

**Friends of St Andrew's Church
Stratton, Cornwall**



Newsletter Autumn 2010

Volume 2 Issue 2

Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote to you, St Andrew's has held two of its big events of the year: the Flower Festival and the Fete. Both of these were a great success in raising funds for the mission and ministry of the church in Stratton parish - some £7,000 from both events. Of course, the real success of such events lies in the Church Family working well together to draw in members of the surrounding community, so that they may see the joy of being part of a vibrant, warm and loving Christian community. It is through this gentle form of mission and outreach that the church will grow and that St Andrew's will retain its central place at the heart of Stratton.

However, the Church Family needs to be supported in this work of mission and outreach and this is able to happen through the worship and fellowship which is offered at St Andrew's Church. Admittedly, in these difficult times, this worship does not take place with as much frequency as it has in the past, but we are still able to gather each Sunday and have a midweek communion service. Through these, we are fed and nurtured by the word and the sacrament for the work of the Church and are able to remain that 'Beacon of Continuity' in the community, which the Membership Secretary mentions in her report in this newsletter. This is an important point for us all to remember: however things may change in the future, there will always be a commitment to regular worship at St Andrew's Church, just as there has been for centuries past.

It is this continuity with the past which is important, both in the worship in the church and in the fabric of the building itself. It is, of course, for this that FoStA was set up, so that our links with past generations of Strattonians

could be preserved, built upon and further beautified for the glory of God. For the past is important, but it is to the future that we must always look. None of us really knows what will happen in the future, which is why our stewardship of St Andrew's in the present is so crucial and why continuing to play our part in the regular worshipping congregation is too. For both of these things mean that the Church will stand on its hill, at the spiritual and physical centre of the town of Stratton, just as it already has done for over a thousand years.

With the love of Christ

Fr. David Standen

Membership Secretary's Report

"Among all the chances and changes of this mortal life" there remains a Beacon of Continuity in our lives here in Stratton and that is the Parish Church. The Friends' membership continues to grow steadily and we are extremely grateful to all those who show interest and support for St. Andrew's. At the end of August 2010 - the completion of 2 full years - there were 125 subscribing members. There have also been a number of donations. Income for the year 1st September 2009 to 31st August 2010 amounted to £5,286.

R.I.P. It is with sadness that I report the death of Walter Dennis on 10th August 2010. Our condolences and prayers are offered to Jill and the family. Walter was one of FoStA's first members and his association with St Andrew's goes back quite a way. He was married at the church and his children were baptised there. The regard with which he was held was made apparent by the huge congregation attending his funeral service on 19th August. It was standing room only and the service was relayed to many having to stand out in the churchyard.

It was a joy recently for me and other members of the church family to meet Mrs Ruth Thomas who was visiting Stratton from Reading. She is a member of FoStA but my only contact had been through correspondence. It was good to

be able to “put the face to the name”. Ruth is the daughter of the late Father Williams who was the Vicar of Stratton from 1932 to 1945. She was delighted to meet up with an old school friend, Miss Biddy Carrick.

As I write my report the arrangements for the Patronal Festival weekend are well underway and I look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of the various activities we are planning and, more importantly, to worshipping together at St Andrew’s.

My thanks to you all, as ever, for your continued support and also to those who changed their mode of payment to a Standing Order and to those who Gift-aided their subscription and donations.

Val Barker

FoStA Membership Secretary

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

A letter from Patricia Greenwell

Dear Friends in Stratton,

What a pleasant surprise to see the artwork on the front of this Spring’s Newsletter. I thought – “... that’s a nice drawing” and then I realised! I recalled many happy days in and around Stratton, working on a variety of drawings and paintings. Also remembering the friends we made there.

One sunny day, near St Andrew’s Church, I was sitting painting a version of the cottages in the square by the War Memorial. The local Methodist minister came over and shortly asked me why I was sitting in the shadow of Mrs Worden’s cottage, rather than in the sunshine. My reply, “because I can see the light better from here “ gave him pause for thought. So much so that the theme for his sermon on the following Sunday was “light and shadow” – having to experience dark times in order to appreciate the happy times!

It is amazing, looking back, to realise we moved away from Stratton over eighteen years ago. That period remains as a very happy memory. Our move from Morpeth, Northumberland to Cornwall seemed an awfully long way – but the whole family settled well into the Stratton environment, giving our sons the stable background needed in this uncertain world.

The fourteen years our family lived in Stratton remain as treasured memories. Looking back, I find that much of the work painted then has a special feel to it. Pleasant days painting views in the countryside, by the canal, on the beach or out in Widemouth, trying to pick out the patterns in the waves, sand and rocks, even the flight of returning swallows and martins in the spring. One hot afternoon, on the cliffs, hundreds of ladybirds appeared, flying and crawling into every space in my painting kit. On other occasions, I discovered newly hatched burnet moths or many peacocks butterflies. Even the dark, stormy days with high ferocious seas engendered a series of atmospheric paintings.

Well, now we are on the move again. To Stratton – St Margaret – not so far this time as this Stratton is an old village to the north of Swindon, though now absorbed into the expanded Borough of Swindon –Thamesdown.

I recall one evening at a Bude Art Society meeting, welcoming two new members who had come from a village in Wiltshire, called Stratton. At the time, Swindon was merely a stop on a railway journey or a spot on a map!

We hope to move to a bungalow, so are sifting out the accumulation of years. It is amazing how much one can hoard, even in a modest house. Much sorting has happened since Christmas: books and art materials to the local school, frames etc. to the local art society and many, many paintings to go through. What a problem!

Then an idea from Val – where else should the remaining Cornwall paintings and prints go, but back to Stratton? I hope that, through Val & Ian, the works may go to good homes and generate funds for St Andrew’s Church.

Pat Greenwell

Pat’s generous gift to FoStA is a collection of over 40 original pictures, 20 prints and 68 cards, for which we are hugely grateful.

On Saturday 27th November, during the Patronal Festival Weekend, an auction of all Pat’s artwork will take place in Church at 4 pm. All proceeds will be for the work of FoStA.

The artwork can be viewed on the FoStA Web-site or in Church over the weekend itself.

Patronal Festival Weekend

This will begin on Friday 26th November with a display of Pat Greenwell's art work in the Church from 11am - 5pm and the day will conclude with a special Dinner at the Tree Inn, at which we shall welcome Jonathon Bradshaw as our after-dinner speaker. His profile, and the substance of his talk can be seen later in this newsletter. Tickets for this will be priced at £40 per head, to include a champagne reception, three courses and coffee afterwards. We hope that many of you will want to be a part of this event, as it promises to be a very interesting talk. It will also provide an excellent opportunity to get to know other FoStA members in an informal and relaxed setting.

The following day, Saturday, is our annual Gift Day, Ringing Competition and Mini-Fayre. The church will be open all day for folk to come and browse the stalls, leave a Gift and listen to the ringing. Pat Greenwell's art work will still be on display in the Church and the day will finish with the auction of the art work at 4 pm.

On Sunday, Advent Sunday, we would encourage you to join us for Parish Mass at 9.30 am and stay for our Patronal Festival Mass on Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm - a fitting end to the weekend.

A report on the Fabric

The work of FoStA is to assist in the preservation of the fabric of St Andrew's Church - however, since the lighting has gone in and the redecoration of the chancel and chapels has taken place, very little has taken place over the last six months.

This does not mean that there is nothing to do - far from it - but the projects which are being contemplated are rather large and it will take some time before they are brought to

completion. First, there is the East Window. This, you will recall, was flagged up two years ago by the Diocesan Window Surveyor, Michael Swift, as being in need of restoration. At this stage, we have received a report from Stephen Clare of Holy Well Glass, who suggests that some structural work and proper environmental monitoring should be our priority in the short term. These will cost in the region of £10,000 and sources of funding this work are being investigated. In the long term (some 20 - 30 years), he suggests that the window will need to be removed and re-leaded, the paintwork consolidated and protective glazing provided. He provides no cost for this, but we can be sure it will be expensive!

The other major project is the South Wall. At some stage in the past, this was pointed with ordinary mortar, which now has created the problem of water ingress and thus the plaster on the inside has deteriorated quite significantly. The solution is that all the mortar will need to be scraped out from between the stones, and new lime mortar applied. This is, as you can imagine, a lengthy and expensive process and one which will require the re-plastering and re-lime-washing on the internal wall subsequently.

Inevitably, there are a number of minor issues which need to be addressed in addition to the large projects: the removal of the carpet in the chancel area, and subsequent preservation of the tiles underneath before a possible replacing of the carpet in due course. The stone cross from the external East End gable fell off in July, and will now need to be repaired and put back in place. The work needed to keep the Churchyard in good order.

However, the Fabric Committee has decided to put in place a 'Conservation Strategy', so that all work can be done in the right order, and the Church preserved in good order for future generations.

Masterclass:

Setting extraordinary goals and achieving them



In February 2007, after more than 13 years of working for the same company in the IT industry, making his way up through the ranks from a sales rep to the Managing Director, Jonathon Bradshaw sold his house, his car and quit the job he loved. At the time, he had no idea that in January 2008 he would reach the South Pole after walking for 1150 km over 58 days.

During his first month outside corporate life Jonathon hatched a plan to combine his love of cycling and a boyhood dream of visiting the remote Arctic islands of the Faroes, Iceland and Greenland a bold 5 month solo cycling expedition from London to New York via the Arctic Circle.



In the spring of 2007 he set off Arctic bound and with the first turn of his pedals a modern day adventure started that would change his life forever. A serendipitous encounter with 3

strangers in the high Arctic, would ultimately see him turn South to the Antarctic and become part of the 1st ever Irish team to trek to the South Pole – an arduous 2 month journey covering 1150 km with temperatures as low as -50 degrees Centigrade, where every conceivable problem was thrown his way and found him calling on many of his corporate life experiences to see him through the hard times.

Jonathon's story takes him to the remote and almost forgotten islands of the Faroes, across the barren and wind torn deserts of central Iceland, across the vast and empty ice cap of Greenland where 3 of his team mates were evacuated with serious injury and depression.

Then half way across the crevassed icecap, after not having seen anyone else for 21 days, he meets the Irish South Pole team training for their Antarctic expedition and is invited to join them in their attempt 7 weeks later.

Jonathon has spent the last 18 months recovering from his Polar adventures and has focussed his attention on two incredible journeys. He is training six 12-year-old kids to break the world English Channel swim record and organising his own next big adventures – a solo Atlantic Ocean swim from America to UK and a return journey to the South Pole on foot. Jonathon believes that these expeditions provide the perfect vehicle to inspire a nation of children to live healthier lives and to educate them on the importance of protecting our environment.

Jonathon is a very down to earth individual and enjoys sharing his emotional journey as an ordinary guy rather than a tale from a hardened Polar adventurer. He is accessible and shows us that at a basic level, the process of getting to the South Pole or having a successful day in the home and office are very similar, except that his day is usually much colder!

