

THE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Scott Blum

More Al...

Wild Flowers in
the Garden

A dispatch from
Western Australia

Reaching out to
our Community

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No. 55
July 2023

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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and Monday 6pm-6:30pm for
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please email us at [kingalfredhall@
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Photo: Gavin Macrae

Darkness is emotive for most human beings

When I was a child I did not much like the dark and mum would leave the light on in the passage to the bedroom with the door slightly ajar until I had fallen asleep.

When I was a young man I underwent training as an Infantryman and much of this took place in the vast open countryside of the Salisbury plain, often at night during the hours of darkness and there is one particular occasion which has stuck in my memory. I was part of a group with orders to wait for darkness, then to move undetected to a point on the map several miles away to pinpoint the position of troops who were acting as enemy. This was the sort of thing we had done many times before and did not anticipate any problem with the task. When the light faded and night arrived the darkness was so intense that two men stood a few inches apart could not see each other, there was no moon, no stars or any source of light at all...

continued over

We were surrounded by a blackness of night that I had never experienced before or since. Any form of artificial light was out of the question as this would give our position away as we made our way across country, the solution we came up with was to use the lowest form of light we had, our compasses. Each man had a compass attached to his tunic by a long lanyard, the protective cover over the face was opened and each man slung his compass over his shoulder so that the man behind him could see the luminous glow and follow it. The lead man was given the unenviable task of using his own compass to take us in the right direction and use the glow to read his map as we encountered the features on it. We had difficulties but the darkness of the night was, as in my childhood experience, merely a physical barrier to be overcome.

Real darkness has nothing to do with night or day, it is a dark place which we find ourselves in and which is not visible to others unless we want it to be. Almost all of us will have experienced a dark place at least once in our lifetime and this is when we have needed our loved ones and our friends to help us through. There are times when we need a friend and there are times when we need to be a friend. The emotional journey through the Easter story brings this home to us as Jesus persevered through the darkest of times even though he could have stepped aside at any time. His love and dedication carried us with him through into the brightest of days.

He is the light, we all have a friend in Jesus.

Barry Haywayrd

Wild Flowers in the Churchyard

The area of the churchyard nearest to the vicarage, which has been left uncut, will be giving a colourful display of wild flowers this month and providing nectar and pollen sources for a wide range of invertebrates, which desperately need this help. Many of the flowers have been deliberately planted over the past two years, while many others have appeared spontaneously, taking advantage of the absence of mowing!

Wild flowers are not only restricted to this area but can be found throughout the churchyard in places where they have managed to escape the mower. So far, more than 50 species have been identified as listed below.

Common Sorrel
Lesser Celandine
Bulbous Buttercup
Creeping Buttercup
Meadow Buttercup
Common Poppy
Yellow Corydalis
Shepherd's Purse
Perennial Wall Rocket
Herb Bennett
Bramble
Red Clover
White Clover
Bird's-foot Trefoil
Herb Robert
Sun Spurge
Musk Mallow

Common Mallow
Common St John's Wort
Ground Elder
Primrose
Cowslip
Scarlet Pimpernel
Common Cleavers
Green Alkanet
Field Forget-me-not
Self-heal
Red Deadnettle
Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Germander Speedwell
Ribwort Plantain
Hoary Plantain
Field Scabious
Common Daisy

Yarrow
Corn Marigold
Oxeye Daisy
Common Ragwort
Groundsel
Smooth Sow Thistle
Perennial Sow Thistle
Black Knapweed
Cornflower
Chicory
Dandelion
Common Cat's Ear
Beaked Hawk's-beard
Field Wood-rush
Wild Daffodil
Snowdrop
Spanish Bluebell

When you walk through the churchyard, and particularly when passing the wild flower area, do have a look and enjoy the flowers, see how many you can identify and see how many insects you can spot taking advantage of the free food. This could be something to share with younger members of the family – the gift of opening their eyes to the wonder of the natural world. But please keep on the mown paths. If you happen to identify a flower not included above, please let me know and I'll add it to the list!

Michael Sammes



Impressions of Western Australia

As most of you know, I am currently just over a month into my extended holiday with my daughter and family in Australia. I flew with Qantas on the non-stop direct flight from LHR to Perth Airport (taking just over seventeen hours), which is about ten miles from where they are staying in a small town called Darlington, located in an area known as the Perth Hills, which in turn is approximately 17 miles north-east of Perth. The town grew up in the late 1800s, when an enterprising doctor from Perth moved here to plant vines and develop a winery and called it the Darlington Winery, which is still flourishing! This was not called after the English city but after the Darling Range which is actually some distance away to the north. Other settlers followed, then the railway arrived, and a small township grew up. It still has the feel of a village, with a number of small shops and local community groups. It was a popular area for tourists, mainly from Perth, about a hundred years ago: one of the more famous visitors being D. H. Lawrence.

I had made several visits to New South Wales where Clare and Dan were living previously, but they recently made the overland trek to Western Australia, in the search for a larger property with more land. At the moment they are living in a rented property, so this is only a temporary home, but more of that later! Certainly, WA has fewer inhabitants. It is the largest state in Australia and really only the area near Perth is more densely populated. Much of the land is covered by swathes of woodland/bush. Luckily this isn't the season for bush fires, but there is quite a lot of controlled burning taking place at the moment, in an attempt to create firebreaks and prevent spreading if a fire should start.

There are many unusual trees and plants, together with more familiar ones: mimosa (acacia or wattle), fruit including limes and mandarins, plus camelias and roses. Perhaps one of the strangest things are the fruits of the red gum tree ("marri" in the Aboriginal language) which are native here and called Honkey Nuts.

These litter the ground in great profusion, in varying stages of development from green to dark brown, and are so incredibly hard that it is impossible to think of anything being able to eat them. However, they are apparently enjoyed by various species of black cockatoo, whose beaks are set at an angle and who drop them from the trees on to tarmac surfaces or garage roofs to break the shells and eat the seeds inside. They are very noisy birds, as are the parakeets. There are some kangaroos living nearby but I have only caught glimpses of them so far, although a possum came into the garden one evening. There are few koalas about, due to disease and the devastating fires a few years ago.

The local government area is known as Mundaring Shire. A much smaller sub-division of land than English shires. The town of Mundaring is bigger than Darlington, with a good choice of supermarkets and other necessary shops, including the ubiquitous "bottle-os" ("bottle stores", i.e. liquor stores!). Talking of shops, it was surprising to see the Woolworths sign again, but here it is actually a larger supermarket chain. In the opposite direction to Mundaring is the much larger town of Midland. This is where the nearest station is, from where the train goes to Perth and beyond to the coast.

We have visited some of the local beauty spots, including Lake Leschenaultia, which was constructed at the turn of the 20th century to provide water for the steam railway locomotives. The railway was closed in the 1960s and in a number of areas has been converted into a Heritage Trail, providing pleasant, level walking and cycling tracks. Obviously, being located in the Perth Hills, everywhere is very hilly!

We have visited Perth itself, which on first sight seems to be a city with a quite a few green, open spaces, and have also been to the coast. Two nearby beaches are named Fremantle and Cottesloe, after a British naval captain, Charles Fremantle and his elder brother, Thomas, Baron Cottesloe who, together with James Stirling, seized the Swan River area and what eventually became Perth for the British in May 1829: commemorated annually here in WA as a public holiday, instead of celebrating the King's Birthday, as the other states do!

I have been attending the local church and joined a nearby "Hub" where many activities are laid on for senior citizens. In both places people are very friendly and I have been warmly welcomed. There are quite a number of "ex-pats", including a few "£10 poms", and many people have relatives in the UK. I have also been in contact with a Probus Club and to a U3A meeting, and am going to a couple of concerts in the next week or two, so there is plenty happening around here!

Of course, we are now in midwinter and I have been surprised at how cold the weather is, especially at night! In the evening it gets dark soon after 5.00 p.m. The days are usually sunny and bright, although we have had some days of really torrential rain and several thunderstorms. There have been a few rainbows, too, which give one hope!

Now the move to a permanent home, alluded to earlier. "We" are due to move to another locality, Parkerville, some six miles away on 28th June. Parkerville is named after the Parkers, a well-known legal family from Perth. It was also home to a large orphanage, established by two Sisters of the Church (an Anglican Order) who had come out to Australia, one of whom - Sister Kate Clutterbuck - had family connections with Hardenhuish House (now Hardenhuish School admin. building) in Chippenham! The work that she started is still being carried on today in a different form.

The new house is much larger, set in three acres of land, with a "granny cottage" in the grounds. As yet, I have only seen things from the outside, so am looking forward to seeing the inside! There is a 'bus that passes the door, so I am hoping to be able to explore more of the area.

That concludes my initial impression of Western Australia!

Eileen Yates

Mothers' Union Update

On Monday, 12th June, nine members and three friends from St. Bartholomew's Church, Corsham Mothers' Union enjoyed a Cream Tea at the home of Denise, our branch leader. What a pleasant way to spend a summer afternoon! The sun shone, the scones, strawberries and cake were delicious and the garden was looking beautiful.

A small charge was made and the funds raised will go to support AFIA (Away From It All), a scheme which gives days out at the seaside to families who cannot afford it.

Our thanks go to Denise and Kenneth for their kind hospitality.

Sue Haslop



Reaching out to our Community

One of the sections in the profile of the church which we produced for potential Parish Priest candidates was “engagement with the wider community”. Some of the items we included were obvious. Everyone knows about coffee shop which provides a welcoming spot to meet old and new friends. However, there were eleven in total not all of which were known to me. I hope the full profile will appear on our website before too long and you can see whether you got all eleven!

You might ask why reaching out is important. Jesus says in Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden”. We should be visible and attractive as a Christian community. The 2021 census, mirroring a national trend, showed around 60% of people recorded their religion as Christian in Chippenham but this was 13% down on the previous census and the fall was primarily due to an increase in the category of no religion. We are at the top of a hill but if no one comes near us or sees our relevance then we are failing in our mission. Fortunately, our open-door policy does encourage people in for quietness and prayer, we also welcome others through Andy’s tots and provide a venue for language lessons to refugees. Even our use as a concert venue means people who never go near a church are aware of its beauty and stillness. During my time volunteering at the folk festival concerts in the church I had several conversations about the church and talked to a couple who had been married in the church 30 odd years before. Perhaps some will give Christianity another look.

The requirement to reach out is not confined to us collectively. As individual Christians we are also required to be a light to the people around us. That means being willing to share our faith when asked and to live in such a way that others can see God's love in us. As we are imperfect that means, individually and collectively, we need to maintain a close relationship with our heavenly father day by day.

And finally on the subject of light, during one of the folk concerts, a ray of late evening sunshine fell on a yellow Pentecost banner and lit it up. It was beautiful and lifted me spiritually. I hope it had the same effect on others. A big thank you to those who prepare church banners and flowers.

Gavin Macrae



Gavin's description of the sunray on the banner reminded me of one of my favourite moments at St. Andrew's, during Ascension Sunday May 2018 – when the sunlight caught the incense smoke and created this amazing angel/dove!

-Editor

CHIPPENHAM FLOWER CLUB



We are looking for new members to join, and we also welcome casual visitors or friends. We meet on the first Monday of every month at Sheldon School Hall. Doors open at 6.45pm and we finish around 9.30pm. Come and see some of the regions best demonstrators construct amazing floral displays, which are available to win via a raffle every month. Enjoy the peace and wellness that flowers can bring.

We also have a Practice Class, which meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Pewsham Community Centre. Doors open at 7.00pm and we finish at 9.30pm. This is a great evening, learning or developing skills in flower arranging, with a NAFAS judge to give help and assistance.



Full details of our programme can be found on our website www.ChippenhamFlowerClub.co.uk and/or you can follow us on Facebook as Chippenham Flower Club, where you can like and share our page!

Come along and join us – we are waiting to welcome you.





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Letter from Uncle Eustace: *On why we don't bother to lock the church*

My dear Nephew Darren,

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.

We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door – which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained-glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

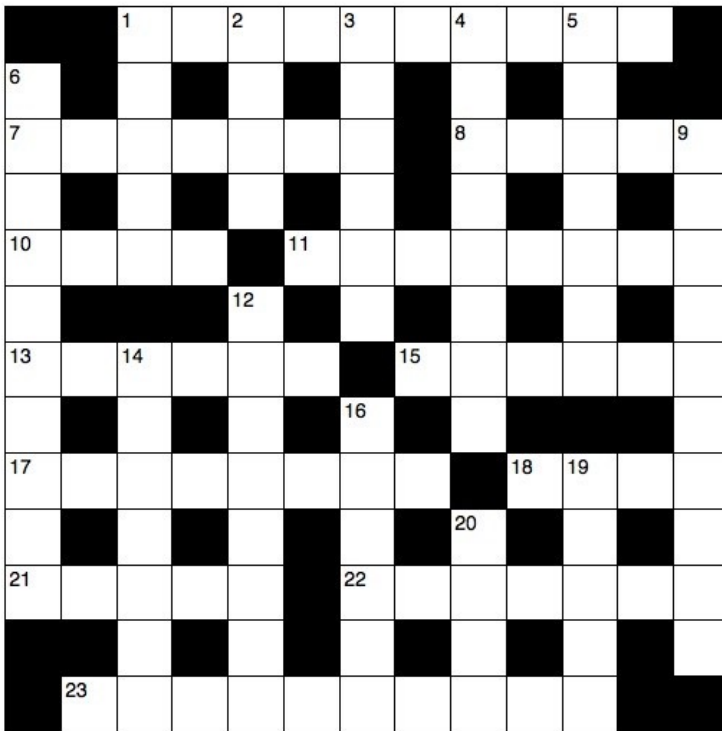
As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places that keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners – and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school, and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors inside. So often, on hearing the words "let us pray" or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

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





Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
 10 Girl's name (4)
 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Answers on page 17

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
 12 Abusive outburst (8)
 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
 16 Printing errors (6)
 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

9th July *Evensong at St. Andrew's Church* 6.30pm
 23rd July *Holy Communion* 9am

Sheila Laurence
 01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 86 £40: 25 £25: 46

Margaret Harrison

To St Andrew's PCC,

Please accept a small donation to purchase a plant or shrub for King Alfred's garden in remembrance of our 17yrs as tenants in Church Flat and the work both Bill and I did to make a garden out of the derelict piece of waste ground that greeted us in 1998. We have shared many happy times with parishioners over the years – barbecues, Christian Aid days, parties and Night Prayers around our fire pit. May it rise again as a beautiful community space.

Much love and thanks,

Sue Reed xx
Bexhill, April 2023



*The plant bought with
 Sue's generous donation*

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW’S

Saturday 1 July 7.30pm
Chippenham Male Voice Choir

Monday 3 July 7.30pm
Wiltshire Young Musicians

Saturday 8 July 7.30pm
Wessex Concert Orchestra

Saturday 15 July 7.30pm
CLOGS

Saturday 9 September All Day
Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Saturday 23 September 6.00pm
Harvest Supper

Sunday 24 September 10.30am
Harvest Festival

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

Who's Who?

Parish Priest:

Vacancy

Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945

Gavin Macrae 659922

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Sue Wood

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100 Club

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Organ Rebuild Committee

Mary Pennel

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Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Communications Committee

Paris Hall Committee

Friends of St. Andrew's

Jenny Norris 812945

When You Pray

We pray not to change God but to change ourselves. We pray to form a living relationship, not to get things done. Prayer is a symbiotic relationship with life and with God, a synergy which creates a result larger than the exchange itself. God knows that we need to pray to keep the symbiotic relationship moving and growing. Prayer is not a way to try to control God, or even to get what we want. As Jesus says in Luke's Gospel, the answer to every prayer is one, the same, and the best: the Holy Spirit! God gives us power more than answers.



Richard Rohr
(born 1943)

Franciscan Priest
From a Daily Meditation

A Final Word

Eagle-eyed readers might have noticed that the photo of St. Andrew's on the front cover looks "not quite right"... and they'd be correct! Last month's AI-generated reflection seemed to spark interest, so I decided to use Artificial Intelligence again this issue. Remarkably, AI is now able to "expand" photos and generate imagery. The left hand of the photo on the front cover is "real" – a wonderful sunset photographed by Scott Blum. The right hand, just beyond the church tower (which is real), it is computer generated; I simply asked the AI to "expand this photo" and this is what it came up with! Even though it added a peculiar detail to the church roof, I think it did a remarkable job.

Given how easy it is to generate images or text nowadays, I have a renewed respect for the artists, writers and architects of the past who produced – without the aid of a computer – the Churches, music and writings that we enjoy today. Being moved through faith in God truly produced beauty into this world.

Remy Osman – Editor

While editing the magazine I listened to: *All-night Vigil - Sergey Rachmaninov & Symphony No. 2 'Hymn of Praise' – Felix Mendelssohn*

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 1st, 3rd and some 5th Sundays and the singing group on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Evensong

6:30pm Second Sunday of the Month

St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

Please see inside on page 16 for more latest details during vacancy.