

THE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



*Photo: Marc Allum*

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in 2023

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All of your  
favourite regular  
features and  
updates

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**No. 49**  
**January 2023**

# THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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Photo: Mark O'Loughlin

## Name above all Names (1<sup>st</sup> January is the Feast of the Naming of Jesus)

**JHWH** - those four consonants were as close as you were allowed to get. Missing out the vowels was, of course, normal in writing scripture – but when you read it out loud, you weren't allowed to say it, you had to say, "Adonai"; the LORD.

What am I on about? God's name. Whenever God's name comes up in our translations of the Old Testament, a strange form of lettering is used – the LORD WITH BLOCK CAPITALS, rather than "the Lord" (have a look in your bible!). That's because it isn't the actual word that is written. It's expressing the same convention as writers of the Hebrew text used for God's name: written "JHWH" but never pronounced. Whenever you saw it in scripture you said "Adonai" – "Lord", but God's actual name was never spoken. It was too holy.

Before Christmas, you couldn't make a graven image of God and you couldn't say God's name. Much the same as you couldn't offer an unclean animal in sacrifice, or use an unclean pot to cook a sacred meal. All these things could jeopardise human awareness of God's holiness, his separation from the tainted things of this world.



In many ways, this guarding of God's holiness was utterly crucial. It protected Israel from the idolatry of the pagan world around. Only they kept the true faith pure; shining as a light in the darkness. God's chosen people stood out as the only worshippers of the one, true and living God, who dwells in unapproachable light.

**But...** it also explains the fine mess that the Pharisees had gotten themselves into. They pictured "un-holiness" as something contagious – like a new variant strain of Covid – so that you had to constantly protect yourself against uncleanness. Even Peter complained to God, "Nothing unclean has ever passed my lips." They tried to go around in a "holy bubble", not coming into contact with anything that might stain them (hence passing by on the other side). Oh dear! Hands, Face, Space may be crucial in not picking up Coronavirus, but it's not the way to avoid "spiritual contamination" – to keep yourself pure; unsullied by the godless world.

Then along came Christmas.

And eight days later, God was given the name Jesus. And we can say his name. And we can make statues and paintings of him, because he is a human being like us. And holiness is no longer to be found by keeping yourself untainted by the world. It's the light shining in the very unclean manger. The light in every place of human need and frailty. The light of the Name above all Names, that bids our sorrows cease.

The light in each other. The light, down here, where Jesus is.

Have a blessed 2023,

*Rod*



# Church Services in 2023

From January, we are making some changes to the church services on Sundays through each month. The 9am and 10:30am services will continue as before; other services will be held as follows:

## **1st Sunday**

*Andy's at 4;*

## **2nd Sunday**

*Evensong at 6.30pm;*

## **3rd Sunday**

*Sunday Club*

*Evening Service at 6.30pm*

*(Alternating between Taize & Prayer and Praise Service)*

## **4th Sunday**

*Family Worship, followed by Communion.*





## Parish Retreat



It is with much regret that due to an administrative error with Ammerdown the Parish weekend is not able to go ahead as planned.

**DO NOT fear!** Plans are already well under way to ensure a time of reflection and looking forward to what the future for the Parish holds.

So please keep **Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> March** free and look out for further details in the coming weeks.

***Rev. Anton Campbell***

**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.*

# St. Andrew's in the Snow







*Thanks to **Marc Allum**, **Gavin Macrae**, **Mark O'Loughlin** and **Beth McNally** for sending these excellent photos of St. Andrew's during the snowy weather last month!*



## 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***

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

*[5 days before national lockdown announced]*

Dear members of the St Andrew's family,

It is with great reluctance that I write to tell you that public worship on Sundays will be suspended at St Andrew's and St Nicholas' churches for the duration of the period of isolation to combat the virus.

Every fibre of my being makes me want to continue (even though, necessarily, most of our folk would need to stay away), and I find it hard to accept that people will be able to go shopping on a Sunday but not attend church. I would have hoped that we would have been the last one standing. But, as you may have seen, the archbishops have asked us to not gather for worship as a sign of our care and love for the most vulnerable members of society and, short of outright disobedience, I have little alternative but to comply.

However, the church will remain open from 8am to 7pm each day for those who are able to call in for prayer and quiet, and I will continue to celebrate the Eucharist at 8.30am on a Thursday and 10am on a Sunday so that everyone at home will be able to join in a time of prayer even in isolation, knowing that you are still part of the worshipping life of St Andrew's.

The churchwardens and I feel that the best thing we can do to support our continued prayer and “fellowship at a distance”, is to provide an extended weekly communication along the lines of the pewsheet, but with a simple form of worship, and a reflection and maybe the words of a hymn so that we can all join together at our normal time of Sunday worship. It may also be possible to record worship and share it in some way, but that probably won't be this Sunday!

- The other important thing for us to do is to care for one another as effectively as possible, and I would like very much to hear from you if you feel you can help in one of these three ways:
- If you are self-isolating, would you be willing to commit to telephoning maybe 4 or so others who are frail or housebound on a regular basis, and contacting me if you feel any pastoral or practical help is needed? We could then ask someone still mobile to fetch shopping etc or give any help that you cannot.
- If you are not in a vulnerable category, would you be willing to help with that kind of practical assistance when needed?
- Would you be willing to respond, if we hear in confidence of anyone in severe financial need, with a modest contribution to a fund to offer some relief?

This emergency is changing at such a rate that I'm sure it won't be long before we will need to adjust our plans! But for now, we'll try to find ways of being an effective community of faith in this worldwide crisis. It makes us aware of the fragility of our mortal existence, but God's kingdom and his promise are steadfast and unwavering. St Andrew's Chippenham has seen everything from war and civil unrest to plague and famine – so there's some resilience in our DNA!

Psalm 38, the psalm set for morning prayer today, echoes our petition to God in this time of great need, ***“Be not far from me O my God. Make haste to help me O Lord, God of my salvation.”***

Every blessing,  
Rod

## New Year Worship Music Playlist

*The theme for this playlist is  
God's constancy through seasons of change*




Hymn/Song	Artist
I Wonder as I Wander	Audrey Assad
We Three Kings	The Hound + Fox ft. Tim Foust
Babu Yetu	Stellenbosch University Choir
My Worth is Not in What I Own	Sounds Like Reign
Peace, Be Still	Fountainview Academy
My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord	Concordia Choir
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	Acapeldridge
10,000 Reasons	Celtic Worship ft. Steph Macleod

### How to find this music

Type the name of the song and the artist into the search bar of YouTube or a search engine. I use YouTube but some tracks will be available on other music platforms such as Spotify. Remember: Wiltshire Libraries offer help with use of tablets/smartphones!

Happy listening!

**Rebecca Snell**



# Mothers' Union Update

In December 2022, St Andrew's Mothers Union celebrated Advent at an engaging Chippenham Deanery service held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Corsham. Meeting the members of Corsham Branch made the occasion particularly enjoyable and we all agreed we should arrange further joint events in the future. A Summer Party was mentioned as a possibility.

We also arranged a Ladies Lunch at the beginning of December to include all ladies from St. Andrew's, not just MU members. About 20 ladies attended the North Wilts Indoor Bowls Club in Litherland Close and tucked into some delicious food, which included the traditional Christmas lunch as well as a number of other options. A good time was had by all.

***Jenny Norris***







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## Bell Ringing Update

A successful quarter peal for Evening Service was rung on **11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**. Details are as below.

You will notice that like last month, the quarter was of “Doubles” (which indicates that there were five bells actively involved in the changes).

This was deliberately chosen this time as an opportunity for a young and quickly progressing ringer (Ben van Alstede) to ring the sixth bell, which remained at the end of each change throughout.

For Ben, this opportunity was the final requirement to complete the “Level 3” stage of a training programme known as “Learning the Ropes”, hence the abbreviation “Ltr level 3”.

***Morley Bray***

### Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association

St. Andrew's Chippenham, Wiltshire

Sunday, 11 December 2022

**1260 *Doubles*** (1p/3m) in 45 mins

60 Stedman; 720 Grandsire; 240 each Reverse Canterbury & Plain Bob

1 Jane Ridgwell

2 Lin Drummond-Harris

3 Sara Bye

4 Morley Bray

5 Andrew K Woolley (C)

6 Ben Van Alstede

1st quarter as cover, completing Ltr level 3.

Rung for evensong.

## Letter from Uncle Eustace: *On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church*

*My dear Nephew Darren,*

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

*Your loving uncle, Eustace*  
(The Rectory, St. James the Least)



# Parish Noticeboard

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

8th January 2023      *Communion*      3.30pm

22nd January 2023      *Evensong with Communion*      3.30pm

***Sheila Laurence***

01249 740687



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

£100: 70    £40: 64    £25: 71

***Margaret Harrison***



## 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*

**Saturday 25 March 7.30pm**

*Wessex Concert Orchestra*

**Sunday 23 April 7.30pm**

*Wiltshire Young Musicians*

**Friday 26 – Monday 29 April**

*Chippenham Folk Festival*

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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.*

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## 100 Club

Margaret Harrison 652148

## Vineyard Card Sales

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### Social Events

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### Social Responsibility

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### Organ Rebuild Committee

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

## When You Pray . . . .

May, today, there be peace within you.  
May you trust God, that you are exactly where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities, that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing that you are a child of God.  
Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance and to bask in the sun.  
It is there for each and every one of you.



**Mother Teresa  
of Calcutta**  
(1919-1997)

## A Final Word

Wishing everybody a very happy and healthy 2023. The last year seemed odd in a way – while there was economic hardship and war in Europe, this seemed somewhat balanced by the hope that came from the reopening of the world as the Covid Pandemic abated and the inspirational resilience and resistance showed by Ukraine in the face of evil. All this only serves to remind us of the virtues of love for our neighbour and compassion for those less fortunate than us. It also gives us a real hope that there is much light in this world, and that light shall ultimately be triumphant over darkness. This is what our faith teaches, and something that can be seen whenever we look for it. I pray that there will be lots of light and blessing for us all in the year ahead. I am sure that St. Andrew's Church will be a beacon of this light for the wider community in Chippenham and beyond.

***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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