



St Andrew's Tower

- viewed from the north west coming towards Stratton from Poughill.

Cover photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP

A Letter from the Revd Teresa Folland

Dear Friends of St Andrew's,

When I moved to the vicarage 12 months ago, inevitably I inherited a garden. I decided to wait for a year before changing any of the planting in order to discover during each season what delights were to be found – and I've pretty much stuck to that decision. I have been delighted by the rather eclectic array of shrubs, perennials and bulbs as they have displayed themselves during the course of the year some in all their glory, some quietly tucked away in a corner.

I took the same sort of approach with regards to St Andrew's, waiting to see what might be discovered as the year unfolded. What traditions, talents and quiet acts of kindness might I find? And again, I have been delighted by the breadth and depth of all that is on offer. A concern for Stratton community, a love of the building and churchyard, an appreciation of traditional and new ways of encountering God and a keen and open eye in reaching out to others with the love of Christ.

Covid has of course had a huge impact on everything we do and the way we live our lives. My garden has no doubt received far more attention than it would have done otherwise. And the church has been given a very different focus. There has been a willingness to keep everyone safe by following the rules during lockdown, but an eagerness to re-open safely as soon as we were able. Many have embraced worshipping via zoom and we have kept in touch with one another ensuring pastoral support has been high on our agenda. We have learnt to do things differently, even though that wasn't our priority at the beginning of this 12 months.

I look at my garden now, as autumn approaches. It is a season of dying and decay. Everything is closing down, becoming dormant before the depths of winter draws near. But I need to remember that compost heaps provide the material for new growth in the spring; that out of death comes life.

And so as we face a season of further lockdowns, dark evenings and long nights, the church's season of remembering and waiting; remember we have the hope of new life coming in the spring. God says, "behold I am doing a new thing".

So, take heart and wait expectantly! As surely as one season follows another, we may be assured that God is in control. We do not know what that “new thing” will look like, but we do know that springtime is exciting, colourful and bursting with life. I can’t wait to see what God has in store for us! Can you?

Wishing you every blessing,

Reverend Teresa Folland



Autumn - *photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP*

Val Barker writes –

Dear Friends,

When I last wrote to you all, in the Spring, I really believed that by now we would be 'out of the woods' as regard to the Coronavirus pandemic and that we would be getting back to some form of normality. Unfortunately, that is not quite where we are yet and things remain strange and difficult for many.

It has been very uplifting and a great privilege to have witnessed the caring support that many have given to the people of Stratton and the wider community – particularly the housebound who were and in some cases, still are, shielding, the elderly and any needing help. David and Sadie at the Stratton Stores have given an amazing service to the community in that groceries, newspapers and other provisions were delivered on a daily basis; people in the Town cooked and delivered meals; a team of church folk kept in touch with those at home by regular phone calls and the Zoom worship services continued throughout. There are stories of residents who hardly knew their neighbours before the pandemic started now find they have a new circle of friends.

Our church of St Andrew has been opened twice a week for private prayer and occasional Sunday worship. Now, since the beginning of October, it has been possible for us to have a weekly Sunday service, alternating between Morning Worship and Holy Communion. The Midweek Mass has also resumed but at the later time of 10.30am. Since lockdown began, there hasn't been a single day that prayers have not been offered up to the Lord from and for our communities - both near and far.

It has been a delight to hear from some of you during this time of difficulty and challenge and to hear about your lives, how you are coping and what is happening in your church families and parishes.

Obviously, like everyone else, there hasn't been the usual opportunities for socialising and fund raising and we have missed seeing visitors in St Andrew's and having chance to offer hospitality and welcome.

The free-standing desk calendar for 2020 proved very popular last year and several members asked us to produce one again for 2021. I'm pleased to say that David Goodwin has yet again come to the rescue and has produced another with his outstanding photographs and production skills. We haven't increased the cost so we hope for a good uptake. They are a great stocking present or small Christmas gift ideal for mailing to a friend or family member who has fond memories of Stratton.



CALENDAR 2021



Calendar and images created by David Goodwin JP

The 2021 calendar contains 13 new images from in and around St Andrew's Church. The spiral-bound calendar is A5 size (8.3" x 5.5") and the images are produced on high-quality silk-finish

It is reasonably priced at £3.75, envelope included. Please be aware that there will be a small charge for p&p for orders that have to be mailed. Please see the order form included.



Our thanks to you all, as ever, for your continuing support and encouragement – we couldn't manage without our Friends.

With best of wishes from us all here in Stratton. *Val*

I will leave you with a prayer written by Bishop John Pritchard ...

Lord of the Church, we give thanks that across the country churches stand as great Post-it notes, reminding people of your presence in their midst.

There are church towers punching the sky and church spires piercing the horizon. Churches give soul to every community, and without them there is a vacuum in the centre of community life. Enable us to keep our churches open and available, flexible and forward-looking – sacraments of your love as outward and visible signs of your inward, invisible grace. **Amen**



Obituary

Professor Kenneth Barrett Saunders

A Service of Thanksgiving for Ken's life took place at St Andrew's Church on Thursday 6th August 2020. He had died on 5th April, of a longstanding motor neurone condition, at home in Blackheath, London, with his family.

Professor Saunders had had a long and illustrious career both as a clinician and as an academic. He was Professor of Medicine at St George's Hospital from 1980 until his retirement and held in high regard by his colleagues, former students and research fellows.

At the service at Stratton his daughter spoke eloquently about 'her Dad' rather than the Professor and we heard a wide-ranging description giving a wonderfully warm insight as to the great family man her Father was. We heard among other things about classical music, TV shows, Comics, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Blackheath Rugby Club and coming to the house in Coast View for the Summer Holidays, always stopping off at Stonehenge for the lunchtime picnic. Another aspect of this gentleman was his lifelong fascination with the Classics, adding apparently, Egyptian to Latin and Greek. At the church service his son read 'In the Presence of Death' by Seneca the Roman philosopher.

Ken had been a supporter of the church in Stratton and a FoStA member for many years and he had a great affection for his hometown. It was meaningfully special that he should have requested that his ashes should be brought home and laid to rest in St Andrew's Churchyard.

We offer our condolences, thanks and prayers to Professor Saunders' widow, Philippa, daughter Kate, son Stephen and all the family.

R.I.P

Some Lockdown Thoughts

When Val asked me to write a piece for this newsletter, I must admit I was not sure what there was to write about. Our lives, after all, had to be put on hold and things became scary. Suddenly we were unable to see family members or friends, plans that had been made had to be cancelled, all but essential shops closed, life was turned upside down. Only recently has the situation started to ease, but many of us are still anxious to resume normal life.

One thing that has occurred to me is that over the last few months we have developed a whole new vocabulary. At the beginning of the year words like lockdown, social distancing, furloughing, unprecedented and 'the new normal' were not commonly used in everyday conversation, and I for one had never heard of Zoom. But now they are used all the time in the media and by all of us.

Some of you may not agree but what a blessing Zoom has become. The technology that has enabled friends and families to keep in touch has been a lifeline to many. I have had several meetings via zoom in my role in Mothers' Union and travelling to my kitchen table instead of around the country and Cornwall is a bonus I will be reluctant to lose. But I think the best gift we have received from zoom is being able to worship together, not just as the congregation of St Andrew's but the cluster of churches that make up God's witness here in Stratton Deanery.

Since the beginning of lockdown, we have met each weekday morning to say Morning Prayer sharing the scriptures, prayers, and even singing hymns, although sometimes it is just as well that nobody else can hear myself and Simon. Through zoom we have met people from other churches that, before COVID-19, we probably may never have crossed paths with. The fellowship and friendship between us have developed throughout that time and I know that this will continue to grow enhancing the service we can give to all our communities.

Sunday Worship has also taken place on zoom with over 40 participants during lockdown, and often including people from outside the deanery. Now that churches can open for public worship those who feel safe are able to gather on Sunday mornings. With

social distancing in place and of course with the wearing of face masks, we share in the same service with those at home on zoom.

But the greatest joy for me, with the opening up of our beautiful church of St Andrew's, is that all those who were unable to access the internet can be a church family again and come and be part of their spiritual home with fellow Christians and be in the presence of God. We may not be able to stand and chat with a cup of coffee after the service, we may have to sit with two metres between us, we may not be able to sing the hymns and we have to wear face masks throughout the service, but none of this is of importance. Just to see smiling eyes above the masks is enough to know that someone cares and is pleased to see you.

Many things have changed since the onset of the pandemic and who knows what the 'new normal' will look like. We may have to embrace different ways of worshipping and being the family of St Andrew's, but we will always be united by the love of our God.

Sheila Waring

Sheila is the wife of our Churchwarden and the Diocesan Mothers' Union President, a Local Worship Leader and member of the FoStA committee. Thank You, Sheila. Ed



Social History – Sunday School Outing. Can anyone date this photo?

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Parish Mass
at St Andrew's at 9.30am.

As the Bude-Stratton Town Council in conjunction with the Bude and Stratton Branch of the British Legion have given notice that the Remembrance Sunday events will be different this year we are arranging to have some special additions at St Andrew's. There will be a Garden of Remembrance in the Churchyard, on the left as you come through the Lychgate, a Poppy Prayer Station with the names of those to be remembered in St Andrew's Chapel, an Act of Remembrance in the church during the Sunday Communion Service and 2 minutes silence during the mid-week mass on November 11th. The garden can be visited at any time and the church will be open during the day on Wednesdays and Sundays to welcome visitors for private prayer.

Sunday 29th November Patronal Parish Mass.

The time of the service will be advertised on the website in due course.

The online monthly calendar is kept up to date by our Web Master with services and events so do check for further details at www.fosta.org.uk

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*** If you are prepared to view the newsletter on-line or print it
yourself, please let me know. ***

*** * Items for Sale * ***

Please remember that there is an on-line FoStA Shop.

