

THE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Gavin Macrae

King Alfred
Garden

Harvest Supper

God in
the Arts

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September 2023

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Wedding and Christenings
enquiries

To get in touch or book the Hall,
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Photo: Gavin Macrae

A question of direction

"Take the first exit at the next roundabout". Lots of us rely on prompts like this from an app on holiday journeys. We trust them to get us safely to our destination and mostly they deliver.

It's not so simple on our spiritual journey. Gideon demanded repeated signs before he would move a muscle but this is an exception and not the rule. So where should our direction come from? From prayer, the Holy Spirit's prompting, study and the advice of Christian friends.

But, I hear you say, what if I have a decision in my life and having tried everything still don't know which way to go. The answer may be to wait and trust the time is not right to take the next step.

As a church we are in that position having experienced the disappointment of not finding the right replacement for Rod at the first attempt. We hope with more prayer and the Holy Spirit's prompting we may succeed next time.

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Romans 8v25 says in relation to future glory "*but if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently*". The framework of hope, expectation and patience isn't a bad one for spiritual waiting times generally and for us in our present position but if you are looking for encouragement read Luke 2 v 25-32 for an example of a person whose hope, expectation and patience were rewarded. I believe ours will be too.

Gavin Macrae





ST ANDREW'S HARVEST SUPPER

SAT 23RD SEPT 2023
IN THE KING ALFRED HALL

6 FOR 6.30 PM START

TICKETS FROM DORRYTA

ADULTS £7:

UNDER 16: £3.50

RAFFLE; QUIZ



King Alfred's Garden

My first sight of the garden was at the opening of King Alfred's Hall, we'd only recently moved to Chippenham so everything was very new! I glimpsed wisteria and ivy in the gutters, was intrigued and asked about the space over the fence and was told it belonged to the flat. Consequently was somewhat disappointed as it looked as though it was a secret special place!

In October 2021 there was concern that as the garden was a fire exit for the hall and meeting room any escapees would have to negotiate the brambles! Wisteria and ivy were also invading the gutters putting the structure of the building at risk. A working party from the congregation battled the brambles and the ivy and discovered a couple of 'gems', Elsa Craig, a red rose on the hall side of the garden and a large honeysuckle on the opposite wall. Elders were cut down as were innumerable weeds. A large bonfire lead by Rod and his blowtorch (a leaf blower) made short shrift of the rubbish. Another working party was convened and more rubbish and another bonfire got rid of more rubbish!! We could now see what a gem this garden could be and had been in the past when Sue and Bill Reed lived in the flat. The current tenants no longer used the garden so it was decided that we could develop the space for the use of the church.

There was a large amount of soil which had been 'dumped' when the patio area by the toilets was built. This was mysteriously moved revealing a small patio and the soil appearing on the opposite border. On further investigation it was aptly named Margaret's mountain when the culprit was discovered!

Before we could even think of planting the wooden edging to the garden had to be replaced using a combination of reclaimed and bespoke edging which Allen had great enjoyment doing, Chris Watkins helping him with the new steps.

Continued over...

The garden came to life in the early spring with a profusion of hellibores that Bill and Sue must have planted coming into bloom as well as another climbing rose on the wall.

Members of the St Andrews family were generous with donations of tools they no longer required as well as plants from their own gardens. Plants were also received in memory of loved ones which makes this garden an extra special place. Thank you also to the mystery gardener who planted two clematis against the wall of the garden; we would really like to know who they were! It was lovely to receive a donation from Sue Reed and we purchased a lovely evergreen jasmine with fragrant white flowers borne in midsummer which was planted on the far wall of the garden; hopefully attracting bees and butterflies!

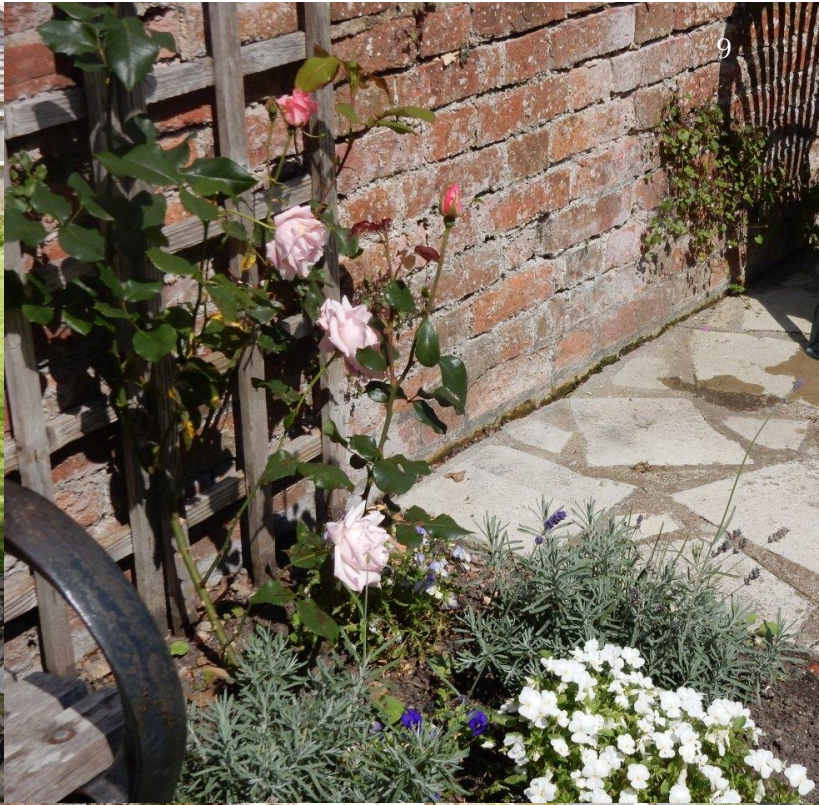
A small wild flower area has been created with Michael's support which will develop with time.

The garden has already been appreciated by customers to the all day coffee shop, guests at Rebecca and Nick's wedding, Andy's Tot's and the Nursery leavers party. A marriage blessing ceremony will be held in the garden in September, hopefully the sun will shine! Visitors to the garden and suggestions as to how we can develop this special place are most welcome.

The Green Team - Margaret Mountain, Sue Symonds, Michael Sammes, Mary Waite, and Christine and Allen Watkins meet on the first and third Thursday of each month to care for the garden from 9.30 -12pm. Coffee at 10.45. It is a real opportunity for fellowship and fun and everyone is welcome even just for a cup of coffee(bring your own mug!)

The next big project will be to sand down and paint the shed so green fingers not necessary, volunteers welcome!

Christine Watkins



Mothers' Union Update

At our August meeting we enjoyed Eryl telling us about the Mothers' Union founder Mary Sumner.

This was particularly appropriate as on 9 August each year we celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Mary Elizabeth Heywood was born on 31 December, 1828. She was the youngest of three children, growing up near Manchester. Her father was a banker, and her mother had a love of music and the arts. They were both deeply religious, and so the children were brought up in leisurely, comfortable surroundings sharing the interests of their parents. When Mary was 3, her father gave up his work at the bank to move to Hereford, where he devoted his time to literary pursuits. All the family travelled a great deal in Europe, and it was whilst in Rome at the age of 18 that she met George Sumner, son of the Bishop of Winchester. Eighteen months later they were married. They had two children, born in Farnham Castle where they were looking after George's father, after his mother's death. In 1851, George was appointed Rector of Old Alresford, Hampshire where they lived for 34 years and where their son was born.

Still in her twenties, Mary was concerned about the responsibilities of bringing up three small children. At the rectory there were meetings, classes, choir practices and she took a compassionate interest in women and their families who worked long and hard with few breaks - she wanted them to experience the happy family life that she enjoyed. This was Victorian England where there was poverty, problems of unemployment and many social evils; women and children were particularly subject to exploitation. So Mary started a meeting for mothers in the parish. Nervous at first, but supported by her husband, these meetings grew. So began a parochial fellowship which in 1876 became the starting point of the Mothers' Union. Mary drew up a card of membership and wrote the first MU prayer.

Gradually, neighbouring parishes started similar meetings, using the prayer and promising to uphold the same ideals, which summed up the three things about which Mary cared deeply. The aims were to uphold marriage, bring up children as 'baptised soldiers of Christ' and to be women united in prayer. Mary soon started to hold Bible study meetings on a Sunday evening for men, and getting them to think about family life. When a church congress took place in Portsmouth, she was asked to speak to a large gathering of poor and weary women. It was then not acceptable practice for a woman to speak at the congress. But persuaded by the Bishop she stood up, and encouraged the women to start a union of mothers where mothers of all classes could unite in faith and prayer. The audience rose to their feet and the Bishop asked Mary to become the first diocesan president, commending the MU as a diocesan organisation.

George Sumner became Bishop of Guildford shortly after. Mary was in much demand as a speaker, and by 1892 the MU could be found in 28 diocese. This was soon followed by branches overseas, starting in India when a regiment was sent from Aldershot Barracks and the wives wanted to continue their meetings.

There is much that can be written about Mary but I think the most important point to remember is that in Victorian times, she bravely found a way of encouraging women to come together in faith. There are today some 4 million members in around 84 countries

Denise Addison

Branch Leader

Mothers' UNION 
Christian care for families

God in the Arts:
'Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose'
By Francisco de Zurbarán

The weekday eucharist in a parish church, with only a handful of worshippers present, can be a great contrast to the bustle and liveliness of Sunday services. It can offer you a quiet time to focus on the gifts of bread and wine offered on the altar. This month's painting of 1633 is an opportunity to focus on the gifts that have been offered at the altar of this table, in 'Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose' by Francisco Zurbarán. He was a contemporary of the more famous Velázquez and worked in Seville until his death in 1664.

There is something quite special and evocative in the arrangement of fruits and flowers – two highly polished plates, one bearing the citrons (not lemons as the title tells us), the other a cup of water and a rose.



In the centre there is a basket with oranges and orange blossom. Against the dark background we sense the cool tones of the plates and cup, and the warmth of fruits and flowers.

There is a curious balance and poise here, as Zurbaran isolates the objects from one another – even the composition appears to be a conscious, though not excessively artificial arrangement. Against the dark background, the objects are completely static, and appear to be torn out of the context of everyday life. The human beings to whom they apparently belong have no place here.

Some critics have suggested a Trinitarian allusion in the three groups so deliberately placed on the table. The objects in this work can be seen as offerings to the Virgin Mary. Her love, purity and chastity are signified by the rose and the cup of water. The lemons are an Easter fruit that, along with the oranges with blossoms, indicate renewed life. The table is a symbolic altar.

A devout Spanish Catholic in the 17th century would have noticed these allusions, but they may be too fanciful, as X-rays have shown that Zurbarán painted out another plate which simply contained sweet, candied potatoes.

What he has portrayed is an allegory of the senses. We can almost smell the fragrance of orange blossom and the tanginess of the fruits. We want to reach out to touch and taste. But no, we must look and ponder the offering of these gifts for our delight, and simply give thanks for the artist who has shown us something of the sacramental beauty of creation in them.

Via Parish Pump

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 the perils of Harvest*

My dear Nephew Darren,

In the unlikely event of ever being put in charge of designing the course for those being trained for ordination, I would make a few significant changes. Modules on doctrine, Church history and Greek would all be dropped as unnecessary. In their place, I would add courses on how to run a tight jumble sale, ways to keep your church council in order – and especially close to my heart at present, how to negotiate Harvest.

The first skirmish starts in early Summer when it becomes clear that the flower arrangers' plans mean that the choir would disappear behind a huge array of chrysanthemums. The choir then retaliate by announcing that their Harvest anthem must take place just when the Sunday School intended to re-enact the parable of the Good Samaritan. They, in turn, raise the stakes by insisting that a stage will be needed for their performance, thus ensuring that I will be separated from the congregation by an impenetrable barricade.

In September, therefore, there is the traditional meeting to iron out all these little difficulties. This inevitably results with the annual act of the verger handing in his resignation, of the bell ringers threatening a mass walk-out, and those who organise coffee afterwards demanding that my sermon lasts no more than three minutes, so there will be plenty of time for socialising after the Service.

I greet all suggestions with a spontaneous burst of indifference, smile, agree with it all – and do nothing (this, incidentally, is a good policy for all decision-making). Inevitably, everything goes ahead exactly as it has always done for the last century.

Come the day, there will be the usual arrangement of eggs round the font, with the strategically placed card saying 'Given anonymously by Elsie Jones' and the pyramid of apples temptingly near the choirboys, so designed that when someone tries to pinch one during the sermon, the whole pile disintegrates as they roll all over the chancel.

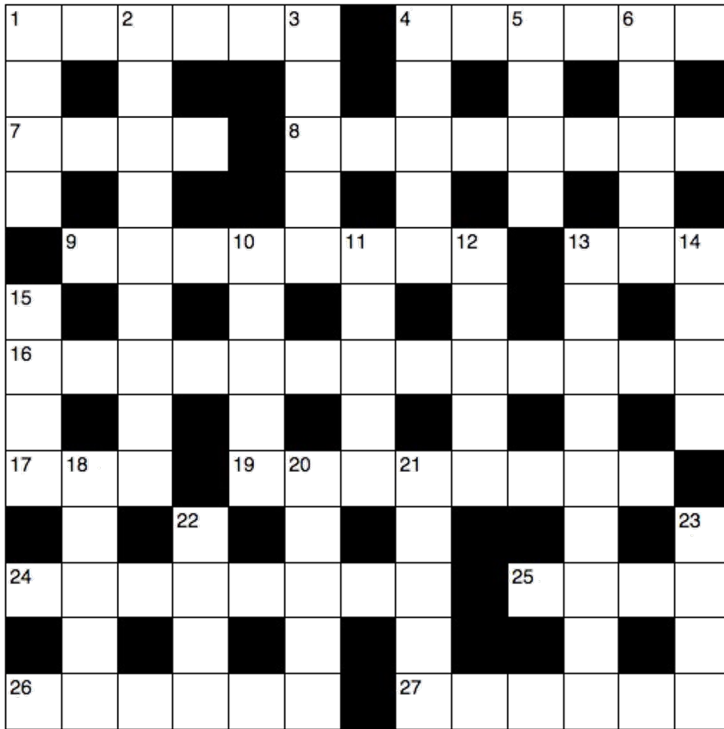
On the following Friday, all will leave after the Harvest Supper saying that the entertainment was worse than the previous year and that the absence of red cabbage had quite ruined the hot pot. Everyone therefore has had an enjoyable evening.

My Harvest training course would be compulsory and a pass mark of 90% would be needed before ordination could be considered.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

(The Rectory, St. James the Least)



**Across**

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Answers on page 17

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

10th September *Evensong in St Andrews Church* 6.30pm

24th September *Holy Communion* 9 am

8th October *Evensong with Communion* 3.30pm

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 20 £40: 3 £25: 85

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, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

Who's Who?

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

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Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

Flower Arrangers

Dorryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

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Organ Rebuild Committee

Mary Pannel

Youth and Children

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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

At the centre of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.



Thomas Merton
(1915-1968)
Trappist Monk

A Final Word

It is a lovely evening as I write this – the sun is setting, it is 30 degrees Celsius and there is a “cooling” breeze thanks to the emerging south western Monsoon winds. Editing this issue and reading of the upcoming Harvest Supper at St. Andrew’s, I cannot help but think that for all in Chippenham, autumn is soon to be upon you, followed swiftly by winter and the Advent season.

I find that seasonal differences make worship of God easier in some ways. We can be grateful for the new life of spring and Easter, thankful for a bountiful harvest etc. That said, it being warm every day still makes me joyful, as it did when enjoying the Northern Hemisphere summer.

I firmly believe that no matter where you are, one can only marvel in how the weather and seasons are so beyond the control of mortal man. What I find is most important is to be cognisant of the natural world around us – the weather, the plants, the animals – and to find the joy of Creation within them.

Wishing everybody a wonderful end to the summer and blessed season ahead.

Remy Osman – Editor

While editing the magazine I listened to: *Cantique de Jean Racine, Gabriel Fauré and The Lord is My Shepherd, Franz Schubert*

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.