

THE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Scott Blum

Beetle Drive and
Ash Wednesday

Lenten Talks and
Discussions

A trip along the
Nile...

Upcoming
Concert details

All of your
favourite regular
features and
updates

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No. 62
February 2024

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



Parish Priest:

Vacancy

Associate Curate

Anton Campbell
revanton@outlook.com

Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945

Gavin Macrae 659922

Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Harrison 652148

Barry Hayward

Hall Hire Enquiries

Jen Corton 655947

Organist and Music Director

Paul Fortune 652643

Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Remy Osman

[remyworldpeace\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:remyworldpeace(at)hotmail.com)

The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT

Tel: (01249) 655947

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)



The New Year makes you think about new beginnings and possible changes in the year ahead. I found this post by Mary Bridges, which said everything that I had been thinking about this.

".....I always conclude that life is another word for change....."

What's real is that change is constant. With every ending, there is a beginning. God is with us not only in our beginnings and in our endings but in every moment in-between. The church recognizes this by calling God and Jesus the Alpha and the Omega.

If we were to draw a straight line with the Alpha at one end and the Omega at the other, we could use it to represent the events of our lives. If we take this timeline and form it into a circle, rather than being at opposite ends, the Alpha and Omega are side by side. The end is now the beginning, and the beginning is now the end. It becomes the circle of life.

In a circle, there is no beginning or ending. These overlapping symbols of the Alpha and the Omega can be seen as a sign of God's presence among us. Beginnings and endings are always happening. As one moment ends and another begins, we can know that God is there. God is at both in the beginning and the ending of our personal "circles of life," and that is what really matters.

Each new year is like starting a new chapter in our lives. My prayer for each of us is simple: "May the words of Advent follow us into 2024, as we live as a people who are guided by hope, peace, joy and love in this year and forever more." Amen".

Also, I had read 1 Peter 2: 4-5 "As you come to him, the living stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ".

I found a card which I bought at Spring Harvest that relates to this reading, which made me think of our church here at St Andrew's and the way we are all here to support each other and the community, especially as we await our new incumbent. It is called "The Tower":

"I saw a tower made of all the people in the church. Every stone was different in colour, shape and size and yet they all fitted together perfectly. Each stone is supported on each side and under, and each holds the one above. On the ground were fallen, broken stones, and stones which had jumped out (not wanting to be hidden by the others) leaving stones exposed and vulnerable. Loving hands were taking these strewn, broken stones and one by one gently mending them and one by one, tenderly placing them in the building".

So, as we continue this New Year, may we continue to be the people of "The Tower" and remember that God is with us in the "circle of life".

Linda Silk



The Social Events Committee

Invite you to a

BEETLE DRIVE & PANCAKE PARTY

On Shrove Tuesday 13th Feb 2024

In the King Alfred Hall

6.00 for 6.30 pm prompt start

With Refreshments at half time

Sweet & Savoury Pancakes & Soft Drinks available

Raffle (Donations for Raffle welcomed)

**See Dorryta & add your name to list at the back of church if
you would like to come**

Tickets available from 5th February

Adults £5 each, Children £2.50



WESSEX WATER YTL GROUP – COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Do you support local people who are struggling to pay their bills?

Does your organisation help people in Chippenham who need a bit of extra help?

COME TO A SHORT TRAINING SESSION ON TUES 12TH MARCH AT 1-3PM @ Sheldon Road Methodist Church.

Tailored Assistance Programme training for agencies & local groups that support Chippenham residents.

- Calling representatives from food banks, carer support, disability/health or older people charities, church groups etc.

Please book by emailing Karen.Simpson@wessexwater.co.uk (Tel: 07443-302613)

ASH WEDNESDAY 15th February

Please note there is a Service of Holy Communion at 7pm

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.

Join the 100 Club

£165 prize money every month!

The 100 club is a monthly draw open to both members of St Andrews and other supporters in the wider Community.

Each number costs £5 per month and is payable by Bank standing order (monthly) or by cheque twice a year (February and August).

Prizes are £100, £40 and £25.

The draw usually takes place at the St. Andrew's Wednesday Coffee Shop with winners posted on the Notice Board inside the Church.

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning as well as helping to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of our historic church, please contact **Margaret Harrison** (Tel: 652148) or **Jenny Norris** (Tel: 812945).

Lenten Talks & Discussions for 2024

Lent is typically a time for reflection, particularly on how our faith relates to the world we live in and how that faith should guide how we live in it. This year, therefore, a series of talks and discussions has been prepared to provide a focal point for our reflections on some of the important issues that affect all of us.

The talks will be in Church – in the Chancel to keep us warm- starting at 7.30pm on the dates in the table below. Each talk will be given by an expert on the subject, followed by time for discussion and debate, as all are invited - this is not meant to be an echo chamber for the like-minded!

15/2/24	Ash Wednesday
22/2/24	Session 1 Christianity and Science by Prof. Keith Charnley. Chair: Michael Sammes
29/2/24	Session 2 Christianity and the Environment. Talks to be given by Deborah Tomkins (representing Green Christian) and Kit Connell, Environmental & Sustainability Outreach Officer, Bristol Diocese. Chair: Dick Spencer
7/3/24	Session 3 Christianity and the Middle East. Speaker: Bronwen Heaton from SAT-7. Chair: Dick Spencer
14/3/24	Session 4 Christianity and Policing by Rev. Anton Campbell. Chair: Jenny Norris
21/3/24	Session 5: Christianity and Refugees. Prayer stations by Erly Spencer
28/3/24	Maundy Thursday

We look forward to seeing you there but it would help of you let me know if you wish to attend so that we can ensure enough seats are placed in the Chancel.

Dick Spencer

Chair, Social Responsibility Committee

Mothers' Union Update

January, and the start of a new year for our MU branch. And what a wonderful start with **Jenny Norris** telling us about her fascinating cruise down the Nile and showing us some stunning photos. On this occasion, I will let Jenny herself take up the story

'Here are just a few of the many photographs that we took! Our tour began in Cairo where we visited the Pyramids, the Citadel and the Mohammed Ali Mosque as well as experiencing the amazing Cairo traffic (from a coach). From there we flew to Luxor where we started our cruise. We visited the Valley of the Kings exploring the magnificently decorated Tombs of Tutankhamen and Queen Nefertari and well as many others. A special highlight was seeing the sun rise in a hot air balloon as we flew over the monuments. From Luxor we cruised to Aswan visiting temples at Esna and Edfu on the way there and Kom Ombo on the return trip. At Aswan we saw the Aswan Dam and Lake Nasser as well as sailing in a felucca. We also visited one of the many Nubian villages that the Egyptian Government had relocated on the banks of the Nile following the flooding of their original village when the Dam was created.'

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra

The North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra will give its next concert in St. Andrew's church on **Saturday March 9th at 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets are £15 adult; £2 accompanied children.

Available from:

www.wegotickets.com/northwiltsorchestra;

The Neeld Community & Arts Centre 01249 446699 or neeld.co.uk; at the door and from orchestra members.

Refreshments will be available in the interval in the usual way. Do enjoy them and thus support **WellBoring**

*In this concert we have a programme of well-known nineteenth century, romantic, French orchestral favourites featuring some of the composers' best-known works. Do please book ahead because the attendance in November was near capacity. This concert will feature soloists from the orchestra **Sara Stagg** our Leader and **Malcolm Webb** our principal flute plus organist **Michael Butterfield***

March Concert Lineup

***Chabrier: España** Chabrier wrote this after a trip to Spain. He did research into local dance forms and wrote that he would: "compose an extraordinary fantasy that would incite the audience to a pitch of excitement". It is a series of linked, flowing and highly rhythmic melodies with an ecstatic and joyous conclusion.*

Debussy: Prelude A L'après midi d'un faune

This is one of Debussy's most famous works. It is a free illustration of a poem about the dreams of a faun on a summer afternoon.

***Saint Saëns: Danse Macabre** This is based on the legend that Death appears at midnight every year on Halloween. Death calls forth the dead from their graves to dance for him, while he plays his fiddle. At cock crow the skeletons return to their graves until the next year.*

***Fauré: Pavane** One of the most popular orchestral works this is named after a slow, processional Spanish court dance. Fauré envisaged that it would be played at light summer concerts and it is equally popular in orchestral, choral and dance forms.*

***Saint Saëns: Symphony 3 “The Organ”** The major work in this concert is one of the great French romantic symphonies, unusual for featuring both piano and organ. Saint-Saëns wrote: “I gave everything to it that I was able to give. What I have accomplished I will never achieve again”. The work makes use of recurring themes in which plainsong is a linking feature. There are the traditional four movements, although Saint-Saëns conceived them as two linked pairs with the themes evolving throughout.*

Future concert June 15th 2024 programme to include Sibelius Symphony number 2.



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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Reflexology

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Unit 8 Syms Yard, Bumpers Way,
Bumpers Farm, Chippenham SN14 6LH

To find out more or to book online
visit www.ckclinic.co.uk or call us on

01249 324166

Belated thanks to two unsung heroes!

For many years, Kay Readman has sent out Baptism anniversary cards to all the young children baptised at St Andrew's until they started school. She carried on through Covid sending cards to children baptised before the pandemic and then when baptisms began to take place again added more names to her logbook. She had decided to retire before Rod had announced his retirement but determinedly carried on writing and posting cards until the end of 2023. Eileen Hodges volunteered to take up the baton in September on behalf of the Mothers' Union, when to our amazement, we found that the task wouldn't start until January 2024. We are really grateful to Kay for her hard work and efficient organisation over many years.

Similarly, Jackie Hannis, who had taken over running the Vineyard Card Stall not long before the onset of Covid, deserves our hearty thanks. She revived the stall once Coffee Shop was finally able to reopen. We got our sales pitch back and despite the fact that she was waiting for hip surgery, Jackie kept the show on the road. Jackie is stepping back from organising Vineyard and it is now in the hands of Sue (Stearn) & Sue (Symonds). The two "Sues" joined Vineyard while Jackie was in charge – another sign of Jackie's management skills! Jackie continue to open the stall one Wednesday in the month so she's not abandoning us. We look forward to further flourishing in the St Andrew's vineyard!

Many thanks to both Kay and Jackie.

Eryl Spencer LLM

Letter from Uncle Eustace: *Beware what lurks in the church vestry..*

My dear Nephew Darren,

I'm unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept "just in case" and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

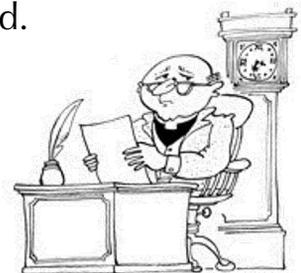
One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

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



Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

11th February *Evensong with Holy Communion* 3.30pm

25th February *Holy Communion* 3.30pm

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 80 £40: 83 £25: 34

Margaret Harrison

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association

St. Andrew's Chippenham, Wiltshire

Sunday, 14th January 2024

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

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

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Joanna Wheatland | 2 Carole Simpson |
| 3 Jane Ridgwell | 4 Sara Bye (C) |
| 5 Richard Heath | 6 Morley Bray |

Rung for Evening service. Also as wedding anniversary compliments to Ben and Masha Wheatland on 22nd Jan and Chris and San Wheatland on 23rd Jan and belated 90th birthday wishes to Jean Carey

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Tuesday 6th February **10.30am for 11am**
Trio Paradis Café Concert: Iberia

Tuesday 13 February **6.00pm**
Beetle Drive (in King Alfred Hall)

Saturday 17 February **7.30pm**
Wiltshire Police Band (TBC)

Tuesday 5 March **11.00am**
Trio Paradis Café Concert:
Daughters of the Muse - music by women composers

Saturday 9 March **7.30pm**
North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra Concert
(see page 10 for further details)

About Trio Paradis

Trio Paradis - Jacquelyn Bevan (piano), Lisa Betteridge (violin) and Linda Stocks (cello) - are a Bath-based classical piano trio who give around 120 daytime concerts each year to bring live music to people who for a number of reasons find it difficult to access live performances.

Café Concerts, as the name suggests, are informal music events with a café open at least half an hour before the concert, where you can meet with friends and make new ones.

Concerts are **the first Tuesday of every month at 11am** and last c45mins and entrance is by pay-what-you-feel donation, with a retiring collection, to enable all to attend. There's no need to book, just turn up.

Who's Who?

Parish Priest:

Vacancy

Associate Curate

Anton Campbell
revanton@outlook.com

Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945
 Gavin Macrae 659922

Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Harrison 652148
 Barry Hayward 653322

Hall Hire Enquiries

Jen Corton 655947

Organist and Music Director

Paul Fortune 652643
Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Remy Osman
remyworldpeace@hotmail.com

Head Server

Ruth Harvey 654214

Sacristan (at St. Andrew's)

Brian Elliot 463230

Sacristan (at St. Nicholas')

Elizabeth Sexton 660235

The Church Office

Market Place, SN15 3HT
 Tel: (01249) 655947

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

PCC Secretary (St. Andrew's)

Pip Higman 247269
Pip@higman.eu

PCC Secretary (St. Nicholas)

Sheila Laurence 740687

PCC Treasurer

Chris Norris 812945
chris_norris51@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant Treasurers

Brian Elliot 463230
 Sue Wood 650478

Treasurer (St. Nicholas')

Wendy Reeves 650622

Weekly Notice Sheet

Ros Harford 812190

Care Group Co-ordinator

Eryl Spencer 651565

Gift Aid Officer

Sue Wood

Giving Officer

Gavin Macrae 659922

Electoral Roll Officer

Ros Harford 812190

Parish Safeguarding Officer

standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com

100 Club

Margaret Harrison 652148

Vineyard Card Sales

Jackie Hannis 443779

Parish Hall Committee

Jenny Norris 812945

Groups and Organisations at St. Andrew's

Robed Choir and Singers

Paul Fortune 652643
Paulandmyra25@gmail.com

Bell-ringers

Caroline Emerson 658708

Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

Flower Arrangers

Dorryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Caroline Emerson 658708

Mothers' Union

Denise Addison 814843
denise.addison@googlemail.com

PCC Sub-Committees

Fabric Committee

Denise Addison 814843

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

*God of every beautiful thing,
Make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance
and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the
unlovely. It is far easier to see the gloom and decay; so often it
sings a louder song. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring
in our midst, not that we would give ourselves to toxic
positivity or neglect the pain of the world, but that we would
be people capable of existing in the tension. Grant us habits of
sacred pause. Let us marvel not just at the grand or majestic,
but beauty's name etched into every ordinary moment. Let the
mundane swell with a mystery that makes us breathe deeper
still. And by this, may we be sustained and kept from despair.
Amen.*

From **Cole Arthur Riley's** *Black Liturgies*

A Final Word

Thank you Scott Blum for this absolutely stunning photo!



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.