



Tracery above the main figures



Detail of the Four Evangelists at St Andrew's
(Part of the East Window in the Sanctuary)

Dear Friends of St Andrews,

At this time of year when the days shorten and we get those colder crisp mornings and the sun shines lower in the sky, my thoughts naturally turn to an awareness of the seasons. Autumn is such a special time of the year here in Stratton with our gardens turning to a golden hue, the geese flying overhead as they make their daily pilgrimages across our skies and St Andrews turns its attention towards Harvest Festival and soon services of Remembrance.

One of my favourite hymns is this harvest hymn.

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
there is no shadow of changing with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.
(Thomas Chisholm 1866-1960)*

I have found myself regularly recalling and praying these words over the last twelve months. For those of you who do not know, I contracted a virus last autumn and because I was rather run down because of working long hours for a long time, the virus had quite an impact on me. By November I found myself unable to work at all. By the beginning of this year, I returned to my duties on a phased basis and returned to full-time work in August. But I am now working sensible hours!

The point of sharing this with you is to give thanks for God's faithfulness during this period and to celebrate the coming together of the body of people who are St Andrews. The services continued with the help of Local Worship Leaders & retired priests; the pastoral work, outreach to the schools and fellowship have also remained a constant thanks to the Churchwardens, PCC & those within the congregation who faithfully serve God here in this place. This is a wonderful thing and as it should be; not relying on one person, but the whole people of God being God's presence in the church and community.

This brings me back to the rhythm and flow of the seasons; life goes on whatever circumstances we meet and the life of God's church continues too. God's faithfulness to us is a constant and in response our worship and faith life remains unbroken and refuses to be interrupted be it a sick priest, Covid or even a tragedy. The seasons teach us that there are times of fallowness and ending which are followed by new birth and abundance. I wonder what God has in store for us in this next season.

Yours in Christ,

Teresa

Reverend Teresa Folland

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 31st October

Launch of the East Window Restoration Fundraising Appeal.

Guest speaker Mr Stephen Clare from Holywell Glass in Wells.

St Andrew's Church 6.15 for 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday 30th November 2024

St Andrew's Gift Day and Fayre

Will be held in the church from 10am until 4pm.

Val Barker writes –

Dear Friends,

First of all, I would like to say how pleased I am that Revd Teresa feels able to contribute to the Newsletter once again after her lengthy challenge to get back to feeling well again. I know several of you have missed her input as you have written or emailed to tell me so. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as we keep her in ours.

We seem to be having the last of summer here, enjoying glorious sunny days and gentle breezes. Yesterday, after an afternoon with a group of volunteers churchyard gardening, I was sitting in the Lychgate with my eyes closed, resting and waiting for my lift to arrive, listening to the buzzing of bees, the calls of birds, the rustling of the Autumn leaves in the old chestnut trees and the voices emanating from Stratton Stores, I couldn't think of anywhere I would rather be. I was simply moved to thank Our Lord for planting me here in the shadow of Stratton Tower.

In the last issue of the Newsletter Simon wrote an excellent article about the Chancel East Window and I am pleased to tell you that we are now planning in earnest and intend to get our Restoration Fundraising Appeal underway. It will be a large undertaking but one that requires courageous application so as to restore this wonderful historic heritage piece which is also a fabulous and valuable work of art. How fortunate we are to have this window in our Parish Church.

On the evening of Thursday 31st October, we are officially launching the East Window Restoration Fundraising Appeal with an event in the church at 6.30pm. We have invited Mr Stephen Clare of Holywell Glass Ltd., the stained-glass specialists in Wells, Somerset, who will be undertaking the work, to come and give us a talk all about his art and how his team will go about restoring our window in particular. I know many of you live a long way away but if you are able to join us on that evening it would be a delight but if not perhaps you will give some thought to the appeal and consider supporting our endeavours with a donation which may be given through the FoStA bank account, our Just Giving Page at www.justgiving.com/page/st-andrew-east-window-1728220700813 , by using the QR Code on the back page or through the post with a cheque. Please clearly state that your gift is for the East

Window. I am intending to keep a record of all donations for the church archives so if you decide to make a gift and wish to stay anonymous please do let me know.

We will certainly need all the help we can muster but as we say – anything is possible ‘with a little help from our friends’! The Treasurer is of course applying for help through the many grant giving organisations so all things considered we feel quietly optimistic that our venture will succeed.

On another matter, the fragments of the statues from the original Calvary Cross that were found in the collapsed boundary churchyard wall, have been mounted in a display cabinet in the church specially made to house these heritage items with an explanation of the contents and a photograph of the original Calvary.

The initial judging of the Conservation Flag competition takes place on 10th of October and although there were less entries than hoped for maybe it is ‘quality rather than quantity’. If a decision is made then the next stage is to make a submission to the Diocesan Chancellor for his approval so the final result won’t be known until much later in the year.

Once again may I offer you our heartfelt thanks for all your support and interest in the church and churchyard here in Stratton. It would be an even harder struggle to keep everything going without our Friends and when the going gets tough it is really uplifting knowing that we have such a stalwart group being alongside us.

Thank you all,

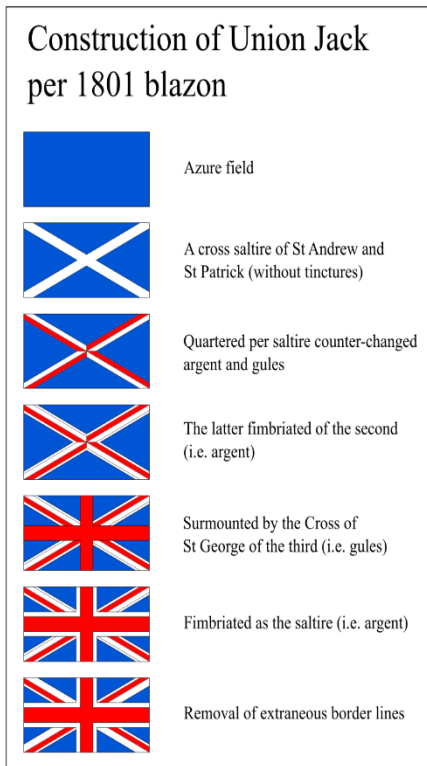
Val

PS – We have just heard that Holywell Glass could undertake the restoration work after June of next year.

Vexillology article ... by Paul Davy continued from last time.

The UK National Flag

The word FLAG first appears in English in the late 15 century. Possible origins include a variation of Middle English FLAKKEN, meaning to flap or flutter which may further originate from the Old Norse FLAKA to flicker, flutter, hang loose.



The Union flag or Union Jack is the de facto national flag of the United Kingdom. It is sometimes asserted (by me) that the term Union Jack properly refers only to naval usage (when flown on the vessels Jack staff) but this assertion was dismissed by the Flag institute in 2013 after historical investigations. This was kept a secret from me! The origins of earlier 'Flag of Great Britain' date from 1606. King James VI of Scotland had inherited the English and Irish thrones in 1603 as James 1, thereby uniting the crowns of England, Scotland and Ireland in a personal union, although the three kingdoms remained separate states.

On 12 April 1606, a new flag to represent this regal Union between

England and Scotland was specified in a royal decree, according to which the flag of England, a red cross on a white background, known as the St George's Cross, and the flag of Scotland, a white saltire or St Andrew's Cross on a blue background, would be joined, forming the flag of England and Scotland for Maritime purposes.

Key for some of the terms in the chart above.

AZURE – bright blue in colour like a cloudless sky

SALTIRE – a diagonal cross

GULES – red as an heraldic tincture

TINCTURES – slight traces

FIMBRIATED – having a narrow border

BLAZON – display prominently or vividly in a correct heraldic manner

Paul Davy

Items for Sale

We have Christmas cards for sale again this year with some being stock from previous best sellers but one is a new design by David Godwin and entitled Angels from the Realms of Glory ... A lovely design which is already selling well.



For the Christmas cards and other items for sale please see our FoStA shop at www.fosta.org.uk or use the enclosed form.

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