



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT



2024

St. Andrew's Web: <http://www.saintandrewsshottery.org>





Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist*

6.30pm Evensong

1st Sunday: 10.00am All-Age Family Service (without Communion)

3rd Sunday: 5.30pm Atrium.

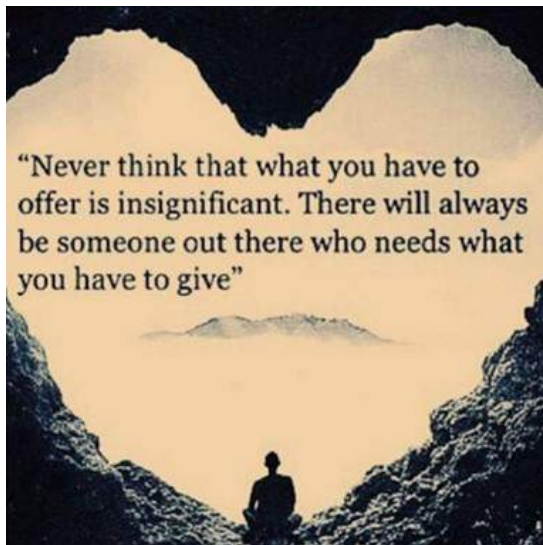
Tuesdays: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion.

*This Service will also be on zoom. Do check out our website and on Facebook for links.

SUNDAY 28th APRIL.

Matt Hyam, Senior Church and Christian Engagement Specialist - WORLD VISION will be our guest speaker at 10am.





Letter from the
Vicar

**‘Freely you have received; freely give.’
Matthew 10:8**

I am always struck and challenged by these simply words of Jesus. We have all received freely of God grace, love and mercy as the post communion prayer in the Communion service reminds us; ‘When we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.’ Our response to God grace is in the offering of our worship, time, talents, and money. I continue to be grateful to God for the generosity of all of you towards the ministry and mission work of St Andrew’s.

On Saturday April 27 the PCC have decided to hold a Gift Day and to invite local people, regular worshippers and non-worshippers alike, to make a donation to ensure that we continue to serve Shottery and our local community. It is thanks to your support over many years that we have been able to continue to maintain St Andrew’s and our parish centre as the wonderful place of worship and community they are and a place where everyone in the community can celebrate important occasions. As a church we depend *entirely* on the generosity of our congregation and fundraising to meet the costs of running the church, parish centre and paying our clergy.

Our Gift Day will be held on Saturday 27 April. The church will be open from 10.00am-12.30pm. You are welcome to bring your gift in person and to have the opportunity to pray with myself if you wish as you offer your gift. If you would like to make a gift but are unable to offer that at the Gift Day, you can send gifts to the Vicarage, Parish Office or at a service on a Sunday. See next page to find out why we need a Gift Day.

Please do consider prayerfully what your response might be as we seek to build His kingdom further here at St Andrew’s.

Blessings in Christ,
Reverend Craig

Where does the money go?

Every week it costs £1962 to maintain the work of St. Andrew's Shottery

Ministry—which includes payments to the Diocese and additional clergy expenses. £1345

Maintenance of buildings and grounds— which includes heating, lighting, cleaning supplies and insurance. £182

Maintenance of Worship—which includes altar requisites, organ maintenance, choir and music costs. £136

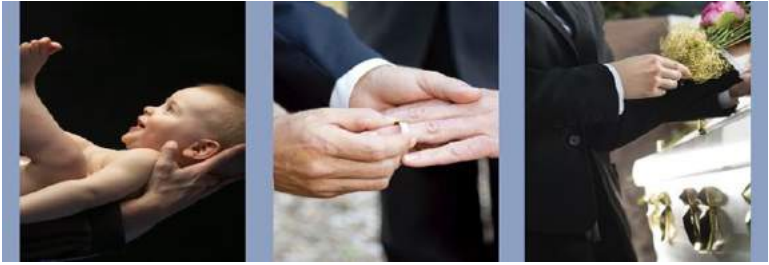
Administration— which includes office and secretarial costs, stationery, telephone and photocopying. £299

Total: £1962

Any questions about Gift Aid or about joining the Planned giving Scheme to help cover our costs should be addressed to Anne Challis



PARISH REGISTERS



FUNERAL:

5th March: JOHN DUCKETT.



ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE 2024

Anyone who worships regularly at St. Andrew's, and has done so for the last 6 months, is eligible to join our Electoral

Roll. We will be updating the roll between 14th April and 28th April so please look at the list, on the notice board in the welcome area to see if you are already on the roll. If not and you wish to join please complete an application form, to be found by the list, and return it to Anne Challis, no later than 5th May, either at church or send to:

259 Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 9JG.

Nice


The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs

Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy
Everyone Welcome



13th April
10am till noon.
In PARISH CENTRE

"God is under the rubble in Gaza. He is with the frightened and the refugees. He is in the operating room. This is our consolation. He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. If we want to pray, my prayer is that those who are suffering will feel this healing and comforting presence."

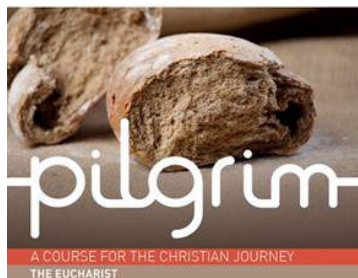


*- Revd Dr Munther Isaac,
 Lutheran Pastor in Betlehem*

The next **Pilgrim Course**
 will start on Wednesday 24 April 2024
 7.30 pm
 at 5 Plover Close CV37 9EN
 and run for six weeks.

This second book in the Grow Stage, The Eucharist, explores in greater depth how Christians know and worship God. Its six sessions combine simple prayer, reflection on the Bible in the lectio divina style, an article by a modern writer, and time for questions and reflection.

More information from Revd Joy Hance (01789 414603) and please sign the sheet by Sunday 14 April so I can order the books.



Do you know what the Bible actually says about the resurrection of Jesus?



The **Wednesday afternoon in-person Bible Group** is a follow-on to the recent *Bible Courses*.

We have been excited and greatly encouraged by reading and discussing Paul's Letter to the Philippians over the last few weeks. There are currently nine or so of us, but we could fit a few more people in.

After a break for Easter week, we will have three weekly sessions looking at Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection - the climax of His story, and the basis not only of our Easter celebrations but of our whole Christian lives. We will read Luke chapter 24 on **10th April**, John chapter 20 on **17th April** and John chapter 21 on **24th April**.

It doesn't matter if you can't come to all three - we'd be delighted to have you join us whenever you can.

We are at 20 Albany Road and start with tea & cake at 3pm, finishing by 4.30pm. Please let Nick or Alex Cutler know if you can make it - nickcutler59@gmail.com

(Watch this space for more exciting news of what we hope to be doing subsequently.)

Hallelujah, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!



Our March meeting on the 11th took the usual form of our annual Anniversary Communion Service celebrating the 41st year of the Mothers' Union at St. Andrew's.

After the Revd. Mary Crameri had led the service using a Celtic liturgy, there was the opportunity to formally introduce and welcome Kim Simkin to the M.U. here in Shotton.

To follow on, Mary read from Paula Gooder's book - "Women of Holy Week". This particular story was about the woman who anointed Jesus with the precious ointment from her alabaster jar. This very readable book focuses on the women who followed Jesus in his ministry and gives an insight into their lives at the time.

We all joined Hilary Capron in thanking Mary for making this a special meeting.

There was news of several members and we were delighted to see Dorothy Irons (a Deanery member from Newbold-on-Stour) back with us again after her long illness.

Hilary thanked all who had helped with the Mothering Sunday posies. She mentioned next month's Easter Gardens meeting and also one or two forthcoming Deanery/Diocese events.

The Anniversary planter was looking good and the plaque was in hand. Of course, our meetings never end without time for tea, biscuits and a chat!

NEXT MEETING - 8th APRIL at 2 p.m.

N.B. "Women of Holy Week" by Paula Gooder featured in M.U. Easter and Spring Gift Catalogue (or online - www.mueshop.org).

Daphne Jones, (Sec.)



This year the Church of England celebrates the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood.

EVERYONE is invited to our celebration service at Coventry Cathedral on the 21st April at 4pm.

30

YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN PRIESTS

This years see the anniversary of 30 years of women being ordained as priests in the Church of England. We are going to be celebrating this wonderful occasion with a special service at the Cathedral at 4pm on 21st April - everyone is welcome!

The service will look back and gives thanks for the ministry of the 35 women who were ordained as priests on 23rd April 1994, as well as celebrate the ministry of women across the diocese today - both lay and ordained. Were will also be looking to the future and cheering on our women leaders who will lead us in years to come.

In the run up to our anniversary service, we will be highlighting some of the incredible women who live, serve and minister in our diocese. Were are going to be sharing the stories and vocations of a number of our lay and ordained female colleagues who impact our communities in a number of wonderful ways.

Children and Families Update



In this article I would like to outline some of the recent events we have enjoyed at St Andrew's alongside details of future projects we have in the pipeline. As always, I am so thankful for the support and encouragement received from so many of you. The job is a pleasure and I'm very grateful.

Christmas 2023

Although it is now a distant memory, I would first like to reflect on our Christmas Children and Families Events which included:

An Interactive Christingle Service

Children made their own Christingles as part of the service and came together in a large circle around the church to light them. This service also involved a Stamp performance which was a highlight for the other children and families.

Advent Chocolate Church

A lively and uplifting event to which we welcomed 60 children and their adults. It was busy, chocolatey, festive afternoon!

Christmas Eve Crib Service

A packed church full of very excited children all keen to help with the retelling of the Christmas story. This also included an informal Stamp appearance for our final carol.

Stamp Christmas Concert- what can I say! Such a brilliant event which brought great joy to audience and performers alike.

Funding and Finances

We are delighted to have received double the funding this year from Stratford Town Trust this year following our second application. We understand that we are talked of very positively by the Town Trust and thank them for another wonderful opportunity to deliver to local children and families.

We also applied to the Diocesan Mission Fund which exists to enable pioneering new mission projects. We received the maximum amount possible of £2500 for our Chocolate Church work in 2024.

As I have outlined in previous reports, my long-term aim is to be as self-sufficient in terms of finance as I can be. Some of our profitable endeavours so far have included:

Running a weekly Stamp tuckshop (the children's favourite time of the session!) On average, we make around £60 per month which feeds directly back into the many CAF projects, including Stamp.



We also made around £400 profit from our Christmas concert which has been ploughed back into Children and Families events and resources (keep reading for more details of these) and we also hope to save up for our very own mobile staging for future concerts and performances both in and out of St Andrews

In addition to this, I am very lucky to receive regular donations both in terms of funding - and time - from members of St Andrew's and I am very, very grateful for this.

Throughout this article, as I outline the projects and initiatives, I aim to highlight how the money above is being spent.

So far this year we have run a very successful Valentine's Chocolate Church which was full to capacity (65 children plus their adults so a total of 90-100 people. 77% were returning attendees. 20% of these were as a result of being led to St Andrews by Stamp.)

Predictably, our theme for the afternoon was Love and our talk with the children used M&Ms to demonstrate how each of us are filled with 'the good stuff' or God's love which is ultimately best when shared. Cue plenty of sharing of M&Ms...!

In the parish centre, a variety of activities were available for the children including:

Chocolate Slime

Friendship bracelets

Love heart fidgets

Hot chocolate shots

Chocolate Oreo lollipops

Whilst in church, opportunities included:

Scavenger hunt for Bible verses focussing on love in order to create your own Valentines cards

A magnetic fishing game, collecting all the 'Love is..' statements from Corinthians

A prayer tree (still in church)

A broken heart puzzles to name a few.

We finished with a meal of jacket potatoes with beans, cheese or chilli (some ingredients donated by Morrisons the rest purchased using the means already outlined above) We were so thankful that our meal was cooked by Joy and Dan from the Stratford charity, 'Stepping Stones' who selflessly provide meals for the homeless and vulnerable in our town using the kitchen at St Andrews as a new base.

The Valentine's Chocolate Church has marked a year of this new endeavour and together with the Diocesan funding, I felt I could make some worthwhile investments which included:

Professional branding by local graphic designer including our new logo (see above)

Extra cutlery, trays and containers to make serving 100 as quick and smooth as possible.

Plastic display stands for activity instructions (to avoid single use plastic laminating them each time)

Lanyards for volunteers and official 'photographer'

Proper storage boxes for regularly used activities to make setups and tidy-ups as slick as we can and to help keep our resources tidy and organised.

Uniforms!

Using our new Chocolate Church logo we have been able to offer volunteers and participants the opportunity to purchase their own Chocolate Church uniforms! Options include hoodies, t-shirts and even aprons!



Volunteers

Over the year, we have really grown our lovely bank of volunteers which now includes 5 adults who have joined us as a result of their Chocolate Church attendance or Stamp (or both) and of course Joy and Dan our chefs too.

In addition, we are looking forward to welcoming Emma and Vanessa to our team; two lovely, eager young people in the parish who are volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Feedback and Evaluation

After our Valentine's event, we asked participants to complete an evaluation form for us. Some feedback and results include:

Every single one said activities were appropriate, interesting and engaging for them and nearly everyone said the level of Christianity at Chocolate Church was 'just right' for them and their children. (90% in fact).

100% were likely to come back in future and 80% said they would consider coming for a regular church service at St Andrew's in the future providing it was child friendly.

Participants also said...

"My daughter enjoys the activities and likes the atmosphere. We find it homely and warm. We think Chocolate Church is great. It is brilliant to see the church full of children. Chocolate Church and Stamp has brought life and the younger generation into church."

"Our first impression of Chocolate Church was that its friendly, fun and incredible. We couldn't believe it."

"It is a great way to introduce our children to the church".

"It's a lovely afternoon for the kids.

Lovely church, very friendly and welcoming. The amount of Christianity is just right for me. It doesn't freak out my husband!"

"Brilliantly run."

"We enjoy the games and as a single parent, it's a very welcome Sunday afternoon out of the house. A free hot meal is important to us. We always come back!"

"The atmosphere is so friendly. The children are learning about kindness, sharing, love with God at the core of each activity. This is delivered in a way that is not intrusive or discriminatory to any parent or child."

I passionately believe it's important to provide good quality, well-resourced activities for Chocolate Church which obviously requires some investment. I would like to point out that I was able to self-fund (using means outlined above) five Chocolate Church events in 2023 without claiming from my allocated Children and Families budget from St Andrew's.

Chocolate Church going forward

In future, I would like to consider running very similar events for older children who could join us without their parents since the older kids report that they value the social aspect of Chocolate Church.



This continues to be a lively and inspiring time for us all each week. We currently have 38 children in our choir and they are all complete superstars!

In addition to our highly acclaimed Christmas Concert, we had a fantastic Christmas party for the children (using our own funds and contributions). We had an evening of Christmas crafts and pizza and a hot chocolate bar which was enjoyed by all and a lovely way to finish off the year together.

Two boys in the choir are now at secondary school and neither want to leave. We are working with them to adapt Stamp to their needs to remain relevant to them, hopefully growing with them. They are such valuable characters and positive role models. Through discussions, we have developed the Young



Leaders initiative. They will plan some of the activities, run the tuckshop and help with counting up the tuck-shop takings. They are also working with Pete to enhance our social media presence creating films, reels and interviews weekly (do check out

their weekly films on our Facebook page!)

New uniform - professionally designed - will be in place for the boys after Easter (using our own funding)

We have also used our funds to enhance the Stamp experience for children by sourcing:

Optional personalised hoodies (families are aware there is financial assistance if required).

Water bottles with child's name and Stamp logo

Stamp Birthday cards

Certificates for 'Stamper of the Week!'

'Special mention postcards' given out each week to notable children.

Pull up banners (as seen in the Welcome Area at church)



Before the singing, we always start with games and activities in the parish centre. We have been able to invest in these by purchasing a good range of new board games, fidget toys and printable activities (these are also able to double up as activities for CC or family services etc).

Throughout 2023, we had many requests for spaces at Stamp for infant children. We don't feel the content and pace is appropriate for very young children and so we don't accept them until Year 3 or age 7. However, there has clearly been a need for some younger provision, so we have recently launched Mini Stamp – and our new logo above!

I am so grateful to a generous St Andrews donor who has made it possible to pay Naomi (who volunteers with Stamp Junior) to join me in leading our infant choir every Tuesday 4.30-5.15. Emma will also be volunteering each week with us for her Duke of Edinburgh.

Booking for spaces opened and within 2 days we were at capacity of 22 children aged between 4 and 6 years old.

Funds have allowed us to buy a year's subscription of 'Sparkyard,' an online music resource with sheet music and backing tracks which will be invaluable as we won't have the luxury of our accompanist for this venture! Children can also access these resources at home in order to practise. We hope these younger children will join us in performing at our summer concert and at future Chocolate Churches, just as we have seen with Stamp Jr.

Coming up:

Stamp Summer Concert 29th June

Stamp will be performing in the **Festival of Pursuits** on the Rec in May

Easter:Unwrapped a Chocolate

Church event on Good Friday.

We have 65 children booked on this and things are shaping up well. Activities include our infamous ice-cream 'Palm Sundaes', edible Easter gardens and salt painting to name but a few!



AT BISHOPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THURSDAY 14TH MARCH
AFTER SCHOOL TILL 4.30

Come and chill after school with chocolate, chatter and games. Suitable for all primary-age children and their adults.
Completely free. Everyone welcome!



Chat and Chill at Bishopton Community Centre.

An after-school drop-in for children and their parents. Serving hot chocolate and toast with a selection of board games.

Caroline Penn

Children and Families Leader



Franciscan Journey Update

So some great news, in November last year it was agreed by my order, the Anglican, The Society of St. Francis, that I would be able to profess my lifetime vows in October this year, on the 5/10/24, Franciscide is celebrated on the 4/10 each year. On that day I will make my lifetime vows to follow Christ after the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

I pray that I will become a tertiary in the TSSF, a member of the 3rd order, Franciscans living in the community, serving the Lord there.
The first order is that of friars (monks), the second order of nuns.

Part of the service includes the following, which explains the role a little more. Franciscans seek to be conformed to Jesus Christ after the example of St Francis. Living in the world we seek to make humility, love and joy the pre-eminent parts of our lives. Our aims are: to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the way of love and unity with all creation, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service.

I have always loved the following hymn/ prayer, it always seemed to reflect my role as a social worker (or at least what I was aiming to do!) Now, knowing that it is attached to St. Francis - although not written by him, makes me love it even more.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred , let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not do much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

So between now and October I will be writing my rule of life, more about that next time.

Pax et Bonum, Julie Milne

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

St. Mother Teresa

MindfulChristianityToday.com



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024.

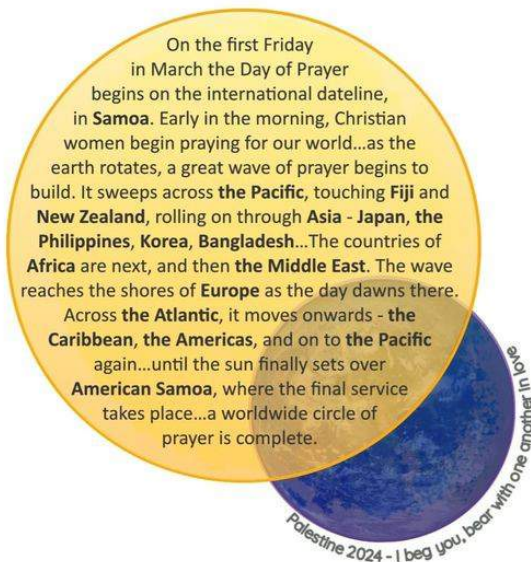
Day of Prayer 2024: Palestine

“I beg you, bear with one another in love” prepared by the Christian women of Palestine—some years ago!

On the very cold afternoon of 1st March over 120 people (in addition to 50 pupils from Holy Trinity School who led the singing beautifully, singing in both Arabic and English) were warmly welcomed into the United Reformed Church in Rother Street. I had said it was going to be a “cracking” service and it was! Representatives from the Christian Churches in Stratford had spent some time preparing. Many changes were made to the script for obvious reasons.

Thanks to Becks Bartlett parts of the service was relayed onto two screens. The Committee were very keen that the congregation should not have their heads in the booklets but be able to observe their surroundings and take in the Palestinian atmosphere that had been created. The altar table held symbols of Palestine—Branches of Olive Trees; olives, olive oil, fruit, lemons, oranges, poppy leaves etc. together with a Bible. (see picture overleaf)

Rev. Su enhanced the service giving an insight into life in Palestine both before and after 7th October.



As always the service concluded with the hymn “The Day thou gavest, Lord is ended”, and this reminded us that we were part of a great wave of prayer in native languages encircling the globe, beginning as the sun rises over Samoa, continuing as it makes it was around Earth, ending back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. 146 countries and islands around the world were praying within this 24 hours for the people of Palestine. Awesome”. *Clodagh*



Food for thought!!!

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
I intend to live forever ... So far, so good.
If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.



NEWS FROM SHOTTERY ST ANDREW'S COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

What an action packed Spring term we've had! This half term's collective worship values have been Perseverance and Justice and we got to see both of these values in action when Mrs Hill brought her little boy Artie into school to talk to us about Rare Diseases Day. Artie was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy last year we all thought Artie was truly inspiring - the children and staff were in complete admiration of his perseverance, determination and bravery. A key focus for the children at Shottery Primary is to gain a greater understanding of Courageous Advocacy and as part of our curriculum, we provide different opportunities for the children to be inspired as change agents. Following Artie's visit to the school, Year 5 and 6 have asked Miss Morys if their class can raise money for the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy—the children are currently devising an enterprise project! We have also 'dressed for digits', as part of NSPCC Number day, where the children found out about how the NSPCC supports young people and their families. The children had a great day getting busy with numbers, whilst raising money for this very worthwhile cause. We definitely have change agents in the making!

Throughout the term, the whole school have spent a day at the Heart of England Forest, at Middle Spenal Lane, where the curriculum was extended into the great outdoors, investigating rainforests, deserts, biomes, animals

and habitats. The children had a fantastic time, albeit rather muddy, and came back to school enthused and eager to share their experiences with others. As a staff, we are writing a Memorable Experiences Pathway to enhance the children's cultural capital and enable them to make life-long memories. Next week, Year 3 and 4 are experiencing their first taste of a residential trip, spending a night at the museum. How exciting! We have also celebrated World Book Day where the children came to school dressed in their pyjamas and brought their favourite bedtime story to share with a friend. A half term challenge was to 'Get Caught Reading' and we have received some super photographs, ranging from children reading in aeroplanes, at the park, in wheelbarrows, in trees and at the soft play! Throughout the day, the children took part in online World Book Day quizzes, a meet and greet with the author Michael Morpurgo and Year 3 and 4 opened up their class-room, transforming it into a reading café, where the children were joined by their families to partake in reading and indulge in cakes and hot chocolate! It was so lovely to see the children enjoying books with their teachers and friends and although we enjoy celebrating World Book Day, pupils get lost in books each and every day at Shottery Primary—our curriculum is text based, the children read independently each day and class teachers read to the children every day.

As we are nearing the end of the spring term, we still have lots of exciting things to look forward to, including the Shakespeare Week celebrations. Each class will be reading a different Shakespeare play throughout the week and immersing themselves in a week of learning about all things William Shakespeare, including a day out into the town where they will be visiting the RSC, New Place, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Holy Trinity Church. We will then be opening up our doors to welcome families into school for our Shakespeare Trail! What a busy term we've had!

If anyone from the local community would like to join us and has any time to volunteer in school, please contact the office—we are always looking for people to listen to readers or help with planting in the orchard area.

Mrs Withers



WHERE WILL THE PATH LEAD ?

"The Holy Bible makes it clear that there is more to us than our material body. We have a non-material spirit, and our consciousness is more than just electrochemical reactions in our brain. There is also substantial and tantalizing evidence from the work of brain researchers that the mind somehow exists independent of the brain. The pioneering work of Wilder Penfield, built on by fellow neurosurgeon Michael Egnor, is notable in this regard".

This information is included in an article I was reading entitled "The AI revolution" subtitled "What It Means For You" and outlined the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to this present day. Now, let me honestly say much of the article was 'over my head'. However, I did understand that nothing you say to an AI programme or what an AI programme says to you is actually understood by the programme. The programme is just "doing mathematics" to calculate its answer. AI programmes have no comprehension of what they are doing.

The understanding that we are more than our material bodies is an intuitional 'knowing', despite what some atheist academics claim and many people in society have therefore accepted but, for Christians, it is a certainty found in God's Word written, along with other insights revealed through the last forty years plus of research and analysis of what has become termed as 'near death experiences'.

The Bible teaches that we humans are born in "the image of God". This is, of course, not physical but spiritual with the potential of developing the qualities of God within ourselves. The first requirement is accepting the summary of the Law given by our Lord Jesus Christ - we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength which, Our Lord taught, was the most important commandment of all. Equal, however, in importance He said, was a second commandment that we were to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Nothing is more important than these two He emphasised. And these two can be seen as the essence of our spiritual growth in manifesting outwards the image of God from within.

In the article on Artificial Intelligence there was reference to the fears of some people of the ability, at some time in the future, of AI taking over humanity and

causing its destruction. This fear would seem to be based on the assumption that AI could become self-conscious. However, like today's computers. AI depends on what is programmed and, of course, with mankind's propensity for evil in the war against God no one can be sure of what will be the final outcome of the AI 'revolution' in the hands of some people with godless mindsets.

And, perhaps, this should remind us of the arrogance that once featured in the biblical story of the humans, who wished to make a name for themselves, by starting to build a tower "whose top is in the heavens". They wanted to have a monument to their abilities and one which would enhance their fame. In this ancient endeavor they were trying to equal, if not steal, the glory of God.

And this raises the question - are many of the godless mindsets within today's world of science, who are advancing the capabilities of AI, walking in the footsteps of those ancients? If so, then we know how the judgement of God worked out, and though it doesn't always seem like it, the human race lives within the boundaries of God.

As God Himself reveals through the prophet Isaiah (42:8 GNB) "I alone am the Lord your God. No other god may share my glory; I will not let idols share my praise".

Alan Minchin.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Our annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday May 19th this year, shortly after the 10 am service. This is our Annual General Meeting where we review the year just ended and look forward to the year ahead. All members of the congregation are welcome and those on the church's Electoral Roll have a vote. One item on the agenda is the election of Churchwardens and PCC members. We always welcome nominations for new members – if you're interested, just let me or one of the wardens know in good time. Please join us for this key meeting of your church.

David Millington Secretary to the PCC.



THE VENERABLE JESSE PROCTOR, who died in May 2001 aged 92, was Archdeacon of Warwick from 1958 until 1974, and for almost 30 years was a prominent and highly regarded figure in the diocese of Coventry.

He arrived there in 1946 to become Precentor of a cathedral which lay in ruins, having been destroyed by German bombs six years earlier. He found himself in a job which physically did-

n't exist in a church which did not exist either. After his appointment as Vice-Provost of Coventry Cathedral, then a ruin with two small crypts, it was discovered that there was no statutory provision for the job, soon the strength of having once conducted "Messiah in his parish, he was made Precentor (musical director, you might say)

A catastrophe was only narrowly averted when the Queen went to Coventry in 1956 to lay the foundation stone of the new cathedral. Shortly before her arrival, Proctor went into the ruins to ascertain that everything was in order, but his way was barred by a large policeman who had been brought in from another part of the county and who, failing to recognise Proctor, refused to accept that he was responsible for the ceremony.

"I tell you this, officer," protested Proctor, "if I don't go in now, the Queen need not bother coming because nothing, repeat nothing, can happen until I, and I alone, give the signal." The policeman remained unimpressed, until the Chief Constable arrived to sort things out. He was asked by Proctor not to blame the man for taking the security arrangements so seriously.

It was with great reluctance that Proctor left parish work to play a leading part in the post-war recovery of Coventry Cathedral, but his musical skill and interest equipped him for the role of Precentor.

He was an Honorary Canon of the cathedral from 1946 to 1958, then Canon Theologian for five years, before making way for a new cathedral team and accepting from Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley appointment as Archdeacon of Warwick.

To his great delight, this post was combined with that of vicar of the attractive village of Sherbourne, near Warwick, and until 1969, when the work of the

Archdeaconry demanded much more attention, he exercised there a greatly valued ministry.

From every point of view he was an ideal archdeacon - a middle-of-the-road Anglican of wide experience and sympathies, always supportive of the parish clergy, especially those facing problems, and while diligent in his concern for the maintenance of church buildings always much more concerned about worship and mission.

At various times in the 1960s he was a governor of the newly founded Warwick University and of the Warwickshire County College of Education. From 1955 to 1975 he contributed, under the pseudonym Barnabas, a column of religious reflection to the Coventry Evening Telegraph. *Some of these I shall be sharing over the coming months (starting with "If Easter had not come" - thanks to his daughter Margaret Cox. (pictured).*



IF EASTER HAD NOT COME

What would have happened if there had been no Easter Day?

That sort of question is always hard to answer in detail; but certain facts seem clear enough. Every bit of influence which the Christian Church and the Christian message have had would simply not have been there.

The Church itself would not have existed, and therefore the Gospel would not have been preached. No doubt the admirers and friends of Jesus would have talked of his sayings and doings. But, within two generations, his memory would have faded and no-one would have felt impelled to write about him.

Having said that, it is hard to see what the rest of the picture would have been like. There would have been no comfort for individuals in the doctrine of eternal life, for that doctrine would have been at best a woolly piece of wishful thinking.

There would have been no challenge to individual or corporate consciences to perform acts of self-denial for the sake of other people. It is doubtful whether the western world would have advanced educationally and culturally to the point where modern science and technology could have come into being.

Even now the Christian call for peace often sounds no longer than “the norms of elfland faintly blowing”. But, if there had been no Easter, there would have been no spiritual basis on which peace lovers could stand to make their call. The evil traits in human character would have known no restraint beyond those of prudence and expediency. There would have been nothing in the arts to speak with certainty of the real universe—God’s Kingdom. Workers would not have been struggling for their rights, for there would have been no rights to argue about. Morality would have been a matter of trial and error, with utter confusion of thought about what is right and wrong.

It is, of course, arguable that if Good Friday had been the end of Jesus, and if the Creator had lost the supreme battle of Calvary, another divine way might have been found to life mankind from its pre-Christian spiritual and social doldrums.

But it is not now possible to see how this could have happened, especially since Judaism, man’s best B.C. response to God’s initiative, rejected its own noblest product, Jesus the Christ.

In any case, there is no need to speculate, for Easter did happen. Not only Christians, but all discerning people, should rejoice in the truth, since the Easter Gospel contains the true seed of human fulfilment.

Jesse Proctor.



MONTHLY CHARITY COLLECTONS

- Welcome Here in January -£500.
- The Bible Society in February—£450. 70.
- Practical Action in March—£375. 25

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins
or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen

A green rectangular graphic with the text "Charity of the Month" in white, italicized font. The background of the graphic features a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent green circles of varying sizes.

Charity of the Month

Our April Charity collection on 14th will be for **THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY.**

Church Mission Society

With Jesus. With each other. To the edges.

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he spent time with people at the edges, often to the astonishment of the establishment. Sick people, poor people, tax collectors, those who were often avoided due to their “sinner” status – Jesus welcomes them. He offers grace, healing, restoration, love – and he invites them to be part of his story.

Church Mission Society is likewise called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. And we’re always looking for others who will join us at edges near and far, to help share God’s love in creative ways, knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, this is how we will see our world made new.

Our identity

Who are we?

First and foremost, we are followers of Jesus.

When we look at Jesus, we see he intentionally welcomed people on the edges.

His first followers, or disciples, didn’t always get why, at least not right away. Yet by spending time with people on the fringes, Jesus was showing that his healing, liberating, peacebuilding way is for everyone.

We see repeatedly in the gospels that Jesus invites the previously-avoided into his story. And then he gives them work to do: to become storytellers themselves, carriers of the good news of Jesus’ life-giving, life-changing love to those around them.

The first disciples of Jesus eventually got the idea. And we are simply the latest generation in a long line of Jesus-followers who long for people at the edges to encounter Jesus, to discover the new life he brings and to share it with others. That’s our basic model for mission.

We exist to make disciples of Jesus at the edges, but crucially, we are also disciples ourselves. As we seek transformation for those who might have presumed Jesus wasn’t for them, we – and those who accompany us through prayer, giving and taking action – are also being continuously transformed.

CMS is made up of disciples of Jesus from various countries, cultural backgrounds and walks of life. When we say “we” we are talking about a vibrant mix of people in mission from the UK, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia – all following Jesus to the edges together.

How we work

If only there were a one-size-fits all mission process or programme! But there isn't. More than 220 years of mission have proved this time and again.

There are some basic steps we take, based on what we believe about mission:

1. We pray, trusting that wherever we go, God is already there and already at work. This is humbling, freeing and incredibly encouraging – to understand it's not all down to us.

2. Once in a context, we pay attention and try to discover how God is already at work. We take the setting seriously: listening and learning from the local culture, discerning the best way to share Jesus. This will likely involve a mix of words and action.

3. We don't work alone. We are guided by those more familiar with the way things are in a given place or space, as we work together to make disciples. We take the time to build genuine, respectful relationships.

4. We are always willing to try new, creative mission methods. We learn from what works and what doesn't, and we share that learning as widely as possible. We don't get too comfortable – we keep pushing to the edges, hoping that more and more Jesus-followers will get inspired and come, too.

We are people-focused rather than programme-focused. Everything we do is through people working together. People are how God brings about beautiful change in our world.

So, here at St. Andrew's let us play our part in helping to change the world!

The cash collection and donations via the card reader in church on that day will go to the charity. If you would like to make a donation and are unable to be in church on the day please make cheques payable to : Shottery St. Andrew PCC, and send to Anne Challis at 259 Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon. CV37 9JG, or if you prefer to do a bank transfer, within 5 days of the charity Sunday, the details are as follows:-

Shottery St. Andrew PCC Sort Code 40-43-19 Account number 80739758 using the charity name as your reference.

Thank you.



Jim Thomas.... A regular at our fortnightly coffee mornings.



What can I say about Jim, except that he was a true gentleman in every sense, he would always hold my coat as I left, and open the door before I went out.

Our friendship began on the night of the Communal Bonfire, he said come and sit by me Jane, we chatted and I said "Would you like me to come and have a cuppa with you" next day this man dressed in his signature dress code - shorts: knocked on my door and said " Are you coming today? I said No not today but I will come on Friday and that started 2/half years of me taking Jim - 2 egg custards and 2 Bonio biscuit bones for Flynn.

The cups were always ready, we chatted about our families, TV, the weather, his life and his lovely holidays, during the summer he would say it's 4o clock, it's wine time Jim was the one the one who introduced me to rose wine!

Jim and John (from no. 22) went to the Dementia Cafe in Bidford, Jim kept asking me to go and I kept resisting then one day I said okay I will give it a go, I soon became to realise why Jim enjoyed those couple of hours on a Monday morning beside the coffee, biscuits and cake - the entertainment like the Ukulele band, Barry who sings 50,60,70 songs brings a smile to everyone's faces as we join him in all our old favourite songs along with the tapping of our feet I could name so much more, - the wonderful volunteers who make sure everyone's needs are met, so at 10.45 the U bus would come to take us to Bidford for a morning to savour, smiles, laughter and friendships formed.

We ventured out to the coffee morning in the memorial hall in Welford, as we tasted the lovely cakes, he would always be eager to come to St Andrews the coffee morning twice a month, again Jim always sampling the cake of the day made by Diane, and the Parish lunch, where Jim soaked up the atmosphere and always enjoying the freshly cooked meal and may I say he was very lucky with the raffle prizes.

Every month we would go to the Bowling Club for the Over 60's lunch where we would enjoy a delicious fish and chip lunch all plates cleaned, once again surrounded by lovely people.

3 or 4 times a year we were invited to St Peter's in Welford for a afternoon tea for people who live on their own, it was always a treat to look forward to, all these groups were very saddened to hear of Jim's

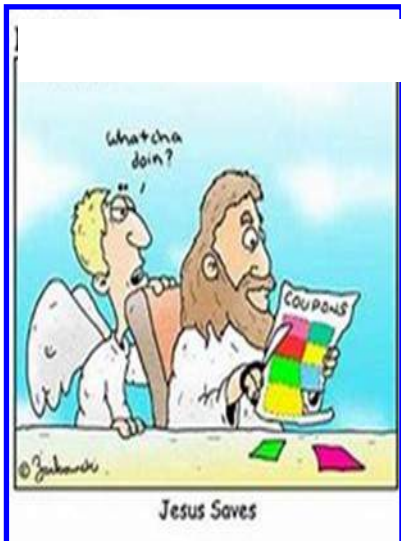
But the top of my list of memories was when we moved into the garden on a Friday afternoon, I said I will go and fetch the tea Jim, No No, I will go, and out he would come with his brightly coloured woven plastic shopping basket filled with tea pot, cups milk and biscuits for us to enjoy in his garden.

After his life changed when Josie died, he came to live on Welford Chase, enjoying the gatherings the chats he loved his house and felt very content, comfortable and safe

I feel that Jim and I had a mutually beneficial friendship in that we looked out for each other

Jim, I am so pleased I was blessed with your friendship and I will never forget you.

Jane Smith.



Saw this on Facebook recently.



LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot 's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?' A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?' 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'



You may have wondered where the produce and products we feature on the monthly Fair Trade stall come from. Let me explain.

You only have to look around the weekly, and I do mean weekly, clergy/congregation at St Andrew's to see evidence of the truism "if you need a job done, give it to a busy person". I witnessed clear evidence of its credence when I offered to take up the mantle of Fair Trade organiser to fulfill the objectives so well propagated by Mary Boddington, Hilary Mattocks and Kay Sillitoe.

It introduced me to the energy capsule called Hilary Schmidt Hansen. Hilary is the lady who provides us with produce for our monthly Fair Trade stall. I have promised not to subvert her modesty in any way because she will alert me to so many others who voluntarily apply their time in just the same way and boy, are we fully endowed with those at St Andrew's.

One of the early proponents of the Fair Trade cause locally was Lizzie Davey, a resident in Alcester. With the help of a prominent search engine (I resist it's name for unnecessary promotional reasons but it rhymes with the national breed of dog in France*) I have been able to track Lizzie down as a leading figure in the campaign for global Fair Trade. She began her endeavours back in 2010 and I feature a photo from the Alcester Town website of 2011. Lizzie wears the red scarf.



Anyway, Hilary was one of Lizzie's "retailers" in much the same way as St Andrew's is to Hilary today. That is until Lizzie decided that it was time to take a backseat and asked Hilary if she would be prepared to front the initiative locally. The rest they say is history (or in this case her story, boom boom!!).

Despite the setbacks imposed by Covid and the loss of the trailblazing Fair Trade company, Traidcraft, just as St Andrew's was planning to reinstate its monthly stall, Hilary has battled on unfazed by the setbacks which is surely the mark of a true campaigner. I can quite honestly say that enthusiastically. Full of ideas. Reliable to the nth degree. She backs her own instincts, armed with the knowledge she gets from sales such as ours, to source the items she feels confident will appeal to punters.

But I'm sorry Hilary I can't let you get away with it entirely. In keeping with the aforementioned mantra, Hilary is a bundle of energy in her residential community of Snitterfield. I really have promised not to embarrass her too much so you can take what follows as just a sample of the roles she performs in her village including running the local toddler group twice a week (just the word "toddler" exhausts me!!). She supports the School Council with its Woodland Trust Award scheme. She acts as Treasurer on the Village Hall Management Committee. (Our own "give it to a busy person" Carole, knows what that involves) and together with husband Ole they organise the monthly village cinema (Oscar winning Oppenheimer will be showing soon) and the annual village fete.

Oh, and for the benefit of those amongst us with horticultural leanings she will be supporting the School Garden Club once the rain relapses (so some comfort there eh??). Here I have to express a personal interest. Knowing of my allotment involvement she offered me some Cavolo Nero plants last year which were excess to her requirements. I have seldom benefitted from such prolific endowments. They were productive for fully 3 months and I suspect that could have been extended if I had not wanted the patch they were growing in for other purposes. I suspect that the change in tilth was the real reason. Must refer to another workaholic, Mr Challis, when I get the chance. AND one of her latest ventures: a weekly Warm Hub at the village church, St James the Great (which I must research more in due course: St James the Great, 13th/14th century!!).

She does however remind me that she could not perform any of the roles she does without the full support of husband Ole (he must get drained just living with her!) AND they still find time to regularly visit

their family who are located in Edinburgh, York and Switzerland. Photo of Hilary and Ole



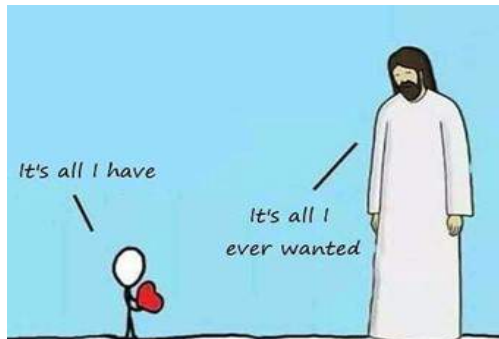
Hey colleagues. Ain't it interesting what you find out when checking upon facts to substantiate something you are postulating? For example:

*Item of Trivia. Although the Poodle is the National dog of France (similar to the Bulldog being the UK National) it actually originated in Germany. The breed name comes from the German word "pudel" or "pudelin," which means "to splash in the water." In France, the breed is called "Caniche," which is French for "duck dog." They were originally bred to be water retrievers bringing ducks and other birds back to their masters.

What's this got to do with Fair Trade??.....Nowt, I just get distracted so easily, don't I Guv!!

Trivia 2: William Shakespeare's family came from Snitterfield, and his grandfather Richard was a churchwarden. His Uncle Henry had a farm in the village, but had a poor reputation with regard to the church, being fined for dressing inappropriately at church, and eventually excommunicated for non-payment of his church tithes. (Perhaps another reason leading to William being "Barred")

Rodney Grinnell



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Friday 19th & Saturday 20th: 10am-3pm

Free entry - donations welcome for
Shakespeare Hospice

“St Andrew’s is an **INCLUSIVE CHURCH**—a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the names of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”



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Diary of a cross in the pocket.

Reminder to check out our Facebook
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(weekdays) short
meditations by
Rev. Joan Whyman.



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Revd. Mary Cramer and Revd. Joy Hance.

Preacher: Revd. Joan Whyman **Reader:** Jan Walker.

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Thursdays: 9.30am - 1.30pm)

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Book Group: Revd. Craig Grocock (as above)

Cell Group: Becks Bartlett - rebecca@rockstile.co.uk 07971161717

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therobsonfamily@hotmail.com

Choir Conductor: Larry Robson (as above)

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Organist: Matt Penn

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