



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT



£1.50

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



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist*

5.00pm Evensong (3rd Sunday)

6.30pm Every other Sunday

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

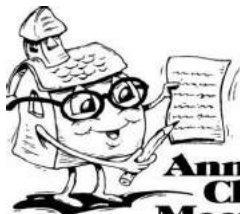
2nd Sunday: 10.00am Parish Eucharist .

3rd Sunday: 6.30pm 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.



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Our annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st May this year, shortly after the 10 am church 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.

David Millington

Secretary to the PCC



God save the King!

This month of course our nation and Commonwealth celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. It will be a significant moment in the life of our country and will be celebrated in many different ways across the land.

The ceremonial and practices at a Coronation have very ancient origins. Westminster Abbey has been used since 1066 (for William the Conqueror), and King Charles III will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned there. The Coronation service for the King was first drawn up when St Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury and was undertaken at Bath Abbey. Westminster Abbey was rebuilt in 1245 to better suit a Coronation and of course the Abbey is regarded as our national church.

The service will have distinct parts to it - Recognition, Oaths, Anointing, Communion, Investiture, and Enthronement.

The Recognition part, the King will be presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Trumpets will sound and the congregation will shout 'God save the King'. This is recognition that the King is under the authority of God - we must pray for our King and his walk of faith – recognising his authority for our nation and the other countries where he is sovereign, but also his reign under the ultimate authority of God.

In the Oath section, the King will take the coronation oath with a Holy Bible in his hand, this will include a promise to lead well and a promise to God to do this as well as he can.

In the Anointing section, The King will be anointed with oil. This is a holy and special moment inviting the Holy Spirit to rest on the King. As Christians we have the practice of anointing at significant moments, at



baptism, as we pray for healing for the sick, at confirmation and at ordination. We see anointing with oil in the Old Testament of the Bible, when people are set apart by God for a particular task.

At the Enthronement, the King will be placed on the throne of state, he will be crowned and given the orb and sceptre, symbols of his sovereignty under God. The crowning of the monarch is the point in which he takes the authority of Kingship afforded by God and this is why the Archbishop presides over the ceremony.

Charles has lived nearly all his life knowing his time as King was coming. Let us pray that he enacts this role within the care and guidance of God the Holy Spirit to bless our nation and all our people.

And for us? Well, we have a care of duty to pray for our new King and all the royal family, for this time of great change and difficulty for our nation, and to ask the Holy Spirit's guidance and love as we do this. I finish with a prayer from the 'Book of Common Prayer' that we use each week at St Andrew's during the 8am Service each Sunday:



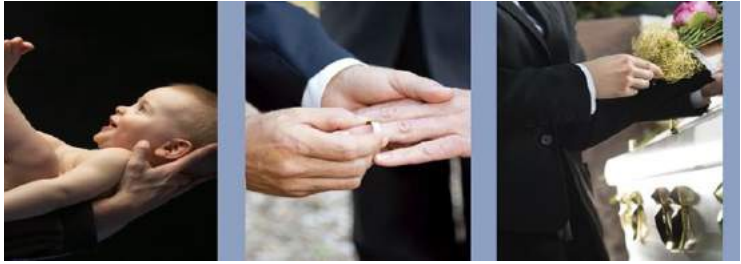
ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is ever-lasting, and power infinite: Have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Charles, our King and Governor, that he (knowing whose minister he is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all his subjects (duly considering whose authority he hath) may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey him in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Blessings,

Reverend Craig

Sunday 7th May: 6.30pm: Special Communion Service to mark the King's Coronation.

PARISH REGISTERS



Funerals in April:

3rd Alan King (88)

3rd Nip & Peter Balmer - burial of ashes

5th Hilda Kemp

17th John Testar (83)

19th Bill Cooper (75) – burial of ashes

29th Mary Jones (92) – burial of ashes

MINI PILGRIMAGE

TUESDAY 30th JUNE to St. PETER'S CHURCH, WELLESBOURNE.



CEGE

CENTRAL ENGLAND GUITAR EMSEMBLE

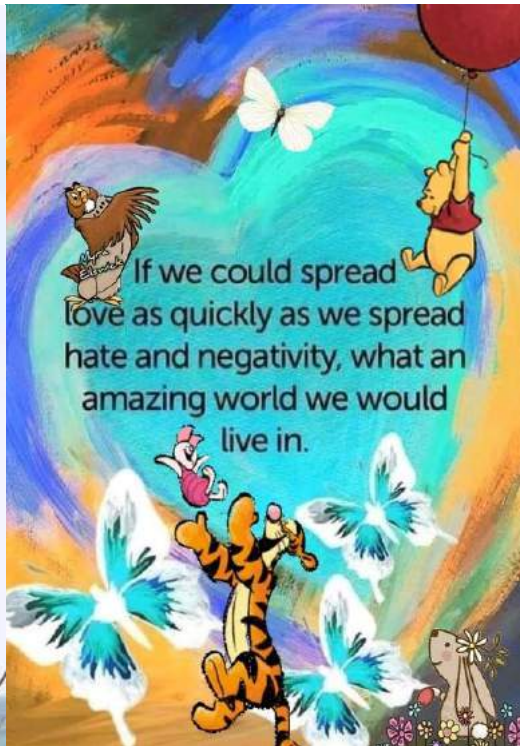
Concert in St. Andrew's

25th November, 7.30pm



Worry is a conversation
you have with yourself
about things you
cannot change.

Prayer is a conversation
you have with God about
things *He can change.*



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

To help save the economy in this economic crisis, the Government will announce - next week—that the Home Office and Immigration Department will start deporting Pensioners (instead of illegals) in order to lower welfare benefits and NHS costs.

Older people are easier to catch, and will not remember how to get back home. Be sure to send this notice to all your relatives and friends, so they will know what happened to you.

I started to cry when I thought of you all, then it dawned on me: I'll see you all on the bus!

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR OWN COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

SATURDAY 13th MAY.

A reminder of our plans for the day.

Meet in St. Andrew's car park for 10.00am departure (travelling by car and mini bus).

1100 Arrive and pilgrimage in the ruins

1200 Litany of Reconciliation and Holy Communion

1230 Lunch (bring a picnic or go to local cafes or coffee shop)

1330 Pilgrimage in the new Cathedral

1500 Tea break

1520 Evening prayer with reflection

1600 Depart

The cost of the day will be £8 per person (entrance fee)

Please sign the list in the foyer if you would like to come.



Farewell and God Bless, Mike



After roughly three years at St. Andrew's our assistant curate and friend, Rev. Mike Stewart is leaving us for pastures new in his post as Vicar of the Elstow Team Ministry in Bedfordshire. What an amazing three years it's been! Our first sightings of Mike, if you remember, were on Zoom, when he joined us for services and PCC meetings, when we were barred from church services. I can remember on Zoom hearing Mike introduce himself to us and mentioning how he was fond of real ale, loved cricket and had roots in Scotland. My ears pricked up! He sounded like my kind of guy! For several months it was impossible to meet him in person even when he'd moved to Grove Road and so very difficult for him to get to know people. For ages he only had regular contact with Craig and Margaret Spencer in the Parish Office. However, he's more than made up for that now!

During that time when churches were officially closed Mike, alongside our vicar Rev. Craig, worked fantastically hard to ensure that we had online services via Zoom and he was enormously helpful in setting up our IT system which we hadn't previously had. He also used his technological skills to lead online assemblies at our local church primary school which were very popular. Another innovation Mike introduced was a short compline service in the evenings through Zoom which many people found comforting and reassuring. Mike would often use different locations when he led this service to add variety! I'll never forget his compline service broadcast from the Bancroft Gardens but that would be telling!

A time when Mike really came to the fore was following the death of H.M. The Queen.



Rev. Craig was away on holiday when the fateful news emerged. Mike immediately took charge and had the Union flag flying at half-mast, alerted myself as a churchwarden and publicised the news on Facebook to the congregation. That night he led a vigil having quickly sourced photographs of the queen and a book of condolence. The following day, he held a service of remembrance having printed out all the service sheets himself. Many people commented afterwards what a wonderful job he had done over the whole period.

As part of his ministry with us Mike has regularly visited Lower Meadow Care Home where he's taken services of communion and is hugely popular, as he is at our local Primary Schools. Through his work in the local community Mike has endeared himself to many, both Christian and non-Christian. He played a big part in establishing Stratford Men's Group to encourage mostly older, single men to come together and meet up for a chat and a cup of tea. One of Mike's great strengths is his ability to bring folk together of all ages and classes. People feel comfortable talking to him and sharing their views and opinions, knowing that he will listen and not be judgemental. Mike has also worked closely with Caroline Penn and others to reconnect children and families with church. Special events at Halloween and Christingle have brought over fifty families to come and eat, have fun and learn more about the love of God. No-one will ever forget Mike looking like Mr Blobby, dressed up as a Christingle! And he very sportingly appeared as a donkey in a family service..... Elstow don't know what they're getting!

I will particularly miss him as we've shared many a pint together at The Alehouse in town, sharing news and views, having a good laugh and enjoying the company of the regulars. What an effort it was by Mike in bringing the Community Beer Festival to St. Andrew's which was a first for Stratford and an overwhelming success both financially but more importantly in bringing people to St. Andrew's who would never normally come near. For some people it put St. Andrew's on the map. I very much hope we can hold another Beer Festival



later this year even without Mike..... or it might tempt him to return!

Over these three years we've seen Mike steadily grow in confidence when preaching and conducting services and in PCC meetings he's contributed greatly to our discussions with his coherent thoughts. Rev. Mike has certainly left his mark on St. Andrew's Shottery but I like to think a part of us will go with him in his new ministry. We wish you and your lovely wife Helen all the best Mike. We're sad to see you go but know that with your friendly, smiling personality, full of the Holy Spirit, Elstow folk are in for a treat! God Bless you and Cheers!

Bob Macvie



**"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."**

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?" He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.



WOW! What a week! From **Palm Sunday** we were treated to a veritable feast of experiences on our journey to Easter Day. **Palm Sunday** saw a chilly group process from the Hospice next door around the church to enter by the west door. Sadly no donkeys this year but we raised our palms and sang lustily before joining the rest of the congregation for a traditional Palm Sunday service. **Monday in Holy Week** we experienced a very moving dramatization of St. Mark's Gospel by Rev. Dr. Richard Cooke. Revd. Cooke had written his own interpretation of the Gospel and enthusiastically narrated the journey to the Cross using simple props to dramatise significant events along the way. He had laid out on the floor a blue cloth roughly shaped like the Sea of Galilee and placed the names of locations where Jesus visited as he preached, healed and performed miracles. As the reading ended by the empty tomb, there was a silence and stillness that pervaded the room enveloping very moved listeners. **Tuesday** Revd. Mike took us gently through the Stations of the Cross; again beautifully thought through with sensitive pictures depicting Christ's journey along the way. We departed deeply moved in the darkness and silence. **Wednesday**, another treat, **Tenebrae - A Service of Light and Shadows**. We were all given candles to hold, each with a different number. There were 8 Readers and once they had read their piece they blew out one of the 8 candles on the Altar. At the same time those who held candles no. 1 also blew theirs out. This continued until finally once the 8th candles had been extinguished, we were in darkness. Sensitive music accompanied the silences and all in all it was a very emotional experience. The Service was led by Revd Craig and Revd. Sarah. Again we departed in darkness and silence.

Maundy Thursday followed tradition including the Washing of Feet by Revd Sarah, and ending with the stripping of the Altar. This was followed by "The

Watch until midnight; a time to sit and be quiet as we watched with Jesus remembering his time in the garden of Gethsemane.

Departing once again in darkness and silence.

Good Friday morning we welcomed children to a special service for them. Revd. Mike shared a cartoon - *"The story of Easter - Jesus' Sacrifice to save us from our sins"*, which the children enjoyed. Afterwards, with Revd. Mary's help the children went into the parish centre to make Easter Gardens, paint pictures, etc.



Later in the day a turnout of about 70 people enjoyed "Before the Cross". We had three half hour sessions of

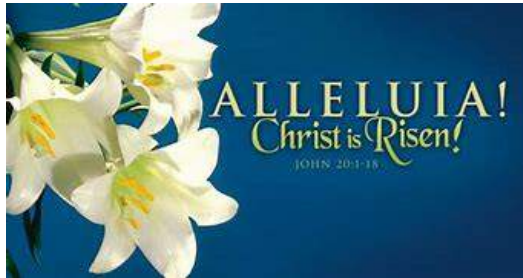
readings, meditations, and choral music. The sessions were built around "The Things He Carried" by Dr. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York. St. Andrew's had been following this on Tuesday evenings during Lent and this was the culmination. Revd. Mary led the first reading and meditation; Revd. Joy the second and Revd. Craig the final one. Revd. Joy invited us to drop a tear shaped pearl (tear drop) into a glass container for someone who was "hurting" which she then laid at the foot of the cross. Very inspiring and thought provoking. In between we sang hymns and the choir treated us to some awesome interpretations of "God proves His love for us" by Simon Lesley, "Take up thy cross" by Ronald Carp; "Glory be to Jesus" by Heinrich Schutz; "Livera me domine (Faure's Requiem)"; "And didn't thou travel by light" by Richard Shephard; finishing with "Ave Verum" by Edward Elgar. Tea and hot cross buns rounded up the day.

Holy Saturday. This service was again in candle light - the new Easter Candle was lit outside the church from a brazier and brought into the dark building as we proclaimed the risen Christ! Our own candles were then lit from the Easter candle. And the service proceeded by candlelight. We heard the story from scripture of our redemption through Christ, and Revd Paul sang the ancient Easter Proclamation (The Exultet). The service concluded with the renewal of our Baptism promises (traditional at Eastertide).

Easter day. A packed church welcomed the risen Christ. Revd. Sarah led her

first Easter Day Eucharist which she performed beautifully. The choirs final anthem “*Proclaim the Story*” with the original music from *Te Deum by Charpentier* was a fitting end to an amazing Easter Morn. And for the first time that week we departed in light and full blown musical celebration as Matt on the organ treated us to a brilliant rendition of *Grand Choeur by Alexandre Guilmant*.

We are so blessed.



Ten things I've learned from Shakespeare

1. Never poke your sword in a moving arras, since you'll end up killing your girlfriend's dad.
2. Always leave a fair gap between a funeral and a wedding, otherwise people will whinge that you're serving up leftovers.
3. If you suspect your lover has committed suicide, get a proper medical opinion before doing anything rash, as they may be in some sort of coma.
4. Don't believe prophecies, as they can be highly misleading. Forests, for example, can shift location for a whole load of reasons, global warming being merely the most recent.
5. It's dumb to hand over all your assets to your kids after you retire. They may turn nasty. Before you know it, you'll be forced to cut back on the size of your retinue, and who needs that when you are 80?
6. Love is blind.
7. The leek is an inherently funny vegetable.
8. When making love to someone in a darkened room, have a chat first, because it's amazingly easy to end up having sex with the wrong person.
9. If giving an official present to the King of England, try to do better than a set of tennis balls, otherwise it may cause a war.
10. A good reason to depart any locality is that you are being pursued by a bear.

| *Richard Glover*



Hilary Capron welcomed everyone to our meeting on 17th April especially new members and visitors. As usual this was followed by our short time of prayers.

Hilary thanked all who had helped with the Mothering Sunday posies and with the Easter gift bags which had been appreciated. We were waiting to hear about funds for the plant trough for our Transformation project; this had been approved by the PCC and fitted in with the Stratford Churches together Eco-environmental plans.

Hilary then introduced Graham Poole for his talk on “Art Attack”. Graham gave a brief account of how he became interested in painting again after his career in accountancy. He had always been interested in Science Fiction and this was the subject of much of his illustration work.

We discussed the many ways that the art of painting is around us in everyday life. There was a display of some of Graham’s paintings not least the lovely illustrations in the children’s books that his wife, Jan Walker, had written and published.

Having emphasised the benefits of painting on promoting calm and relieving stress, we all spent half an hour or so doing just that - drawing and colouring (and having tea and cake of course).

Graham was thanked for arranging all this and maybe making us think about taking up a new hobby.

Next meeting - 2 p.m. Monday, 15th May (please note 3rd Monday because of Coronation Bank Holiday)

Daphne Jones

There is nothing good or bad but thinking makes it so

Shakespeare

Churches are free to enter but still empty. Clubs charge to enter, but are full. People ignore inner peace & choose to pay for self destruction.



RESPECT

There is precious little respect for one another around at the moment, I for one would certainly blame our politicians and far as being abroad is concerned, I was horrified at the attack on the political buildings in Washington, when the Trump supporters could not accept the results of a democratic vote. I hope we do not go that way, probably not, but there are dangers lurking. In our case, perhaps it is the way that the House of Commons is set out? Even the Public Schools might have to take some of the blame. In Rugby School Chapel, the pews were fixed, so that everyone faced each other across the central aisle, I believe that Eton and Harrow are the same. Would it not be possible when the Houses of Parliament are re modelled, then there could be a circular approach somewhat akin to the spirit of Vatican 2. The opportunity to take a bi partisan approach and not the roguish and confrontational approach that we experience today.

When I was a bank clerk in Warwick I used to take charge of the Coten End Sub Branch. I had a bank guard called Mac who was a Magistrate, Town Councillor and a convinced socialist. His best friend was a Tory councillor and they would often meet socially. When there was a council meeting, Mac would pick his mate up and take him to the meeting, where they would have a friendly argy/bargy and then retreat to the pub. They really were the best of mates. Then there was my maternal Grandfather who came from Norfolk, he managed The Co-op stores in Resolven (Neath Valley), then Minehead in Somerset and finally in Fakenham back in Norfolk, where there was also a bakery and a Lady's Outfitters which I am sure you will understand was the height of discretion in a small market town. He also sang in the choir of the established church which meant that he was looked on as being very respectable. He was a convinced socialist, but where did he drink? IN the



Tory Club!!!! The members wanted respectable people, so he was willingly signed in. He was a working class gentleman! I ask myself, Why do we have to tolerate the situation today when we virtually hate the guts of anyone who has a different political viewpoint to that of ourselves. It is lack of Respect. How we deal with that is another question all together but Jesus must be a good part of the answer.

David Capron.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?... He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of cell phone did Delilah use?... Samson

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?... By his net income.

How long did Cain hate his brother? ... As long as he was Abel to.

Who was the smartest man in the Bible? ... Abraham. He knew a Lot.

What kind of person was Boaz before he got married? ... Ruthless!

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? ... Samson. He brought the house down.

Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible? ... Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

At what time of day was Adam created?... A little before Eve.

Which Bible character had no parents?... Joshua, son of Nun.

What animal could Noah not trust?... Cheetah

Who was the straightest man in the Bible?... Joseph: Pharaoh made him a ruler.



EASTER FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Easter as always proved to be a popular celebration for the flower arranging team, we are blessed to be supported by the “Blooming Lovely” floral training classes (who on the whole are not part of our fellowship) together with congregation members. This year as always there were so many different presentations incorporated.

Support from our congregations’ members, financial and floral donations, together with the skills and time and floral donations by the arrangers delivered a stunning result.

I must say – Without the generosity of the congregation and the Floral Arrangers contributing financially, skills and foliage/floral contributions we would not be able to maintain such a high standard.

We did receive donations in remembrance of :

Di Jones in memory of Jo Carver

Ralph Burman in memory of Sue and Debs

Mrs D Jones in remembrance of family members

Mrs A Edwards in memory of Alan Edwards

Donations also from Bob and Fran Kibblewhite and Mothers’ Union

All support be it donations, floral or helping hands are so very much appreciated.

Nic Carree

Contact details: b 01789 294121

nicarree@gmail.com (Pidgeon Hole in Foyer)



More photos of the arrangements on our Facebook page.

MINI PILGRIMAGE TO ST. JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, SNITTERFIELD.

Tuesday 18th April saw 27 people leaving St Andrews Shottery to go to St James The Great Snitterfield. The evening was a bit chilly but late sun helped enhance the stained glass windows



The date of the first church in Snitterfield is unknown but there is an inclusion of a priest among the villagers of SNITEFIELDE in the Domesday Survey of 1086. (Snite is named after the bird).

The Vicar, Rev Richard Mutter, was there to greet us and gave us a couple of small talks regarding the interesting things in the Church; one being that the font is not at the entrance of the church because the bell ropes were there, so it was moved to the top of the church. They now have a ringing tower (they are not moving the font back to the back!)

The date of the first baptism register is January 1561 and John Shakespeare (father of the poet) and Henry his uncle were certainly baptised here.

Richard Shakespeare Grandfather of William, settled in Snitterfield as a tenant farmer sometime before 1525 and worshipped in its parish church until his death in late 1560 or early 1561.



It is called James the Great or Greater, to distinguish him from another apostle James the Less who was the brother and fellow fisherman of John.

Richard Jago the most widely known of the long line of incumbents, was a distinguished poet who served the

parish from 1731 to his death in 1781, first as a curate and after a brief break, as vicar.

We then moved on to the Snitterfield Arms for refreshment where the vicar and his children joined us.

Carole Taylor

Joan Whyman observed “The children who attend there had made the most beautiful Easter gardens and had so creatively found ways to represent the empty tomb and the stone which had been rolled away. These reminded me so vividly, once again, of the hope promised to us by our risen Lord. As it is written in Hebrews 6:19, ‘We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.’”



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Next TRAIIDCRAFT stall will be on **21st May** following the morning service. An array of Fair Trade goodies will be on sale. Your support is very much appreciated.

Rodney Grinnell.

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 23rd May 2023

10-12noon

Arden House, 7 Rowley Crescent,

Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6UT

You are invited to this Coffee Morning and please feel free to bring a friend. If you can't attend and would like to make a donation please visit

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stratfordfundraisingcommittee

Coffee, Cakes, Crafts, Raffle

Quasimodo's Replacement

After Quasimodo's death, Bishop Thomas of the cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he would conduct the interviews personally and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process.

After observing while several applicants demonstrated their skills, he decided to call it a day.

Just then a lone, armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell ringer's job.

Bishop Thomas was incredulous. 'You have no arms.'

"No matter," said the man, 'observe!' He then began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon. The bishop listened in astonishment, convinced that he had finally found a suitable replacement for Quasimodo. Suddenly, while rushing forward to strike a bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the street below.

The stunned bishop immediately rushed down the stairways. When he reached the street, a crowd had gathered around the fallen figure, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moments before. As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, 'Bishop, who was this man?'

'I don't know his name,' the bishop sadly replied, 'but his face rings a bell.'



Church
Mission
Society
collection
for March
was £268-16.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather.....It pays no attention to criticism.

What birds spend all their time on their knees?

Birds of prey

Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy
Everyone Welcome
20th May
10am till noon

By kind invitation
of Ann and
David Challis



3rd June
10am till
noon



Helpful

Mary was out driving and while stopped at a red light, the car just died. It was a busy intersection, and the traffic behind her started growing. The man in the car directly behind her started beeping his horn continuously as she struggled to get her car going again.

Finally Mary got out of her car and approached the man in the car behind her. "I can't get my car started," she said smiling. "Would you be so kind as to see if you can do it? While you try, I'll stay here in your car and beep your horn for you."

PEACE IS

...gazing at the stars with the knowledge that you know their creator.

...closing your eyes in sleep without fear of tomorrow.

...the stillness in your heart when trouble swirls around you.

...a quiet mind in a raging world.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



Birds, Birthdays and God

These are two lovely activities you can try over summer to help your child begin to think about God's Holy Spirit - the part of God that lives in our hearts today, filling us with God's power and love .

Are you going to a birthday party this summer? Think about why birthdays are happy events and how we celebrate them. When you go to a birthday party, you can think about how we celebrate the beginning of each life with joy, by singing, eating together, and playing games. Birthdays are a nice time to pray too - you can say thank you to God for starting the new life of the birthday boy or girl. There is a time of year when the church celebrates its 'birthday' too. It is called **Pentecost** (or Whitsunday) and falls fifty days after Easter Sunday. Churches celebrate this day because after Jesus rose from the dead, he spent forty days with his friends, and then he went up to heaven. Before he went, he promised to send God's spirit to live in people's hearts and help them live as followers of Jesus. Ten days after that, Jesus' friends were gathered together. Suddenly they felt a rushing wind, and saw an amazing light above everyone's heads! The Bible described this as 'tongues of fire' because that is what they looked like. Jesus' friends realised this must be God's Spirit that Jesus had promised and they all then went out into the streets and started telling everyone the good news that Jesus was alive and had defeated death. This is the day Christians believe God's Holy Spirit came into the world.

See if you can find a bird's nest near your house and spend some time watching it with your child. Take care not to touch or disturb it, but encourage your child to spot the mummy and daddy birds, and what they are doing to care for their babies in the nest. Ask your child how the babies might feel in the nest,

and what they need. Could they survive without their mummy and daddy? Maybe you can even take pictures of different nests and find out about the birds that live in them. As you watch the birds, you and your child can wonder together about how God's Spirit might be like a bird, feeding and being there for their babies, keeping them warm and keeping busy for the sake of their baby birds, even though the babies don't know it. Sometimes in Christian art and stories, a dove is used as a symbol of God's spirit. It is a pure white bird about the size of a pigeon. It appears in the story of Noah's Ark and also in the story of Jesus' baptism.



To everyone for their prayers and support for my wellbeing during recent illnesses. I am so happy to be back in church with you all and really appreciate your love and kindness.

Sheila Price



Give me a sense of humour,
Lord, give me the grace to
see a joke,
To get some humour out of
life, and pass it on to other
folk.

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windshield that said "Parking Fine. That was so nice.



**Our charity collection on 14th May will be
for Christian Aid**

We believe in something radical: equality for all.

**And although injustice divides us,
hope unites us;
bringing us together in faith,
inspiring us,
and driving us to action.
Because hope makes peace possible,
hope makes freedom unquestionable,
hope brings a better tomorrow for everyone.
Just because life isn't fair now,
doesn't mean it can't be
and it starts with hope.**

Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
 - to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

We believe in life before death

- We seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.
- We stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term. We give people survival essentials when they are without shelter or refuge, and help them find the strength and resources they need to flourish and protect themselves from shocks and disasters.

We support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

We're part of a global movement for change

- Together, we have great influence and impact. We want people to pray with us, to act, to give and to get involved with us in a variety of ways.
- We work to educate and mobilise people from all kinds of backgrounds to build a movement that can change the course of history and bring social justice to all.

We campaign to ensure a more equal division of power in the world, promoting the rights and voices of women and girls – and anyone discriminated against because of who they are.

Where we Work

We work with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide.

The world's not a fair place, but we believe it should be.

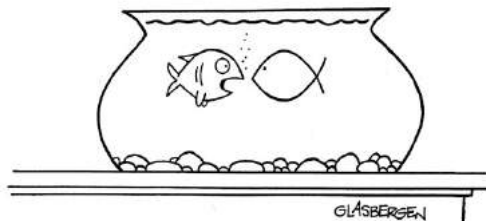
That's why we work hand-in-hand with local communities to create lasting change, offer lasting hope, and help people build a life free from poverty. To help us create lasting change, please donate today.

Please give generously and let us show our support for Christian Aid in May 2023

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.



"Can't we talk about something besides religion for a change?"

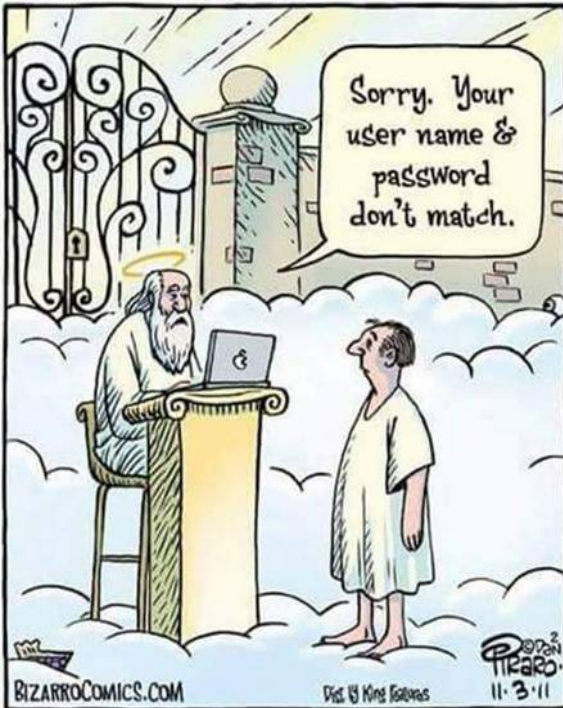
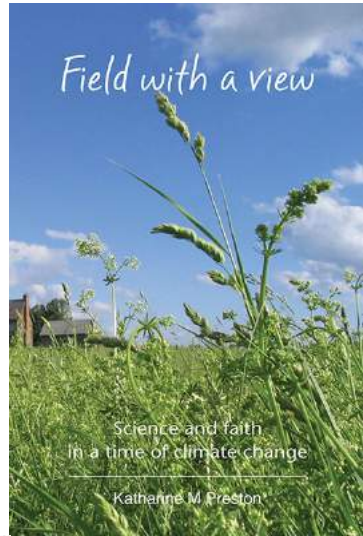
RECOMMENDED READING

FIELD WITH A VIEW by Katharine M. Preston.

Science and faith in a time of climate change challenges us to think more

deeply about the human condition and our choices in this time of ever-increasing climate disturbance. For scientists skeptical of faith, people of faith who know and love the miracles of science, and anybody who shares the vision of the planet as a sacred community.

£8.99 from Wild Goose Publications.



A Sunday school teacher asked her class: "Do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied one lad.

"How could he, with just two worms?"

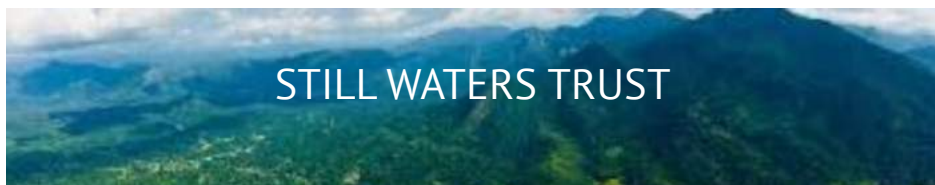
What do you give a sick bird?

Tweetment.



May I, once again, thank you all for your great generosity in helping to raise monies for two charities. Firstly, through the purchase of the Lent booklet, *'Rainbows Through the Rain'* the amazing sum of £445 has been sent to

the **Still Waters Trust**, which helps orphaned and abandoned children in Tangalle in Sri Lanka. The funds raised assist the Trust in organising foster homes and the subsequent necessary financial help and oversight of all placements. It is such valuable work and the money raised is greatly appreciated.



In addition, following the **Lent Lunch, 'Fools for Christ'** on April 1st when a delicious lunch of homemade soups and sandwiches was provided by Fran Turner and her amazing team, the donations to cover expenses exceeded outlay by £70. We decided to send this money to the Stratford on Avon Food Bank, which I have duly done. Thank you to all those who shared the day in different ways: for the willing helpers with catering and serving, the strong-arm team who assisted with the setting out of furniture and to David Challis who at very short notice, set up the much-appreciated microphone. So many gifts and talents so freely offered with love and for which Revd. Joy Hance and I offer our gratitude.

Joan Whyman



ABSOLUTES

"I am never *absolutely* sure, because somehow I acknowledge fewer and fewer absolutes, don't you"? Words from Sister Jane of the Community of the Sisters of the Love of God in a book "Loving God Whatever", a title recommended by our own Rev. Paul Edmonson.

These thoughts are not unknown to me as I am sure they are not unknown to many others of mature years. Understanding and thoughts change with the passing years and we are all affected by the culture and attitudes of the society in which we live - for better or, perhaps, for worse.

At my age I would like to think that I have understood the certainties of life, those things we received in our formative years and, as Christians, especially from the Church. But we find this is, in some respects, not so. The 'absolutes' are indeed fewer !

I find myself asking - are there any absolutes, apart from taxes and death, that we of the older generation can abide by? Personally I have always held The Bible as the written Word of God to be one of the certainties of life. That the Scriptures are the sole source of authority for faith and practice.. The final authority. The doctrine of sola scriptura. However, some people choose to add 'reason' and 'tradition' to Scripture but then often allow these to supersede the final authority of the written Word.

However, problems arise with this approach when we ask "by whose reason" and "by whose tradition"? People have various traditions and reasoning which, without a final authority, can and does lead to confusion and disagreement. One way to help avoid confusion concerning The Bible was advice contained in a booklet on understanding The Bible which I read many years ago, and this advice was to understand what the original author was actually saying and then to avoid the temptation of adding our own thoughts as to what we wished the author

had said ! In the Greek language it is expressed as the difference between exegesis and eisegesis.

In a changing world can we actually hold on to any 'absolutes' ? Yes, we can and we must for we Christians live in a society and culture which is claimed to be both secular and multi-faith and this affects us more than we perhaps realise or would admit to. For Christians, surely the authority of The Bible is paramount ? Without the written Word there would be no Church, no revelation, no redemption and no knowledge of a choice of an eternal destiny. We only know of these things *because of the written Word faithfully defended and passed down the generations to us today..*

It has been said that the strategy of Satan is mainly two-fold. Firstly, convince humanity that he (Satan) does not actually exist and secondly, to demolish the authority of The Bible as this could destroy The Church.

A question we Christians might ask ourselves today is - if this is true how far has this strategy progressed in our western societies ?

Alan Minchin.

St Andrews Thursday Lunch



The next lunch is on Thursday 11th May in St Andrews 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.

**Before you sleep, Pray.
When you wake up,
Pray. When life gets
hard, Pray. When
you're happy, Pray. If
you are unsure, Pray.
God is always with us.
Amen.**



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Diary of a cross in the pocket.

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(weekdays) short
meditations by
Rev. Joan Whyman.**



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Preacher: Revd. Joan Whyman

Reader: Jan Walker

Churchwardens: Bob Macvie 551767 ragmacvie@hotmail.com
David Whyman. 298905 davidwhyman42@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: David Millington 269598 dmillington3@outlook.com

Treasurer: Carole Taylor 295132 carole.taylor7280@gmail.com

Parish Office. (Mondays: 1.30pm - 4.30pm; Tuesdays: 9.30 am- 12.30pm;
Thursdays: 9.30am - 1.30pm)

Sally Sleath 293381 Email: parishoffice@saintandrewsshottery.org

Baptisms: Parish Office—293381 or parishoffice@saintandrewsshottery.org

Book Group: Revd. Craig Grocock (as above)

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

Choir: Director of Music: Rosemary Robson—296134 or
therobsonfamily@hotmail.com

Choir Conductor: Larry Robson (as above)

Housegroup: Revd. Joy Hance—414603 or joysmail@talk21.com

Children & Family + Illumin8 (Sunday School) Caroline Penn—07595883948

Listening and Prayer Team: Susie Fletcher – 01789 298738

Mothers' Union: Hilary Capron—hilary@caprons.co.uk 762904.

Organist: Matt Penn

Parish Centre bookings: Parish Office

Parish Safeguarding: David Millington 269598 or dmillington3@hotmail.com
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