

THE

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

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



*Photo: Gavin Macrae*

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Prayer?

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the Churchyard

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favourite regular  
features and  
updates

[www.standrewschippenham.org.uk](http://www.standrewschippenham.org.uk)

**No. 68**  
**August 2024**

# THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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enquiries, including baptisms,  
weddings and funerals. For hall  
bookings and enquiries please  
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Photo: Gavin Macrae

I hope you will think this article is neither presumptuous nor inappropriate when you see it is about prayer and praying. Prayer is something I think about, try to do and worry about a great deal. My education was a very conservative, convent, Catholic experience. We were constantly being told that we had to earn God's love by formal regimes of prayers (Novenas, decades of the rosary, 9 First Fridays to name a few). The emphasis was always on our sins and guilt. Prayer was a major tool we had to appease our judgemental God.

It took me about 65 years and a real moment of epiphany to understand that She does not ask to be appeased nor can we. God is the infinite source of love which is poured into us without reservation or judgement.

So what do I think Prayer is? The extremely warrior race, the Assyrians, described prayer as "unclenching the fist". What an image. Let go of the sword, the armoured and curled hand and you are defenceless, open to attack and perhaps needing help. For me, prayer asks me to let go of so much, my reliance on myself, my impatience my quickness to judge others. The Gospels obviously have many references to prayer, which can guide us but when Mathew says in 7: 7, "ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you", what is it suggesting? Ask to win the Lottery and you will?

Mark, 11:24, *"therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe you have received it and it will be yours"* I find as puzzling.

Both these statements challenge me to think about what I am really doing when I pray. My prayers are increasingly those of gratitude-for being alive in the morning, for the endless gifts given me in grace throughout the day and for the joy of another day lived. When I am waiting to cross the road and the traffic streams past, rather than being irritated, I now pray that the drivers go wisely and arrive in joy at their journeys' end. When I see someone whose differences challenge my narrow and judgemental thoughts, I honour them as reservoirs of God's love just as I am. When I am moved to pray for someone, I ask myself what is mine to do for that person: a loving text, a phone call, a card in the post. I am beginning to realise that what Mark and Mathew is telling us is that when we use prayer to further Her work in the world, everyone gains..

I said at the outset that I worry about praying. I know enough about myself to know that I need constant affirmation. I wonder if I am "good enough" to pray.. Not many years ago, at my last church, a priest preached that if our prayers did not seem to be answered, we were not praying properly. I have to work very hard to get that out of my mind, when I ask and there is no obvious answer or when I seek and cannot find.

But, but, but.....writing this reflection has made me see that if I can stop overthinking and worrying about my unworthiness and simply pray in Faith, Trust and Love, God, in all Her unceasing Wisdom and generosity, will do the rest

**Mary Pennell**



*An unusual angle of St. Andrew's Church, taken from the Vicarage roof while the scaffolding was up.*

*Thank you **Fr. Benji** for sharing!*



*On Sunday 14th July after the 10.30 am Service, we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Wedding celebration of **Revd Jeremy and Vicki Bray** in the usual St. Andrew's way: with a glass of wine & a slice of delicious wedding cake, raising our glasses with our love and congratulations to them both.*

## Mothers' Union Update

What a fascinating meeting we had in July getting to know each other and those hidden talents. From lace making to crochet, from garden design to poetry (Fr. Benji had us in fits of laughter about his time at Theological college), we shared a very enjoyable time together. As usual we ended with tea and biscuits still talking about our pastimes both past and present.

The previous month at our afternoon tea in the vicarage garden, I am pleased to report that we raised £120 for the **Away From It All** scheme (see next page) which will help provide a day out for disadvantaged families to Weston Super Mare.

**Denise Addison**  
*Branch Leader*



In August we are holding an **Open meeting** on **12 August** at **2.30 pm** in the lady chapel.

If you have wondered 'what is the Mothers' Union, who was its founder, and what does it do locally, nationally and internationally' then do come along.

*Everyone is welcome!*

## **Mothers' Union Bristol    Project Prayers August-September 2024**

### **Away From It All**

We pray for fine weather and a happy day for the many families who will benefit from the MU Bristol Away From It All (AFIA) coach trips to Weston-Super-Mare. From the end of July and through August, trips will be going from Kingswood, Yate and Mission Area, Brentry and Henbury, Swindon Penhill and Swindon Walcot. Mothers' Union is delighted to be able to fund these special days for families across the Diocese.

### **Mary Sumner Day**

August 9th is the Anniversary of our Founder, Mary Sumner. Her vision recognised a need for spiritual support for mothers and their families, which led in 1876 to the creation of Mothers' Union, which has now grown to become a global Christian movement with over 4 million members around the world. Mary Sumner's personal prayer asks for God's blessing on all that we do, and is a guide to how we live our life, to daily grow to be more like Jesus.

### **The Mary Sumner Prayer**

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

**Jacky Fredrickson DP MU Bristol**

07501670265

Jacky.mubristoldiocese@gmail.com [www.mubristol.co.uk](http://www.mubristol.co.uk)

## Wild Flowers in the Churchyard

Last summer I put an article in the Herald explaining that the area of the churchyard nearest to the vicarage had been left uncut to encourage the growth of wild flowers, both for us to enjoy and, more importantly, to provide sources of nectar and pollen for our invertebrates, which need all the help we can give them. Many of the more striking ones have been grown from seed and deliberately planted over the past two years, including a large number of Cowslips last autumn. In the photo, taken on 4th July this year, you can see Ox-eye Daisies, Black Knapweed, Common Cat's-ears, Field Scabious, Common St. John's Wort, Meadow Cranesbill and Betony – all of which can be found growing wild in our countryside.

The wider churchyard is host, however, to many other wild flowers which manage to survive the mowing routine, or which have appeared spontaneously in the area left uncut. Last year I published a list of just over 50 species, inviting readers to spot additional ones for adding to the list. The total now stands at over 70!

Stinging Nettle	Bloody Cranesbill	Betony	Perennial Sow Thistle
Knotgrass	Hedgerow Cranesbill	Red Deadnettle	Spear Thistle
Common Sorrel	Herb Robert	Bittersweet	Creeping Thistle
Lesser Celandine	Sun Spurge	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Black Knapweed
Bulbous Buttercup	Musk Mallow	Germander Speedwell	Cornflower
Creeping Buttercup	Common Mallow	Ribwort Plantain	Chicory
Meadow Buttercup	Common St. John's Wort	Hoary Plantain	Dandelion
Common Poppy	American Willowherb	Greater Plantain	Wall Lettuce
Yellow Corydalis	Ground Elder	Common Elder	Common Cat's-ear
Shepherd's Purse	Primrose	Field Scabious	Beaked Hawk's-beard
Perennial Wall Rocket	Cowslip	Common Daisy	Orange Hawkweed
Cuckoo Flower	Scarlet Pimpernel	Yarrow	Field Wood-rush
Reflexed Stonecrop	Common Cleavers	Corn Marigold	Wild Daffodil
Herb Bennett	Larger Bindweed	Oxeye Daisy	Snowdrop
Bramble	Bindweed	Common Ragwort	Spanish Bluebell
Red Clover	Green Alkanet	Groundsel	
White Clover	Field Forget-me-not	Pineapple Mayweed	
Bird's-foot Trefoil	Self-heal	Smooth Sow Thistle	



Do let me know if you spot any others or if there are any you would like to see added to the wild area. We have deliberately planted perennial species since seed dropped from them propagates well, while that from annuals has a poor record of germination in this type of environment.

The wild area, which extends right round to the large Holly tree, is to be cut and raked up in the autumn. This allows seed to set and drop and ensures there is not too much regrowth before the winter.

***Michael Sammes***



***Editor's note:*** it is a wonderful coincidence that Michael sent this article and photo a couple of days after Gavin shared this month's front cover photo with me. I had already decided it was going on the front cover! I think that the flowers are looking so beautiful, they are clearly catching the eye of many passers by!

## Some favourite Choral Anthems

I always enjoy listening to recordings of BBC Choral Evensong while editing the *Herald* magazine; it creates an atmosphere of worship while also connecting me to the Anglican and English Choral tradition which is so dear to my heart. For this issue, I thought I would share a few favourite Anthems from my time in the St. Andrew's Choir under the direction of Paul Fortune. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but ones I discovered while at St. Andrew's and I have enjoyed ever since.

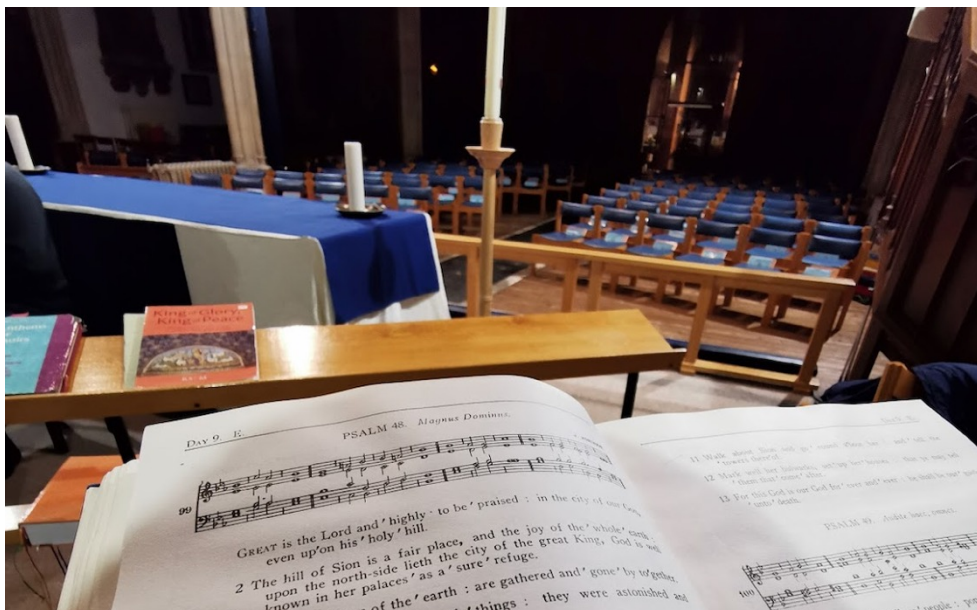
Firstly, is **Thomas Tallis'** *If Ye Love Me*, an anthem which is so simple yet so profound; every single note is in the perfect place and nothing need be added or taken away. I find it so impressive as it was written in its simple form (and in English) as a deliberate break from the elaborate Latin music of the Catholic Church. It is a quintessential work of the English Reformation and should be admired in this historical context. For my personal history, it is also the anthem we sung when my now-wife Hera first joined the congregation in Chippenham from Singapore!

Next is *Is it nothing to you?* By **Frederick Ouseley**. In its minor key, the song is emotional and reflective, reminding us of Christ's suffering. Despite the lamenting nature, it is undoubtedly beautiful as a composition, reminding us that even in the darkest moments there is the beauty of God's creation and salvation. And of course, I with Ouseley's connection to our Church, this feels even more special to sing!

Finally, and perhaps the one I have listened to the largest number of times in recent years, is **Samuel Sebastian Wesley's** *Lead Me, Lord*. This is another simple, yet beautiful anthem and I absolutely love the harmonies – the tenor line I sung is particularly lovely! The song creates a calm, peaceful atmosphere, which I find rather transcendental. The words themselves create a sense of trust in the Lord, and I particularly like the line lifted from Psalm 4 "*For it is thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety*".

It is the beauty and calm that these various anthems help me connect to which make them so special. To sing them brings me that much closer to God and His glory! We are so lucky to have a continued choral tradition in Chippenham, and I pray this continues. In the meantime, do let me know what your favourite anthems are and why – I would love to share a few of yours in a future issue.

**Remy Osman – Editor**



*A photo I took during Friday choir practice in January 2020*



# TRIO PARADIS

Jacquelyn Bevan - piano    Lisa Betteridge - violin    Linda Stocks - cello

*Friendship through music*

**TUESDAY 2nd JULY**

**Stage & Screen**

**TUESDAY 6th AUGUST**

**Scenes of Childhood**

**TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER**

**Shall We Dance?**

**TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER**

**Vive la France!**

**TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER**

**Money, Money, Money...**

**TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER**

**A December Evening**

## Monthly Café Concerts

First Tuesday of  
each month  
at **11am**

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH Chippenham SN15 3JN

Café serving home-made cakes open 10.30am. Concerts last c45 min.

Entrance by donation, with a retiring collection

[www.trioparadis.com](http://www.trioparadis.com)

Trio Paradis' Café Concerts continue on the first Tuesday of every month at 11am with café serving home-made cakes and 'real' coffee from c10.15am.

**6th August:** Family Concert: Scenes of Childhood - Bizet, Schumann, Fauré and Ravel

**3rd September:** Shall We Dance: from ballet to bolero, tango, waltz and Charleston

**1st October:** Vive La France! Poulenc, Piaf and many more.



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## The Grief Opera, Love Goes On Nigel Linacre & Vladimir Miller

*The Grief Opera, Love Goes On is an original work of loss and love in song and verse, that may help people on their grief journey.*

Losing his son, **Nigel Linacre** went into shock. Writing poetry and verse, he combined with musician **Vladimir Miller**, to bring grief to life. Reflecting the variety of mental states, the music is infused with a range of musical styles. Vladimir Miller is a gifted pianist and international jazz musician. The music reflects the libretto, and is also a counterpoint, lightening the darkness.

A number of congregants from St Andrew's are involved in this production.

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

(International Suicide Prevention Day)

7:15pm, Burdall's Yard, 7A Anglo Terrace Bath BA1 5NH

Tickets available via EventBrite or please speak to Nigel

*The Grief Opera will also be performed at St. Andrew's Church at 7:30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.*

## Mouse's Adventures Continues

Mouse was beginning to settle in with her new friends who had given her a home and were so kind and welcoming, but Mouse was confused. Last month the church was busy but now it was so quiet, even the Children's Corner, which was one of Mouse's favourite places (things there were much more her size). Then she thought, 'That's it. That's what's confusing me! Where have the children gone! Oh my whiskers, said Mouse, now I'm a bit scared! I must go and ask Pink Pony'.

Pink Pony lived in the Children's Corner and saw everything and was very kind and wise. "Don't worry Mouse" said Pink Pony, "It's August and so most families are away on holiday. They'll be back next month when Andy's@4 starts again. Anyway, if you stay here with me and keep really still, you'll see that the church is never completely quiet and empty".

Sure enough, over the next few hours, Mouse saw people coming in and sitting quietly. Some lit candles, some walked round slowly, some looked sad but all of them, as they left the church looked, sort of – calm and more at peace with themselves, as if they'd found something. "Pink Pony" asked Mouse, "have they found something and what is it?"

"Ah, said Pink Pony "I think you're beginning to understand what can happen when you take time to be still and listen and wait.

"I'll have to think about that" said Mouse.

"Dear Mouse, I think that you've started on your journey to become a proper Church Mouse."

And Pink Pony smiled.

***Sue Symonds & Sue Stearn***

# Parish Noticeboard

## Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

11<sup>th</sup> August    *Evensong with Holy Communion*    6.30 pm

25<sup>th</sup> August    *Holy Communion*    6.30 pm

***Sheila Laurence***

01249 740687

## **100 Club Draw for last month**

£100: 70

£40: 15

£25: 48

***Margaret Harrison***

*A successful quarter peal was rung...*

**Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association**  
**St Andrew's Chippenham, Wiltshire**

Sunday, 14 July 2024

## **1260 Grandsire Triples**

1 Jane Ridgwell

3 Richard Heath

5 Morley Bray

7 Andrew K Woolley (C)

2 Carole Simpson

4 Richard Iles

6 Gareth Bennett

8 Chris Bush

*1st quarter peal for over 5 years for Gareth. Rung for a confirmation service.*



## EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

**Saturday 7 September**                      **3pm**

*Kathryn Ryan - Piano Recital*

**Saturday 14 September**    **10am-6pm**

*Wiltshire Ride & Stride*

**Saturday 21 September**    **6pm**

*Harvest Supper*

**Saturday 12 October**                      **10am – 2pm**

*Autumn Fayre*

**Saturday 19 October**                      **7.30pm**

*Village Singers Concert*

**Saturday 2 November**                      **TBC**

*Flower Demo & Afternoon Tea*

**Saturday 2 November**                      **7.30pm**

*Grief Opera*

**Saturday 16 November**    **7.30pm**

*North Wilts Symphony Orchestra Concert*

**Saturday 30 November**    **7.30pm**

*WCO Concert*

### Silent Prayer

All are welcome to join for Silent Prayer every Thursday at 7:30pm for 30 minutes at 2 Baydon's Lane, Chippenham.

Contact **Michael Sammes** (654608)

# Who's Who?

## Parish Priest:

Fr. Benji Tyler 322063  
[chippenhamvicar@yahoo.com](mailto:chippenhamvicar@yahoo.com)

## Associate Curate

Anton Campbell  
[revanton@outlook.com](mailto:revanton@outlook.com)

## Lay Ministers

Eryl Spencer 651565

## Benefice Worship Leaders

Linda Silk, Mary Pennell,  
 Viv Prout & Laurinda Elliott.

## Churchwardens

Jenny Norris 812945  
 Gavin Macrae 659922

## Deputy Churchwardens

Dorryta Hayward (St Andrew's) 653322  
 Brian Elliott (St. Nicholas) 463230

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 Sue Wood 650478

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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

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Stephen Riley  
[standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:standrews.safeguarding@outlook.com)

## 100 Club

Margaret Harrison 652148

## The Book and Cardstall

Sue Stearn 462593  
 Sue Symonds 659293

## Parish Hall Committee

Jenny Norris 812945

# Groups and Organisations at St. Andrew's

## Robed Choir and Singers

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[Paulandmyra25@gmail.com](mailto:Paulandmyra25@gmail.com)

## Bell-ringers

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## 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](mailto:denise.addison@googlemail.com)

## Silent Prayer Group

*Thursdays at 7.30 pm*  
 Michael Sammes 654608

## PCC Sub-Committees

### Fabric Committee

Denise Addison 814843

### Social Events

Dorryta Hayward 653322

### Social Responsibility

Dick Spencer 651565

### Youth and Children

Eryl Spencer 651565

### Communications Committee

### Parish Hall Committee

### Friends of St. Andrew's

Jenny Norris 812945

## When You Pray . . . .

Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
compassion on this world  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do  
good.  
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all  
the world.

Yours are the hands.  
Yours are the feet.  
Yours are the eyes.  
You are His body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



**St Teresa of Avila**  
(1515-1582)

## A Final Word

I hope that you enjoyed my piece about choral anthems in this issue (and go and listen to the three soon). It was quite a long while since I had written a "full article" for the *Herald* magazine, partly as this month I had the space. As ever, if you would like to contribute any articles, musings, poems or photos etc to this Parish magazine, I am always on the hunt for more content!

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the regular contributors, particularly Ros Harford, Gavin Macrae, Scott Blum, Michael Sammes, Denise Addison, Margaret Harrison, Debbie Warren and Christina Knowles who send me lots of things for inclusion every month.

It remains a true pleasure to edit this magazine for everybody!

**Remy Osman, Editor**

# Church Services

St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chippenham with St. Nicolas' Tytherton Lucas

## St Andrew's Church Chippenham

### **9am Eucharist**

A said service with traditional language.

### **10.30am Eucharist**

The main Parish Eucharist with singing and congregational hymns. Led by our robed choir on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and some 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and the singing group on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### **Evensong**

*6:30pm Second Sunday of the Month*

## St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

*Please see inside on page 16 for the latest details.*

