



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT



FEBRUARY
2024

£1.50

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



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist*

6.30pm Evensong

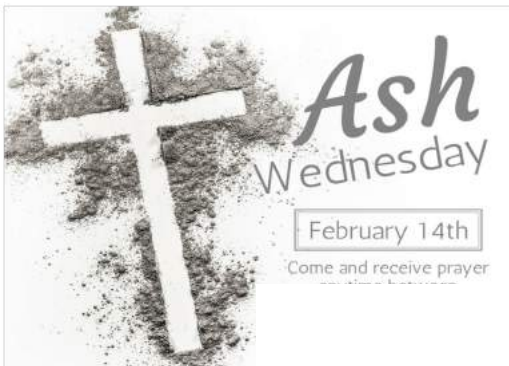
1st Sunday: 10.00am All-Age Family Service (without Communion)

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.



7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION with IMPOSITION OF ASHES



CONGRATULATIONS to Trevor Cox on his 50th Anniversary as a Server at St. Andrew's. Trevor has served mainly at the Sunday 8am and Thursday morning Eucharists together with the Maundy Thursday Service— all of which he performs with great dignity.



Letter from the Vicar

'I love you so much it hurts'

So said the words on the front of a Valentine card I once received when I was something like fifteen from a wonderful young girl who was eventually to become my wife!

We think about love once again this month as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

Love is a word that expresses a wide range of emotions, and we can use the word glibly and throw it around so easily and cheaply without thinking. Love is expressed most profoundly however when it's sacrificial and when we give it away without counting the cost, when it's unconditional. Love is a verb, as I say often to couples preparing to be married. Love is a choice we make every day not just a feeling we have, wonderful as that might be. Love comes with a cost, it's not cheap.

Valentine's Day this year falls on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. There is probably no better time than during Lent to reflect on love, what it means and how it should be expressed. Lent leads us to Holy Week and Good Friday where we see such amazing love in the sacrifice and death of Jesus on the cross.

On Tuesday evenings during Lent, we will be having a short communion service at church and using readings and meditations from the **Archbishop of York's book 'The Nail, being part of the passion'**. We will be challenged and undoubtedly blessed as we ponder on such incredible love that was 'paid on the nail' literally for you and me! Do look out for more details on this in the coming weeks and make these evenings a part of your Lenten discipline.



May God bless you as we enter this special time of the church's year once again.

Reverend Craig


PARISH REGISTERS




JANUARY:

Funerals:

- 4th Ken Payne
11th David Charles
16th Joyce Johnson



**St Brigid's Day
1st February**



You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace
cover those who are troubled and anxious,
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater
wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
Amen

Open the Book in 2024

Open the Book has been active in Stratford-upon-Avon since 2012. We began in St Andrew's Primary school to cover Rev James assemblies while he was on sabbatical and now we visit another two primary schools, Holy Trinity and Bishop-ton. We go into school assemblies each month bringing a new story to share with them.



Over the years the way we deliver the stories has changed, initially we did all of the performing, allowing us time to rehearse, now the children do all of the dramatization which is a lot more fun for us all. We no longer need to rehearse but we do need to plan: how many children we need and where and when they'll be in the space available. We only get about 5-10 minutes with the children before the assembly starts so the plan needs to be simple. The children also do all of the speaking for their role so we slightly amend the written story so that the narrator, still one of the team, can introduce the children's lines with so-and-so said to help them know it's their turn and the narration includes reiteration of what's been said in case stage nerves robs them of their voice.

This year we're sharing stories from the New Testament. Telling the stories about those who met Jesus with The Wise Men's Story, The Centurions Servant and Jesus Special Friends. Stories that Jesus told, The Good Shepherd, The Two Sons and The Big Party, and stories that involve Jesus himself, The Boy In The Temple and Jesus is Baptised

We're also telling new stories that have been written especially for Open the Book, Be Like Me, Tea at Auntie's House and Jesus And The Children, which give more of a child's view on what it might have been like to encounter Jesus.

The things that really bring these stories to life and help the children feel the character are the costumes and props we have. If you take a look at the noticeboard in the Parish Center you will see some of them we have used for stories such as boats and floating aids for Storm on The Lake, a God made of sticks and stones for Elijah and the Ravens, and a whale costume for Jonah The Groaner.

As we've kept telling stories we've grown quite a props store and we'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to John Fletcher for his recent prop making skills from a well that became a prison to lighter caskets for the wise men to carry. Our wardrobe has also grown but is getting a little tired now and in need of a revamp. We are not looking for RSC style costumes, we need to be able to get all the costumes and props to each school and we never know whether we'll have a small 6 year old or a large 11 year old for any given story. Therefore we've moved toward a tabard style, a simple background with embellishments that can convey shepherds or priests or teachers at the temple or messengers or servants or simply a person in a crowd.

If you would like to make some simple costumes then please contact Becks Bartlett or Susie Fletcher. If that's a little daunting or not your thing at all, we would very much appreciate your prayers for the planning of stories as well as conveying to the children what they will be doing and the performance itself.



Charity of the Month

Our charity collection on 11th February will be for The Bible Society

The Bible Society was established in 1804 by a group of people including William Wilberforce and Thomas Charles to encourage the 'wider circulation and use' of the Scriptures.

We're still working on this mission today.

We believe that the Bible is an extraordinary collection of books, worth reading and part of the solution to today's big issues.

We make Scriptures available where there are none. We help the churches use and teach them. And we try to promote the Bible through the arts, education, media and politics.

Does anyone actually read the Bible these days?

It may surprise you to know that the bestselling book year on year is not *Harry Potter*, *The Da Vinci Code*, or *Fifty Shades of Grey*, but the Bible! One hundred million copies are sold or given away worldwide every year. One and a quarter million are sold in the UK annually. In fact, the Bible so consistently dominates the charts that it's intentionally left out of the listings.

The Bible has been bought, banned, and burned more than any other book in history. It regularly features on lists of 100 books to read before you die, and is the most commonly shoplifted book! It is by every definition 'a classic', including Mark Twain's definition that, 'A classic is something everyone wants to have read and nobody wants to read.'

While it's true that the Bible sells well, that doesn't necessarily mean people are reading it. Chances are you may have a copy or two – maybe a family heirloom that hasn't been opened for decades. But consider that those sales figures only account for physical copies, and many people access the Bible online, either through choice or necessity, since in some countries it's illegal or impossible to own a copy. The YouVersion Bible app – just one of many digital options – has been downloaded over five hundred million times.

"God came to me in the horrors of war."

For more than 600 days, our colleagues in Ukraine have been taking aid, medicine and the Bible to people across the country, and increasingly to areas of fighting.

Recently, General Secretary Anatoliy Raychynets returned from a trip to visit troops on the front line in woods outside Bakhmut. They met soldiers who were manning a cannon, but also reading Psalm 91.

‘We were interrupted by shell explosions,’ said Anatoliy. ‘When I found myself in a trench next to a soldier called Kyrylo, he told me that two weeks ago we had come and given him a Bible.’

Kyrylo told him: ‘I have never been to church, never read the Bible, because I never had one. Here, at the combat positions, in short moments of silence, I started reading prayers from the Book of Psalms, as you advised me back then. ‘I feel warmth inside me while reading. I have never experienced anything like this in my life. I realised that it was God who came to me, a sinner, at the age of 57. He came here, to the swamp, to the horrors of the war, to find me. Thank you for the Bible. It revived me to a new life, a life with God.

Then Kyrylo asked Anatoliy to pray with him. ‘A few minutes later, when everything has quieted down, we continued reading Psalm 91. My voice was a bit hoarse because it was -10° in the forest and I was quite cold,’ said Anatoliy. ‘God works in an amazing way. His word is alive and active. Thank you that we have Bibles and are able to give them to people in different circumstances. ‘Thanks to your generosity, it has been possible to distribute some 700,000 Bibles across Ukraine since the start of the war. More will be distributed next year.

At St. Andrew’s we know how much the Bible means to us, so let’s make sure others in the world have the same opportunities to read it as we do.

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.



MEDITATIONS DURING LENT.

Tuesday evenings at the 7.30pm Holy Communion Service, commencing on 20th February.

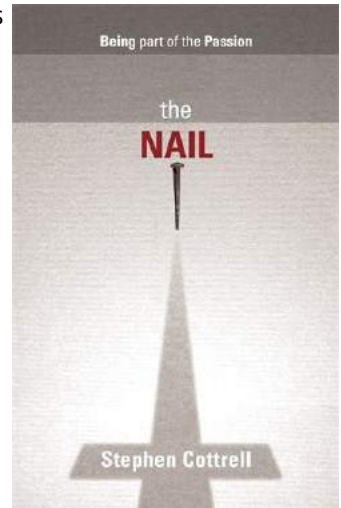
“The Nail” by the Archbishop of York.

Imagine you hold in your hands one of the nails used to crucify Christ. Do you accept responsibility for your part in his death, or do you blame another?

The Nail makes you part of the Passion. Moving, first-person accounts from eye-witnesses and active participants place you right in heart of events leading to the crucifixion and beyond.

Each account can be used as a personal reflection, a focus for group discussion, sermon base or even performed as a monologue. As each witness tells their story they give their excuse for passing responsibility for the crucifixion nails to another who then takes up the story.

With the relevant Bible text included, each account concludes with a prayer of confession that lays bare our own hearts as well as those of the Bible witnesses. The final chapter raises the all-important, life-changing question for 'The Nail' characters and for us: 'will you let Jesus forgive you?'



VIRTUE SIGNALLING.

I've been thinking a lot recently about the thing called '**Virtue Signalling**' which in our modern world often consists of posting opinions that you do not share on social media in order to gain popularity and reputation. Another example would be jumping on a trend in order to look better to your peers, no matter what your opinion on the trend is. One definition I found was that '**Virtue Signalling** is the expression of a conspicuous, self-righteous moral viewpoint with the intent of communicating good character. It doesn't actually have to be virtuous, it only needs to signal virtue to others' We knew all about this, long before the advent of Social Media. We used to say things like 'He talks the talk but does he walk the walk' People say 'Nelson Mandela said this' and 'Dr Martin Luther King Jr. said this' ... As Christians, we are called to be disciples of Christ and that means trying to be Christ-like... thinking and most importantly of all DOING as Christ would have done do you remember the WWJD bracelets popular 20 years ago? What Would Jesus Do indeed? A question we need to daily ask ourselves.'

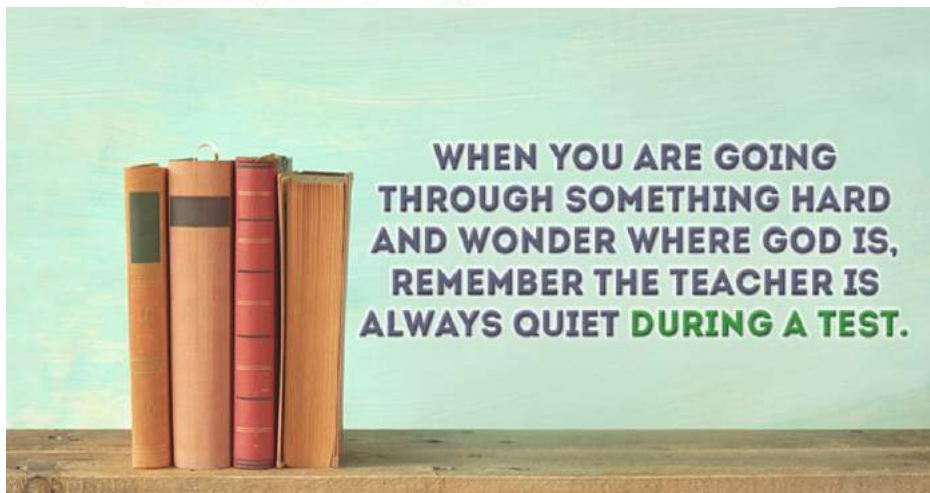
Canon Elaine.

So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Our collection in December for **Embrace the Middle East** realised £452.25.

If the mountain seems too big today
then climb a hill instead
if the morning brings you sadness
it's ok to stay in bed
if the day ahead weighs heavy
and your plans feel like a curse
there's no shame in rearranging
don't make yourself feel worse
if a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown
if you haven't washed your hair for days
don't throw away your crown
a day is not a lifetime
a rest is not defeat
don't think of it as failure
just a quiet, kind retreat
it's ok to take a moment
from an anxious, fractured mind
the world will not stop turning
while you get realigned
the mountain will still be there
when you want to try again
you can climb it in your own time
just love yourself til then 💕





'I beg you, bear with one another in love'



The Christian Women of Palestine are calling

us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on **Friday 1 March 2024** people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Palestine. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

SERVICE IN STRATFORD UPON AVON.

2pm at the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.

Guest Speaker: Revd. Su McClellan, from Embrace the Middle East.

Thank You

to everyone for the kind comments I've received after Dad's article about the men whose names are inscribed on **our war memorial**. I'm so pleased everyone enjoyed it and am especially grateful to Roy Payne for sharing additional information that I can add to the article. Clodagh received an email from

Derek Best who was born in Shottery and now lives in Australia. He reads the Searchlight online and was able to tell me some more about Charles Kemp who was married to his Grandad's sister Rose. Rose married again and had another daughter. It was great to hear from Derek and I know that Dad would have been amazed that his research had reached Australia.

I'm in the process of finishing off the article on the WW2 servicemen so if anyone has any information about them, do let me know "(via Clodagh—clodagh.mallison@btinternet.com) and I'll add it in."

Michaela Cooper

The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.
He named it
"Prayer"...

It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!



Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy

Everyone Welcome

3rd and 17th
February

10am till noon.

In PARISH CENTRE



St Andrews Thursday Lunch



The next lunch is on 8th February in St Andrew's Parish Centre at 12.30pm

The cost is £8 for a two course meal and coffee/tea, but please bring your own drink if you want to (other than water!).

Anyone and Everyone welcome.

Please reserve your place in advance by adding your name to the sheet in the church foyer (available about 2 weeks before the event) or phone Fran on 07906355064, and let us know of any dietary requirements, or if you have difficulty getting there.



Our next Bible Breakfast will be held
on Saturday 9th of March at 9am.

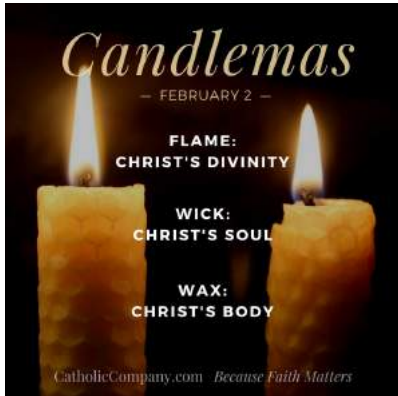
Please join us for coffee, croissants, and a chance to explore
and share our faith in an informal manner.

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church nearer the
time, this is purely for catering purposes.

Please let us know if you require gluten free.

Looking forward to welcoming you.

Jan Walker



Candlemas, (2nd February) also known as the **Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ**, or the **Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, is a Christian

holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. Under Leviticus 12, a woman was

to be purified by presenting a lamb as a burnt offering, and either a young pigeon or dove as sin offering, 33 days after a boy's circumcision. It falls on 2 February, which is traditionally the 40th day (postpartum period) of and the conclusion of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them after Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians take their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World

Simeon and Anna.
By Jan van t' Hoff



Irish Lent

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone.

An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again. The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

"Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies. "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening. He orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer our condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know, the two beers and all."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

The
Children's
Society

Murder Mystery

You are invited to a party
to DIE for

A Spoof Murder Mystery.

"Who Killed the Dame?"

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2.30pm

Tickets £15 from Jackie Wightman

jackieswightman@gmail.com or 07773437916

Start of Play 3pm.

Welcome glass of Prosecco on arrival
followed by Cream Tea in interval.

St. Andrew's Parish Centre CV37 9HQ

IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Christmas Flowers

With Christmas day being on the Monday it proved impossible to arrange a day that wasn't in the advent period.

Friday 22nd it was and the Blooming Lovely (Flower arranging classes headed up by Bev Short) using their time, skills, flowers and foliage set to the task of decorating the church for the forth coming celebrations.



Every event we cover we attempt to bring something new to the overall end result. This year we chose, white, green and silver with the inclusion of craft items that had been made in class. From the feedback received it has certainly been well received.

As always a huge thank you must go out to the folks who gave their time, skills, flowers and foliage in producing such a fantastic finished result (majority who are not congregation members) also Fiona Macvie who added the sessional element of the nativity centrepiece at the large windowsill.

Numerous donations in memory of loved ones were received:

Val Adams, Margaret Cox, Carver & Boyd families and Jo Carver, Richard Morris.

All such donations contribute to the floral fund and help support the cost of decorating St Andrews as required. Anyone who would like to make a donation in memory or as a general one can do so using my Pidgeon hole or via Sally or contact me : 01789 294121. niccarree@gmail.com 18 Hathaway Lane.

The next event we will be celebrating will be Easter.

Nic Carree



A beautiful shot captured by Aaron Law Photography of the new George Wagstaffe sculpture, **the Phoenix Tree**, representing new life, new possibilities and new beginnings. It is located in a new peace garden at Coventry University, opposite the Cathedral which gives a stunning new perspective of the old and New Cathedral.

We are delighted by this new sculpture by George Wagstaffe, who is a survivor of the Coventry Blitz, he said he felt the theme suited the university too which he said was “bringing new growth and new hope and youth to the city”.



Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.



Our Christmas meeting on the 11th December already seems well past; however it seemed to be a busy afternoon.

Following opening prayers led by Hilary Capron, she talked about the current M.U. Campaign against Domestic Abuse (November-December) which led to discussion about the numbers involved and the sad effects on family life.

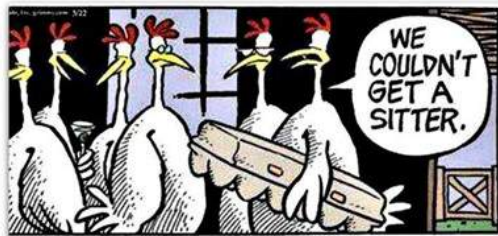
After a rather festive tea, we all rallied round to make up the Christmas gift bags which go to indoor members and others who may be on their own. Thanks to all who contributed and helped with cards, etc.

Our January meeting is usually a pleasantly social affair as was the case on the 8th. It was good to catch up with news and to hear that the Christmas gift bags had been welcomed.

The 2024 programme was discussed (with a reminder of our preparation of the Mothering Sunday flower posies on Saturday, 9th March - 10 a.m.) There had been a good response for board games, cards, etc. to be brought along and an enjoyable time was had by all accompanied by tea as usual!

We are looking forward to the February meeting when the Revd. Joy Hance will be talking about "Worship with Music" so please come along if you would like to join us for the afternoon - 2 p.m. Monday, 12th February, 2024.

Daphne Jones.



Lent Course 2024

The Landscape of Faith

Wednesday 21 February –



- Wednesday 28 February

Wednesday 6 March -



Wednesday 13 March – **The Trees of the Wood**

Wednesday 20 March -



Led by The Revd Joan Whyman & The Revd Joy Hance

All at 5 Plover Close, CV37 9EN, (01789 414603)
starting with coffee at 10.00 am.

Please sign the sheet at church by Sunday 18 February as places are limited.

This course will culminate in a Quiet Day 'The Garden' on Saturday 23 March at St Andrews Church.



NOT THE DEFAULT POSITION.

It is always a pleasure to read our own Rev. Joan's booklets that annually lead us through the seasons of Lent and Advent and especially for me when I read something written that strikes a mighty cord within

me.

Joan's reflection that was contained in our last Advent's "Where Do We Go From Here?" for December 13th was, I believe, so pertinent to the situation of our institutional Churches today and echoed a term coined, if I recall correctly, by R.T. Kendall (who pastored London's Westminster Chapel for twenty-five years and who authored more than fifty-five books) - "the 50% gospel".

Joan reflected on the reluctance today of preachers "to speak with clarity and force about the wrath of God if we wander away from the truth and reality of His teaching" while proclaiming (quite rightly) the "truth and power of God's love". In other words only half the gospel is usually taught and shared by the 'shepherds of Christ's flock' - at least, here in 'the west.

Could this be the reason for the decline of our institutional churches? Perhaps not so much the aftermath of the likes of Richard Dawkins and the 'new atheists' of a decade and a half ago or the challenges of a multi-faith society, but simply the teaching of only "a 50% gospel" over the decades leading so many people to question what is the Church for when it does not teach about the vital choice that needs to be made regarding where one spends eternity, and the role of the Church in providing the answer for the choice that needs to be made before Almighty God.

Entry into heaven and into the eternal presence of God for all, regardless, seems to have become the default position for many today. Modern thought for many people seems to be that if one considers

oneself 'good enough' then heaven is automatically 'theirs'. Most people, of course, consider themselves as 'good' but the Holy Bible warns "...all people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23).

Scripture also teaches us that Almighty God is holy and heaven is perfect *and human beings are not holy or perfect and therefore we cannot enter the way we are because we would corrupt it, just as we have corrupted the earth.* So heaven CANNOT be the default position for humans.

But God, in His compassion, has provided a way for humans to *choose the sure and certain way* into the eternal and loving presence of God. Romans 3:24 continues - (people) ".....are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ". And this helps us to understand Our Lord Jesus Christ's teaching as recorded in Matthew 7:13 & 14. and surely highlights the 'raison d'etre' for the Church's very existence ?

Is it now too late for our institutional Church of 'the west' to rediscover and to preach the 100% gospel and thus avoid what some people are forecasting - its extinction ?

Alan Minchin.



JANET COX

As many of you know, Janet Cox died on 9th December 2023. She would have been 87 on 29th December. She had many friends at St. Andrew's and was a familiar figure at Services and events until she succumbed to dementia and went to live in a Home in Dursley, Gloucestershire, the same village as her elder son Simon. She was well cared for and enjoyed living there, Simon could visit her frequently and her last photograph shows a happy smiling face.

When she retired, Janet became a volunteer at the Shakespeare Hospice for many years, and she was President of Shotton WI until its closure. She was very close to St. Andrew's Church as she felt that through attending the Church she had rediscovered her faith.

In Stratford she was an acting and singing member of the (then) Stratford Operatic Society and later their Choir, and also a member of the Twinning Association, travelling to and staying in France and Germany. She and I were great friends for many years and she was very proud of the fact that we performed 'Stately as a Galleon' in St. Andrew's Church for a concert.

Her funeral was at Dursley on 22nd December 2023, attended by friends from Stratford, and her coffin entered the Crematorium to "Jerusalem", out of respect to her days in the WI. Her ashes were taken to Coventry on her birthday to be scattered in the same place as her parents.



Gwen Zanzottera



Stratford-upon-Avon Street Pastors

Newsletter

AUTUMN 2023



It's getting to that time of year when meals are shared and party wear taken out of the wardrobe. We had a lovely shared meal before the diaries got too filled up with work and family outings. Big thanks go to El Greco for hosting a wonderful meal and giving us a great time to remember.

Whatever you're up to this Christmastime, remember to keep safe and help others keep safe by following our Street Pastor Elf tips posted to our social channels each week during December.

Why be a Street Pastor?

There are many reasons our Street Pastors come out on a Friday evening, put on the coat and hat and head out into town. Our latest series of social media posts shine a light on some of the reasons they find joy and meaning in patrolling the streets, meeting all those who are out for the evening, those we see regularly and have got to know, those who are visiting our town and those who are out for an evening with friends, family or work colleagues.



As Christians Street Pastors can see themselves imitating Christ in what they do when on patrol. Looking after those who are often not seen or intentionally avoided by the public at large. Treating each individual they come across as unique and having worth. Listening to those who need to have someone listen, someone who won't feel the need to give advice, judge or provide a solution. Helping visitors navigate our town, giving water to the unwell, offering flip-flops to those struggling to walk in heels.

What would make you step out on a rain filled Friday night?

How can I become a Street / Prayer Pastor?

Street Pastors are practising Christians aged over 18 who feel called to step out onto the streets to be the hands and feet of Christ; and also his eyes, ears and mouth too! What Street Pastors are *NOT* is preachers or converters. Street Pastors are simply there to Listen, Care and Help all of those out in the night time economy without judgment or condemnation. Street Pastors are also DBS checked and trained through the Ascension Trust, attending several hours of training before becoming a full Street Pastor. Why not

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



@StratfordStreetPastors



@spstratford



streetpastors.org/locations/stratford-upon-avon



stratforduponavon@streetpastors.org.uk

come out on patrol as an observer and see what we do?

Prayer Pastors are practising Christians aged over 18 who feel called to care for their community and support Street Pastors as they are on patrol. Prayer Pastors do not go out on patrol but stay in contact with the team during the patrol and pray for the situations and people that the team encounter. Prayer Pastors may also choose to go to base to pray with the team before the patrol starts. Prayer Pastors are also DBS checked and trained through our prayer co-ordinator.

If you are interested in knowing more, contact our co-ordinator, Linda, by e-mail at stratforduponavon@streetpastors.org.uk.

How we've cared, listened and helped in the summer of 2023

- We went through Shrieves Walk by McDonald's and spotted 2 young lads. They asked us about Street Pastors, so we told them what we did. They wanted to know about Jesus and how to pray, as one of them was starting to engage with Christianity and was curious about the Church. We gave him some advice on the Bible: he was pleased and thanked us for the advice. It was really encouraging to meet 2 young lads that did not drink and were sensible.
- Two older and intoxicated men kept hugging us and one of them engaged with us and asked what we did. He was very impressed, and we helped him get a taxi, as we suggested he would be best to head home.
- A lady named Margie came to us, telling us she was thrilled to see Stratford had Street Pastors. She told us that she had been an SP before Covid in Chester but they folded after Covid. She was with 32 family members to celebrate her 60th Birthday which had been a surprise. After some praises we wished her a nice time and headed back over the footbridge.
- Some gentlemen stopped to speak to us, one saying that he used to be a Prayer Pastor but decided to quit as he'd preferred to be out on the street like us. He wished us a good night, but then asked that we prayed for his wife expecting a new child soon, which we did.
- A little while later we gave a young lady called Annabelle a pair of flip-flops as she was struggling to walk in her heels. Her friend Charlotte said she lived in Stratford and had never seen Street Pastors before. She was impressed with what we did.
- Fleur invited us in to El Greco where she treated us to some sweet deserts saying we all looked like we needed some sugar! She sat with us and chatted for a while.
- We stopped to sweep up some glass outside the White Swan, and some customers sitting outside saw us and thanked us the next time we came past.

Prayer Points:

- For more Street Pastors to join the team enabling the patrol rota to be filled without over commitment of individuals
- For more Prayer Pastors to join the team enabling us to pray in pairs
- For all of those who use the Fred Winter centre
- For those who provide help and services to the vulnerable in our town

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and a sound mind.



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When I took on the mantle of Fair Trade at St Andrews in February last year, after an enforced interregnum due to Covid, little did any of us know what to expect. That included our produce provider (in standard marketing parlance, our wholesaler) who had just, **literally just**, been advised that the business with whom she had worked for many years, viz. Traidcraft had succumbed to the commercial ravages of the pandemic and was no longer able to continue its campaigning on behalf of food growers and producers in less fortunate and often destitute areas of the world. Thankfully, dedicated visionaries founded a phoenix company, ultimately named Transform Trade, able to take up the cudgel and continue the crusade.

At the end of the year our “wholesaler”, Hilary Schmidt-Hansen, applauded the incredible support of the broadminded and instinctively benevolent St Andrews “family” by declaring total sales of Fair Trade products via St Andrews at £1548 equating to an average monthly £141 **“an amazing result”**.

My own personal “gift” from the exercise, apart from the outcome, has been to continue the doctrinaire approach of my visionary predecessors Mary Boddington, Hilary Mattocks and Kay Sillitoe and to work with the brilliant, very efficient, considerate produce provider Hilary Schmidt-Hansen. I hope to include the outcome of an interview that Hilary has agreed to do (as long as I avoid the Piers Morgan approach), subject to Editorial approval, in the next edition.

Talking of which, I often allow my enthusiasm to take over and I find myself breaching my brief. It happened with the November edition when my research into chocolate had to be capped by the editor because otherwise the budget for the year would have been blown. Alas the final, sanctioned article, left out some photos which I felt were very enlightening and therefore I am including them here in the hope that our illustrious editor will include them as graphic edification of chocolate production.

The tree



The Fruit



The Bean



Fact: winner of the Fair Trade “Willy Wonka” competition for 12 months supply of drinking chocolate was.....

ANN MORRIS

“Thanks to all those who enabled the competition to reach a viable conclusion”

Rodney Grinnell



Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 4.2 kg? Cause they had a weigh in the manger.

How did Jesus' crucifixion save us? It's 'cause he nailed it!

Today on Twitter, I lost a follower. Now I know how Jesus feels everyday.

You know those people using bibles on their phones? They are using phony bibles.

Deja Vu – When you think you're doing something you've done before, it's because God thought it was so funny, he had to rewind it for his friends.

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

CHILDREN WERE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. THE FOLLOWING 25 STATEMENTS ABOUT THE BIBLE WERE WRITTEN BY CHILDREN. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RETOUCED OR CORRECTED. INCORRECT SPELLING HAS BEEN LEFT IN.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
5. Sampson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
6. Moses led the Jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
7. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
8. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
10. Moses died before he reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
11. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
12. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
13. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
14. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
15. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.

16. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
17. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
18. . Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man both not live by sweat alone.
19. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
20. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
21. The Epistles were the wives of the apostles
22. One of the opposums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
23. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.



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Diary of a cross in the pocket.

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