

THE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Gavin Macrae

New Vicar
Announcement

30th Anniversary
of Coffee Shop

The Grief Opera
on CD

Upcoming Event
& Concert details

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favourite regular
features and
updates

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No. 64
April 2024

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



Parish Priest:
Fr. Benji Tyler

Associate Curate
Anton Campbell
revanton@outlook.com

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Churchwardens
Jenny Norris 812945
Gavin Macrae 659922

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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: Gavin Macrae

"Live Jesus!" proclaimed St Francis de Sales, 17th century bishop of Geneva. I love this motto because within it is contained both seed and root of all that we are and all that we do as a person of God. Seed because in our baptism was sown the Spirit who gives us power to live as Jesus lives; and root because, in Christ, we anchor ourselves firmly into the one who is most fully alive.

When we meet others, do we see the Christ in them? When others speak with us do they meet Jesus in us? These are questions we can ask ourselves each day as we begin afresh the task of personal and communal transformation. Over the coming years the Church of God in Chippenham will be tasked with creatively and bravely bringing the Gospel to our neighbours and communities. This is the wonderful challenge of every generation and I am excited to offer myself to 'live Jesus' alongside you, in this new season, as together we continue the call to love and care for and serve our parishes. This can oftentimes seem a daunting prospect: what on earth can I do?!

But for a Christian, daily planting our feet into the footprints of Our Lord, daily turning towards the light, enables us to live into the life of God which is all goodness, all irresistible, all full of glorious Resurrection potential. Another of St Francis' wisdom-sayings is: "be who you are, and be that well". God uses all of us, our experiences and overcomings, stories and traditions, and, in Christ transforms them for the good and growth of the Easter Kingdom.

May Jesus be lived in us!

Fr Benji Tyler



Announcement of our new Vicar

The Bishop of Bristol is delighted to announce

the appointment of
Revd. Benji Tyler

*(currently Assistant Curate in the Benefice of
Wantage in the Diocese of Oxford)*

*as Vicar of St Andrew Chippenham and
St Nicholas Tytherton Lucas.*

Revd. Benji's licensing will be the evening of
Monday 22nd April by Bishop Neil.

(from Churchwardens, Jenny & Gavin)

2024 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: A Copy will be available at the back of church together with enrolment forms. Copy of the New Roll was created in 2019 and will be in place UNTIL 2025 and it is revised on an annual basis. **If your name was entered on the Electoral Roll in 2019 or you joined in subsequent years, then you DO NOT need to fill out another application form.**

Revision of the Roll commences on 31st March 2024 and application forms (available at the back of church) to be on the Electoral Roll must be returned to me by **Sunday 14th April**. 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 on Tues 30th April 2024.**

Forms cannot be accepted 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 14th April 2024!

Ros Harford

Electoral Roll Officer

30th ANNIVERSARY OF ST ANDREW'S COFFEE SHOP

The coffee shop was opened on Wednesday 9th February 1994 and its aim was to encourage the local community to come in and enjoy coffee and home made cakes in a lovely venue and a chance to talk privately if desired.

In the beginning a small team was organised by the then curate, Sharron, among them were Liz Fox, Barbara Neate, Margaret Walton, Jenny Endacott, Maureen Ragbourne and Tricia Dixon who came every week.

As the coffee shop became more popular four teams were formed and from this the coffee shop developed as we know it today. As team leaders retired new ones came in and has continued in this way over the years. Alongside coffee shop the W.I. ran a Homemades stall and Vineyard sold a variety of cards.

After continuing for 20 years it had opened a thousand times and raised £95,000 for church funds. To celebrate this milestone an all day coffee shop was held in the church, although it rained heavily all day it was a very special and enjoyable event.

From the funds raised we have been able to purchase new ropes for the bell tower, updating the sound system, materials to make the ordinary times banners, alter clothes and a cope and stole for the vicar to wear on special occasions.

Although funds raised now go to the general church fund our contribution is in the region of £10.000 annually.

We have successfully organised all day coffee shops for the folk festivals which have been much appreciated by all who supported it year after year.

In 2012 a new servery and toilet facility was built in the church thanks to an anonymous donation which has proved a huge asset to the many events staged in the church not only by St Andrews but many choirs, orchestras, school concerts etc.

Our thanks must go to Caroline, Mary, Sheila and Wendy who took over the reins when Liz Fox stepped down as co-ordinator after 22 years of dedication and commitment to coffee shop. Also to Sheila and Chris Lawrence for hosting an annual shared lunch for us all in their beautiful home and garden over many years.

We have had many helpers and bakers over the last 30 years and it is wonderful that the dedicated teams we have now, with waitress service, using the nave of the church we can continue the tradition of providing a welcoming and popular place for our loyal customers to enjoy for many years to come.

Dorryta Hayward



Mothers' Union Update

March saw the branch holding its first AGM. Since the recommissioning in November 2022, we have met monthly with speakers, discussions, and quizzes as well as supporting St. Andrew's by raising money at the autumn fayre, providing posies for Mothering Sunday and sending cards for members birthdays, those who are unwell and to families who have brought their children for baptism. We also held an afternoon tea where the proceeds supported the Away from it All scheme which in Bristol Diocese provides a day out to Weston super Mare for struggling families. It was agreed that Denise Addison would remain as branch leader with Sue Haslop as secretary and Jenny Norris as treasurer. We followed the AGM with a discussion on the period of lent looking at aspects of reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter.

Our next meeting will be Monday 8 April at 2.30 when Christine Senner will talk about the WRNS. All welcome.

Denise Addison

Branch Leader

Mothers' Union members prepared posies for presentation at the Eucharist service on Mothering Sunday. Our grateful thanks go to Coates Florist for their kind donation of the daffodils.'



'GYMPANZEES'

Mothers' Union in the Bristol Diocese are proud to be supporting the excellent work of 'Gympanzees' A charity set up to provide specialist play for disabled children and their families.

They will recently have been enjoying a Pop-Up facility during the Easter holidays, and Bristol Mothers' Union is pleased to be funding the transporting of families to the venue.

It is a sad fact that most playgrounds and play spaces are unsuitable and not accessible for children with disabilities. The Gympanzees Founder set out to provide quality, stimulating and sensory play experiences not only for these children but also for their siblings. Play experiences cover a range of ages and I was very moved to witness the joy that this initiative brings to these families.

The Gympanzees Charity have a huge vision, and have recently purchased a building, which, with extensive refurbishment and repurposing is planned to be a permanent home for all year-round play, fun, fitness, and friendships. There is a lot to do, and much funding required, but it is hoped to be able to open its doors in 2026. You might like to find their website for more information. www.gympanzees.org



A Prayer for Gympanzees

Father God, we pray for families. We pray for families struggling with the challenges of having children with individual and complex needs. We give thanks for the work of 'Gympanzees' in recognising the needs of these families, for the vision of their founder, and for the difference this organisation is making in the lives of children and their families. We pray for successful fund raising, and that generous donors come forward to enable the new building to become a home for this life-enhancing organisation, and we give thanks that Mothers' Union can help with funding transport for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to access this resource. Amen

Jacky Fredrickson MUDP Bristol Diocese

The Grief Opera on CD

This photo I took on a sunny evening in Singapore shows two firsts; the first album ever recorded at St. Andrew's Church (on 7th January and 7th October 2023), and the first copy of the Grief Opera recording on CD to make its way to Asia. I had the honour of speaking to Nigel Linacre, who wrote the *Grief Opera* after his son George died by his own hand. It was a very moving discussion but he has allowed me to share some of his thoughts below.

I urge anybody who is yet to listen to the Opera to either buy the CD (published by Prima Facie records) or download/stream on all major music services. You can read and follow the powerful words via thegriefopera.org/lyrics.

Remy Osman

Nigel Linacre says:

"I have a deep appreciation to St. Andrew's that we could record our album in the Church. Grief is a thing which will at some point come to all of us in challenging ways; my hope is that the opera will help people develop their relationship to grief so that it is less unendurable. I hope the opera helps us face the hardest thing in life which is death – and especially the death of somebody close to us and especially in such a horrible way.

Out of the loss came the Grief Opera. There is nothing like it in the world."

“Life is something which is beautiful, fantastic and lets us do great things. This remains the case, but I now also see that life can also be extremely difficult and filled with pain. When life is like that, we still have to be with it. We do not have to love suffering, but have love for the suffering, because love transforms everything it touches, including suffering.

Love is not owned by anyone or anything. It simply is. To me, this is consistent with the Biblical message of love as God. For what is God without love?”



The *Grief Opera* be performed again at St. Andrew's Chippenham on Saturday 2nd November - All Souls Day.

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!

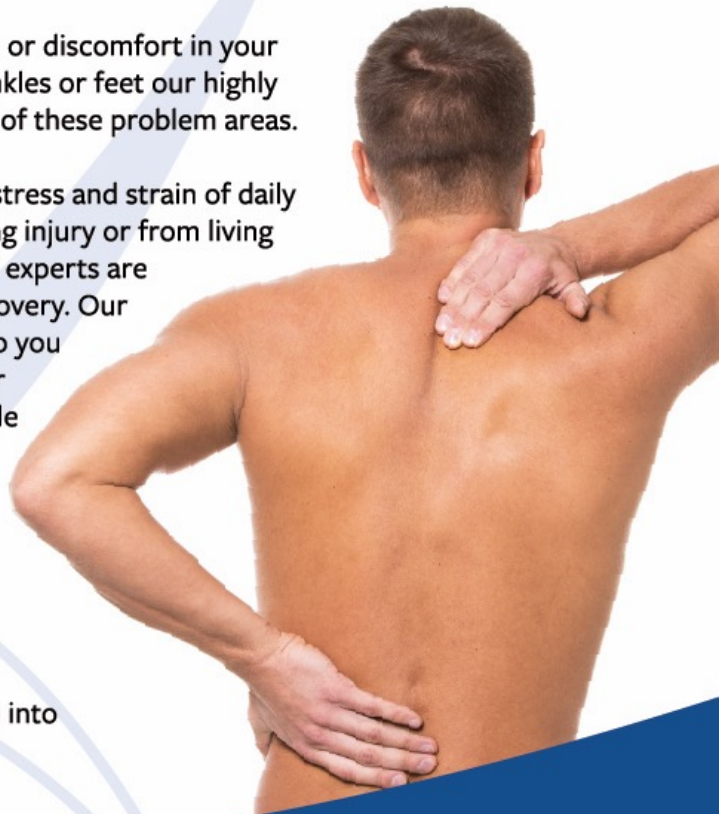
Come along and join us – we are waiting to welcome you.



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St Andrew's Church
Chippenham
Coffee Morning in aid
of Autumn Fayre

Saturday 20th April
2024

10am -12.00pm
ALL WELCOME

Entry £1.00 to include a
drink and a biscuit

Letter from Uncle Eustace: *On the perils of taking a wedding*

My dear Nephew Darren,

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

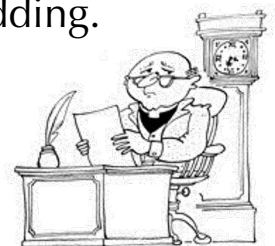
So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

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



Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

14th April *Evensong with Holy Communion* 6.30 pm

22nd April *Licensing of Rev Benji Tyler at St Andrews Church in the Evening*

28th April *Holy Communion with Rev Benji Tyler at St Andrews Church at 10.30am*

There will be a welcome lunch after this service

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 9 £40: 62 £25: 84

Margaret Harrison

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Tuesday 9 April

11.00am

Trio Paradis' April concert will be on the second Tuesday this month: 9th April (not 2nd April).

The theme is Birdsong, with musical depictions of a goldfinch (Vivaldi), owls (Janacék and RR Bennett), a Somerset cuckoo and a couple of nightingales... along with the first movement of Debussy's youthful, spring-like Piano Trio, composed when he was just 18. Café from 10.30, entrance by donation. <http://www.trioparadis.com>

Saturday 20 April

10.00am

Autumn Fayre Coffee Morning

Tuesday 7 May

11.00am

Trio Paradis Concert

Saturday 18 May

7.30pm

Chippenham Male Voice Choir

24th to 28th May

Chippenham Folk Festival

Who's Who?

Parish Priest:

Fr. Benji Tyler

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revanton@outlook.com

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Churchwardens

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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,
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st.andrewschurch@zen.co.uk

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Sue Wood 650478

Treasurer (St. Nicholas')

Wendy Reeves 650622

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Gift Aid Officer

Sue Wood

Giving Officer

Gavin Macrae 659922

Electoral Roll Officer

Ros Harford 812190

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100 Club

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Vineyard Card Sales

Sue Stearn 462593
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Jenny Norris 812945

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Bell-ringers

Caroline Emerson 658708

Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

Flower Arrangers

Dorryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Caroline Emerson 658708

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Fabric Committee

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Social Events

Dorryta Hayward 653322

Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

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

The Lord spoke to my heart and said:

I accept all your prayers, whether you speak them, think in your heart, read or listen to reading.

Fasting, penance and saying the daily office are good when you are learning to pray, and I accept any form of prayer gladly; but you are much closer to me when you sit quietly in contemplation.

If you said the Lord's Prayer a thousand times a day, it would not make me as glad as when you remain silent and let me speak to you.



Margery Kempe
Christian Mystic
(c. 1373 – c. 1440)

A Final Word

I always find Lent, Holy Week and Easter particularly good times of the liturgical year for Hymns, and have been enjoying singing several of my favourites this past month. In particular, the hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” sent shivers down my spine and tears in my eyes when I sung it a couple of Sundays ago. When I got home I read the words again and took a few minutes to really internalise and understand them. In doing so, I found them particularly moving in how we are invited to contemplate the sheer scale and significance of Christ's death and our response to it.

It might seem obvious, but it is important to remember that the Hymns we sing were written by a living person – likely a man or woman of profound faith – who was moved enough by their faith to write the words as a means to express their faith and worship God. Thinking about Hymns in this way gives me a new perspective and helps bring them to life a bit more, and reflect of my own lived experience of faith and worship of God in Church. I urge you to look up the words of your favourite Hymn and enjoy spending a few minutes reacquainting yourself with the words and their meaning.

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 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.

