



Dear Friends of St. Andrew's

It is said that moving house is in the top five of life's most stressful events. Having just moved house I can say with hand on heart I believe it! I was nearly forced to write this letter with chalk and slate because computer, pens and even paper seem to be packed in boxes which for a good while seemed to elude detection. The new vicarage for St. Andrew's church is once again in the parish of Stratton, not at the old vicarage, but at 1 Lanveans, Cleavelands, Stratton, Bude. EX23 8AB. It is at this moment in time a house full of boxes waiting to be unpacked.

I write this letter at the beginning of Holy Week, Palm Sunday. This is the day the church cries with one voice, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest". St. Andrew's church has been subdued throughout Lent as it prepared for the Easter celebrations. From Palm Sunday onward the church liturgy is a roller coaster ride of emotions from the highs of Palm Sunday through to the depths of despair on Good Friday, where the cry moves to, "Crucify Him". Then in a twinkling of an eye the dawning resurrection begs the cry of, "Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia".

Throughout Holy Week leading into Easter the church will move from the austerity of Lent into the colourful and joyful brilliance of Easter. The flowers, particularly the lilies, will perfume and brighten the church befitting of the importance of the Easter season.

May the joy of Easter be with you all.

Fr. David

Val Barker writes:

Thank you all, once again, for your continuing support and encouragement. It means a great deal to everyone at St Andrew's. So much seems to have happened since I last wrote and, as always, I worry that there won't be anything to write about and here we are again with the pages filled.

Firstly, I need to say thank you very much to all those who kindly responded to our Christmas fund raising effort. We sold a great many cards and made a profit in the region of £370. Thanks must also go to those who produced the photographs we used in the production of the cards - a nice selection at short notice. We also received some very generous donations and we are grateful for your kind generosity.

On that note I feel optimistic that you will feel able to support our Grand Prize Draw - it is 5 years ago that we last had one - and there are some really nice prizes as you will see from the tickets. Every item has been donated including one from H.R.H. the Duchess of Cornwall. There are two raffle books included with each newsletter and I hope you will either buy the tickets yourself please or sell them to family or friends. Each book contains 5 £1 tickets and clear instructions about when the counterfoils or any unsold tickets need to be sent back to me (by the 28th May at the latest) in readiness for the draw.

Friends will be pleased to know that at long last St Andrew's is to have a new guide book. We have been without one for some time now and we are constantly being asked for a copy, by our many visitors, so it seemed high time that we put the matter right. It was difficult to decide quite how to go about it - there was so much that was good about the last one but quite a lot that was outdated. In the end we decided to simply update the text of the last issue and replace a few of the pictures which, after all, were nearly 25 years old. A small committee undertook this task and now at last their efforts have reached fruition.

As I write the 'new' revised guide book has just arrived from the printers. It will be good to have copies in the Church ready for Easter and the visitors. Although it was the PCC who first set this project in motion the committee of FoStA has agreed to fund the preparatory work for the guide and pay for the first print run of 200 copies. The PCC will then, with sales revenue, be able to self-fund any subsequent reprints or changes that might be necessary in the future.

As many of you will remember, John Gimson was one of the original FoStA committee members who did a vast amount of work to get the Friends scheme up and running in 2008. Since that time he has acted as the webmaster and helped in all manner of ways particularly in support of 'Memsec'. He has now relinquished this task and passed on the baton but we can't let him go without saying how grateful we all are and to offer him a huge and sincere vote of thanks.

We are extraordinarily fortunate in finding someone to take John's place and FoStA has a new webmaster in David Goodwin who had a bit of an introduction in the last Spring edition of the newsletter. You will be able to read more about his undertakings and progress later in this issue. A warm welcome to you!

I have been given to understand that our webmaster is quite a 'wine buff' so we are very much hoping to organise a wine tasting dinner later in the year. All details in due course.

Father David has already told you that he has just moved from Bude back into Stratton. This has come about as the Diocese have made the decision to buy a house in Cleavelands and this will be the parsonage house to serve the proposed new benefice of Bude Haven, Marhamchurch, Stratton and Launcells. The former Stratton Vicarage in Diddies Road and the Rectory in Bude will be sold and the surplus proceeds arising from these sales will transfer to the Diocesan Pastoral Account.

It will also be of interest to many of you to know that from the third week after Easter, Fr David will also become the Priest in Charge of Kilkhampton with Morwenstow. The Revd Alison Hardy will be Curate there as well. Their Induction is arranged for Friday 29th April at Kilkhampton Church. It is hoped that a House for Duty Priest will be appointed there in due course.

So, as we go forward to the next few months with all the changes and challenges we shall surely face, do please remember us in your prayers as we will remember you.

With every good wish from me and all at St. Andrew's,

Val



Obituaries

Malcolm Sales

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mr Malcolm Sales, late of The Carriage House, Diddies, Stratton. Mac died on 1st February 2016, at home, surrounded by his family and all that he held dear. His funeral service took place at St. Andrew's on 10th February.

FoStA is grateful for the donation received in his memory.

Donald Blair

As we go to press I have been informed of the loss of another good Friend of St Andrew's. Don Blair, late of 3 Stratton Court, died on 5th March 2016, in Kent where he had moved, with his late wife Pat some years ago, to live near their family.

Both of these Friends will be sorely missed and we offer our condolences and prayers to Mac's widow Wendy and each family in their bereavement.

R.I.P.

So, Where Does Your Money Go?

St Andrew's Church is a Grade 1 Listed building, with parts dating back to the 13th Century, and, like so many other churches in the Church of England, the burden of maintaining this historic building and its ancient graveyard has become increasingly heavy for our small congregation. This is where FoStA – Friends of St Andrew's – comes in. There are many people who for various reasons do not attend services at St Andrew's on a regular basis, but nonetheless have a link with St Andrew's or consider St Andrew's special. Joining FoStA enables you to maintain your connections with St Andrew's and to contribute towards the costs of preserving the building and churchyard for future generations.

The organisation of FoStA was established in September 2008 to operate as a sub-committee of the PCC. The resolution of the PCC states that the objects of FoStA are to *'advance the mission and ministry of the church in the community through helping to fund the repair, maintenance, restoration, preservation and development of St. Andrew's Church, and of the fixtures, fittings and ornaments in the Church and general care of the churchyard'*.

FoStA raises funds for St Andrew's in many ways. There are of course the annual subscriptions from the membership, which currently stands at 142. Regular social and fundraising events are organised which have included a Burns' Night supper, a murder mystery evening, a lecture about the church carvings and the very successful Book Fests. Our previous raffle was well supported and this year's has some interesting and special prizes. FoStA also operates a small 'shop', selling cards, notelets, books and pictures, further details of these can be found on the FoStA website www.fosta.org.uk

So how is the money raised used? Clearly the main purpose is to preserve, maintain and improve the fabric of the building and the churchyard. In addition to regular day to day maintenance, work

required may include repairs and renewals identified in surveys and reports. There may also be alterations or improvements identified by the PCC or suggested by other church users. All the above can generally be planned, but there are of course also those unforeseen emergencies which need to be responded to more immediately. FoStA can help with all of these.

These therefore are the 'projects' discussed by the PCC. The Fabric Committee of the PCC will generally obtain quotations or budgets costs for the projects and then, if felt appropriate or necessary, the PCC will ask if FoStA can help fund part or all of the work. Such requests are considered by the FoStA committee before committing to any grant. In making this consideration the committee will always try to help, as this is why people give generously to FoStA and keeping a large balance in the FoStA account does not accord with the main purpose of FoStA and its membership, but at the same time the committee always tries to maintain a reserve in the FoStA account to ensure that they are able to respond to an unexpected emergency should this occur.

In the first seven years after the formation of FoStA, from September 2008 to September 2015, FoStA contributed a total of £23,746.46 towards various projects at St Andrew's Church. Grants ranged from £24 for the construction of portable table tops to go over pews, up to £6766.80 for the removal and replacement of the external lime mortar on the south wall between the tower and the Priest's door. Other projects included the floodlighting of the tower, new energy efficient lighting within the church, tower clock repairs and internal redecoration. Within the churchyard the water supply has been extended and tree surgery carried out. Further details of completed projects funded by FoStA can also be found on the FoStA website.

More extensive repairs of the church building can be well beyond the capacity of the PCC to fund, even with the help of FoStA. Every five years a Quinquennial inspection is carried out by the Diocesan architect and his report advises on what needs to be

undertaken and the urgency of this work. Generally it is expected that all the recommended work is carried out within the following five year period. The deterioration of the Chancel roof was first described in the 2006 Quinquennial report. The 2011 report recommended the complete re-slating of the Chancel roof within the following five years, along with the re-bedding of the ridge tiles to all roofs and the replacing of the guttering to the north elevation. Other recommended work included the re-mortaring of the west wall of the north aisle, internal repair and redecoration of the north, south and west walls and the levelling of an area of the floor at the back of the church.

It was estimated that a total of around £50,000 would be necessary to carry out all these recommendations and thoughts turned to how this money could be raised. One potential source was the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and an application was made by the PCC in July 2014. One of the requirements of the process is that the HLF expects the applicant to make available from their own resources at least 5% of the sum applied for. To meet this requirement FoStA agreed that a sum of £5000 be kept in reserve for this work if required.

Unfortunately the bid to the HLF was unsuccessful. However, an alternative pot of money became available from the government via the Listed Places of Worship (LPoW) Roof Repair Fund. This could only cover the roofing works, but as guttering repairs are considered part of roof repairs, it still amounted to a significant potential source of funds. At the same time additional grant funding offers had been received - £5000 from the Blanchminster Trust and £1000 from the All Churches Trust. In January 2015 the PCC made an application to the LPoW which included £5,000 from FoStA to therefore make £11,000 of joint funding.

In March 2015 the PCC learned that once again their bid had been unsuccessful, although it was recommended that they apply again in the next round of applications in 2016. It was clear that without the grant from the LPoW the work to the Chancel roof and ridge

tiling could not go ahead in 2015 and that a further bid to LPoW should be made for this. However, the £11,000 offers of funding from elsewhere, including the £5000 from FoStA, were still available and could be used to allow the other work, including the guttering, to proceed. The estimated cost for all the other recommended work was £19,000, with £11,000 funding in place. After further consideration by the FoStA committee the offer of an additional grant of £4000 was made, and similarly the Blanchminster Trust increased their funding offer by £4,000. As a result the PCC were able to give the go ahead for the work.

The work to level the floor at the back of church was carried out in April/May 2015, with the repair and replacement of guttering being carried out in Aug/Sep 2015. These works are now complete. The internal decorations were commenced in Oct 2015 with just a small section of lime wash to be completed once the new mortar has thoroughly dried. The external re-mortaring to the west wall is planned for March/April 2016. To date FoStA has provided £4137 towards the completed work, with the remainder of the promised £9000 put aside for the outstanding work.

In the meantime the 2nd application to the LPoW Roof Repair Fund was submitted in February 2016. Although it is not a requirement of LPoW that there is joint funding with an application, it was felt that this could be advantageous to the bid, and with this in mind FoStA agreed to allocate a further £5000 as a contribution to the roofing work. A decision is not expected from the LPoW Board of Trustees until June 2016, so even if successful it seems unlikely that the work to the Chancel roof could start before the end of 2016.

So since its inception FoStA has contributed towards projects large and small, many of which could not have gone ahead without this source of funding. The FoStA committee and the PCC of St Andrew's Church are extremely grateful for the unfailing generosity of the FoStA membership which makes this possible.

Simon Waring

Members' News and Views

February 5th 2016 was a very special day for one of our FoStA members. Our good wishes, thanks and appreciation are offered to Mr Andrew Davey who celebrated 50 years of unbroken service at St Andrew's church.

An article, for February 5th 1966, in the Bude and Stratton Post came to my notice and it reads as follows:-

STRATTON

On the first Sunday of the month at St Andrew's Church, the morning service of Sung Eucharist is held as a family service.

Children attend with their parents for Sunday School.

Sunday morning was unique, when for the first time on record, a father and son acted as servers at the same service, and congratulations are offered to Mr Gerald Davey and his son, Andrew who carried out these duties.

The total number of communicants for the morning was **79**.

During Andrew's long ministry at St Andrew's he has served as Boat Boy, Acolyte, Thurifer, Crucifer, Choirboy, PCC member and Church Warden – and, he cleans the brass.

'Well done thou good and faithful servant.'

Thank You Andrew.

Ed



Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 27th to Monday 30th May inclusive
Flower Festival at St. Andrew's
- Saturday 18th June
Stratton Summer Fete
- Saturday 23rd July
St Andrew's Produce Show

Although these events are not specifically for FoStA funds I know there are many of you who like to put these dates in your diary.

EASY FUND RAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for St Andrew's Church, Stratton, Cornwall?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join. Go to -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewsstratton/> and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to [easyfundraising](#) first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Andrew's Church, Stratton, Cornwall will be really grateful for your donations.

The donations are individually small amounts but they soon add up to something significant.

In addition you can use "[easysearch](#)" instead of Google or any other search engine, you can make a real difference. "[easysearch](#)" is completely FREE and although each search raises a few pence. Making just 10 searches a day, you could raise around £20 a year for to your chosen cause. If you do not make bookmarks and just use "[easysearch](#)" every time you want your bank, for example, the number of searches increases quickly and you can just make "[easysearch](#)" your default search engine.

As well as raising funds, "[easysearch](#)" also gives you the best search results available on web. Today, the Internet is so big that different search engines will often deliver different results for the

same search. So, by combining the strengths of several search engines together - Yahoo!, MIVA, and many more - you get the very best results in terms of accuracy and relevance, which means you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - all in one 'easy' search!

Thank you for your support.

Rob Varley. PCC Treasurer



SASTRUGI

Some FoStA members will recall a rather splendid dinner that was held at the Tree Inn in November 2010 with an after dinner speaker Jonathon Bradshaw. His subject then was walking to the South Pole with an Irish team in November 2007 and he illustrated his fascinating talk with some incredible and amazingly beautiful slides.

He has now written a book entitled SASTRUGI which is the name for parallel wave-like ridges caused by wind on the surface of hard snow, especially in Polar Regions.

The value and interest of the book is in the story of how Jon gave up work with the intention of cycling as much as possible between Europe and North America. He started in England, went across Scotland, around the Faroe Islands and then circumnavigated Iceland. He was warned off trying to cycle across Greenland and the first half of his book describes the task of skiing across Greenland over 31 days from east to west with a diverse group of adventurers. They were led by a guide, and included 2 Belgian snowboarders, 2 Irish men and 1 Irish woman; the Irish folk using the expedition to prepare themselves to walk to the South Pole. His descriptions of the trials and turmoils of this journey are riveting and the second half of the book follows his journey to the South Pole, such that the four of them skied over 58 days to become the first Irish team to successfully complete this near impossible task.

Physical and emotional traumas, written as they occurred in a diary format, are absorbing and despite the repetitive nature of their daily tasks Jon conveys the effect it had on him, at the time and to his attitude to life subsequently, with considerable skill. A fascinating read.

Review by Dr Ian Barker



A note from our new Webmaster

Early in February 2016 I assumed the reins as FoStA's new webmaster. Although I am computer literate this is a new area for me and I have much to learn. The original web designer was kind enough to give me a crash course in the basics of Serif Webplus. You can't really learn web design and construction from a book or, indeed, from someone telling you what to do – you simply have to get on and give it a go! Fortunately, the way these things are designed makes it possible to experiment, identify mistakes and learn techniques without actually publishing anything to the *real* web. However you can preview everything in advance of publication (as if it were live) and test the links and graphics to make sure they work.

At first sight not a lot has changed. My aim was threefold – to update, simplify and refresh. With this in mind I worked closely with Val and Ian Barker who provided source material and feedback as each update was completed. A lot of 'deep background' information has been deleted – especially when it was not relevant to FoStA's work and mission. Part of the simplification entailed going back to basics – the website is first and foremost about FoStA – it is not intended to be a proxy website for St Andrew's Church. However, it is only right that visitors should be able to find out easily about our location, services and FoStA-related activities. These all now have prominence in appropriate areas of the site.

Refreshing the site has involved further spring cleaning – decluttering pages, uploading new photographs, which I had taken over the past few months, using a new font throughout and taking away extraneous frames and borders. I hope users will find it clean and fresh – presenting relevant information in a timely and uncluttered way.

Finally, although not visible to users, I have added Google Analytics to all areas of the site. It is important that we know if and when we have visitors, how they used the site and where they came from. This information will be available to the FoStA committee and will help us tailor the site to the needs of visitors. In the first three weeks after initiating Analytics we had 310 page visits by people from the U.K., U.S.A., France and China. I find that very good to know!

David Goodwin

**FoStA Newsletter is published by
St Andrew's Church, Stratton, Cornwall. EX23 9DW**

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

Parish Priest: Father David Barnes

The Vicarage, 1 Lanveans, Cleavelands, Stratton, Bude. EX23 8LJ
Tel: 01288 352254 e-mail: d.barnes645@btinternet.com

Curate: Revd Alison Hardy

Newfield, Brook Drive, Bude. EX23 8NY
Tel: 01288 488308 e-mail: reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Val Barker

Chynoweth, Bowden, Stratton, Bude EX23 9BH
Tel: 01288 353435 e-mail: memsec@fosta.org.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Front Cover Photograph

- taken and printed by kind permission of David Goodwin JP
My thanks to all who have submitted articles for this newsletter.

Ed