

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



Newsletter Spring 2010

Volume 2 Issue 1

Dear Friends,

The mustard seed was described by Our Lord as the smallest of all seeds, yet when planted it grows into the largest of all garden plants. Of course, He was likening the mustard seed to the Kingdom of Heaven, but the point He was making has often been borne out in sayings about acorns and oak trees, apple seeds and their trees. It seems to me also, as I write this, that the same could be said of FoStA: the beginning was small, but it has certainly grown into a very large tree indeed. For who would ever have guessed that FoStA would be in a financial position to provide lighting and re-decoration for the whole of the area East of the Rood Screen? Our church shall soon be the envy of all in North Cornwall (if indeed it is not already!)

When I wrote last time, we were looking forward to our Patronal Festival Weekend – which was slightly different from how things had usually been done. On the Saturday, instead of the Vicar and the Churchwardens standing at the Lych Gate for a whole day, we all moved inside the church and the day became more concerned with fellowship and outreach than in the past. For inside, there was hot food available, stalls selling goods related to St Andrew's – and those all-important last minute Christmas presents. With a display of material on curates at St Andrew's and the Vicarage, there was also plenty to keep the mind occupied too. Fellowship was increased as the day wore on, with visiting ringers coming and going for the annual Stratton ringing competition.

The weekend continued into the Sunday, with the displays and stalls being available during the day, and we finished off with our Patronal Festival Mass, with Bude Town Band, the Buffs and over a hundred people in attendance: an uplifting and worshipful end to the weekend. All in all, it was a wonderful weekend and much enjoyed by all who took part. Plans are

already underway to make even more of next year's weekend, when we hope many of you will be able to join us in Stratton.

The rest of the winter has been, as one would expect, very quiet. Christmas came and went with all services over that period being well-attended and enjoyed by all: Stratton Primary once again came for their end of term service and we had a larger than ever attendance at the Christingle service – so much so that we ran out of Christingles! Closely following Christmas was the Great Freeze of 2010 – not quite 1963, but certainly a few weeks which will go down in the annals as a memorable event. Other than having to cancel Bishop Tim's Pastoral Visit to the parish, including a Confirmation service, Stratton Church remained largely unaffected.

Yet the quietness of winter and all that has happened belie the fact that we have much to look forward to in Stratton. There is the Flower Festival in May, an Ordination in July and then the Fete, also in July, but you will read about these elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our beautiful church.

With the love of Christ

Fr. David Standen

**St Andrew's Church
Grave Survey**

Over the last few years, Val & Ian Barker and Mike and Barbara Worden undertook a survey of the graves in St Andrew's Churchyard. This has involved an huge amount of work, transcribing every inscription from each memorial, taking photos of nearly every memorial and of the churchyard and then collating this all into a useable format. It has been a real labour of love on the part of all four concerned.

With the assistance of John Standen, on the computer, the fruit of their labour is now in print: a great help to all genealogists and historians of Stratton. The inspection copy has already been viewed and commented on favourably. Copies are being made to order at a cost of £10. Further details are available from the Membership Secretary.



Membership Secretary's Report

Since my last report in the Autumn Newsletter we have had 15 new members and to date a 100% membership renewal record. Sadly, we have lost 3 members through death: Mrs Margaret Hockin, Mrs Joan Barker and Mrs Barbara Worden. RIP. We offer the families our condolences and our prayers.

In FoStA's first complete year the income from all sources amounted to £5,634. There were £395 of expenses which included payment for the new Tower Floodlighting scheme.

The second year's income to date is £4,230. Expenses amount to £2,400 which includes £2,300 for the new lighting scheme particularly the shortfall for the Sanctuary, Chancel & Chapels.

We have been extremely fortunate in that the income includes not only membership subscriptions but a generous legacy from the Will of the late Mr Richard Wickett, who we all remember with great affection, £300 from the Christmas Supper Party and an anonymous donation of £500 specifically towards the lighting system.

As I write my report the re-decoration of the Chancel, Sanctuary and both side chapels is well underway. This also has been made possible by the Friends of St. Andrew's: we are enormously grateful for your continued support.

To help keep the momentum and interest going, I am investigating the possibility of having a special Fund Raiser on the evening of Friday 26th November 2010. This would be all part of the Patronal Festival weekend when FoStA members are often in the area so do please put the date in your diary and we will be in touch as soon as we can with more details.

My thanks to you all for the continued contributions and also to those who changed their mode of payment to a Standing Order and to those who Gift Aided their subscription and donations. Remember that it is easy to stay 'in touch' via the websites and, as always, it is especially good to receive your letters.

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!

e-mail: memsec@fosta.org.uk

web: www.fosta.org.uk

A Curate for St Andrew's

On 3rd July of this year, we shall be privileged to be joined by Dom Whitting, who is to be ordained Deacon at 10.30 am on that day at Truro Cathedral. He will be coming to us to continue his training for the ordained ministry and will be staying with us for about three years, whilst he learns his 'priest-craft' – that is, all those things in addition to the wealth of theology he has learned at College which he will need to run his own parish in the future.

It is a great honour for a parish to be selected as a Training Parish and is a great responsibility for us all as we assist Dom to grow and develop as a priest and prepare for his future in ministry. Please remember Dom and all four churches in the Benefice in your prayers.



A report on the Fabric

Keeping both the Fabric of the building and the Churchyard maintained at St Andrew's is a full-time job. We are richly blessed that we have so many willing volunteers to check and address minor issues as they arise, enabling us to preserve the state of the building so that it always looks its best.

We have been especially lucky with the work which Grenville Martin has put in over the last few years in the Churchyard, keeping the grass cut, the grave flowers tidy and the paths clear. The comments of local residents bear out the good work he has done.

Unfortunately, Grenville has decided it is time to hang up his shears for good and we shall have to find a suitable replacement before the grass cutting season begins in earnest. However, we extend our thanks to Grenville for all his hard work.

Within the church, much has been done – and indeed is continuing as I write. The new lighting for the church has been gradually installed since last autumn: we were fortunate enough to find a contractor who would install piecemeal as we had funds available. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, this has been virtually completed with the last few lights going in the Chancel and Chapels in the last couple of weeks.

There are still one or two minor issues to be addressed with the overall scheme, but the new lighting, which goes both up and down, enables the roof and its bosses to be seen and certainly gives the church a much lighter and more airy feel to it..

In addition to the lighting, it was felt that the lime wash on the walls of the Chancel and Chapels needed to be spruced up – mainly because the new lights showed all the defects of the old lime wash!

Again, the Friends have come to the rescue and paid for all the redecoration in these areas, and the completed Chancel looks as it would have done when the wash was first put on in 1888. A small team of specialists have taken advantage of the scaffolding, which has provided access to places not normally accessible, to clean the stained glass windows in the Chancel and also to take a close-up photographic record of them. We are grateful to the dedication of these few people.

There are, of course, still many other things which will need to be addressed over time. Having re-decorated the Chancel and Chapels, it is painfully obvious that the same is needed elsewhere in the church – especially the South Aisle.

The East Window, especially since we have been able to give it a closer inspection recently, is still in need of some serious remedial work, and a conservator from Cotehele is due to come in the Spring to have a look at the window, and we shall hopefully get things started on that.

There are other minor issues, but since these are not crucial items, they will be addressed as we have funds available over the course of the next year or so. Keeping and enhancing the existing beauty of St Andrew's is like painting the Forth Bridge – but it is rewarding!



Stratton Summer

Fete 2010

Make sure you have the 10th July in your diaries now - for it is the date of the Stratton Fete!

This was such a success last year that it is to be repeated: only this year, it promises to be even bigger and better than before.

We are hoping to make much better use of the Paddock at Barnfield Park and, with bridges over the Strat, we shall use Pam Stephens' field as well.

There will be more cover, in case of rain like last year, but mostly so that folk will be shaded from the hot sun which is promised for that day!

The Tug of War over the river should attract even more teams than before and so should be a spectacular event.

If you feel you want to be a part of this great revival of a much loved institution, let Fr. David know: there's always room for more volunteers to man stalls, sponsors to offset expenses and a whole host of other things which will need to be done.

It promises to be, as last year, a great day, with a community atmosphere and fun for all the family.

Flower Festival 2010



After the success of last year's Flower Festival on the theme of 'Old Stratton', the Committee has this year decided to go for a religious theme - in particular, that of the Saints.

Under the title, '*Like Stars Appearing*', taken from the well-known hymn for All Saints' Day, the church will be full of over 30 displays representing some well-known and some lesser known saints. Some of these will have a North Cornish flavour, others will be from further afield, some will

be well-known, others of whom you may never have heard: it will be, however, an education and a treat for the senses, as Stratton Flower Festivals always are.

Naturally, in true Stratton style, the flowers will not be the end of it: the whole of the weekend, from 10 am till 6 pm, from Friday 28th – Monday 31st May will be full of things to see and do. There will be a children's quiz, a raffle, refreshments and light lunches available in church throughout: it's almost as if you could spend a whole day with us!

Yet it does not end at 6 pm, for on both Friday and Saturday evenings, there will be entertainment laid on. On the Friday, John and Margaret Hobbs will be performing in their own inimitable style – music, poetry and singing all combined for an enjoyable and light-hearted concert.

On the Saturday, we are pleased to have secured the Launceston Male Voice Choir who will perform a number of great songs from their repertoire. Both events should certainly be a treat for all who attend.

In order that all will go well, we are always on the look out for flower-arrangers, sponsors, stewards or caterers (amongst other things!)

If you feel you can offer any support for this major fund-raising and social activity in the church's calendar, please contact the Membership Secretary.



FoStA Newsletter

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and feel that it keeps you informed and up to date with things at St Andrew's.

We hope too that it makes you feel a part of the community here, however far from us you may live.

However, we value your opinion and would appreciate comments, both positive and negative, on what we are doing.

We would especially ask that you let us know if you think there is something you would like to see in the newsletter that isn't already covered.

It is, of course, your newsletter, for your views and opinions to be heard. Please feel free to write an article of any nature, if you think it would be helpful or appropriate for members of FoStA to see and benefit from.

Please send any submissions, typed or handwritten, by email or post, to the Membership Secretary, who will pass them on to the editor.

To contact FoStA

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