

THE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

50<sup>th</sup>  
issue!

St. Andrew's Church Chippenham with St. Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas



*Photo: Beth McNally – one of my favourites of the Church!*

Shrove Tuesday

Letters from  
Rod

Maundy  
Money

Events Updates

All of your  
favourite regular  
features and  
updates

[www.standrewschippenham.org.uk](http://www.standrewschippenham.org.uk)

**No. 50**  
**February 2023**

# THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## Parish Priest:

Rod Key 652788  
Vicarage: 54a St Mary Street

## Curate

Anton Campbell  
[revanton@outlook.com](mailto:revanton@outlook.com)

## Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

## Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945  
Gavin Macrae 659922

## Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Harrison 652148  
Maurice Chadwick  
[Mauricechadwick25@gmail.com](mailto:Mauricechadwick25@gmail.com)

## Church Administrator

Jen Corton 655947

## Organist and Music Director

Paul Fortune 652643  
[Paulandmyra25@gmail.com](mailto:Paulandmyra25@gmail.com)

## Magazine Editor

Remy Osman  
[remyworldpeace@hotmail.com](mailto:remyworldpeace@hotmail.com)

## The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT  
Tel: (01249) 655947

Open Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri  
Morning for general enquiries  
and Monday 6pm-6:30pm for  
Wedding and Christenings  
enquiries

To get in touch or book the Hall,  
please email us at [kingalfredhall@gmail.com](mailto:kingalfredhall@gmail.com)



Photo: Mark O'Loughlin

## Why does water run downhill?

"Sweetheart ... it just does!" I guess that all of you who are parents (or grandparents!) with young children have, like me, been guilty at some time or other of answering their inquisitiveness with some kind of cop-out response like that.

Why? Why? Why? From the age of three to at least twelve, every well-adjusted child should be asking why all the time. Do we know how to answer them? Why does water run downhill? We can assume (with relief) that they don't want the full scientific answer – the molecular structure of water and the gravitational forces acting on matter – but neither are they likely to be convinced by the old-fashioned idea that "up is up and down is down". Modern parents are told that answers to children should be open-ended – "What do you think?" (also recommended for the "Is Father Christmas real?" bombshell) – but kids in my experience just say "I asked first"...

I'd like to suggest a different answer. But firstly, a moment to think about how amazing water is.

Chemically speaking, H<sub>2</sub>O should be a gas. There's no other similar compound that is a liquid.; at 100 degrees C (boiling point) it becomes a vapour and at 0 degrees C (freezing point) it become a solid. Our planet spins round the sun at the exact distance, not too close not too far, where life can exist because water is a liquid. Like any other liquid, cold water sinks and hot water rises (watch your kettle boil), BUT, unlike any other liquid that exists, water, when it cools down to between 40C and freezing point, starts to rise again. Scientists can tell you how this happens, but not why. But the consequence of this singularly strange behaviour is astounding. Just before it freezes, water in a cold pond rises to the surface again and ice forms on the top of the pond not the bottom, insulating the water below and stopping it all from freezing. So life can survive. There's no earthly reason why water should do this, but if it didn't, all our seas and lakes would freeze from the bottom upwards and stay frozen, and there would be no life on earth.

We are in danger of producing a generation that never stops to think of the miracle of life and the world we live in, because we've stopped giving God the credit for anything. The great majority of adults in this country believe God made the world, but we don't share that conviction with our children. Water is a miracle. A miracle that God made exactly the way it need to be for you and me to exist which is what He planned. And God saw that it was good.

Why does water flow downhill?  
Because God wants it to!

*Best wishes*

*-Rod*



## 2023 Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a church's register of electors, it is a list of those qualified to vote at the Annual Parish Church Meeting where elections for the PCC and the Deanery Synod take place. Those entitled to have their names on this roll have to be 16 years of age or more and they must reside in the relevant parish or be regular worshippers in church whose roll they wish to join. You can check if your name is already on the Electoral Roll. Copy of the New Roll was created in 2019 and will be in place UNTIL 2024 and revised on an annual basis. (Copy will be available at the back of church). If your name was entered on the Electoral Roll in 2019, then you DO NOT need to fill out another application form,

Concerning the Revision of the Church Electoral Roll 2022, notices will be on the Notice Boards of St Andrew's & St Nicholas for 14 days from 12th Feb 2023. Revision of the Roll commences on Sun 26th February and application forms (available at the back of church) to be on the Electoral Roll must be returned to me by Sunday 12th March. Please note that this return date is final and non-negotiable because the Roll has to be completed not less than 15 days before the Annual Parish Meeting which is Tues 28th March 2023.. I cannot accept any forms after the return date until the end of the Annual Parish Meeting so, if you wish to vote in any of the elections or to stand for church office or election to the Parochial Church Council, I need to receive your form by 12th March 2023.

***Ros Harford***

Electoral Roll Officer





**The Social Events Committee**

**Invite you to a**

# **BEETLE DRIVE & PANCAKE PARTY**

**On Shrove Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2023**

**In the King Alfred Hall**

**6.00 for 6.30 pm prompt start**

**With Refreshments at half time**

**Sweet & Savoury Pancakes & Soft Drinks available**

**Raffle (Donations for Raffle welcomed)**

**See Dorryta & add your name to list at the back of church if  
you would like to come**

**Tickets available from 5th February**

**Adults £5 each, Children £2.50**



## Maundy Thursday

### **What is Maundy Thursday all about and what is Maundy Money?**

We are probably all aware that Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter but do we know that it also celebrates The Last Supper and the night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas?

Royal Maundy is a religious service in the Church of England held on Maundy Thursday. The service is held in one of the many cathedrals throughout the country. The British monarch or a royal official distributes 'Maundy Money' in red and white leather purses carried by Yeomen of the Guards on alms trays, to nominated male and female pensioners from local communities. From the fifteenth century, the amount of Maundy coins handed out, and the number of people receiving the coins (equal numbers of men and women) is related to the years of the Sovereign's life. The custom of distributing Maundy Money dates back to King Edward I but only since 1822 have the coins been specially minted. They are legal tender but do not circulate because of their silver content and numismatic value. A small sum of ordinary money is also given in lieu of gifts of clothing and food that the sovereign once bestowed on Maundy recipients. Money in the red purse is money in lieu of food and clothing while the money in the white purse is the Maundy coinage....

Until the death of King James II, the Monarch would also wash the feet of the selected poor people. There is an old sketch, done from life, of Queen Elizabeth I washing people's feet on Maundy Thursday.

The name "Maundy" and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction, or mandatum, of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper that His followers should love one another. In the Middle Ages, English monarchs washed the feet of beggars in imitation of Jesus, and presented gifts and money to the poor. Over time, additional money was substituted for the clothing and other items that had once been distributed.

Many Christians commemorate the Last Supper in a special Eucharist. In some churches, they conduct a washing of the feet. After the service the altar is stripped. Some Christians may hold an all night vigil in Church, remembering Christ's time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

A complete set of Maundy Money consists of:



groat (4p)



threepence (3p)



half-groat (2p)



penny (1p)

***Howard Hockedy***

## Letters from Rod

*Ahead of Rod's retirement, I wanted to reproduce a few of the letters that Rod sent us during the worst of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please forgive me for harking back for this difficult time for us all, but I feel that these so excellently demonstrate how lucky we were to have Rod as our Parish Priest. The letters show Rod's spiritual leadership, profound commitment to his congregation and the sacraments, and the courage not to turn away from the subject of dying. Most importantly, an unwavering faith that light shall overcome the darkness, and that through showing love to one another, we will all be able to get through such adversity. Now that we can look back from the "other side" of the pandemic, we can be truly thankful for the true blessing that was Rod during this time. **Remy Osman, Editor***

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

*[NB the original outlined some medical information, not reproduced here]*

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this letter is to help you look clearly and sensitively at the possibility that –if you become seriously ill with this virus – it might prove to be the end of your earthly life. If that is not something you wish to consider at the moment, and you would rather leave it aside until the time feels right, by all means do. There is no right or wrong choice, no "ought" or "should", simply the opportunity to consider this if you choose.

A part of the church's ministry is to prepare the dying for their death, and being prepared starts well before the event. It would be wrong for the Christian message to only be about doing what we must to save lives, important though that is; it is also about accepting and facing the reality that our life on this earth has a beginning and an end, as God planned it to have. Facing that end with faith, hope and love is actually more important than extending the length of it at whatever cost.



## ***Spiritual Preparation***

As a Christian, the most important preparation for death that I can make is to acknowledge it as a gift from God. Life is, of course a deeply precious gift, and to die before what I might consider to be my time is heart-breaking and very hard to bear. But death is also a gift, and it must come to us all, because our life in this world was never intended to last forever. A verse from the Canticle of St Francis “All Creatures of our God and King” puts it well:

*O thou, most kind and gentle death, waiting to hush our latest breath,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou leadest home the child of God, and Christ out Lord thy way hast trod  
O praise him, alleluia, alleluia!*

So here are three things I need to do:

### **1. Reassurance.**

I can give my loved ones the gift of reassurance, by letting them know that I may be anxious and afraid, but I’m willing to talk about it with them and let them be close to where I am. Planning my funeral or my end-of-life care might well feel an odd thing to do, but it gives those close to me access to me, and helps them express their thoughts and concerns too. I might think about the sentence, “In case I don’t recover from this, I want you to know .....,” and how I might complete it. I might especially think if I want to say sorry to anyone about anything. One of the effects of an infection on my lungs is that speech will become difficult, so it’s good for me to say these things early rather than late.

### **2. My library.**

As a priest, it’s been my privilege to be with many people at their time of death, and I know how valuable it will be for me to sing a hymn or recite a prayer in my final hours. This may have to happen in my head rather than with my voice, so the time to learn a few prayers and hymns, or maybe a psalm by heart is now. “Just as I am” and “The King of Love” are easy to learn, as are “Be Still” and “There is a Redeemer”. For prayers, I might learn “Father of all,” from the end of the Eucharist. The Lord’s Prayer is of course my foundation at such a time, but I don’t want it to be my only prayer. My selection of course won’t be yours, but to have some resources to call on will be good.

*Continued over...*

### 3. Trust

Above all, I will need to place myself in God's hands at the end of my life, reaching out my hand to him and let go of everything else. I imagine that this "letting go" will be the hardest part for me, especially when it comes to those I love, so I need to consciously entrust them into God's keeping, and have faith that he will watch over them with a love even greater than my own.

It will help me greatly to visualise this trust in God, and I will be choosing Mother Julian's little hazelnut in the palm of God's hand, and her words, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Or the image of a child in its mother's arms from **Psalms 131**, or Paul's words in **2 Timothy 4**, "the time for my departure is near, I have run the race, I have kept the faith...". But the words of Jesus on the cross are the best prayer of trust I can offer when I die, "Into your hands O Lord, I commend my spirit."

I can also visualize God's hand reaching out to me in welcome, forgiveness and healing. The father running to meet his prodigal son in the parable might give me this picture, or the lovely words from **Isaiah 43**, "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name and you are mine."

As I said, as a priest I have hugely valued the experience of being with someone when they die. Even when this has been a struggle for someone physically, I have seen on every occasion the courage people find for that final letting go, and the peace which descends on them at the last. Dying is a deeply spiritual moment which words cannot express, and everything I have experienced of that moment leads me to believe it is indeed a gift, the path that leads home a child of God.

If there's any of the content of this letter that you feel uncertain about, or if you would like to talk any of it through with me, please don't hesitate to call me.

God bless

Rod x

## Mothers' Union Update

In January, Rev. Anton came to speak to a well attended meeting about his faith and his role in the Police.

He described his early life with his family where Church was always important. After an early career in the Civil Service, he applied to Gloucestershire Police and was accepted. After serving in various units, he was promoted to Inspector and soon thereafter to Chief Inspector. During this time, he was also undertaking his LLM training which lasted three years culminating in his being licensed in Gloucester Cathedral.

Anton related several case studies and explained how he is able to convey his faith to others as the link between faith and policing is really strong. God's hand in his life has always been clear. Through his faith and his work, he has been able to 'fight the corner' of individuals who might not be listened to elsewhere and he believes the example of how we live can often be more important than what we say.

***Sue Haslop***



## **ST ANDREW'S CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTION**

*We're pleased to say that **£296.11** is being sent on to the Children's Society from St Andrew's Church.*

*Money collected from the box holders was £163.07 and the collection held at the Christingle Service in December was £132.14.*

*Thank you to all the box holders for their contributions (there are additional boxes if you would like to support this worthy cause).*

**Margaret Harrison**

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Children's  
Society**

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should feel  
alone**



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# North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra

The North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra will give its next concert in St. Andrew's church on **Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.**

***Tickets are £12 adult; £1 accompanied children.***

Available from: [www.wegotickets.com/northwiltsochestra](http://www.wegotickets.com/northwiltsochestra);  
Neeld Community Hall & Arts Centre 01249 446699 or their website  
at the door and from orchestra members.

After the one hour marathon symphony we move to the opposite extreme.

**Film music** We all love a night at the cinema and music is an integral part of the experience. We are going to give a programme of short pieces. Some were composed for specific films; others were chosen by directors from the standard repertoire. The programme will include:

Harry Potter suite A selection from John Williams' much-loved score including: Hedwig's theme, The Philosopher's Stone, the flying theme and Harry's Wondrous World.

Star Wars suite Still showing regularly on TV Star Wars has enduring appeal. Themes include the main, Princess Leia's, Darth Vader's, Yoda's and the Throne Room.

Schindler's List Three pieces from this long, multi award winning, work: Main theme, Jewish town, and Remembrances.

Other works will include: Ride of the Valkyries, Adagio from Spartacus, Overture to William Tell and Cavalleria Rusticana.

Altogether we guarantee you a night of toe tapping fun. Why not encourage children to come in costume?! And we shall send you out humming your favourite themes.

**Future concerts** June 10 to include: Bruch concerto for violin & viola and Brahms' Symphony 1. November 18 programme t.b.c.

The NWSO acknowledges with thanks the permission of the Rector to perform at St. Andrew's church and the continuing help of the Church Wardens and other staff in staging our concerts.

*Refreshments will be available in the interval in support of WellBoring*

## Well Boring Update

***Nigel Linacre***, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board of Trustees for Wellboring, has been named by His Majesty, King Charles III, in the New Year Honours list.

Nigel, is the recipient of the Order of the British Empire Medal (BEM), in recognition of his charitable efforts in helping to bring clean water to thousands of people to communities in Kenya and other countries across Africa.

The Order of the British Empire was established by King George V in 1917 to honour the outstanding achievements of people across the United Kingdom, rewarding contributions to the Arts, Sciences, Charitable work and Public Service.

**A huge congratulations** to Nigel for this well deserved and prestigious achievement!



# Parish Noticeboard

## Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

5<sup>th</sup> February 2023      *Communion*      3.30pm

19<sup>th</sup> February 2023      *Evensong with Communion*      3.30pm

5<sup>th</sup> March 2023      *Communion*      3.30pm

***Sheila Laurence***

01249 740687

## **100 Club Draw for last month**

£100: 68      £40: 81      £25: 21

***Margaret Harrison***

*A successful quarter peal was rung...*

**Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association**  
**St Andrew's Chippenham, Wiltshire**

Sunday, 8 January 2023 in 48m (18–1–5 in Eb)

## **1260 Grandsire Triples**

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jane Ridgwell        | 2 Carole Simpson |
| 3 Joanna Wheatland     | 4 Morley Bray    |
| 5 Edward A Spearey     | 6 John Stott     |
| 7 Andrew K Woolley (C) | 8 Ruth Beavin    |

*Rung for evensong and to celebrate the births of Edward Alexander Wheatland 11.7.2021 and Clement Edmund James Collings 9.9.2022. Grandsons for Joanna Wheatland & Pam Mack.*

## EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

**Saturday 4 February 6.00pm**

*Film Night in Aid of Christian Aid*

**Tuesday 21 February 6.00pm**

*Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive*

**Saturday 18 March 7.30pm**

*North Wilts Symphony Orchestra*  
(details on page 14)

**Saturday 25 March 7.30pm**

*Wessex Concert Orchestra*

**Sunday 23 April 7.30pm**

*Wiltshire Young Musicians*

**Friday 26 – Monday 29 April**

*Chippenham Folk Festival*

**The annual subscription of £10 for this magazine is now due.**

Please send payment to Sue Haslop, 64 Sadlers Mead,  
Chippenham, SN15 3PL.

Cheques should be made payable to St. Andrew's P.C.C.

*Thank you.*



# Who's Who?

## Parish Priest:

Rod Key (01249) 652788  
St Andrew's Vicarage  
54a St Mary Street  
SN15 3JW  
[Keychippenham@gmail.com](mailto:Keychippenham@gmail.com)

## Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

## Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945  
Gavin Macrae 659922

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Margaret Harrison 652148  
Maurice Chadwick 657233  
[Mauricechadwick25@gmail.com](mailto:Mauricechadwick25@gmail.com)

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Jen Corton 655947

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Paul Fortune 652643  
[Paulandmyra25@gmail.com](mailto:Paulandmyra25@gmail.com)

## Magazine Editor

Remy Osman  
[remyworldpeace@hotmail.com](mailto:remyworldpeace@hotmail.com)

## Head Server

Ruth Harvey 654214

## The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT  
Tel: (01249) 655947

To make arrangements for  
Baptisms, Marriage, Reading of  
Banns etc or to Book the Hall or  
Church or concerts and events,  
please email us at  
[st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk](mailto:st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk)

## Sacristan (at St. Andrew's)

Brian Elliot 463230

## Sacristan (at St. Nicholas')

Elizabeth Sexton 660235

## PCC Secretary (St. Andrew's)

Pip Higman 247269  
[Pip@higman.eu](mailto:Pip@higman.eu)

## PCC Secretary (St. Nicholas)

Sheila Laurence 740687

## PCC Treasurer

Chris Norris 812945  
[chris\\_norris51@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris_norris51@hotmail.co.uk)

## Assistant Treasurers

Brian Elliot 463230  
Sue Wood 650478

## Treasurer (St. Nicolas')

Wendy Reeves 650622

## Weekly Notice Sheet

Ros Harford 812190

## Care Group Co-ordinator

Eryl Spencer 651565

## Youth and Children

Eryl Spencer 651565

## Gift Aid Officer

Sue Wood

## Giving Officer

Gavin Macrae 659922

## Electoral Roll Officer

Ros Harford 812190

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jen Corton  
[standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com)

# Groups and Organisations at St. Andrew's

## Robed Choir and Singers

Paul Fortune 652643  
[Paulandmyra25@gmail.com](mailto:Paulandmyra25@gmail.com)

## Bell-ringers

Caroline Emerson 658708

## Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

## 100 Club

Margaret Harrison 652148

## Vineyard Card Sales

Jackie Hannis 443779

## Traidcraft

Debbie Warren  
[Debbie@cdjm.co.uk](mailto:Debbie@cdjm.co.uk)

## Flower Arrangers

Dorryta Hayward 653322

## Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Caroline Emerson 658708

## Mothers' Union

Denise Addison 814843  
[denise.addison@googlemail.com](mailto:denise.addison@googlemail.com)

## PCC Sub-Committees

### Fabric Committee

Paul Wilson 07515357666

### Social Events

Dorryta Hayward 653322

### Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

### Organ Rebuild Committee

Chris Higman  
[Chris@higman.eu](mailto:Chris@higman.eu)



## When You Pray . . . .

Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.



**Pierre Teilhard de  
Chardin, SJ**  
(1881-1955)

## A Final Word

I am amazed this is issue number 50! It really is remarkable to think about quite how much has happened both in the world, and indeed my own life since issue one. I remember vividly starting work on the first edition while in Sydney back in December 2018, on the one rainy day during the three weeks I visited Australia. It was actually just as I was first chatting to my now-wife Hera and I was so excited to spend more time with her soon (the fact that she was interested in the magazine was a green flag!).

It has been a pleasure to edit this magazine from Singapore since I moved, and keep in touch with friends in Chippenham. I hope that it will be a way that we can continue to stay in touch with Rod or anybody else who might, sadly, be moving on.

Thank you again to everybody who sends articles, photos and other pieces of content to include each month. I really could not do this without your support!

Very best wishes, and here is to the next 50!

***Remy Osman – Editor***

# Church Services

St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chippenham with St. Nicolas' Tytherton Lucas

## St Andrew's Church Chippenham

### **9am Eucharist**

Alternating between traditional and contemporary language, this is a said service.

### **10.30am Eucharist**

The main Parish Eucharist with singing and congregational hymns. Led by our robed choir on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and some 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and the singing group on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### **Evensong**

*6:30pm Second Sunday of the Month*

## St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

**Evening Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.**

*3.30pm during the winter months October to March*

*6.30pm during the summer months April to September.*

Please see inside on page 16 for more details.

This issue of the magazine was sponsored by:

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