

THE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Gavin Macfay

Vacancy
Update

The clock tower
close up

Interregnum or
Vacancy?

Poems and the
Arts

All of your
favourite regular
features and
updates

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Parish Priest:

Vacancy

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Photo: Gavin Macrae

All the different seasons

I have been thinking about seasons recently. I love living in a country that has 4 different seasons and all that that offers. As you read this, you may be sweltering in the sun or sheltering from the rain... but that's a British summer for you. Being pedantic by nature, I looked up the word in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (all 4000 pages!) and it offered three meanings, which have set me to thinking and then to sharing my thoughts.

The first meaning is a period of a year. The word apparently comes to us from Latin via Old French and means to sow. The links to agriculture are quickly obvious and can be applied world wide, even where it is either hot and dry or hot and wet. When thinking about seasons, it struck me that our spiritual life can feel seasonal: the dreary cold time when prayers seem to go unanswered and God cannot be found, then the easing of the bleakness as tiny shoots of hope appear or re-appear, the growing sense that our relationship with Mother God is in full ...flower and then a steadying down into perhaps a less exciting but still very lovely place that we find ourselves. These 'seasons' may occur and pass swiftly or slowly. Perhaps the challenge for us is to trust each has its right purpose and time.

A right time is the second definition offered by OED. Immediately one is reminded of the wonderful, thought-provoking and ultimately comforting words from Ecclesiastes, 3 vv1-8, starting *“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens”*.

Thinking about the words in the Lord’s Prayer, *“thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*, reminded and reassured me that the time and season for the activities of every living thing is known and approved by God. When we trust in her guardianship and guidance, the ups and downs of our lives, the joys and sadnesses, the changing personal ‘seasons’ perhaps become more bearable and then enriching.

The final meaning was not one I had thought of. Season can mean to add flavour and so to enhance. As I reflected on this, I began to see how God is so alert to the changing flavours of my life. When I have shed so many tears, her grace dilutes the salt; when life feels dull, the God of Surprises adds a little something and back comes the joy. When I have been sharp, I am reminded of the universality of God’s love and look to find a way to be gentle to the world. The ease of being sour is balanced by a God given chance to add sweetness to someone’s day and how much better I feel when I smile

Dear reader, thank you for coming on this seasonal journey with me. I hope that the coming months and changing seasons let us see God’s hands in all things.

Mary Pennell

OUR PARISH PRIEST VACANCY UPDATE

Our Churchwardens, Jenny & Gavin, announced on Sun 23rd July, that there were no appointments made for the vacancy of Vicar/Priest. The vacancy will be re-advertised in the Church Times on 8th, 15th, 22nd September—closing date for applications will be 26th Sept. Shortlisting on 2nd October, with Familiarisation day on Thurs 19th Oct, Interviews on Friday 20th October. A note of appreciative thanks to all involved in the preparation of the Parish Profile, for all the hospitality arrangements, those who did the meeting and greeting and for all the work that went on in the background, to Dorryta for the luncheon preparation and refreshments on the familiarisation evening, and most of all to Jenny & Gavin for their wise counsel on the Interview Day. We pray that God will send us the right person for the next stage in the life of St. Andrew's.

Ros, Jenny & Gavin





A stonemason assessing whether the plaque on the clock tower was in danger of falling off. It wasn't - but in surveying the tower he found two sizeable chunks of stone which were, and will be acted upon accordingly.

Photo: Gavin Macrae

INTERREGNUM OR VACANCY?

“Why”, I was asked, “do we call it a vacancy instead of an interregnum?” According to the dictionary an interregnum “is an interval when normal government is suspended, especially between successive reigns or regimes”. Do we really think of the role of a vicar as governing or reigning over a parish?

In the 1950s, as I contemplated the prospect of being ordained into the ministry of the Church of England this issue preoccupied me not a little. I perceived the laity of the Church of England as being very docile, we were a very clericalised church. It was not considered to be the role of the laity to take responsibility, except perhaps to help with the money! All this was before the arrival of synodical government which brought the laity into the governance of the Church.

As I thought about what my future role should be, I attended lectures on The Theology of the Laity by Hendrik Kraemer. At the core of his presentation was a reinterpretation of Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 12. This text is about the purpose of the various ministries to be found in the New Testament, and therefore was interpreted as defining the purposes of the ordained ministry in modern times.

The Authorised Version translates it: “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”. According to this the clergy have three tasks: to make Christians perfect, to do all the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ. If however, you take out the comma from that quotation and follow the New English Bible translation you have a totally different perspective: “to equip God’s people for work in his service, for the building up of the body of Christ.”

Here the central focus is quite different. It is not about the ministry of the parish priest, but about the daily life of Christians in the world. The ministry of the church is to equip all Christian people for their life in the world and to build up the community life of the church. Sharing together in worship, clearly plays a big part in fulfilling these purposes, especially the gathering for the Eucharist.

These different interpretations of Ephesians 4 verse 12 present us with two very different images of the Church. The first divides the church into clergy and laity, the clergy minister and the laity are ministered to. Laity is essentially a rather disparaging term with overtones of not being trained or authorised or qualified. Was I not right in my early years to see the laity then as being too docile, too submissive, too easily managed?

In the intervening years the understanding of the church has become more corporate, more participative. “Lay” ministries proliferate. Local ordained ministry evolved to affirm the natural leadership to be found in particular social contexts. To support Christians in their working lives chaplains may be found not only in hospitals, the armed forces and educational environments but also in other working contexts such as shops, offices and factories.

Therefore the the role of a new Vicar of Saint Andrews and Saint Nicholas will not be to govern us but to work with this community in the next stage of its development. We owe it to her or him, not “to sit this one out”, as we sometimes like to do but to work with her or him to build up this Christian community in which we all participate and to discover together how we may be better equipped to serve God in the world.

Bryan Pettifer

The Ancient Lanes of England

The ancient lanes of England
May wend their winding way
From who knows where to Goodness knows
To 'where are we today?'

Twixt walls of ancient stonework
O'er hills and valleys steep
The ancient lanes of England
Their grassy way they keep.

The ramblers now of England
May walk each stony street,
And think, as they are rambling
Of all those ancient feet

That trod those lanes of England
On each succeeding day
From where they lived to where they worked
They trod their working way.

Those ancient lanes of England
As vital, in their day
As rail tracks or aircraft routes
Or any motorway!

From farms they brought their produce
Their cereals and grains
Their cattle, milk, and butter too
Along those grassy lanes.

Nigel Beeton
(via Parish Pump)

Mothers' Union Update

At the July meeting we reminisced! We each spoke about a moment in our lives when we had visited somewhere which had made an impact on us in some way. It was interesting to hear about places from Scotland to the USA, and to see photos, some taken quite a few years ago. As usual we finished with tea, still remembering those precious moments. In all of the cases God was there, be it in family moments or the beauty of His wonderful world.

The August meeting will be Eryl speaking about Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union. Everyone is welcome to hear about an amazing lady who in the 19th century realised that young mothers with their small children needed to come together for friendship, and to help each other.

Denise Addison

Branch Leader

Mothers' UNION 
Christian care for families

God in the Arts: **'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini**

Each year as we look at Creation we see the cycle of the seasons. The earth comes alive in spring, blossoms and bears fruit in summer, gives up its goodness and glory in autumn, and seems to die in the sleep of cold winter. Each of those seasons has its moods and feelings, which we find mirrored in the turn of human life.

The joy of spring and summer go hand in hand with the sadness and resignation of autumn and winter in all that life brings us. When we look at our Lady in the Gospels, and this month of May is Mary's month, we see that mixture of joy and sadness.

In the Annunciation and at Christmas we share in the wonder and happiness of motherhood and new birth. A Son is born, but that birth brings anxiety and strain. Those strange words of Simeon in the Temple, losing the child in Jerusalem, watching her son grow, only to be rejected and crucified – these experiences brought Mary heartache and sorrow. But her maternal love sustains her through it all, and Mary is with the disciples at the glorious moment of Pentecost.



This range of moods in creation and in the life of Mary is caught up in the painting, 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance painters, and this work was created around 1500. It now hangs in the National Gallery in London. The background is full of the details of the world of nature and everyday life. We see some cows grazing and others resting. A farmer tends the livestock on one side of the painting, while a herdsman relaxes on the other. Mary in the centre is part of that creation with the blue of her robe like the sky above, while the russet shades beneath that blue mirror the earth on which she rests.

As we look more closely, we can see some disturbing signs of 'nature red in tooth and claw.' There is a bird to our left – perhaps a crane or egret – that is fighting with a snake. Above, on the top of a tall, thin, leafless tree there is another bird as black as death. We look at the babe sleeping in His mother's arms and sense His vulnerability for all her protective love. Some 30 years later Mary will cradle her Son in that same pose as His body is taken down from the cross: that heart-rending moment we know as the Pietà.

The Venetian landscape is like a peaceful May afternoon where spring is dissolving into high summer amid those contented signs of a clear sky and cows grazing. The serpent and the raven tell us that struggle and death can easily invade that scene. But they somehow pale into insignificance as we ponder that luminous affirmation of new life in the mother and child that dominate the canvas. They proclaim life; they proclaim life after death. The babe sleeping in Mary's arms will wake and grow through the seasons of life. Too soon we know His body will hang on a barren tree like the one where that bird of death perches. But that cycle of birth and spring leading to death and winter will be transformed as His risen body will walk into another landscape – the garden of Easter where the leaves never wither and the sky never darkens, for in that resurrection joy, all is life and light and life eternal.

Via Parish Pump

FoodBox Volunteer Recruitment Drive

FoodBox @ St Peter's Church is a volunteer organisation which collects surplus food from local stores, supplements this with purchased food, and distributes it to those in need throughout the Chippenham area.

It relies on volunteers donating a little of their time for tasks which typically last less than an hour. The tasks include administration, buying, collecting, delivering and packing.

St Andrew's was able to donate some money for this cause at the beginning of the year.

FoodBox is looking to increase its number of volunteers and will be holding a Volunteer's Recruitment Drive from 1030h to 1130h on Saturday 12th August in the Church Hall at St Peter's Church, Lords Mead, Chippenham SN14 0LL.

If you are interested in donating some of your time to help some of the 100+ households FoodBox supports each week, please join us for tea and cake whilst chatting with current volunteers.

Please email [StPetersFoodBoxRecruit @ gmail.com](mailto:StPetersFoodBoxRecruit@gmail.com) to (i) assist us with numbers, or (ii) if you cannot attend but would like some information.

Thank you.



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Letter from Uncle Eustace: *On why it is so hard to read*

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your suggestion that every month at clergy meetings, someone should review a book of theology they have been reading, was bound to be greeted with uneasy resistance. It would mean that the majority would have to start opening books, rather than just occasionally dusting them. Possessing books does not necessarily imply that they are ever read.

Your high church colleagues will only read the Racing News, low church members the Railway Review, liberals the Knitting Weekly and those with tendencies towards non-conformism, the Vegetarian Times. Clerical studies may be lined with books, but they are largely for effect – and to hide damp patches on the wallpaper. Anything with hard covers will have been bought with the best of intentions – but somehow the vicarage lawn or the church hall drains will have taken precedence. And from what I know of your colleague over at St Crispin's, the only books he will buy will be to colour in.

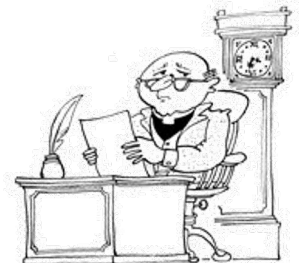
I do try to keep up with my reading, but sleep mercifully intervenes after the first 10 minutes. On those days when I sit by my study window, so passers-by can see me deeply occupied in intellectual activity, it is most useful that my large tome on the letters of Eusebius can easily conceal an Agatha Christie inside it.

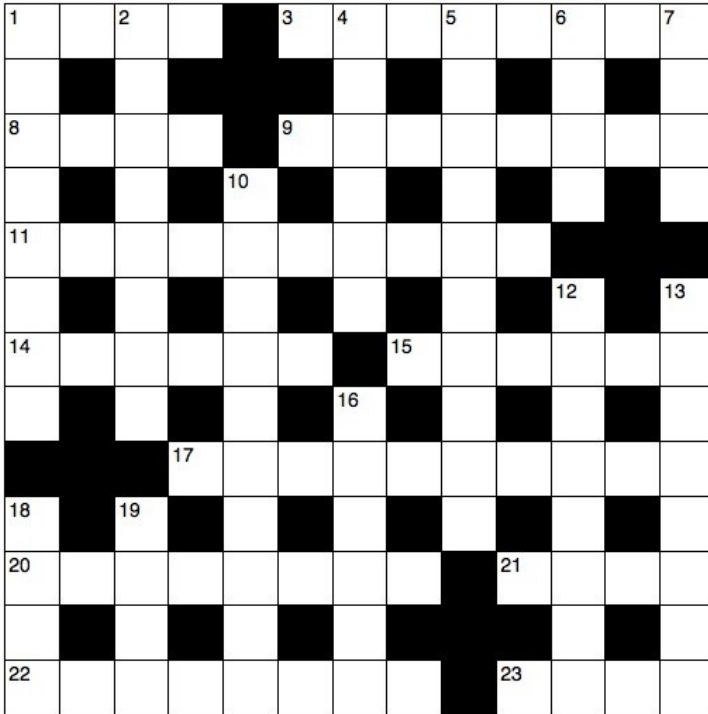
I confess that I was once gloriously put down when I tried to impress one of our blue stockings by mentioning a new edition of a Dostoevsky novel. She replied: "I have never read Dostoevsky in translation." It only confirmed my suspicions that she had worked as a Russian spy in earlier years.

I was hugely impressed when, during the bitter cold of last winter, the Earl of Stowe, whose library would comfortably contain one of our cathedrals, told me he was slowly getting through its contents of tens of thousands of volumes. It was only some time later that I discovered he meant he threw the occasional one on the fire, when he was running low on wood.

No, my dear Darren, the only literary activities that will spark interest will be crosswords for the majority, or diocesan reports for the truly dedicated – with weighty tomes being used as door stops.

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





Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
 3 See 1 Across
 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Answers on page 17

Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

13th August *Evensong with Holy Communion* 6.30pm
 27th August *Holy Communion* 9am

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 31 £40: 11 £25: 43

Margaret Harrison



Some useful information for anyone who has a Hearing Aid

Mary Pennell discovered by chance that Hearing Aids qualify you for a Disabled Railcard, which is about £20 cheaper for 3 years against the Old Person's Rail Card. Also, person travelling with you counts as a "carer" and gets 30% reduction as well!!!

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW’S

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

Saturday 7 October 7.30pm
Grief Opera

Saturday 14 October 10.00am
Autumn Fayre

Saturday 28 October Time TBC
Hymnathon in Aid of Christian Aid

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

Who's Who?

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Prayer Circle

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Flower Arrangers

Dorryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

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Organ Rebuild Committee

Mary Pannel

Youth and Children

Eryl Spencer 651565

Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Communications Committee

Paris Hall Committee

Friends of St. Andrew's

Jenny Norris 812945

When You Pray

Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?



Saint Augustine of Hippo
(354-430)

A Final Word

I cannot quite believe that August is upon us! As a child, I was always told that as you grow older time seems to move faster; and as I approach the “ripe old age” of 30, I can confirm this is true! I’d also like to think that the speed at which the year seems to be passing is a reflection of the idea that “time flies when you are having fun”. Indeed, I think it is always important at the end of every month (and day, week, year...) to reflect upon the good things which have happened, and thank God for them.

On another temporal note, I really enjoyed Mary’s opening piece about the seasons this month. Thank you to Mary and to everybody else who contributed to this issue. As ever, please do get in touch if you would like to write something for the *Herald* as submissions are always welcomed and in demand!

Wishing everybody in Chippenham a lovely rest of your summer, and I pray that a new Parish Priest worthy of such a fine church and congregation is found soon.

Remy Osman – Editor

While editing the magazine I listened to: *Te Deum in D* (Henry Purcell) – the anthem for Choral Evensong at St. Alban’s Cathedral conducted by Barry Rose, June 1994

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.