



Friends of St Andrew's Church  
Stratton, Cornwall

## Newsletter for Spring 2023

Volume 15 Issue 1



*Throughout his short life Jesus performed many individual miracles. At Easter he performs a miracle for us all.*



During the course of Holy Week St Andrew's Chapel is decorated first to symbolise the garden of Gethsemane for Maundy Thursday and then to remember those of our number who have gone before. Sheila Waring and Val Barker made the wonderful flower arrangements in this photograph.

Front cover photograph shows the West Door at Easter and the decorated cross. Page two shows St Andrew's Chapel on Easter Sunday 2023.

*Both photographs courtesy of David Goodwin JP*

Dear Friends of St Andrew's,

*And God has placed in the church: first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then those who work miracles; then those with gifts of healing; those with ability to help; those skilled in administration; and those who speak in various tongues.*

(1 Corinthians 12.28)

As we enter this new season of spring, I find myself entering new seasons too. (Personally, I am about to become a grandmother, which will be entirely exciting and delightful) and in my priestly role I am delighted (and quite excited too) to announce that we have appointed a Benefice Administrator, in response to the times we live in.

The priestly role is ever expanding as the administrative demands placed upon churches by society, and rightly so, such as for Safeguarding, GDPR (data protection) & Health and Safety increase. Pastoral demands have become ever more complex as people have lost their Christian underpinning, stress levels have increased and of course, Covid 19 has exacerbated any underlying mental health issues. As a priest, I am encouraged to work collaboratively with lay and retired priests, however, as people are retiring at a later age, those volunteers are getting older which needs much greater and more careful co-ordinating and managing. And of course, added to that the days of priests looking after a single parish are long gone.

I see the need for this appointment however, as positive. Far from shrinking back and managing decline, we find ourselves in a place where the work from and within St Andrew's is growing and thriving. We are beginning to make more use of the area at the back of the church, that was so generously funded by FoStA. The events are so helpful in

pastoral support. We have the local primary school visiting us every half-term for curriculum-based learning about the Christian faith. We are working ever closer with our friends across the Benefice. Our worshipping community meets daily for Morning Prayer, and weekly for Christian meditation, mid-week Mass and Sunday worship. The churchyard is becoming an oasis for wildlife where community involvement is encouraged, and we continue to be the focal point for community initiatives and events. Not to mention the growing numbers of baptisms, weddings and funerals. And that's just St Andrew's. Multiply that by four other churches and you will begin to see the need for an administrator to release the priest into focusing on the bigger picture of mission and ministry and relieving them from routine administration.

Exciting times lie ahead!

*Yours in Christ,  
Teresa*

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### **Val Barker writes,**

How blessed and fortunate we are here in Stratton; our much-valued community store and post office has been saved from closure and its future secured after intervention from the Bude-Stratton Town Council.

The whole building, which housed flats, the Post Office and community store was under threat after being put up for sale. Subsequently many letters of concern were sent, from local people to the council and after months of consideration the town council decided to bid for the property in order to save it for the local community. They won the auction and will soon set about improving the whole building not only

securing the future of the P.O. and stores but also providing several homes at reasonable rent for local people.

We are extremely grateful to the Bude-Stratton Town Council for saving this vital amenity (what would we have done without David Shepherd and his staff at Lord's Court during the Covid Pandemic?) and for responding to local needs and concerns over housing and employment. Recently I have been contacted by two managers who wished to bring my attention to their publications both of which are to feature St Andrew's.

The first was a firm who are gathering material for a new edition of a guidebook, 'Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (Slow Travel)' which is to be published in September. The author features St Andrew's, making special mention of the East Window. David Goodwin, our in-house photographer, may well have his pictures in the book with a copy of the book upon publication.

The second communication was from a local history publisher regarding a new book, Churches of Cornwall, which is due to be published in April 2023. This too features St Andrew's and will be presented as a paper back and also as an E-book for those who have Kindles. The author is Dr Joanna Mattingly who is well known to us here in Stratton and who has lived in Cornwall for 35 years and spent much of this time studying its churches. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, member of the Truro Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust. In the publicity information it states:

*Cornish churches are not simple structures that nestle into the landscape, but complex and little-understood buildings, with many never being completed. The recurrent picture,*

*from some of the best church building accounts to survive in Britain, is that most Cornish churches were building yards when Henry VIII became head of the Church of England and set the Reformation in motion..... Tin, trade and farming fuelled this great rebuilding, with 140 of the 209 medieval Cornish parish churches still having Norman architectural features.*

Hopefully, both these publications will be of immense interest to their readers and will encourage them to visit us here in Stratton and enjoy our beautiful church and all it has to offer and if any of you would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Our fundraising over the last six months has gone very well, despite the cost of living crisis, with several generous legacies and donations and, of course, the regular membership subscriptions which are loyally sent year after year. Our Christmas cards sold well during the Autumn but calendar sales were a little disappointing so we are going to give that a miss next Christmas.

We have our annual Flower Festival at the end of May with all funds going to the church but I give it a mention here as I know several of you like to come along and give it your support. This year our theme will be 'Let's Celebrate Cornwall.'

The same thing goes for our Book Fair which will take place the weekend before. Please see 'Dates for your Diary'.

So it only remains for me to say: enjoy your little bit of Stratton news, keep in touch and a huge 'Thank You' for all you have done and all I know you will do for the wonderful heritage we have in the Parish Church of St Andrew, Stratton.

*Val*

## The Darley Oak Sapling

On the afternoon of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January a group, including Rev Teresa, representatives from the Blanchminster Trust and Bude-Stratton Town Council, along with student councillors from Stratton Primary School, members of the congregation and other interested parisioners, met in St Andrews's churchyard for the planting of a sapling from the Darley Oak.



The Darley Oak grows near Darlleyford in the parish of Linkinhorne on the edge of Bodmin Moor. This ancient tree is thought to be at least



1,000 years old, and a considerable number of legends take it as their core. Folk tradition attributes healing properties to the tree, and it is said that any wish made to it will eventually come true. Its acorns are also used as amulets, and were once used by pregnant women during pregnancy, to bring them luck. In 2002 it was chosen by the Tree Council as one of the 50 Great British Trees.

In 2021 we were contacted by the Blanchminster Trust to inform us that a small number of saplings from the Darley Oak were to be gifted by Cornwall Council as part of the Forest for Cornwall Programme. Bude-Stratton Town Council had applied for one on behalf of the Blanchminster Trust to recognise their 600 year anniversary as a charity. Due to their close connections with St Andrew's Church they thought that the planting of a sapling in the churchyard would be a fitting way to mark this anniversary.

Despite the application process taking longer than anticipated we finally heard late last year that it had been successful so the planting ceremony was arranged.

Teresa began by telling everyone about the Darley Oak and the reason the sapling had been presented to St Andrews. She then blessed the sapling before it was placed in its new home. Along with the children from the school council many others present took turns in backfilling around the sapling.



*Simon Waring, Churchwarden*

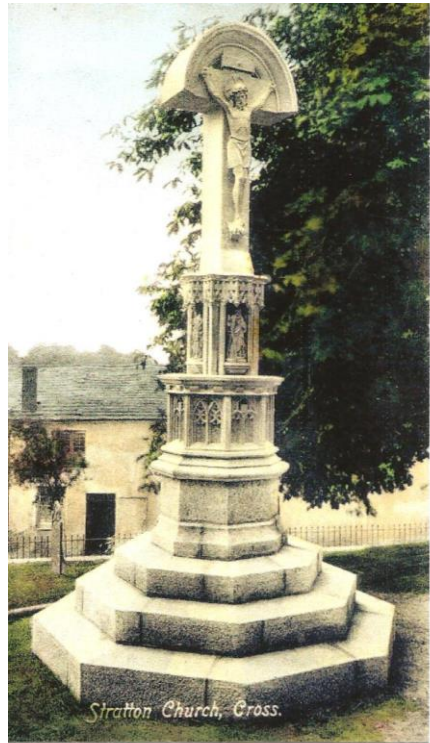
*"Tall oaks from little acorns grow" - D Everett 1797*



## The Calvary Cross (Update)

In the last edition of our Newsletter there was an article written by Simon Waring about the churchyard wall repairs and the interesting historical finds amongst the rubble. In his write up Simon said that the engraving on the bottom of the statues indicated that they were of St Andrew and Simon of Cyrene.

I have spent some time looking back through the previous Newsletters to find the references to the Calvary Cross as I seemed to recall that there was something about the statues in the articles.



In the Spring 2017 issue I added a newspaper article from the archives which gave a description of the original Churchyard Cross and in part states, 'The Cross, of Gothic style, stands 11 feet high. The base is of granite and upper carved part of Polyphant stone. The tracery is very fine. There are figures of S.Andrew, S.Peter, Moses and Simon of Cyrene ... '

Through the local Old Cornwall Society we have again approached Mr Andrew Langdon, Cornish Bard and historian, who says that the sculptured fragments

(unearthed in the churchyard wall) may well be remains from the original Calvary Cross. We enlarged the photos we have of the cross and it is clear to see that the pieces of statuary we have are definitely a match.

The Fabric Chairman, Alan McIntosh, is gradually sifting through all the left-over rubble from the wall repair, so who knows, we might yet find some more relics – Moses and S.Peter perhaps.

*Ed*

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## **Dates for Your Diary**

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 10am-4pm and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 11am-4pm **Book Fair** at St Andrew's Church
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May inclusive **Flower Festival** at St. Andrew's from 10am to 4pm  
All proceeds from this event will be for Church funds  
The theme this year is to have a distinctly Cornish flavour.

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](http://www.fosta.org.uk)

## **Items for Sale**

Please remember the online FoStA Shop.

## Obituary R I P

### Margaret Anne Price MBE

10<sup>th</sup> November 1949 - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

A service to celebrate Margaret's life was held in St Andrew's Church on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm followed by a committal service at the North Devon Crematorium, Barnstaple at 3pm.



Margaret had been a Friend of St Andrew's since its inception and had been a member of the church family long before that. She enjoyed all the social aspects of the church as well as being a regular worshipping member. Margaret, and her late husband Frank, were always to the fore at Flower Festivals, Fetes and the like, baking, making, arranging – anything they could do to help raise funds.

This was particularly amazing as at the age of 22 in 1973, Margaret became a paraplegic, when she was knocked down by a hit-and-run driver on a pedestrian crossing. She was to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

But this didn't stop this courageous young woman. On learning about competitive sport for the disabled, pioneered at Stoke Mandeville, Margaret rose to the challenge, mastering field events from her wheelchair and becoming an outstanding swimmer. She won altogether 22 international and Olympic gold medals and broke 17 world records. These achievements and other attributes earned her an MBE, a TV programme of *This Is Your Life* and two awards as *Disabled Sports Personality of the Year*.

It was said at the time that Margaret was no ordinary woman and through all her life and her many daily challenges, she was never daunted and her indomitable spirit and sense of fun shone through – as did that wide beaming smile.

Margaret's ashes were interred on Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 in the spot where she had chosen to bury her husband's ashes in St Andrew's Churchyard nearly 17 years ago.

Margaret will be greatly missed by her family and friends and we offer them all our condolences and prayers.

***May she rest in peace and rise in glory.***

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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](http://www.fosta.org.uk)

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