

THE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



Photo: Gavin Macrae

Fr. Benji's first
service

The Train of Life

Oxfam

Upcoming Event
& Concert details

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THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Please contact the office for all
enquiries, including baptisms,
weddings and funerals. For hall
bookings and enquiries please
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Photo: Gavin Macrae

“What a lovely day!”

Or is it “What a terrible day!”?

As a student spending a year in France many moons ago, I was often irritated by the stereotype of the English as a nation who can only talk about one topic - the weather! In France, Spring, Summer and Autumn were consistently warmer and sunnier than those seasons in Leeds where I was at University, so I felt this was grossly unfair. It was just that British weather was far more unpredictable and unreliable and there was so much more to comment about! Not that I was particularly bothered by the weather in my youth unless an outdoor event that I was looking forward to had had to be cancelled.

Experience has taught me that human survival is dependent on regular cycles of rain, sunshine and even cold and frost. I now acknowledge how fragile those cycles are and how human behaviour causes their destruction.

The older “me” enjoys discussing the weather for it is those stock phrases like “Awful rain, today” (indispensable this year) which often lead into the important conversations that we needed to have. I am conscious of the way that sunshine, warmth and clear skies lift our spirits and enhance the beauty of our surroundings. I also understand the relief that falling rain and grey skies sometimes bring to the troubled and distressed - for a moment there is no need to pretend that everything is “fine”. I don’t subscribe to the “pathetic fallacy” which assigns human emotions to our environment, but I do know that weather expressions are used to reveal things about our human emotions and states of mind.

The Bible is full of allusions and metaphors drawn from weather. A powerful example came on Pentecost Sunday, when we read the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus’ disciples after his Ascension. The Holy Spirit was manifested by a mighty, powerful wind that penetrated the walls of the house where the disciples waited. The Spirit breathed new life and wonderful change into Jesus’ first disciples just as it does for us today!

Eryl Spencer

The Licensing and First Service of Revd. Benji Tyler

A historic occasion, Fr. Benji Tyler was licensed as the Parish Priest of St. Andrew's Chippenham and St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas at a special Induction Service on Monday 22nd April 2024. St. Andrew's Church was absolutely full – Benji had 30 relatives and around 40 of his parishioners from Wantage, which created a lovely atmosphere. You could tell how well he was respected and loved from the large queue that bid him farewell at the end of the evening.

Benji celebrated his first service with us – along with Anton – on Sunday 28th April. Benji was given a few local gift relating to his new ministry and we all enjoyed lunch together afterwards.

Thank you to **Wendy Reeves** for these lovely photos.





Left: Our Curate, Rev Anton Campbell welcoming Fr. Benji Tyler at the welcome lunch in the King Alfred Hall

Below: Organisation team for the Welcome lunch for Fr. Benji

Left-to-right: Jen, Marion, Mary P, Chris, Mary W, Dorryta.



The Train of Life

Richard Rosser and his wife Sheena attended the early Sunday morning Eucharist service at St Andrew's on the weekends they were staying at their home in Chippenham. Several of us had the privilege of attending his funeral recently in his home church in Ickenham. The service (partly taken by Rod) was an uplifting and celebratory occasion to honour an amazing life.

As part of the Service, Richard's son, Keith, read "The Train of Life" – a moving reflection for all of us of our earthly journey.

Margaret Harrison

TRAIN OF LIFE

By Jean D'ormesson

Read by Keith Rosser

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train: siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realise that they vacated their seats! This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way - loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty - we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life. Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to participate in this journey. I close by thanking you for being one of the passengers on my train!

CHIPPENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL HERITAGE LECTURE

ST ANDREWS CHURCH

TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2024

**Presentation by *Mike Stone*,
Chair of the Chippenham Civic Society**

**‘Made in Chippenham in the Victorian and
Edwardian periods’**

**The Annual Lecture will look at how Chippenham and its
market furnished both meat and animal products in the
manufacturing of leather, shoes, food including cheese,
and the mineral and brewing trade**

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Refreshments will be served after the lecture

Mothers' Union Update - Oxfam

Our Speaker for May was Mary Pennell, who first became involved with Oxfam in 2015. Prior to this her husband had been a regular volunteer, 3 days a week for many years. She began by giving a brief history of Oxfam before moving on to tell us about her personal experience of working at the shop in Chippenham.

Oxfam began in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief which campaigned for food supplies to be sent through an allied naval blockade to starving women and children in enemy occupied Greece during the Second World War. After the War Oxfam continued its work, sending material and financial aid to groups aiding poor people throughout Europe. As the situation in Europe improved, Oxfam's attention shifted to the needs of people in developing countries. The name OXFAM was officially adopted in 1962.

Today Oxfam works in 85 countries. Their approach is one of partnership, working alongside people, not condescending, to help save and protect lives in emergencies, helping people to rebuild their livelihoods, all the while campaigning for genuine, lasting change, keeping women's rights at the heart of everything they do. Mary pointed out that of the estimated 780 million illiterate adults in the world today, two-thirds are women. 61% of gay women suffer rape and other forms of abuse compared with about 30% of straight women. Less than 5% of mayoral roles are held by women and less than 25% women are parliamentarians. Water and sanitation are another major focus for Oxfam. 2.2bn people have no access to clean water – the majority of these are women. 2.3 billion people in the world have no access to a basic toilet. Up to 1,000 children a day die of water borne diseases.

Oxfam spends all of its money directly or indirectly on fighting the injustice of poverty. On average, for every £1 Oxfam receives, 81p goes on their emergency, development and campaigning work, 12p is spent on running costs and 7p is invested to generate future income.

Oxfam now has about 600 shops, the first one opening in 1947 in Broad Street, Oxford. About a 100 of these shops focus on books and music. Gross income from all of the Oxfam shops is currently more than £100million.

The Oxfam Shop in Chippenham

The Oxfam shop in Chippenham was previously an old bank so it is very spacious, light and airy so doesn't smell of old clothes! The shop has 3 floors; the salesroom on the ground floor, the first floor where all the work is done, sorting and pricing and the second floor a dedicated Bridal suite with literally hundreds of dresses and accessories, both new and second hand. Viewing is by appointment.

The staff are very particular about the goods they put up for sale in the shop. For example, every jigsaw donated is first given to a volunteer to take home and do in order to check that all the pieces are there. Similarly, games and toys are checked that all the pieces are present and in good working order. The first floor initially looks chaotic but it is actually very well organised with separate areas where women's clothes, men's clothes, children's clothes, children's toys, books etc are examined. A single volunteer comes in a few times each week to mark up the items that have been donated with Gift Aid. Research is done on the price of the item when new and also second hand elsewhere before deciding on the price in the shop. Given that the price eventually chosen will offer a very generous deal, Oxfam doesn't accept other offers from customers in the shop.

Mary said that while working as a volunteer is very hard, physical and relentless, it is also great fun and has provided wonderful friendships. There are downsides: donations that are rags, or dirty and broken. Customers who try to negotiate the price. Shoplifting. However, it is very rewarding, offering a sense of purpose, friendship, learning and laughter. By doing the small things we can make a big difference to the world we live in.

Jenny Norris



North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra

The North Wiltshire Symphony Orchestra will give its next concert in St. Andrew's church on **Saturday June 15th at 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets are £15 adult; £2 accompanied children.

Available from:

www.wegotickets.com/northwiltsochestra;

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 March we were delighted to see such a large audience, no doubt attracted by the French Romantic programme. Please book ahead because we have had high demand for recent concerts.

June Concert

In this concert we travel north to Norway and Finland to present two popular works and a rarity.

*This concert features soloist **Ellen Arkwright**, who is a soprano graduate from Trinity Laban, and has had engagements in opera and oratorio in some of the country's biggest cathedrals. She is "passionate about music of all genres" and runs an agency MYMUSO, which sources musicians for weddings, events and parties.*

Exciting new addition to the St. Andrew's card and book stall – church mice! On sale from June. Fair Trade and made from sustainable wood, hand carved in Bali. And now, here is the first exciting installment of Mouse's story!

The First Adventure of Mouse

Mouse had to escape - fast!! The river had become wild and unpredictable of late, with higher and higher floods. But where to go? And when? Mouse's second thought was answered almost at once as a strong gust of wind whipped up the water level again and the rotting bark round the ancient oak tree where she had lived for many years was now loose and floating down towards the town.

Mouse held on tight as the little bark boat was tossed about, finally becoming lodged in some brambles not far from the town. Mouse scrambled up the bank – where was she? She saw a large garden in front of her, quite close to a church. Although she was rather frightened, she somehow felt that this was a kind place. She boldly crossed from the garden, climbed up some stone steps and approached the church...

Look out for the next installment in the July magazine!

Sue Symonds & Sue Stearn

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!

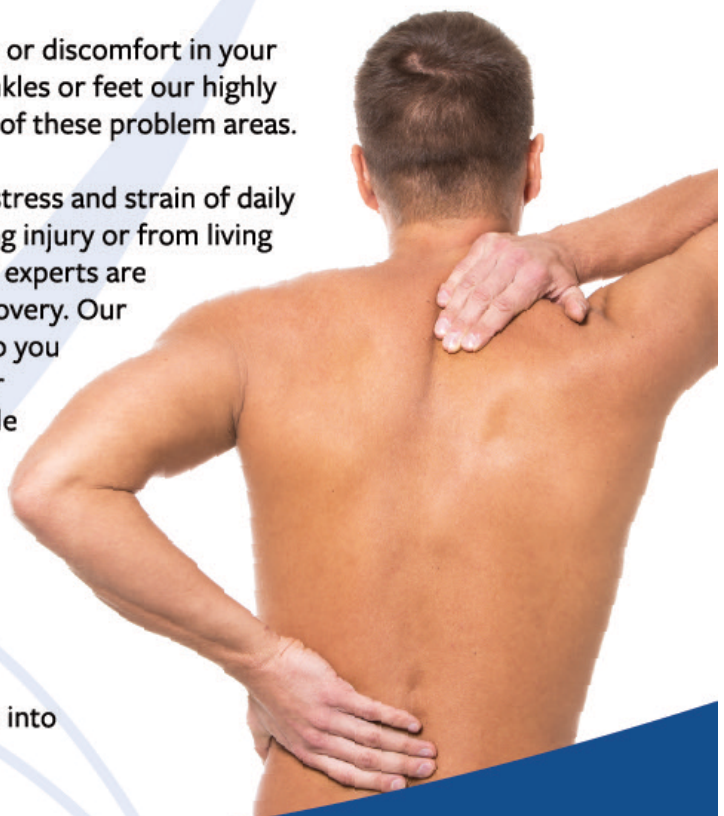
Come along and join us – we are waiting to welcome you.



Whether you are suffering from pain or discomfort in your neck, shoulders, back, hips, knees, ankles or feet our highly trained team can assess and treat all of these problem areas.

If your problem occurs through the stress and strain of daily life, following surgery, from a sporting injury or from living with a chronic condition our team of experts are here to help you on your road to recovery. Our treatments are tailored specifically to you and your condition and we utilise our manual skills and knowledge alongside a personalised exercise rehabilitation programme to help you achieve your goals.

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** Listed treatment prices fixed until 2025*

Mission Area Covenant Prayer

At our recent Deanery Synod in March we shared a Mission Area Covenant Prayer. With no further feedback received it seems reasonable to adopt this for now as we step together in fresh, intentional and united mission work. The prayer is attached and is intended to enable us to join together now, beginning with foundational prayer. A "fuller" covenant may well be forthcoming once clergy vacancies have been filled.

Supportive prayer across the deanery, not just around Chippenham, is important.

Thank you and yours in Christ,
Rev Simon Dunn

Loving God.

We recognise we are stronger together, united under the banner of your love, sharing the gifts you graciously grant us, and intentionally working together.

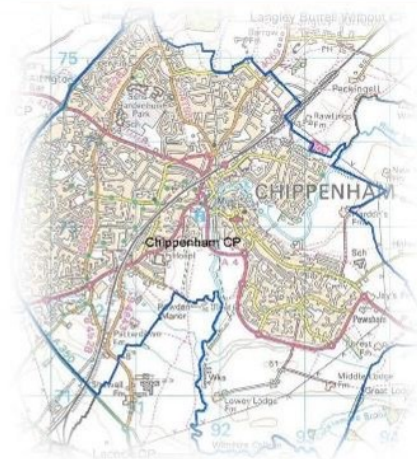
Bond us in your love. Lord.

Envision and embolden us to proclaim and live out your good news.

We offer ourselves to you as you build your church around Chippenham.

We stand united.

We desire our unique and different backgrounds, experiences, skills and hopes, to be united in purpose, in the name of Jesus. And as we are empowered by your Holy Spirit, help us to creatively reach out together to those in and around Chippenham who are yet to know you personally and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. AMEN



Poem: 2024 SleepOut for Doorway

A short poem on sleeping in a cardboard box one very rainy night in April to raise funds for our local drop-in centre.

Just for a lark I built me an ark

And when it got dark I Slept Out in the park.

'Twas for Doorway: for people who don't have much stuff,

Who find life pretty tough and who often sleep rough.

And true to the story of building an ark,

It sure did get wet and it sure did get dark.

'Twas only one night but it felt more like forty

So thank you, dear friends, for all your support-y! 😊

I was extremely grateful for every bit of moral and financial support I received. The final total raised via my JustGiving page was £1,821 which will help provide a lifeline to some very vulnerable people in our local community.

God bless!

Debbie Warren

Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

9th June *Evensong with Holy Communion* 6.30 pm

23rd June *Holy Communion* 6.30 pm

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 46 £40: 5 £25: 19

Margaret Harrison



EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Tuesday 4 June **11am (Café open from 10.30am)**
Trio Paradis Café Concert

This month's theme is Flower Gardens, with a wide variety of music from Schubert to Honeysuckle Rose, and featuring many female composers. Take some time out and let the stresses of daily life fade away!

Saturday 15 June **7.30pm**
North Wiltshier Symphony Orchestra (see pgs 10-11)

Saturday 22 June **7.30pm**
WCO

Saturday 6 July **7.30pm**
Village Singers

Thursday 11 / Saturday 13 July **7.30pm**
CLOGS

Who's Who?

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 Sue Wood 650478

Treasurer (St. Nicholas')

Wendy Reeves 650622

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Eryl Spencer 651565

Gift Aid Officer

Sue Wood

Giving Officer

Gavin Macrae 659922

Electoral Roll Officer

Ros Harford 812190

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Vineyard Card Sales

Sue Stearn 462593
 Sue Symonds 659293

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Jenny Norris 812945

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Bell-ringers

Caroline Emerson 658708

Prayer Circle

Eryl Spencer 651565

Flower Arrangers

Dorrryta Hayward 653322

Coffee Shop Co-ordinator

Caroline Emerson 658708

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Fabric Committee

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Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Youth and Children

Eryl Spencer 651565

Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

Communications Committee

Parish Hall Committee

Friends of St. Andrew's
 Jenny Norris 812945

When You Pray

Lead us, O God, from the sight of the lovely things
of the world

To the thought of you their Creator;

And grant that delighting in the beautiful things of
your creation,

we may delight in you, the first author of beauty

and the Sovereign Lord of all your works, blessed
for evermore.



St Augustine of Hippo
(354-430)

A Final Word

Some of you might remember my good friend James Adman who sung in the St. Andrew's choir alongside me while we were both living in Chippenham. We have both now moved away but remain very much in touch. We share many mutual interests and hobbies, but have found an increasing amount of our conversation is taken up by reflections on faith, God and religion; it simply feels much more profound and important than anything else!

The two of us have tried to be "open to discuss" our faith with any curious friends, and were both pleasantly surprised that a few have proactively asked about it. These individuals might not have come to faith themselves yet, but I can very much recall myself being curious to ask questions at the beginning of my own faith journey, so I hope that this is a positive first step!

For both James and I, our faith is something which is a positive, happy thing, and of course we are delighted to share our experience with those who are interested (and likewise do not discuss with those who are not!). I encourage everybody reading this to similarly be open to discuss faith or God with anybody who is curious enough to ask. I pray that it can lead to more people discovering this wonderful thing.

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 the latest details.

