

Friends of St Andrew's Church
Stratton, Cornwall



Newsletter Autumn 2011

Volume 3 Issue 2



'A Stratton Centenary' a linocut print by Jonathan Howlett.

Read more about it in the Membership Secretary's Report on pages 2/3 - plus information about the artist on the last page.

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the 4th year since FoStA was founded we can feel proud of the achievements that you all, as members, have helped come to fruition. The church building of St Andrew's is a brighter and safer place of worship inside and, with the new floodlight, a more visible presence to the wider community especially at night.

The publication of the Memorials and Graves Survey has given many visitors added interest in family history research and purchases, with some resulting new members, have been most welcome. Meeting strangers in church who become acquaintances and then Friends has been uplifting for us all in the depth of history present here in St Andrew's.

Rather surprisingly we learnt from Fr. David on Mothering Sunday in March that he would be leaving us, in June, to take up a post in Edinburgh in the Episcopal Church of Scotland. The challenge for us, as well as for him, was recognised mutually. We are now running along well with the same pattern of services in the Benefice ably supported by retired priests, in particular our very good friend Fr. Brian Dorrington at St. Andrew's.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals are all able to take place and the pastoral care and social life of the church community has proceeded unchecked.

As a management group the Benefice Standing Committee of Churchwardens and PCC secretaries have continued to meet monthly and a sub-committee completed The Parish Profile which all PCCs approved.

This document is a bit like a job description but longer and more involved. It aims to give a possible new priest a really clear and exciting picture of the parishes in all their aspects.

The Diocese has advertised the Vacancy and our Benefices paid for two entries in the Church Times during July. I am now pleased to be able to tell you that, as we go to press, it has been confirmed, by the Diocese, that there is an applicant for the post and the interview will take place on the 5th October. All PCC members will be given the opportunity to meet the candidate the day before. We will keep you informed of the outcome on our website: www.fosta.org.uk

The Flower Festival in May, celebrating the centenary of the re-hanging of the bells, was enormously successful as many of you experienced. Our Stratton Fete, in its 3rd year of the modern era, on 9th July at the home of Bill Kneebone by the River Strat was great fun for all ages and a tribute to the small committee, led by Rob Varley, suddenly without their leader, Fr. David.

On 13th August St Andrew's was filled with people, stylish clothing, garden tools and other interesting stalls when Nicola Nartowski ran a Swishing Day. This involved 52 vendors, some sharing profits 50:50. With other donations and sales a total profit of almost £500 was made for FoStA.

The Fabric Committee Chairman will no doubt mention the Quinquennial Report from our architect after his full and detailed inspection of the church building in March. We are determined that we have challenges rather than problems in following his guidance and with help from you our stewardship of St Andrew's building and Churchyard during the Interregnum and beyond will ensure a good welcome to our new Priest.

The new Archdeacon, The Rev'd Audrey Elkington, has accepted our invitation to preach at the Patronal Festival Mass on St Andrew's Day, Wednesday 30th November at 7.30 pm. After the service there will be the usual wine nibbles and fellowship.

The Gift Day, with various stalls in the church, is the previous Saturday 26th November 10 am to 4 pm. You will be very welcome at one or both of these special events at St Andrew's.

Ian Barker, Churchwarden.



Membership Secretary's Report

Firstly, I should like to extend heartfelt thanks, on behalf of everyone at St. Andrew's for your continuing support. We are immensely grateful to you all for your generosity particularly during these difficult financial times.

I recently read an article regarding an interview given by the Duke of Cornwall about the care and preservation of an ancient building. When he was asked what he understood by "heritage" he replied,

"More than anything, I suppose, our heritage is a physical manifestation of our roots and of our culture, of who we are and where we have come from. While heritage is chiefly associated with beautiful historic houses, as well as with industrial buildings, hospitals, dockyards, Army barracks and the unspoilt remnants of towns and villages, it is important to remember that it is also the priceless legacy of

our forebears' endeavours. Above all, it tells an essentially human story - of skill, craftsmanship, artistry and imagination; of man working intuitively with nature to integrate art with utility."

And, when asked the question that many of us must have considered, "Should our attitude to preserving the past change during a time of austerity?" he replied,

"Absolutely not; quite the opposite, in fact"

So I shall, unashamedly, continue to encourage your involvement in this shared inheritance that is St. Andrew's, confident that we are doing the right thing and knowing that we can continue successfully with your unwavering support.

Pray for us as we begin this new part of our journey in faith and remember in your prayers the person we hope will be our new Priest in Charge.

Many years ago while I was in the church arranging flowers, the parish priest of the time was welcoming some visitors, from "Down Under", who were looking for relatives in the area by the name of Peardon. To cut a long story short, my local knowledge was called upon and very soon the couple were knocking the door of the home of Mike & Barbara Worden and cousins were re-united. (Mike's middle name is Peardon - his mother's family name). Mike and Barbara visited Australia at least twice in the following years. Colin and Lesley Peardon subsequently became members of FoStA and we were delighted to welcome them, in August, once again to Stratton, all the way from Australia. Many of our members live far from our little town so it is always a joy when someone visits - Bethany Moments.

You may be wondering at the changes on the front cover of the Newsletter?

In the last issue we published an article which had been written by the Rev'd Cyril Leslie-Jones shortly before he died in 1932. He had been inducted as Vicar of Stratton 100 years ago, in February 1911. His Grandson, Jonathan Howlett and Granddaughter Angela Lacey-

Marsh are both still very much interested in all things Cornish and are particularly attached to Stratton and St Andrew's although they live in Scotland and the South of England respectively. Jonathan has been extremely generous in making a gift to the Friends of a limited edition of six black on white linocut prints entitled 'A Stratton Centenary' with the central image of St A's surrounded by the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer in Cornish. They are all individually hand printed & each measures approx. 11"x 22" (printed area). These artworks, unframed and un-mounted normally retail at around £200 .

It had been decided, early in the year, that we would run a Grand Prize Draw as a fund-raiser this Autumn so we have made the first prize a Jonathan Howlett print, the No. 1 of 6.

To help boost the fundraising, please find enclosed either 1 or 2 books of draw tickets in aid of FoStA. We would be grateful if you could sell the tickets to friends and family and you may be a lucky winner! When you have sold as many as you can, please return your cheque in payment for the tickets and the completed counterfoils, together with any unsold tickets to me, Val Barker, at the address printed on the tickets. Should you require any more booklets to sell, do let me know and I'll be pleased to send them to you! It is vitally important to return any unsold tickets well before the draw is due to take place in order to maximise our sales and make the best possible profit for FoStA.

In conclusion I should like to pay tribute, in his absence, to Fr David Standen without whose considerable encouragement, help, and personal involvement the Friends of St. Andrew's might never have come to fruition. It is thanks to him and now to all of you that FoStA continues to grow and flourish.

With best wishes,

Do you know someone who might like to become a Friend of St Andrew's Church? Put them in touch with Val Barker!

(Telephone 01288 353435 or e-mail memsec@fosta.org.uk)



Fabric Chairman's Report

As previously reported the Burne-Jones designed East Window in the church is badly in need of restoration. The first stage of this work was completed in July this year consisting of the replacement of rusted tie bars with new stainless steel bars. The contractor who carried out this work was Holy Well Glass Ltd of Wells in Somerset at a cost of £6,200. Donations already held by the PCC amounted to £1,270, a grant was received from the Blanchminster Trust and FoStA agreed to provide a grant of £2,638 thus covering the cost of the work. Quotations have been provided by Holy Well Glass to complete the restoration in stages.

Recently a large slate forming part of the bell chamber louvres fell out and smashed on the path just outside the west door. The clock engineer, who re-gilded the clock face, has quoted to check the stability of all the slates on the louvres and replace the missing one if possible. He is prepared to do this work from a boatswain's chair therefore avoiding the very expensive alternative of scaffolding. At the same time there is work to be done on the clock mechanism to prevent the bevel drive jamming the dial motion works and stopping the clock. The estimate for both these items of urgent work amounts to £470 + VAT. FoStA will make a grant to the PCC to pay for this.

The quinquennial inspection of the church fabric was carried out in March. A detailed discussion on the findings and recommendations is scheduled for 10th October when a plan for carrying out the repairs will be prepared. However the architect's recommendations for urgent works, those requiring immediate attention, include repairs to the lead-work of the tower roof and other items some of which we hope may in due course be undertaken by local firms and volunteers. If you feel able to help in any way and could give of your skills and time please do get in touch.

Rob Varley,
Fabric Committee Chairman.

National Book Day Event for March 2012

Next year the National Book Day is scheduled to take place on 1st March and we feel this would be an ideal time to have our own book fayre and expand the event to provide a Stratton Heritage Day. Several interesting ideas in how this might be done have already been mooted. We have a wealth of local knowledge and expertise to tap into and anything "Old Stratton" always proves a huge draw. We hope to incorporate such ideas as local books and an exhibition linked to the Stratton Trail; poetry and book signings; book readings; a café; the start of A Collection of Stratton Memories - an oral history and much else.

We already have a considerable church and town archive and it would be immensely exciting to have an opportunity to add to it and, as always, the more we talk about it the more there seems to be! And, we join the Duke of Cornwall in the belief that the legacy of our forebears' endeavours is priceless and we should remember and pass it on.

More information about this event will be published locally and on our website nearer the time so hopefully several of our members will be able to be involved and enjoy it all. Please put the date in your diary now.

VB



Stratton - Sunday Morning

Stratton, Sunday morning,
Hear a pheasant call,
Stratton Sunday morning
Peace lies over all
St Marwenne's Bells at Marhamchurch
If they are heard quite plain
Hear the roaring surf at Widemouth
It is a sign of rain
If east borne wind from Poughill
St Olaf's bells you hear
And crashing waves at Northcott Mouth
Dry weather will be here
Stratton, Sunday morning
St Andrew's bells ring clear
For this is where the heart is
Come storm or balmy weather
Lies all that we hold dear

We are grateful to Miss Joan Heard who has kindly allowed us to reproduce her poetry in this Newsletter.

Jonathan Howlett - Artist information

Jonathan, a Cornishman, trained in Chichester at what is now University College in the late 1960's. He spent 38 years in education latterly in running art programmes for committed older learners. He completed an MA in Cornish Studies in 2003. He retired in 2008 and now lives in Scotland

His work is based largely on directly observed sketches and drawings. His preferred media are oils and making relief prints in linocut and woodcut. He does not use a press and all work is hand-printed.

The move to Scotland has given him a new and varied landscape to engage with and has enabled him to re-address his Cornish work with a fresh eye.

