



Friends of St Andrew's Church
Stratton, Cornwall

Newsletter Spring 2022

Volume 14 Issue 1



Front cover photograph shows the new Diocesan flag being flown from the Tower at Easter with Bishop Hunkin's cherry tree in full bloom.

Cover photograph courtesy of David Goodwin JP

Dear FoStA,

The Chancel Roof has to be the dominant theme of this edition of the FoStA newsletter. I thought I would look up how many times roof is mentioned in scripture. In the NIV roof is mentioned 39 times in the Old Testament and 7 times in the New Testament.

The first time it is used wasn't a surprise to me; it was when the roof of the ark was mentioned in Genesis. Of course, many of our church roofs look like the upturned inside of a boat, and we think of the safety and protection that the ark gave Noah and his family & indeed that which a roof gives us.

There are very specific instructions given in the OT regarding roofs, especially for the building of the ark and the building of the Temple. There is also an instruction to make sure that a parapet is built around your roof, so that you will not bear the guilt of any bloodshed should someone fall from your roof.

There is also quite a lot of activity that takes place on roofs (albeit that their roofs were flat). There is much walking around on roofs, talking between Samuel & Saul & the building of shelters and tents on roofs for visitors to stay. They are high places from which the Watchmen may see and Lot speaks of men who have come under the protection of his roof.

But there was also wrongful worship of stars and burning of incense to Baal that took place on a rooftop. And, there is talk of tongues sticking to the roof of your mouth and the observation that grass and plants planted on the rooftops will wither or scorch – and perhaps my favourite from Proverbs "A foolish child is a father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like the constant dripping of a leaky **roof**."

Which brings us neatly to the problem of our (potentially very close to being leaky) Chancel roof!

We certainly didn't want to fall foul of the companionship of a quarrelsome wife and certainly not in the Chancel of our wonderful church. In this space there is peace and there is holiness and there is encounter with the Holy One.

The New Testament sees the paralysed man being lowered through a hole in the roof to hear Jesus' healing words and we are encouraged to proclaim the Good News of Jesus from the rooftop. The centurion deems that he is not worthy to have Jesus come under his roof & Peter has his definitive vision of clean and unclean foods on a roof; it was from here that he knew his message of salvation was for both Jews and Gentiles.

Roofs both keep out and contain; are places of protection and proclamation; are places under which holiness is found and upon which visions are seen.

It is our role to ensure that we use roofs well; to protect yes, but not to become a barrier; to create a space that is welcoming and a place of sanctuary, but that does not make anyone feel excluded.

And so we thank you, our friends, for your generous contribution that has enabled us to make our Chancel roof sound for years to come; so that we can continue to offer a space where God may be given honour and glory, praise and thanks,

Yours in Christ,

Rev Teresa

Val Barker writes

We have been busy here at St Andrew's as you will read in the Churchwarden's report later in the newsletter, and not only with the church building but also with God's Acre.

In the churchyard, the Sanctuary Lane gate entrance arch and northern section of the wall has been partially rebuilt, strengthened by the insertion of steel bars, the stones pointed with lime mortar and the whole thing recapped. It looks new and rather smart at present but no doubt will soon be weathered and look as if it has been there for decades.



This is only part of the project as the wall rebuilding by the Diddies Road gate has yet to get underway.

FoStA has pledged a grant of £10,000 towards this work.

The hedging we planted on the west boundary (see Simon's last update in the Autumn 2021 newsletter) is doing really well and recently wildflower seeds have been sewn on the bank. All very pleasing. Now for the bug hotels!

Inside the church and in the Porch and Lychgate we have had new oak notice boards installed – again, by means of a grant from FoStA.

None of this would be remotely possible without your continuing support, generosity and interest. All thorough lockdown and beyond, church communities everywhere have found it very hard to raise those extra funds for the upkeep of their buildings through usual means and for obvious reasons but St Andrew's loyal Friends have just kept on giving.

Your membership subscriptions and generous donations provide us with a constant financial foundation which in turn enables us to plan for the upkeep and maintenance of the church building and the churchyard. Thank you for all your support in so many and varied ways – without you St Andrew's wouldn't be the well looked after, warm and welcoming place that it is. I always feel that it is really important, not only to give glory to God in what we do, but that we honour all the work that has been done by previous generations in guarding our heritage in this place.

Since I last wrote in the Autumn several of you have been able to visit, there have been phone calls and letters and it is a joy and so heart-warming.

Keep up the communication, keep well and be assured that you are all remembered in our prayers here at St Andrew's.

With the best of wishes from us all.

Val

Chancel roof repairs

The deterioration in the condition of the Chancel roof has been a concern for many years and had been mentioned in two previous Quinquennial Reports by our church architects. The 2011 report recommended the complete re-slating of the Chancel roof with new support battening, the re-bedding of the ridge tiles and new leadwork to the valleys and abutments. Two applications were made to the LPoW Roof Repair Fund for grants to carry out the recommended work, but these applications were unsuccessful and so this major work was not possible; only minor repairs as and when necessary to deal with leaks.

However, when the 2021 Quinquennial Report once again mentioned the Chancel roof and recommended action 'within the next 12 months', the PCC agreed that quotations should be obtained and an application for Faculty approval made to the Diocesan authorities. Fund raising commenced with a view to finding a minimum of £30,000.

At the FoStA Committee meeting in August 2021 it was agreed that FoStA would make available to the PCC a grant of £10,000 towards the project. With further grants from The Blanchminster Trust, The Cornwall Historic Churches Trust, The Allchurches Trust and the National Churches Trust, and with donations specifically given to the St Andrew's PCC Fabric Fund, sufficient funding was available

to allow the project to proceed. Able Roofing & Scaffolding Services, Bude Ltd were selected for the project with work starting late in January. Scaffolding was necessary with a temporary roof over the whole outside of the



Chancel with protection also arranged for nearby Churchyard Memorials. In addition, access inside the church to the Chancel area was restricted, with protection of the altar, organ and choir stalls provided in case of any disturbance to the underside of the roof.

We were all very concerned in February when Storm Eunice hit the south-west. Yet despite extensive damage in the area, including the well reported toppling of the tree in the Bude Triangle and many left without power or telephone,



we were relieved to find the scaffolding still standing and the sheeting still attached.

Work was successfully completed in mid-March without any significant complications. An

inspection was made by the Architect who reported that the work was 'found to be of a very satisfactory standard'. Every-one was very happy that we were able to make use of the Chancel again in time for Mothering Sunday and the



lead up to Easter, especially our organist Dafydd who had had to use the electric keyboard during the project while the church organ was covered. The PCC have expressed their thanks to FoStA for the grant that allowed this project to go ahead, and for the unfailing generosity of the FoStA membership which made this possible.

Simon Waring, Churchwarden

Thoughts after the storms

No doubt many of you will have been affected in some way or another by the storms that swept through at the beginning of the year and you may have seen the demise of a landmark in our neighbouring town – the large fir tree in the Triangle at Bude - as it fell and the footage replayed numerous times on national television. It was also written about in the local newspapers and photographed both at the time and subsequently as the clearing up operation got underway. In one report I read that the fountain which is in the triangle had been slightly damaged. That set off a train of thoughtHow many people, I wondered, know that the fountain started life in Church Square at Stratton?

In 1901 clean water was piped to Stratton by means of a feeder arm from Tamar Lake: *"Before this time all the water for drinking and other purposes was either taken from a well or dipped from the river. Rainwater was often collected for washing as it was softer."* Extract from: *A Stratton Childhood* by Ethel Jewell.



Dickie Rowe with donkey 'Nimble' filling the barrel with river water C 1900 Some little while after the water supply had opened Stratton had a fountain for drinking water and another as a decorative feature.

The Water Features in Stratton Church Square



Peardon/Worden archives

The wording on the fountain base: "1903 This water fountain was erected by public subscription to the memory of Mary Jane Shearme of Cothill, Stratton who resided all her life in this Parish. Her example of continual [usefulness] will ever live in the hearts of those who came under her influence."

The little boy in the picture is Jimmy Vincent 1907 – 1917, a cousin of Betty Worden.

The drinking water fountain had a religious text:

"Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

King James Bible, Matthew, 10:42

The fountain now resides in Bude ...



It would seem likely that the Council of the time would have moved it to make way for the War Memorial (Grade 11 listed) which was erected in the church square late 1919 and dedicated 'To the men of Stratton, who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919'. There is a

picture of Shute Triangle dated 1921 in one of the Bude guidebooks which clearly shows the fountain *in situ*.



The war memorial in Stratton at the unveiling and dedication by Canon Leslie Jones, Vicar at St Andrew's.

The memorial was made by the Bodmin Granite Company to a design by Messrs Sedding & Stallybrass who were the church architects at the time.

The head was a completely new design and the column an ancient pillar taken out of St Andrew's church during the restoration at the beginning of the 19C. The cost was about £270 which was said to have been defrayed by voluntary contributions.

What of the drinking fountain? Well, I'm pleased to say it remained in Stratton and can be seen now in Rattenbury Gardens being used by the council as a flower container.



Both inscriptions can just about be seen – the lower one being from the decorative fountain. Unfortunately, the lead lettering has almost gone – but we know what it says – thanks to the archives. *Ed*

If anyone has more information about the fountains or wish to correct or add anything to what I have written, I should be pleased to hear from them. Val

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, STRATTON

An Evening with Helen Wilson and the Pinwill Family

Come and hear all about the young woman who did many of the wood carvings in St Andrew's and other churches in the area.



St Andrew's Church Pinwill Rood Screen (detail)

(photograph David Goodwin JP)

Friday May 27th at 7pm in the Church followed by refreshments and a chance to talk to the speaker and see the book she has written

Tickets at £6 (FoStA members £5) available from Val Barker
Tel: 353435 or come along and pay at the door. All are welcome.

Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 27th to Sunday 28th May inclusive
Flower Festival at St. Andrew's from 10am to 4pm
All proceeds from this event will be for Church funds.
- Friday 27th May '**An Evening with Helen Wilson and the Pinwill Sisters**' in the church at 7pm. This is a FoStA event.

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

Items for Sale

Please remember the online FoStA Shop.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Does anyone remember when Stratton Gardens was 'The Retreat House'? The owners who have been living in the property for 3 or so years are very interested to find out about its history. I have given them all the information I have from when it was owned by the Diocese of Truro. It had a chapel and was used regularly for services and I know of at least 3 locals who were Confirmed there by the Bishop. Canon Leslie Jones was the Parish Priest at that time.

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

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