlour maid called Mabel (Cary) whom I dearly loved and who helped serve the teas.

My mother's drawing room was gay with flowered curtains and pale green striped wallpaper in the dining room. We had the



Archdeacon's visit annually and many clergy from the surrounding parishes, I remember the lovely silver candlesticks and table silver with white damask tablecloth and napkins.

I had a nanny when I was small, she and I were in the nursery next to my mother's bedroom; she was most kind.

My mother was very beautiful, but not at all strong, she had lost a little girl before I was born, she had a heart defect and was what they called a blue baby, she only lived a week, my father christened her before she died and she was buried beside my grandmother in Oswestry churchyard Shropshire.

A cousin of my mothers Mrs Constance Bevan came to stay for three weeks in the summer, she took a whole house in Crooklets for herself and her staff including coachmen to drive a Victoria carriage, she used to call for my mother and took her for drives in the surrounding countryside. The horses were lovely chestnuts, besides the coachman there was a postillion behind in dark blue uniform and with a cockaded top hat, I used to wave them goodbye at the front door.

I am now five and the war has come though of course I was only just aware of the changes, young men appeared at the fete in khaki with puttees around their legs and recruiting bands passed the house. In Stratton at that time we had a muffin man who rang his bell of shining brass his tray was covered in green beize.

During the war years I had a very dear little nursery governess called Miss Cowell known to everyone as 'Cowley'. She lived with us at the vicarage and was my constant companion - I think I was pushed around every nearby lane by her, we would set off about 9.30 even in winter whatever the weather, with the pram that had a hood and wind cover - milk and biscuits for elevenses - arriving back at 12. In the autumn we collected horse chestnuts which abound around Stratton; mountain ash berries and in spring blue periwinkles at Oxenpark and at Lent there were lent lilies a tiny daffodil which grew in the Prustacott farm orchard high above Stratton, we often brought baskets full of them home with brown farm eggs fresh from the hens. In the barns I was allowed to plunge

my arms up to the elbows deep in the maize corn which was whole in those days. The dairies had pans of milk setting for cream and cream already scalded about ¼ inch thick. Sometimes we had tea in the farm kitchens a teaspoon of cream was always put into the poured out tea, the buttermilk scones were three inches across and had cream and home made jam.

In the war everyone was able to have sacks of loaf sugar on condition we made jam with it, in case it was needed for the troops, we made pounds of it every year but we were never asked to supply any of it to the army, needless to say all of the sugar did not go into jam. We had a huge fruit garden , blackcurrants, white currants, which turned red when they were cooked, red currants, loganberries, raspberries, apples and pears. There were also two lily of the valley beds (there is now a new bungalow estate built on this).Then there was the orchard with Ribston Pippins, Coxes, Blenheim's, Russets and many others. In the war friends from Bude bought a tree and came with their families to pick the fruit. My mother and father had a cook, parlour maid and housemaid but by 1916 they had all left except a daily maid. My father built a cottage on the other side of Stratton - it was called 'The Cottage' - the idea being an economy and less work for my mother. We moved there for two years, but it was not a success as the Church Commissioners would not allow my father to use it as a permanent vicarage. While we were there there was a terrible sea battle (Jutland??) one night and I sat around the fire with the organist's daughter Miss Stainton whose brother was missing (he was later a prisoner of war and eventually returned home) he married a German girl which a lot of people could not understand. Her father Mr Stainton had a little cottage in Spicers Lane where he lived with his daughter and a green parrot which was often in a cage outside the cottage. He also had a little Shipaki dog called Kim it was never far from his heels and when he gave lessons Kim went with him to all the houses in the district. Mr Stainton has a memorial in the St Andrew's chapel in Stratton church next to my father's plaque.

We moved back to the vicarage but most of the rooms were closed up - the furniture had been sold and most of the silver too -

sometimes I would go into the old drawing room with the Wisteria's sweet scent drifting in the windows and the white Magnolias and dance all around the room and weave dreams about how one day I would be a rich princess and refurnish it all for my parents!!

My father worked hard in the garden growing vegetables and we had lovely hours together as he worked, then we would go and inspect the fig trees in the courtyard and have a feast, the courtyard gave on to a paddock sloping down to a stream. A local farmer from 'Ring o' Bells', Mr Davis, kept his cows there and latterly the riding stables. He had a dear little pony called Tommy, and he taught all the children to ride.

When the war was on my mother became quite ill and the local doctor (who brought me into the world) and was famous locally -his name was Dr King and was 6ft 4in tall - was very kind to our family he made sure we had butter milk and cream from the 'home farm' during the war years. Dr King was a great horseman and Master of Fox Hounds I don't expect he ever knew how many hours I spent in his stables as a small child. They were situated just across the lane at the end of the tennis courts. I can still smell the soft soap and leather harnesses, and watched the horses all return after hunting to be washed down and watered. There was a horse called York with a docked tail that was a chestnut and another called Rockaway, a dark bay that the doctor rode. He also kept for his daughter a dear little pony call Becky Sharpe, the head groom was a Mr. Blight, who lived opposite the church. He had a large family many of whom grew up and lived in the district around. He was very kind to me and let me help clean the harnesses and bits. He had marvellously twinkly blue eyes and there was nothing he didn't know about horses.

At Christmas time there was a lot to be done, decorating the church. Staves were brought into the vicarage and placed with each end on chairs then huge bundles of fir, holly, euonymus golden and green variegated, were bound on to the staves with string, when finished they were taken across the road to the church and tied top and bottom around the pillars on all four sides. It was hard on the hands but many people came to help it took about five days before Christmas Eve.

The winters of 1916-1918 were terribly cold, the Bude canal froze over and there was much skating, many of the wild birds died.

Many friends came out each summer to evensong and to hear my father preach, and they often came to tea first and walked back through Broomhill in the late evening their path would have taken them across scented hay fields with red squirrels following them in and out of the pine trees that lined the route to Bude via Poughill.

The squirrels have gone long since and many of the pine trees chopped down and much of the peace gone but the memories never go.

When the war was over I remember my mother was baking in the huge kitchen and she jumped up on the windowsill and said 'Listen we shall hear the maroon any minute now' I don't think I realised the significance or very much about it until later on....

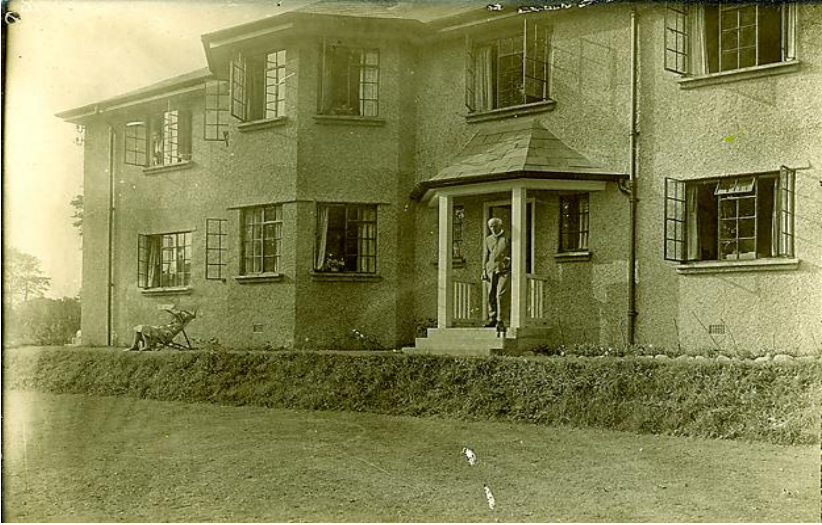
When my mother and I were invited to London to her cousins to view the victory parade we made the journey by train from Bude station and in those days you did not have to get out of the carriage until you got to London Waterloo ...

*Some foot notes from Jonathan Howlett.*

*There are clearly some dating discrepancies but I do not think they change the essential accuracy of my mothers' memories. This is all typed up from my sister Angela's transcript of the handwritten original; I have done a very little further editing.*

Editor's comment. Due to the lack of space I have had to shorten this account considerably keeping in only parts that are Stratton related. Despite this, I feel sure many will find it interesting. The new vicarage was build on land purchased in 1923 from Dr T A King of Diddies House and the family moved in as soon as it was ready for occupation.

**Elisabeth Howlett died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1978 and was buried here, in the churchyard, of St. Andrew's Church, Stratton.**



The Revd. Cyril Leslie-Jones in the doorway and his daughter Elisabeth in the deckchair.



*Left* Elisabeth with her new husband at their wedding breakfast in 1935 at the Tree Inn. The priest is Fr Williams. *Above* Elisabeth sitting in the garden of the Retreat House.



# BookFest 2013

Sometimes an event captures the imagination and develops a life of its own and this was certainly the case with BookFest in March.

Now firmly fixed in the calendar as a Stratton community event, it drew in visitors from all over Cornwall and Devon, partly due to a foray into the world of social media but primarily due to word of mouth. Booklovers expressed their delight at a weekend devoted to all things book related and there were volumes of interest for literally all age groups.

The variety and quality of the books for sale were widely commented upon and that is a tribute to all who donated so copiously and so very generously. The division of stock into themes or genres with the addition of quirky and apposite props creates a theatrical atmosphere which has found universal approval.



Browsing becomes a real pleasure and with stock constantly being replenished many visitors stayed for hours or came back later in the day or even returned on the following day!

It was delightful to welcome so many Friends to our evening preview and to be able to share a glass of wine and leisurely conversation. Many took the opportunity to meet both the Mayor of Bude/Stratton and our critically acclaimed 'Peoples Poet' Derek Ward, not forgetting the chance to have first pick of the books on offer.

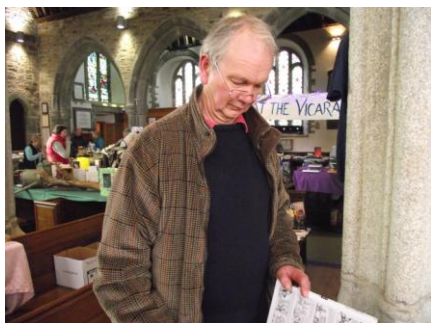


*Props on the Crime and Gardening Sections*

Derek launched his second anthology of poetry 'Growing Pains' on the night and signed copies throughout the event. A specially commissioned poem entitled 'Please Mr Rogerson', which provided a humorous view of being a local politician, was framed and presented to Dan Rogerson MP when he attended on the Friday.

Dan was particularly supportive of our main aim, which is to encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading, being both an avid bibliophile himself and a father to three young children with very different reading habits. It was lovely to have him join us during an exceptionally gruelling political week, but also to be in receipt of his warm and generous comments when he paid enthusiastic tribute to BookFest in his Westminster column in the press. He certainly put Stratton on the map!

Our familiar retro sofa returned, this time taking us into the 1960s. However, a new chapter was opened with the addition of 'Ask the Expert' – renowned antiquarian book dealer and secretary of the Hawker Society, Charles Cox provided his expert opinion upon any books visitors brought in for his appraisal. Many people left with a new respect for and a better understanding of items that they had previously disregarded on their bookshelves.



#### *Charles Cox and 60s Magazines*

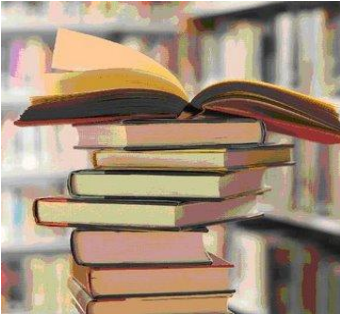
There is a clamour for Charles to return next year and he has become a hugely popular part of the proceedings. As ever, our displays attracted keen interest, this year focusing on researching family history for free and on our Burne-Jones designed East window. The latter exhibition celebrated the 180th anniversary of the birth of Burne-Jones but also allowed us to demonstrate how we use the funds we raise specifically on projects within the church and churchyard. Friends will recollect how FoStA provided a grant to enable the iron ferramenta of the east window to be replaced and thus stabilise the glass in this important and historic window.

Perhaps the most noticeable aspect of BookFest this year was the number of children who attended. This reflects a closer relationship with Stratton Primary school but also that our free books for children is a facet well worth maintaining. With a matching funding grant from the Balsdon Trust of £600, we raised an astounding £2,000, but more especially BookFest became a massive talking point and continues to grow and grow, into its now well-deserved title of North Cornwall's largest book event. Thanks go to all who cooked



and looked, who brought and bought, who carried and tarried and who lunched and munched. But special thanks must go to Father David Barnes, who gladly rearranged his Lent course and accommodated the madness so willingly, as well as turning up each day to meet and be part of our wider community.

*More pictures and 'aftermath' details are available at [www.budeandbeyond.com/strattonbookfest2013](http://www.budeandbeyond.com/strattonbookfest2013) and will be on the FoStA web site shortly.*



Next year we will be exploring Stratton in times of conflict, as we join in with the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and so we will be examining military memories. Our working title for the event is 'Forever in Foreign Fields'.

*Nicola Nartowski*

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## 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

Stratton School *A History 1848 - 1992 and Fond Farewell* £2

Inspired by Stratton - Poems by Derek Ward £3.50

Growing Pains - New anthology of poems by Derek Ward £1.75

A selection of cards, in packs of 5 with envelopes £3

*(Illustrations will be available on the revised website in due course.)*

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.

## Dear Mr Rogerson

**Please get rid of;**

**Traffic wardens  
council tax  
water rates  
and poverty.  
TV repeats  
holes in the road  
bank charges  
general misery.  
Noisy neighbours  
Road works  
blocked up drains  
celebrities.  
Second homes  
long steep hills  
and price increased  
utilities.  
Confusing forms  
for filling in  
university fees  
beauticians.  
People carriers  
on school run  
white lies  
and politicians.**

**Please get us;**

**Lower taxes  
better roads  
free buses  
summer sunshine.  
Policemen  
walking on the beat  
less work  
and more of 'me' time.  
More dog poo bins  
and bright street lights  
a park  
for kids to play  
an end to wars  
around the world  
and more Bank holidays.  
A parking space  
In Stratton  
free prescriptions  
cheaper fuel  
The belief that right  
will always beat wrong  
and that what you're told  
is true.**

*By Derek Ward*

*To be read with Danny Kaye's fast tongue twister type songs in mind. Ed*



# Flower Festival 2013

## Foretaste

### Theme: "God's Acre"

There is an ancient Saxon phrase which calls the churchyard or burial ground God's Acre and it is part of the evocative poem 'God's Acre' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

For several years now a small band of parishioners have transcribed the wording on memorial tablets and tombstones in the church building itself and from those in the churchyard. This information has been printed and made into books and CDs and these are currently available for sale.

There are so many wonderful epitaphs and interesting inscriptions on these memorials that it gave rise to the idea of using some of them as a basis for a Flower Festival. The subject will allow great scope for ideas and displays - a celebration of lives remembered.

It will take place over the May Spring Bank Holiday from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.

All proceeds are for the church and as this is one of our major fundraising activities we hope lots of people will come to see us - and the flowers of course.



# Member's Musings

Thank you for keeping in touch. We look forward to hearing more about Stratton through the FoStA Newsletter.

*Colin and Lesley. Australia.*

Thanks for the mag. Loved the article about Rev. Williams. He was well loved and a 'Man's Man'. My Dad used to tell how he was on the dole in the 30s and Rev W would buy all the unemployed men in Stratton a pint. Keep up the good work.

*Trevor. Bude*

Thanks for the Newsletter. I'm glad to see that St. Andrew's is still going strong. I was interested to read the article from Ruth Thomas (Williams as I knew her). I was born in 1932 and when Father Williams came to Stratton I was the first baby he Christened. Not that I remember of course!!

My Grandfather, the late Frederick Found, kept the churchyard tidy and also was the vicarage gardener. When I was old enough I was taken with him sometimes and played in the garden and there was always a drink and a biscuit for us especially if it was hot weather.

My granddad also used to blow the organ before things were modernised. That's going back a bit isn't it?

*Mary. Bude.*

**FoStA Newsletter is published by  
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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](http://www.fosta.org.uk)

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