

Church Services at St Andrew's Parish Church

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.00 am 1st Sunday All Age Eucharist (*with baptisms*)
2nd Sunday Parish Eucharist
3rd Sunday Family Worship (*followed by a shortened Eucharist in the chancel at 11.15*)
4th & 5th Sundays Parish Eucharist
(*Sunday Club - see Andy's & Nic's page*)
- 4.00 pm Andys@4 (*A Service for All the Family, followed by refreshments - 2nd Sunday*)
- 6.30 pm Sung Evensong, Ministry of Healing and Celtic Service
(*3rd Sunday of the month, in 3 month rotation - see Diary page*)

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

- 8.00 am Morning Prayer

Thursday

- 8.30 am Holy Eucharist

at St Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

Sundays

- 8.30 am Holy Communion (*2nd & 4th Sundays*)
10.00 am Morning Service (*1st Sundays*)
10.00 am Matins (*3rd Sundays*)
3.00 pm Evensong (*5th Sunday - Winter months*)
6.30 pm Evensong (*5th Sunday - Summer months*)

THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE IS SPONSORED BY

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01225 703531

PRINTED BY ST JOHN'S COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 0EH (01225 767468)

NEWS TO THE MARKET PLACE

75 pence

December 2018



The Parish Magazine
of St Andrew's Church, Chippenham
with St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

Registered Charity No 1131163

'Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly'

www.standrewschippenham.org.uk

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Prayer Circle:	Eryl Spencer	651565
Mothers' Union:	Margaret Gubbins	248757
100 club:	Margaret Harrison	652148
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Flower Arrangers:	Dorryta Hayward	653322
Coffee Shop		
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Magazine Editor:	Jenny Norris norrisjm2@gmail.com	812945
Magazine Distribution:	Sue Haslop	323765

REGULAR EVENTS (contacts above)

Choir Practice	Friday, 7.30 pm	
Bell ringing	Practice night: Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.00 pm in the Tower	
Mothers' Union	First Thursday in month, 2.30 pm in St. Andrew's Lady Chapel	
Coffee Shop	Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.00 noon in St Andrew's Church	
Christian Meditation		
Group	Thursdays 7.30 pm at 2 Baydon's Lane	
	Contact Michael Sammes	654608

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To donate to St Andrew's Church
Text **SACH01** to 70070 (that is s a c h zero one)

The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT

Tel: (01249) 655947
with out of hours answering machine

For general enquiries e-mail:
st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk

Mondays, 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
to make arrangements for
Baptisms, Marriage, reading of
Banns, etc.
st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk

Tuesdays, 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
to book the Hall and church
(for concerts and events etc.)
st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk

Who's Who

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Assistant Treasurer:	Brian Elliott	463230
at St Nicholas'	Wendy Reeves	650622
Weekly Notice Sheet:	Ros Harford Items to be with Ros by Wednesday evening	812190
Care Group Co-ordinator:	Eryl Spencer	651565
Gift Aid Officer:	Wendy Reeves	650622
Giving Officer	Ros Harford	812190
Electoral Roll Officer:	Ros Harford	812190
Health & Safety Officer:	Daphne Jefferies daphnejefferies657@btinternet.com	659820
Youth and Children:	Eryl Spencer	651565
PCC Sub-Committees		
Fabric Committee:	Keith Larkin	449114
Social Events:	Dorrayta Hayward	653322
Social Responsibility:	Dick Spencer	651565

Out of Step



I've always rather enjoyed being out of step with fashion. The main motivation, I confess, is laziness, – “last year's colours will do absolutely fine” – and the main result is being behind the times; but just occasionally I'm a step ahead, and feel rather smug when the rest of the world catches up.

I was enjoying the Gregorian Chant of the monks at Silos years before they were “discovered” by Classic FM and reached No 1 in the chart. The local white wine of Galicia, called Albariño, was already Sue and my favourite before it became a super-cool (and expensive) London sensation; and there's a fabulous deserted beach I know that I'm not going to tell you about!

But when it comes to Christmas, I'm baffled. I feel out of step with the surge of fashion for sure, but I certainly don't feel smug about it. In fact, I'd like everyone to have a share in what excites me about the season. Because it isn't the decorations or presents, the pop songs or the parties. It's hope.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”. Familiar words, but do they really hit home in the real world? Darkness can be worldwide, as it was in the 1st World War, or it can be deeply personal when we struggle with what is inside us, but bringing light into those darkneses is far from easy. The birth of Jesus is about “God with Us” or it's about nothing at all. If God has walked our path and brought the light of love to the very darkest places on it, then there is hope. And hope is something we need more than ever.

If that celebration of Christmas is out of step with our commercial Christmas, then I'm happy to be out of step. But I don't think it's only me!

Happy Christmas
Rod

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St Nicholas' Church
Tytherton Lucas



Service Times at St Nicholas'

2 th	Dec	10.00 am	Patronal Service	Mrs. M. Gubbins
9 th	Dec	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. R. Key
16 th	Dec	6.30 pm	Carol Service	Rev. D. Copeland
25 th	Dec	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rev. J. Bray



The legacy of Miss Potter

Beatrix Potter, the children's writer and illustrator, died of pneumonia in Cumbria 75 years ago, on 22nd December 1943.

Born in 1866 in Kensington to a well-off family, she had limited higher education but schooled herself to the extent that she could be described as a natural scientist, particularly in the study of fungi.

She published her first children's book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, with encouragement from friends including her former governess Annie Carter Moore. Some of the stories appeared first in letters to her friend's children. She eventually wrote 30 books – 23 of them for children.

She was also widely known as a conservationist, buying Hill Top Farm in Near Sawrey in the Lake District, marrying a local solicitor and then purchasing other land and property. In all, she bought 4000 acres and 15 farms; almost all of which she left to the National Trust. She was a prize-winning breeder of Herdwick sheep and a generous patron of the Girl Guides.

Potter was always known as Beatrix, though her first name was Helen. Her stories were deeply influenced by fairy tales and fantasy, and she had little respect for outward forms of religion, which she described as 'almost useless', although her stories suggested belief in 'a great power silently working all things for good.'



Marc J Allum

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07553 751751 or 01249 447478

Email: valuations@mjallum.com

www.mjallum.com

A Big Thank You

We'd all like to say a big thank you to Jenny, our Editor over the last six years! Jenny has decided to retire as editor with this edition and take a well-earned rest from the monthly deadlines – not that we won't find plenty of other things for her to do as Warden! The magazine has always been full of interesting and quirky articles and Jenny has found something fresh every month for us to enjoy as well as keeping everyone so well-informed and up to date. Welcome to Remy who is taking on the mantle, and, most of all, thank you, Jenny, most sincerely.

Rod

A New Look for the Magazine!

After six excellent years, Jenny Norris is handing over her duties as Editor of the Parish Magazine. The Magazine has been an important source of news, information and pieces for reflection, so I was very glad to volunteer and ensue it continues going forward. I thought that a new Editor would be a good opportunity to refresh the look and content of the Magazine. It will have a new title (TBC, but if you have a good idea, let me know!), and thanks to modern online-based printing companies, it will be possible to print the magazine in full colour. I hope to take advantage of this and publish lots of images of our beautiful Church. Of course, the most important aspect of a Magazine is its content. I will look to introduce some new features covering our Church, its history, music and more discussion around the wider theology and worship found within the Church of England.

As ever, the Magazine will be most relevant if you – the reader – tell me what you would like to see within (or even better if you can write things to be published!). I am very open to any new ideas for features, articles or content, so please let me know. As we go into 2019, I truly hope that each month people find a renewed joy and engagement in the Magazine. I would like to thank Jenny for all her efforts over the past six years and hope that you enjoy the new format.

Remy Osman

How Silent Night first began - 200 years ago

One of the most popular Christmas carols, *Silent Night*, was performed for the first time 200 years ago this month, on 24th December 1818, at midnight mass at a parish church in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria.



The carol was originally a poem, written in six verses by priest Joseph Mohr two years earlier. Because the church organ was broken, he thought it would be nice to turn the poem into a simple carol that could be played by a guitar, and so he asked church organist Franz Xaver Gruber if he could write a suitable tune. Gruber did so in a matter of hours.

That night Mohr and Gruber sang the new composition, with Mohr playing guitar.

Karl Mauracher, an organ builder working at the Oberndorf church, took the carol home with him to the Zillertal, about 100 miles away, where it was taken up and popularised by two travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers.

They eventually sang it in New York, where in 1859 Episcopal priest John Freeman Young wrote and published the rather free English translation that is most frequently sung today, using only three verses and changing the rhythm slightly. The carol has been translated into about 140 languages.

Carols around the Piano

Thursday 6th December
7.30pm

Please come and join us



Bottle of Whisky donated by Michael Jones, Dignity Funeral Directors – Brian Elliott

Food Hamper donated by John Walton – Alan Thorpe

Bottle Red Wine – Revd Derek Copeland

Sainsburys Frying Pan donated by Wendy Reeves – Joan Williams

Blue Engraved Vase donated by Vicki Bray – D Turner

Signed copy of Antiques Roadshow 40 Great Finds donated

by Marc Allum – Jenny Norris

Apricots in Amaretto – Mr R Fudge

Simple Cosmetics – Nick Shewring

Box/Tin Chocolate Treats – Rebecca Hewood

2 Bottles Red wine donated by Brian Elliott – P. Thorpe

Baylis & Harding Slippers & Toiletries – Ann White

Thank you to all who supported the Autumn Fayre in any way.

We had a most successful Event; including our two coffee mornings earlier in the year, and deduction of expenses which included the cash prizes for the Grand Draw, the total was £5032, our best ever result.

Thank you all from Ros Harford (Fayre Co-ordinator) and the Planning Team (Maurice & Jean Chadwick, Rod Key, Dorryta Hayward, Barry Harford, Margaret Harrison, Viv Redeyoff, Angela Sammes, George Silk).



Christmas Cracker Jokes

Why is it dangerous to have a nap in a railway carriage?
Because the train runs over sleepers

When is longhand quicker than shorthand?
When it's on a clock

When is longhand quicker than shorthand?
When it's on a clock

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog?
A land rover

What do bees do with all their honey?
They cell it

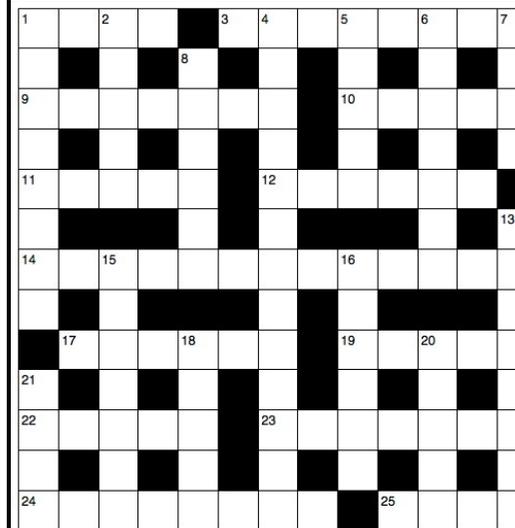
AUTUMN FAYRE 13TH OCTOBER 2018

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS ON THE GRAND DRAW

PRIZE WINNER

- £100 Cash prize – Mrs Liz Bennett**
£75 Cash prize – Dick Spencer
£50 Cash prize – Barry Hayward
Two tickets for Glenn Miller Orchestra Concert with Global West Travel – Mr R Fudge
Two tickets for the Pantomime & Theatre Royal, Bath – Angela Sammes
Sunday Lunch for 2 at The Angel Hotel – Chris Osborne
Sunday lunch for 2 at Chippenham Golf Club, donated by President, Phil Redeyoff – Mr S Rosser
£20 Gift Voucher from Whitehall Gardens – Ros Smith
Fish & Chip meal at Buckles kindly donated by Steve Webb – Ian Hodges
Costa Coffee Voucher – Miss Dixon
Courvoisier Brandy donated by Yvonne Gamble – Alex Cook
Magnum Bottle Prosecco donated by David Goodall – Vera Cole
Hamper donated by E Wootton & Son, Funeral Directors – Sandra Oakes
Bottle of Rum donated by Pam Freeman – Graham
Orchid Plant donated by Coates Florist – Eryl Spencer
Bottle of Red wine donated by John Walton – Sophie Harford
£10 Allington Farm Shop Voucher donated by Sue Hollands – Dorryta Hayward
Bottle Gordons Gin donated by Michael Jones, Dignity Funeral Directors – Mike Heal
Gift from the FAIRTRADE stall – Pippa Lovering
Rivo Lounge Voucher – Elizabeth Blum
Bottle Courvoisier Brandy donated by Vicki Bray – Michael Sammes
The Salon Voucher – Riley Gingell
S K Fruits Fruit Hamper – Laura Hood
Househusband Box of Cleaning Materials donated by Dorryta Hayward – Alex Cook
The White Company Gift Box – Karen Pope
Holiday Travel Bag – Barry Harford

December Crossword



Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and

Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

- you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Answers on Page 17



Christingle: What does it mean?



Each element of the Christingle has a special meaning, and helps to tell the Christian story.

- The Orange represents the World.
- The Red Ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ.
- The sweets and Dried Fruit represent all of God's creations.
- The lit Candle symbolises Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Children's Crib Service

23rd December

4pm



Andy's @ 4

December 9th

at St Andrews Church, Chippenham
Stories - songs - prayers - refreshments

For more information phone
01249 651565

St. Andrew's Annual Pet Service



We held our annual Pet Service in October, celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis and his sermon to the animals.

Chickens, cats, dogs and stick insects we had them all as well as numerous soft toys!

Sunday Club Diary

9th December

Bethlehem or Bust

Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school
The staff were dreading the onset of Yule
Don't mention Nativity came the loud cry
If we do it again, I shall lay down and die
At the dress rehearsal was heard a loud wail
Two shepherds have measles and Mary looks pale
Joseph has stage fright and so does the King
And even the choir has forgotten to sing
The 'tomtens' had tantrums, the angels had flights
And all the St Lucias can't find their light
One angel had nits we suddenly found
And by trying on haloes had passed them around
Don't worry, teachers, just leave it to me
We'll have the school nurse in (disguised as a tree)
And during the crowd scenes amid the commotion
She can have a quick look and hand out the lotion
The star was entrancing bedecked out in gold
Except for the plimsolls which looked pretty old
"But she's got verruca's and can't have bare feet"
So, we stuck on some tinsel which looked rather sweet
The chime bars played endlessly – Gabriel was late
"He's gone to the toilet Miss – he couldn't wait"
(Come back King Herod – all is forgiven
Ah well we shall all be rewarded in heaven)
So, put on your jackboots staff, do it once more
And we'll have Stille Nacht as an extra encore
And when it's all over we'll give a loud cheer
For we don't have to do it again 'till next year.

doubt have been praying for divine intervention but could not have expected the events to come.

The Viking fleet set sail for Exeter to close the final chapter in the Wessex saga, as it passed the headland at Swanage a



sudden and violent storm blew up which even the skilled Viking seamen could not master and incredibly all 120 ships and the men in them floundered and perished.

At a stroke the position of the two Kings were reversed and Guthrum and his army were now in peril from Alfred. It was bargaining time again but Alfred held most of the cards, Guthrum agreed to leave Wessex and had little choice but to keep his word. It was August 877 when the Heathens crossed the border in the north west of the Kingdom into Mercia and made camp in Gloucester. Alfred made his way to his royal estate at Chippenham no doubt to be able to keep an eye on Guthrum. The treaty of Reading was the longest the Vikings had kept in the past, the treaty of Exeter was not destined to emulate it----

Final part to come.

Barry Hayward

From the Registers

Christian Burial and Cremation

11th Oct

Freda Elizabeth Trigger

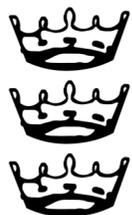
'I am the resurrection and the life'

St John 11.25



News from Bristol Diocese

Rt Rev Vivienne Faull enthroned as Bishop of Bristol



The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol, was formally welcomed to the Diocese at a service in Bristol Cathedral as representatives of churches and commu-

nities from across the Diocese gathered to witness her enthronement on Saturday 20th October.

Bishop Viv arrived for the service aboard the Bristol Packet ship Tower Belle. She was greeted by children from local schools who accompanied her to the Cathedral, as the Bristol Easton Salvation Army band played.

She entered the Cathedral to the sound of a fanfare played by the City Trumpeters, after the ceremonial striking of the west door with her pastoral staff.

Around 700 guests, including community and faith leaders and representatives from charities and the arts, attended the service. Among those attending was the Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol, the Archbishop of York, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, the High Sheriffs of Bristol and Wiltshire, and the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire and the Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

Whatever the reason the Heathen army did withdraw from the stronghold at Reading to the Mercian port of London. The Viking attention was now drawn to Mercia where Burgred was beset by political intrigue and financial concerns which threatened his hold on the crown. In late 872 there was rebellion in Northumbria and the Heathen army moved north to suppress it, at the same time they gave support to Burgred's enemies and he quit Mercia for exile in Rome with his Queen, Alfred's sister Aethelswith. Mercia had now fallen under Viking control and only Wessex stood in the way of complete domination of England by the Heathens.



Halfdan and his army stayed in the north but Guthrum turned his attention south to Wessex and the four years of peace that Alfred had bought at Reading was about to end.

The Heathen army, with a lightning strike, cut a path straight through the centre of Wessex leaving death and destruction in its wake to the town of Wareham in Dorset which they took and fortified. Alfred was unable to do anything except shadow Guthrum to Wareham and confront him there.

It was now that he received reports of a fleet of 120 Viking warships making their way along the coast from the north destined for Wessex. This was devastating news because such a fleet would carry well in excess of 3000 warriors in to combat. Wareham was something of an impasse and Guthrum stole away under cover of darkness and moved quickly on to Exeter where he made camp evidently to await his sea-borne army which was now sheltering in Poole harbour. The Saxons followed the Pagans to Exeter and prepared for the onslaught once the new army had arrived to swell Guthrum's ranks, the outcome was likely to be the loss of Wessex. Alfred, devout as he was, would no

Behold ye among the Heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

Habakkuk 1:5

The winter war of 871 had pressed hard on Wessex but it had been equally so on the Vikings.

With the arrival of Guthrum and his army to re enforce Halfdan, Alfred needed to buy time and this is, literally, what he set out to do.

Alfred knew that Wessex now stood alone as a viable opposition to the Heathen advance, Mercia is weak and had been unable to offer any assistance to Wessex in the recent conflicts even though Alfred's sister was Queen and he had come to help King Burgred at Nottingham. The huge burden on the young King's shoulders was that if he fails the whole of England would fall into Viking hands and Heathen rule. He was King and it was his duty to use all his military strength and political guile to preserve his Kingdom, his people and the Christian faith. The Vikings record on Christian religious sites was one of ruthless destruction and murder and so there could be little speculation of their fate at the hands of an unchecked Heathen onslaught.

Time, a breathing space, is what Alfred needed and so he determined on the risky strategy of buying off the Vikings for as long as possible. He raised a substantial sum from his noblemen and the Church, bearing heavily on Canterbury and Abingdon in particular, incurring resentment which followed through in to later years. Abingdon recording him in the annals of the monastery as a Judas.

Alfred struck the treaty with Halfdan and Guthrum at Reading. The record of the Norsemen of keeping their oath on these treaties were poor and they often broke their word. The West Saxon King however must have calculated that at least some time had been bought from the hard fought campaign which had brought both Viking and Saxon to an exhausted standstill in the field.

Bishop Viv said: "This is a service filled with celebration and prayer which marks the beginning of my public ministry in this Diocese. I am grateful for the many ecumenical and diocesan representatives who are supporting me in the service and will be assisting in the worship.

"I do look forward with great anticipation to all that lies ahead for the Diocese of Bristol.

I have been sustained by the welcome I have received and the assurance of the prayers of so many, and continue to hold the Diocese in my prayers."



Learn a poem by heart this Christmas - and stay sharp



So here is a challenge for you: learn a poem, by heart, by Christmas. That is the challenge that Gyles Brandreth, actor and broadcaster

has set his grandchildren this year.

Memorising poetry is good for everyone. Brandreth cites scientific research to say that memorising poetry can help keep your brain fit and well.

The Duchess of Cornwall, who recently took over from the Queen as patron of The Royal Society of Literature, admits to reciting poems to herself as she goes to sleep. Dame Judi Dench can still recite the whole of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



How much does it cost to run St. Andrew's?

As St Andrews Day approaches, and we are being asked to consider our financial contributions to the Church for the coming year, you may wonder how much it costs to run the church and how it is paid for.

Looking at the latest figures it is estimated that it will cost around £160,000 to run St Andrews' in 2019.

The largest item of expenditure is the 'Parish Share'. This is the sum that is paid to the Diocese of Bristol for the costs of 'ministry and mission' across the Diocese. This covers not only the cost of our Priest and his housing but also a share of costs of Diocese support in our area. This includes training and support for ministers, chaplaincies, the training of future ministers, training and advice for parishes and schools as well as the central management costs of the Diocese.

Parishes are asked annually to be as generous as possible in committing to a Parish Share figure, considering their ability to pay. The PCC has committed to a figure of £90,000 for this in 2019.

The second largest item is the church building itself, which costs in the region of £40,000. This covers heating, lighting, cleaning, repairs and insurance.

The remaining £30,000 covers the upkeep of services, music, office expenses, fundraising costs, and grants to charities.

How is all this paid for?

Approximately 60% of expenditure, or £96,000, is paid for by donations from the congregation as Planned Giving, collections, Gift Day or other sundry donations.

Fundraising events and trading – for example the Coffee shop, the Autumn Fayre, the 100 club and the Social Events committee contribute around £30,000.

Around £24,000 comes from investment income and the renting of the Church Flat. The remaining £10,000, comes from charges for the use of the church & hall, and fees for weddings and funerals.

rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

St Andrew's 100 Club

The winning numbers in October were 38 (£100) 49 (£40) 36 (£25)

Margaret Harrison (01249 652148)

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Forthcoming Events

Thursday December 6th, 12.00 for 12.30pm

North Wilts Bowls Club

Pre-Christmas Lunch

Thursday January 3rd, 2.15pm

St. Andrew's Club Room

Pam Mills,

'My Life Experiences'

St. Andrew's Coffee Shop



Wednesday Mornings
from 9.30 a.m. in Church

Talk, Friendship, Refreshment

Crossword Answers
(Based on NIV)

ACROSS:
1, Hide; 3, Disgrace; 9, Sonship; 10, Oaths; 11, Tutit; 12, Ignore; 14, Foreknowledge; 17, Ashram; 19, Men or; 22, Aroma; 23, Nineveh; 24, Amethyst; 25, Trod.

DOWN:
1, His staff; 2, Do not; 4, Impison-ments; 5, Groan; 6, Altered; 7, Easy; 8, Shrink; 13, Searched; 15, Re-store; 16, Lament; 18, Reach; 20, Never; 21, Jada.

A Letter from Uncle Eustace

On two wise men, one three-legged sheep and a tipsy tree

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten feet rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of recycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential

The advantages of 'Planned Giving'

Members contributions are vital to the church. From the Church's point of view 'Planned Giving' is the most efficient way to give. In the past year some members of the PCC have trialled a new method of planned giving called the 'Parish Giving Scheme'. The scheme uses direct debit payments, which are more secure, rather than standing orders and can be made monthly, quarterly, or from your bank. If you wish, your payment can be uprated each year for inflation.

The advantages of the scheme are that it reduces the church's own administrative work including the claiming of Gift Aid, it improves cash flow and does not require completing a new standing order form each year. The scheme is administered by an independent charity funded by a number of Dioceses.

If you are interested in switching to the Parish Giving Scheme or are a new donor please ask me, or Ros Harford for details.

Chris Norris

How A Christmas Carol first began - 175 years ago

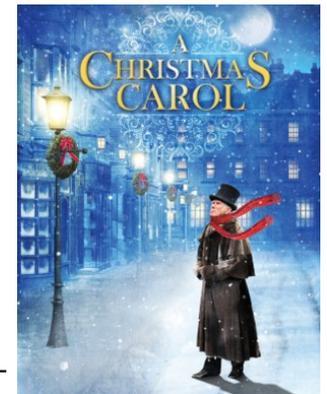
Charles Dickens' novella *A Christmas Carol* was first published 175 years ago, on 19th December 1843.

The first edition sold out by Christmas Eve, and by the end of the next year 13 editions had been published. In 1849 he began public readings of the story, which proved so successful that he completed 127 before he died in 1870. The book has never been out of print.

The "ghost story" was completed in six emotional weeks: he apparently composed much of the work in his head while taking night-time walks of 15 to 20 miles around London, weeping and laughing.

His main concern was the themes of poverty and transformation. His central character, Scrooge, has become a byword for meanness, but he was in fact changed completely.

Dickens' biographer Claire Tomalin sees the story as 'an allegory of the Christian concept of redemption.'



Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 23rd Dec – Advent 4

NO 8am service

10am Said Eucharist with hymns

4pm Children's Crib Service

Monday 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

7pm Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Service

Tuesday 25th Dec – Christmas Day

8am Said Eucharist

10am All Age Eucharist



The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Change Ringers Quarter Peals at St Andrew's Church, Chippenham



Sunday, 21st October 2018

**1260 Doubles (2m)
780 Grandsire; 480 Plain Bob**

1 Richard Iles	4 Jane M Ridgwell
2 Linda Drummond-Harris	5 Andrew K Woolley ©
3 Joanna Wheatland	6 Nicki Shewring

6: 1st quarter at 1st attempt

For evening service, and to celebrate the birthday today of Eleanor Stowe, daughter of Bob Mustow. Also part of the G & B Quarter Peal Fortnight

If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away.

Anon

Diary for December

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|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 2 | <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> | 8.00 am Said Eucharist, traditional language, St. Andrew's Church |
| | | 10.00 am All Age Eucharist, St. Andrew's Church |
| | | 10.00 am Patronal Festival, St. Nicholas Church |
| Monday 3 | 1.30 pm | Art Group, St. Andrew's Church |
| Tuesday 4 | 1.30 pm | Andy's Tots, St. Andrew's Church |
| Thursday 6 | 7.30 pm | Carols around the piano, St. Andrew's Church |
| Saturday 8 | 10.00 am | Coffee morning for Church flowers, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 7.30 pm | Rotary Concert, St. Andrew's Church |
| Sunday 9 | <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> | |
| | 8.00 am | Said Eucharist, traditional language, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 4.00 pm | Andy's at 4, St. Andrew's Church |
| Monday 10 | 1.30 pm | Art Group, St. Andrew's Church |
| Tuesday 11 | 9.30 am | Snowdrop Carol Service, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 1.30 pm | Andy's Tots, St. Andrew's Church |
| Thursday 13 | 7.30 pm | Abbeyfield Christmas Concert, St. Andrew's Church |
| Saturday 15 | 7.30 pm | Village Singers Concert, St. Andrew's Church |
| Sunday 16 | <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> | |
| | 8.00 am | Said Eucharist, traditional language, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 10.00 am | Family Worship, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 11.15 am | Holy Communion, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 6.30 pm | Carol Service, St. Nicholas Church |
| Monday 17 | 6.00 pm | Charter School Carol Service, St. Andrew's Church |
| Tuesday 20 | 6.00 pm | Kings Lodge Carol Service, St. Andrew's Church |
| Friday 21 | 12.30 pm | Monkton Park School Carol Service, St. Andrew's Church |
| | | <i>Christmas Services: See notice on opposite page</i> |
| Sunday 30 | <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> | |
| | 8.00 am | Said Eucharist, traditional language, St. Andrew's Church |
| | 10.00 am | All Age Eucharist, St. Andrew's Church |