



ST ANDREW'S  
SHOTTERY

# SEARCHLIGHT



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)

2nd Sunday: 10.00am Parish Eucharist .

3rd Sunday: 6.30pm Atrium.

Tuesdays: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion.



**2 November: All Soul's Day**  
10.00am. Holy Communion.

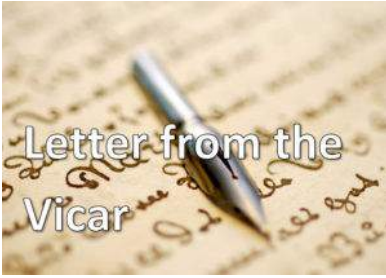
**12th November: Remembrance Sunday**

**30th November: St. Andrew's Day.**  
6.30pm. St Andrew's Service,  
Followed by supper in Parish Centre.



Total collection for **Farming Community** in September was £452. 90.

Total collection for **World Vision** in October was £300. 20p.



## Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> November!

November is a month of remembering. We will have All Saints', All Souls' and Remembrance Sunday during this month ending with St Andrew's Day on the 30<sup>th</sup>, times to remember different people in different ways.

Bonfire night will be celebrated once again on the 5<sup>th</sup> too when many will don their woollies, venture outside and enjoy the sounds and sight of the fireworks. I have fond memories of being taken to displays by my parents as a child, loved them . . . especially the hot dogs (with onions!).

But hang on, what is it, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, that we celebrate? Well, as you may know, Bonfire Night remembers the downfall of the Gunpowder Plot of 5 November 1605, in which a number of Catholic conspirators, including Guy Fawkes, were caught attempting to blow up the Houses of Parliament taking the king along with it. King James I was anti-catholic and under his reign, the practicing of the catholic faith was virtually outlawed. The plotters, being catholic themselves, wanted to respond through this act of terrorism. The plotters were of course discovered before they could carry out what they had planned. Guy Fawkes was executed, as well as some of the other conspirators and the king ordered bonfire to be burned each year as an act of remembrance.

For us today bonfire night is a family occasion and if the weather holds, will be enjoyed across the country by millions of people. As we venture out again this year and enjoy the displays, I guess few of us will be thinking on the events of the seventeenth century and celebrating the execution of a group of Catholics who dared to stand against the king.

Bonfire night is a celebration for communities as we come together, young and old having fun and enjoying the night simply for what it is . . . . we can complicate things too much can't we?

God bless and enjoy the hotdogs!

**Reverend Craig.**





***“But I must finish, just as I must go at the end of 2012 (retirement date). It is time to go, but it is not time to finish being a priest. I shall remain a priest until my dying day. It has been an unspeakable privilege.”*** These are the concluding words of David’s first book, ‘The Fiery Canon’.

We both felt truly blessed being able to return to Shotton ten years ago; moreover, where David was invited to continue to exercise a ministry which had begun here in 1979. Although very much a traditionalist, he found a role that opened new windows of mission. Years of leading ‘Mini-evening Pilgrimages’ have provided an insight into the wide range of styles of worship offered in very different church buildings mostly all located within the southern part of Coventry diocese. With fellowship continuing over a meal in a nearby hostelry, they have been a time to build up friendships as well as gaining an appreciation of the life of the church in quite diverse parishes.

A pilgrimage to Walsingham was always a very special time of spiritual renewal for David and he was keen to enable others to explore the balance of High Church ceremonies with opportunities for quiet, contemplative times of prayer and reflection that can also be found at the shrine. He had much pleasure in assisting in the organisation of pilgrimages to Norfolk for the people of St. Andrew’s.

David was privileged to share with Rev Mary much of the ministry during the Interregnum prior to Rev Craig’s appointment, once again being able to experience the joy of celebrating major church festivals and also resuming the varied role of a parish priest.

Having suffered a number of health issues in recent years, David withdrew from regular ministry, but greatly appreciated the invitation to be

the Celebrant occasionally at the Tuesday evening Communion service. The Eucharist was central to David's life and he always marked the anniversary of his Priesting Ordination with communion, whether it be in church such as on his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary or with 'breaking the bread' at home with close friends.

David completed his earthly life on St. Matthew's Day. His wooden holding cross was placed into his hand when Peter, Stephen and I joined in prayer with Mark as he anointed his father and pronounced the Christian Commendation. This cross, David held in the final days of his life and continues to do so in death. His Christian faith was rooted in the cross and he held it high throughout his ministry.

The love and prayers we have received throughout the past weeks have sustained and given us strength during the most difficult days. Mark, Peter, Stephen and I give you all our heartfelt thanks. The warmth that surrounded all the family by everyone sharing in the Requiem Eucharist when David was Received into St. Andrew's was most profound. We continued to celebrate his life and ministry the following morning at St. Nicholas' Church, Alcester, amidst family, friends and many members of the local community in a service reflecting the joys of the Resurrection. David was then laid to rest at St. James' Church, Weethley, within the Alcester Minster.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Hilary*



## PARISH REGISTERS



### OCTOBER:

#### Baptism:

1<sup>st</sup> Francesca Doris Hilda Dennis

#### Funerals:

12<sup>th</sup> Jahawk Cooper

13<sup>th</sup> Revd Canon David Capron

18<sup>th</sup> Francis Prentice

31<sup>st</sup> John Insoll

### ***God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength,***

*We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.*

*We pray for those killed and injured by rockets from Gaza in southern Israel. May your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving. May they know your ever-present help.*

*We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil.*

*We pray for the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. We especially remember all of those who have been killed and wounded in Gaza today - may you comfort and heal those who are in pain and those who have lost loved ones.*

*And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. May you guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit.*

***Amen.***



Our October meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of the **Rev. Canon David Capron**, a Mothers' Union member, who had been very supportive in setting it up here 40 years ago. Sympathy was extended to Hilary and in her absence Jane Smith led our usual short service of prayers with Harvest as the theme.

There were several apologies and one or two reminders -

- Sunday, 5th November - Time to Remember Service - members asked to help with serving tea afterwards.
- As highlighted in the recent Connected magazine, the Rise up against Domestic Abuse campaign is scheduled for 25th Nov.-10th Dec.

We were pleased to see the new planter now in place.

Unfortunately, Nic Caree was unwell and unable to come for the Flower Arranging demo.

However, we had two talks. **Jane** kindly gave us an insight into the effect on her family's life of her grandson's Downs Syndrome. Despite the set-backs, he is now a much loved 30-year old and, with a very supportive mother behind him, has a very active life appearing on stage and auditioning for acting parts. Jane was thanked for this encouraging family "snapshot".

**Mary Cramer** then entertained us with amusing anecdotes from her church life although ( in her early days as a priest) not being allowed to officiate at weddings was not really one of them. There was also an incident of armed guards and police on another occasion... She also recounted dealing with people experiencing supernatural occurrences at home; These were very real - e.g. slippers flying down stairs - but there was often tension in the house anyway which needed to be alleviated.

After quite a few questions, Mary was thanked and our quite busy afternoon ended up with tea and talk as usual.

Visitors welcome to our next Meeting - 2 pm Monday 13th November  
**Revd. Joy Hance** talking about Saints of Northumberland.

*Daphne Jones*

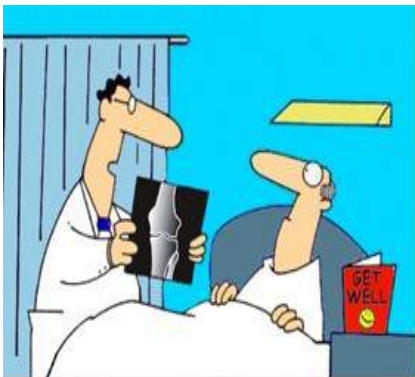
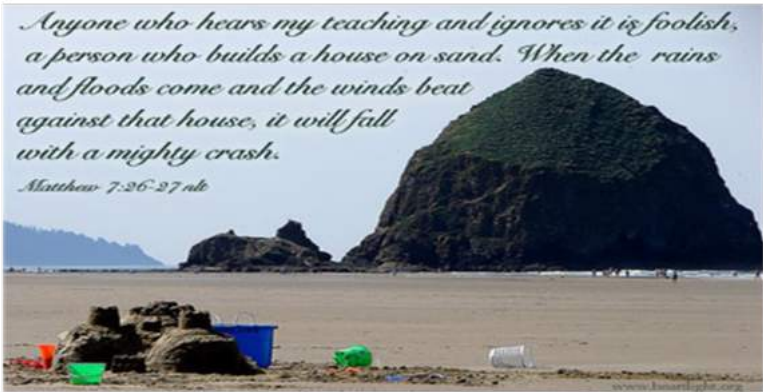
**Retreat in Daily Life -The Wise Build Upon The Rock.**

**St Andrew's Church, Shottery & Mid Fosse Deanery**

**13<sup>th</sup> January- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

*Anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish,  
a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains  
and floods come and the winds beat  
against that house, it will fall  
with a mighty crash.*

*Matthew 7:26-27 etc*



Your x-ray showed a broken bone, but we fixed it  
in photoshop.



'You have a rare condition called "Good Health".  
Frankly, I am not sure how to treat it.'



A green rectangular graphic with a pattern of overlapping circles in various shades of green. The text 'Charity of the Month' is written in a white, italicized, serif font, centered within the graphic.

## *Charity of the Month*

### **Our charity collection on 12th November will be for The Shakespeare Hospice**

The Shakespeare Hospice has been caring for patients, their carers and loved ones across South Warwickshire and the surrounding areas for almost 25 years.

Our Day Hospice is a calm, compassionate and friendly environment for those who are affected by a life-limiting illness. Our expert team are here to offer a safe and supportive space for patients, carers and those who have become bereaved. There is also the opportunity to meet others who may be experiencing a similar situation to their own.

We strive to enhance each individual's quality of life. This is achieved through a variety of activities which provide physical, psychological, spiritual and social support, such as creative arts, relaxing complementary therapies and exercise groups.

Every person is offered the time to talk about what is important to them, any concerns that they may have and how these may be impacting their day-to-day life. We will listen with sensitivity and compassion, supporting them to live life and ease any anxieties they may have. Our Day Services are available to any patient, carer or loved one registered with a GP in South Warwickshire and affected by a life-limiting illness.

Individuals can either be referred by a health care professional or can self-refer via our referral page.

### **Hospice at Home**

Our Hospice at Home service is for patients with life-limiting illnesses who have chosen to receive palliative and end of life care from the comfort of their own homes.

### **5 Year Strategy 2023-28**

We recognise that our local hospitals, primary care colleagues, and community organisations are facing multiple pressures resulting in patients remaining in hospital for longer than is required. Often these patients are nearing the end of their lives and go on to die in hospital when their preference would be a non-hospital setting. Locally 66% of patients would like to die at home, but only

22% do so. We also know that 39% of people in Coventry and Warwickshire who die do so after being admitted to hospital as an emergency. Their length of stay in hospital is often short. The most common experience is a terminal episode of two days.



Our 5-year strategy sets out how we aim to work with our partners to support people to live well during the last stages of their life and to die well, in a place of their choice. All while supporting those left behind to live a fulfilling life after bereavement. Our strategy sets out how we intend to achieve this, by finding solutions, being innovative and addressing current economic and workforce challenges. We

recognise this will be difficult in the current climate and will regularly review the strategy during the five years.

## Our Shops

Our high-street shops offer a wide variety of preloved items including furniture, homewares, clothing, books, DVDs, accessories and more - all at highly affordable prices. The Shakespeare Hospice has six charity shops across South Warwickshire selling a variety of quality goods which have been donated by our generous supporters. You can also shop online with us through our Hospice online shop, as well as our eBay, Vinted and AbeBooks stores, from the comfort of your own home.

By shopping with us, you are helping us to continue caring for those who need it most in the community. But not only that, you are also shopping ethically and sustainably. Your purchases help prevent waste to landfill, thus reducing carbon emissions.



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.

## St Andrews Thursday Lunch




The next lunch is on 9th November 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.



as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.

# Coffee Morning

**With Bring and Buy**

## Everyone Welcome

**4th & 18th November**

**10am till noon.**

**In PARISH CENTRE**



**ST ANDREW'S**  
S H O T T E R Y

# Christmas Coffee Morning

**SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER**

**10am till 2pm**

**In PARISH CENTRE**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT STALL**

**TOMBOLA: RAFFLE: RNLI STALL:**



**Coffee and mince pies.**

**Soup and sandwich  
lunches.**



**Our own **STAMP** CHOIR  
will be  
entertaining us.**





## COFFEE MORNINGS IN DECEMBER

**Dates for your diaries: 2nd—Christmas Coffee Morning.**  
**(see page 12)**

For this we would welcome donations of Christmassy items suitable for gifts.

### **16th—last one before Christmas break.**

Nativity / Crib Festival We are planning to have a display of special or unusual Cribs / Nativity sets in the Church this morning. Each exhibit will have a little explanation so that people visiting can understand where each one comes from, what it is made



of and perhaps if there was any special meaning for you..... it would be really lovely to have your special ones there. More information in the December *Searchlight*.



**IN NOVEMBER WHEN** Bishop Christopher Cocksworth moves away from Coventry he will be replaced for one year by the Bishop of Taunton, **Rt Rev Ruth Worsley** as the acting Diocesan Bishop. Her position is to cover the period while a replacement Diocesan

Bishop is identified and appointed.

She will be based in Coventry, and will retain her post as Bishop of Taunton. She will be helped by the Bishop of Loughborough, Rt Rev Saju Muthalaly, who will act as Assistant Bishop.

## POSADA

This Advent we are going to focus on the journey that Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. This journey has been celebrated for many centuries in Latin American countries with the traditional festival of 'Las Posadas' which is Spanish for 'the inns'.



The Festival reminds us of the challenges of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem where they were unable to find anywhere comfortable to stay so that Mary could have her baby.

### What is POSADA you ask?

Posada is a period of time during Advent when figures from the nativity story travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night.

People sign up in advance, offering to host Mary and Joseph for a night. It's open to everyone, and lots of families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story.

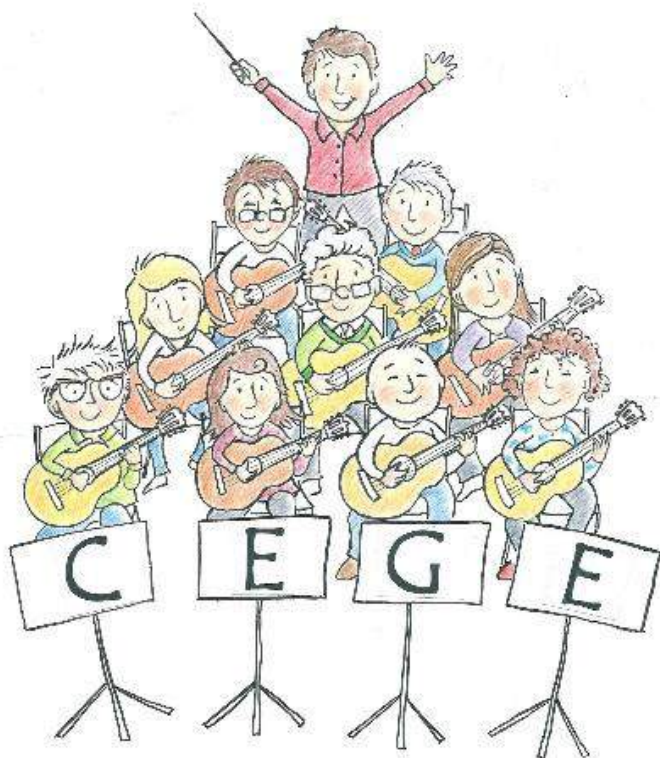
Posada is a chance to host Mary and Joseph – to make room for Jesus at Christmas time!

A list will appear in the Welcome area at the end of November inviting hosts to offer a "night" to Mary and Joseph (and their donkey). The Holy Family come with an Advent Candle which we invite you to light on the night you are hosting, together with other helpful prayers, readings and the story of the Nativity.

# Charity Guitar Ensemble Concert

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support & St.Andrews Church

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm



## The Central England Guitar Ensemble

Tickets: £10

From John Fletcher at 07787 133219 or [johnfletcher@jamalaya.co.uk](mailto:johnfletcher@jamalaya.co.uk)  
or at the door

St. Andrews church, Church Lane, Shottery, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9HQ

## My friend David Capron

I'm sure I wasn't the only one who, on hearing the sad news of David's death, shed more than a few tears. I wept because David was very dear to me, one of my closest and longest friends and because I knew just how much I and so many others would miss him, especially of course Hilary, Mark, Peter and Stephen. I wept knowing that I would never again hear his cheery voice or the stories he'd told me over and over again, see his smile of welcome, listen to his irreverent and sometimes bawdy humour or enjoy a good pint of beer in his delightful company.

In fact it was beer, real ale, that really brought us together over 40 years ago. Fiona and I were still newlyweds, living at 54 Shottery right opposite the old post office, when Rev. Capron paid us a clerical visit. Within minutes David's eye had latched onto the fact that a copy of What's Brewing lay open on the table. "Do you like Real Ale?" David asked me, "Well so do I," and from that moment a deep and lasting friendship was born.

Having both been very involved in the church at Henley-in-Arden we decided that it was right to switch our allegiances to St. Andrew's Shottery which was only 5 minutes away. David was the fairly new, young vicar while Hilary and Fiona were both the same age and hit it off straight away. The four of us socialised together and worshipped together at the 9.15 Family Service with Mission Praise in full swing! Our children all enjoyed playing with each other and many a time at the Vicarage, David would suggest that he and I just popped out for a quick drink or two at The Bell, while Fiona and Hilary would be left in charge of the children! Within weeks of our first meeting David suggested forming a local CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) group and so the Shakespeare Branch came into fruition. Our friendship grew to the extent that David asked if I would care to be one of Peter's godfathers which I was delighted to become. And when our son Alex came to be baptised it was only natural to ask David to return the honour.



It was a shock therefore when David announced they were leaving Shottery and heading to County Durham, to a place called Newton Aycliffe that most of us had never heard of. David, Hilary and family seemed part of the fabric at St. Andrew's and had done so much good in the time of his ministry. Why would he want to leave us? Most of us were mystified! David told me that he just felt the call of God - to serve God in a deprived, run down area that needed love and attention. Fiona and I and others from Shottery travelled north in a coach for David's collation and institution at St. Clare's and stayed overnight sleeping in the church hall. We stayed on to see David celebrate his first Holy Eucharist there in the morning and he was in his element with it being a High Church!

Naturally we were sad and disappointed to lose David and Hilary at Shottery but Fiona and I kept in close touch with them during their three years in the North East and enjoyed one very pleasant stay with them. I remember particularly a good evening in The Locomotion pub and was not surprised how well David got on with the locals - he could talk with anyone, whatever background they came from, whatever age, whatever their interests. David was literally "a man of the people" all his life and endeared himself to others because he cared about them. As a vicar David thought it imperative to visit people and that never changed, even after his retirement.

When news leaked out that the Caprons were returning to Warwickshire, to St. Nicholas Church in Alcester just up the road, there was a lot of rejoicing in Shottery! For the rest of David's ministry he served there and became just as popular as he had been at St. Andrew's. But, from my point of view it was great that he and Hilary and the boys were close enough to see regularly. Country walks followed by a country pub became regular events. David was a keen birdwatcher and happy to share his knowledge. When David and family went away on holiday I could guarantee that on their return a bottle or two of interesting beers would end up on our doorstep!

I was privileged to be at St. Nicholas Church for David's final service before retirement which was very moving and poignant, especially when he removed his eucharistic robes and hung them over the altar rails before walking out of the church with Hilary beside him. They were coming 'home' to Shottery, to Holbrook Road. James Warren, our vicar, was thrilled to have an extra pair of hands to help out at St. Andrew's and so a new generation of worshippers came to know David and to appreciate his short, punchy sermons! How grateful we were to have David and of course Mary Crameri during the period of interregnum when we were in between vicars.

Sadly, in his latter years David's health declined and he became less active but he still had the imagination and drive to help form a Probus group for men to meet up once a month for a meeting and a meal together and still enjoyed socialising as much as ever. In fact the St. Andrew's Malt Whisky Appreciation Society were due to meet at his house on the very day he died. David was a larger than life character – never afraid to say what he thought, forthright in his views, full of good humour who loved the finer things in life. But most of all he loved his family and his Lord. David, my dear friend, thanks for all the good times we've enjoyed together – may you Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!



***Bob Macvie***



You are invited you to an

**AUTUMN QUIET DAY**

on

**Saturday 11 November 2023**



at St Andrew's Church,  
from 10.00 am - 4.00pm  
Coffee will be served from 9.45 am

Please bring a packed lunch, a notebook, and a Bible:  
drinks will be provided.

Donations towards expenses will be welcomed

For more information and/or to book please  
sign the sheet in the welcome area  
or contact the Revd Joy Hance on 01789 414603



## A Night at the Musicals

We were invited to enjoy A Night at The Musicals with **Vanessa Gravestock** and Guests on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

From the beginning Vanessa drew us into the magical world of 'The Musicals'. She has a big confident voice with a hall filling sound and a broad vocal range.

She wasn't just singing the songs, the emotions that came through her expressive face and actions conveyed the feelings that the songs demanded.

So many of the old favourites that she sang, had us wiping away the tears of sadness, and laughter too, that if we shut our eyes we were transported into the musical world of Broadway and the West End.

The songs that stood out were:

Always a Bridesmaid – a humorous song beautifully executed.

Take That Look off Your Face - was delivered with humour and compassion.

I'll Be Here - one of the less familiar songs, was a difficult song, emotional and beautifully done.

Favourite Things – well known to most of us, was given a spirited rendition.

The Programme was enhanced by contributions from Rosemary and Larry Robson, including a particularly fine rendition of Send in the Clowns and the Music of the Night.

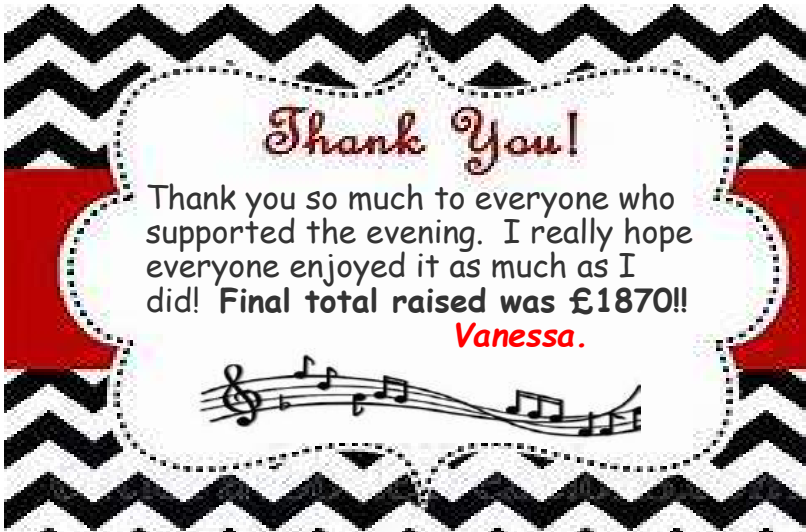
Matt Penn entertained us with a very skillful Musical Medley.

We were given an encore - Thank You for the Music which received an enthusiastic response from the audience and was a fitting end to the evening.



The programme promised the very best of Broadway & West End, Old and New and that was a promise triumphantly kept.

*Susie Fletcher*



## COMING SOON

The Advent book for 2023 –  
**Where Do We Go From Here?**

Get your copy in time for the beginning of Advent on Sunday, 3rd December.

Readings, reflections and prayers each day throughout the season.

On sale soon £4 per copy.

*Joan Whyman*



## **A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS** **(23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023)**

Saturday night we all had a wonderful evening,  
Vanessa and guests were booked to entertain.  
We loved all the items both the old and the new  
and we happily clapped them again and again

It was all so well organised, with everyone welcomed,  
a detailed programme to show what was in store,  
raffle tickets on sale, with some wonderful prizes,  
and a full Church with folk eagerly wanting more.

It was lovely to see people not seen for ages,  
some from quite nearby, others from miles,  
some looking puzzled, then recognition  
and old familiar faces quickly wreathed in smiles.

In between Vanessa's singing we had clarinet solos from Larry,  
with Rosemary as accompanist, as is usually the case,  
then in the second half a lovely piano medley from Matt  
with his usual nimble fingers and a grin on his face.

An interval to catch up with a glass of wine and nibbles  
then more varied music for us all to enjoy,  
thanks to the guests who had supported Vanessa  
and then we all sang together to express our joy

Thanks for the music we all sang sincerely,  
our voices all raised in warmth and in praise,  
then out we all came, smiles upon happy faces,  
the evening's enjoyment would last us for days.

THANK YOU INDEED FOR THE MUSIC.

***Gwen Zanzottera***

# NEWS FROM SHOTTERY 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*

This half term has certainly flown by, with just two weeks to go before the long awaited half term holiday. It's hard to believe that our new Reception children have nearly been in school for eight weeks! How time flies! There has been lots going on as ever... the children represented the school beautifully in church this week at our Harvest Festival. They read Harvest poems, sang songs and retold the history of Harvest in the form of a ballad. It was lovely to see so many families in St Andrew's Church joining in with the celebrations of thankfulness.

We have also had our first Open Afternoon of the new academic year, which was very well attended by prospective families. Our Year 6 pupils were fantastic tour guides, talking to our visitors about our lovely school and making us all very proud. I have received several emails from our visitors, who have written to thank the children for their thorough, enthusiastic and welcoming tours - they are clearly very proud to attend Shottery St Andrew's Primary and talked about their learning, friends, staff and wider enrichment opportunities with pride.

We have also had our first HMI monitoring visit last week, where we were joined by one of His Majesty's Inspectors for a whole day to talk with leaders about how the school is progressing; visit lessons; and talk to the children, staff and Governors and Local Authority. It was a full-on day, but I am pleased to say we found the process very supportive and are pleased with the outcome, which we will be able to share with the local community after the half term holiday.



You might have also noticed that the school is starting to look a little different, with our new noticeboard at the front of school; our Quiet Area sign and our banner celebrating that our KS2 reading results are within the top 5% in the country. We are constantly implementing new changes and are very eager to promote our lovely school to the wider community. We are also very active on Twitter, reaching beyond the local community, and encourage you to have a look at what the children have been up to with their learning. Please do also take the time to visit our website, which is regularly updated with new information, photos and videos that really showcase what makes us so unique. I wish you all a restful half term. From the staff and children at Shottery St Andrew's Primary.

***Mrs Louise Withers, Headteacher.***



## I CAN FACE TOMORROW.

*"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow".*

So runs a refrain from a praise / worship song by the Christian praise group 'Celtic Worship' often heard on Premier Christian Radio and one that feels 'just right' for the month of November which annually reminds us of our earthly mortality as our Lectionary calls us to celebrate All Saints Day, All Souls Day, The Saints and Martyrs of England and, of course, Remembrance Sunday.

It seems some time has passed - actually two years - since I received my cancer diagnosis and I remember celebrating my 80th birthday having just received the confirmation and giving thanks that at least I did not receive this news when I turned 50 or 60 years of age !

I made my peace with God many decades ago and so the aforementioned refrain from Celtic Worship helps me (and I hope many who are in the 'same boat' as I) to receive strength for each day and for whatever tomorrow may bring. The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ followed by His Resurrection along with His teachings, all as preserved as testimony in the written Word of Holy Scripture, has shaped my life by removing questions about the reason and purpose of life that otherwise I probably would have lived with, and has also given a 'glimpse' of the realms - in Almighty God's presence - of an eternal future.

*"I walk by faith and not by sight"* is another refrain from a current, and often heard, worship song which emphasises a truth which, it seems for many in today's world, is an impossibility to live with. Only that which can be seen and touched can be accepted and relied upon. Trusting (having faith) in things not physically 'available' is sadly a cultural norm for many.

However, St Paul writing to the Colossians advises them (and us) "to set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the




things of earth" (Chapter 3:1-2 NLT) and the Gospel writer Luke records that Our Lord Jesus Christ assured one of the criminals, who turned to Him at Calvary, that he would be with Him after physical death - that all would be gloriously well.

So really the choice is for us to make. The witness and testimony has been preserved and handed down to us by the faithful who have walked the Christian pathway before us through the many centuries since the Incarnation, and we can make that decision to gratefully accept the sacrifice made for us and gladly accept the comfort and direction of gift so freely given and for me and, indeed I am sure for many it puts all that our November Lectionary calls us to remember into a comforting perspective.

For all who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour the month of November can be a time of sure and certain hope beautifully summed-up in another musical offering, this time written in the 18th century and set to the stirring tune 'Finlandia', whose fourth and final verse has brought, I am sure, many a tear to human eyes.

*"Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be for ever with the Lord. When disappointment, grief and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet as last.*

**Alan Minchin.**



On behalf of Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank, I would like to thank everyone who generously donated items to the harvest festival collection. The foodbank can only operate because of donations like these. Many thanks. **Fiona.**

## SHOTTERY WAR MEMORIAL WORLD WAR ONE (Part 1)

**The late Bill Cooper was working on this research when he tragically died. His daughter, Michaela, has completed the job.**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,  
We will remember them

With those words of Laurence Binyon, from 1914, we remember the supreme sacrifice of those who died in the two World Wars and other conflicts. In this article, I hope to be able to tell the stories of each of the brave men who were killed in the First World War and whose names are listed on the St Andrew's War Memorial. A few were regular soldiers but most were just ordinary young lads from a Warwickshire village, who like many other young lads from many other villages all around the world joined up to fight for King and Country.

Every one of these deaths was, of course a personal tragedy for the families left behind; but that grief must have been doubly felt in the following instances:

Henry and Betsy **Gulliver** lost two sons, **Arthur and Albert**, within two years of each other.

Likewise, Henry and Sarah **Bridges** lost sons **Fred and George**, within 13 months. Both these men left widows too. One of these Annie Berry was already a widow in 1910, when she married George Bridges, her second husband. In a single week in September 1917, she lost George and her own son Charles from her first marriage, both killed in action.

This article only covers the First World War, another will appear next November with the names from the Second World War and other conflicts. These heroes are shown on the memorial in alphabetical order but I propose to list them in the order in which they died. Regiments' names will be quoted as they stood in 1914.

**Private Henry Hall** 1590 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Henry was a regular soldier having joined up in late 1909/early 1910. Son of Thomas and Mary Hall of 5 Shottery Road. Henry died on 31/10/14 aged 26, in the same action as Arthur Gulliver, described below. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Lance Corporal **Arthur Edward Gulliver** 100060 2nd Bn Worcestershire Regiment. The son of Henry and Betsy Gulliver of Shotton and brother of Albert who was himself to die in 1916. Fought at Ghelevult near Ypres to recover the village from the enemy. This operation was crucial to prevent a break in the British lines and was successful. However, of 370 men, 187 were killed or wounded. Arthur was killed on 31/10/1914 aged 26 and is also commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Major **Aubrey John Carter** DSO 1st Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, son of the late Mr T A Carter and Mrs Carter of Shotton Hall and husband of Edith, died 4/11/1914. I have written about Major Carter in previous articles and all of us from St Andrew's will be familiar with his memorial plaque in church. Major Carter was a professional soldier having fought in the South African War where he was mentioned in dispatches and won the DSO. I'm intending to write a further article about the memorials in St Andrew's so will tell you more of his achievements then. At the beginning of 1914 Major Carter returned from South Africa to take up an appointment on the General Staff of the Irish Command. Mid October 1914 saw him sent out to France to take command of the 1st Bt Loyal North Lancashire Regiment which had suffered serious losses. A member of his regiment wrote "He was a tall soldier like figure standing 6'3" and as straight as the proverbial pine. His was a soldier's end. He went out from the trenches to direct machine gun fire on some large parties of the advancing enemy and had succeeded in driving them back but fell shot dead as the enemy retired. He was a gallant commander and a great leader." Aged 42, Major Carter is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Private **Richard Batchelor** 761 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Born in Stratford in 1888, Richard enlisted in Rugby. Private Hibbs wrote to Richard's brother to tell him that Richard had been hit by shrapnel and died of his wounds aged 27 on 06/06/1915. Private Hibbs and Sergeant Roberts tried to save his life but it was to no avail. The letter goes on to say that Private Hibbs had witnessed the burial and was making good progress getting a cross made for the grave. Richard was laid to rest in Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Ieper, Belgium. "Those who remember Pte T Batchelor, as a scholar in our Sunday School, will not be surprised to hear that in his last moments he manifested a brave and unselfish spirit. He felt that he was dying and asked those who were doing all they could for him to see to someone else" The Stratford-on Avon Congregationalist - July 1915.

Private **George Evetts** 6819 1st Bn Lincolnshire Regiment, George was born in Stratford and was the son of the late Frederick Evetts of 2 Sidney Court, Stratford. He lived in Warwick and had enlisted in Lincoln. George was killed during the attack on Bellewaarde, near Ypres on 16/06/1915 aged 28. The 1st Lincs captured enemy trenches but 342 men were killed or injured during the operation. George is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Private **Fred Bridges** 9634 9th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment, brother of George. Fred was born in Shotton and lived with his wife Elizabeth who he married in 1907 in Church Row. Fred served in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and died aged 35 on 12/05/1916 fourteen days after the allied surrender at the Siege of Kut al Amara. Said to be the worst allied defeat of WW1 with 23000 casualties and 13000 taken prisoner. In the days and weeks after the surrender many of those in captivity died from heat, disease and neglect. The Stratford Herald reported that "Bridges was well known and respected in Shotton and joined the colours nearly 18 months ago." Fred rests in the Amara War Cemetery, Southern Iraq.

Corporal **James Keeley**, 34952 16Bn The Welch Regiment. James was the eldest son of James and Ellen Keeley of 2 Hathaway Court. He was killed in action on 07/07/1916, aged 40 in the first days of the battle of the Somme and was buried between Mametz Wood and Caterpillar Wood aged 40.

Lance Corporal **Leslie Sheridan** 10628 11th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment, recorded as Private on the St Andrew's Roll of Honour but rank confirmed from military records. Lance Corporal Sheridan had rejoined HM Forces at the outbreak of war having previously served. Before the war he had worked at Flowers Brewery. Born in Saffron Walden, Essex and married to May, Lance Corporal Sheridan was killed on 16/07/1916 and is buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, France. A heartbreaking "In Memoriam" notice in the Stratford Herald from 09/01/1920 reads "In Loving Memory of my daddy and mammy (Lance Corporal Sheridan, killed in action and May Sheridan). From their little boy Harold." May had died in January 1917 aged 23

Private **Albert Gulliver** 9916 10th Bn The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, son of Henry and Betsy Gulliver and brother of the late Alfred (killed in October 1914). Killed during Battle of Ancre 25/11/1916. The Royal Warwicks moved forward to attack Frankfort Trench, passing over a supposedly British held trench but encountering hostile fire. Albert is buried in Entretat Churchyard, Seine-Maritime, France.

Private **John Peplow** 11th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The son of Albert

Peplow and husband of Mrs J Peplow. John enlisted in Stratford in May 1916 and served in the trenches. He died of pneumonia in a military hospital on 17/02/1917 aged 29. He is buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, France

Private **William Moore**, Worcestershire Regiment died March 1917. I haven't been able to trace any information about Private Moore using his date of death from army records or death certificates. It's possible his date of death or name was recorded incorrectly or he had family living in the parish of Shottery but he himself had been born or lived elsewhere.

**Richard Woodward** 1/7 Bn Royal Warwickshire Rgt. Richard was the son of Frank and Esther Woodward of Kosy Kot, Evesham Road. He worked for Messrs Kendal and Son in Stratford. He was posted as missing in July 1916 and confirmed dead in April 1917. He left a fiancée, Lizzie and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

Private **Ernest Chandler** 81693 87th Coy Machine Gun Corps (Inf). Ernest was well known in Stratford, living at 14 Holtom Street. The Stratford Herald states that he was "a cheery and unselfish friend". For eleven years he worked as Marie Corelli's gondolier ferrying her up and down the Avon. Subsequently he worked for Mrs Legatt of Hall's Croft. Initially medically rejected, Ernest was passed fit on re-examination. He enlisted in Stratford in October 1916. He was killed alongside two other soldiers on the afternoon of their first day in the trenches (14/05/1917) aged 29. Ernest left a widow, Jessica and two children.

Private **Albert Wiliam Thomas Hine** 260111 13th Bn Cheshire Regiment died 10/08/1917 aged 23. He was the son of William and Mary Anna of Shottery Road. The Stratford Herald reported that "Private Hine was a finely built young fellow standing 6'. He had previously been employed by the GWR and had gained a character for industry, punctuality and integrity. Having originally joined the Monmouths, on arrival in France he was transferred to the Cheshire Regiment. Private Hine was an exemplary character and his industry and rectitude won him the respect and confidence of those he served." He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Private **William Wilson** 33022 6th Bn Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry died 10/08/1917, Son of William Wilson farmer and racehorse trainer, Manor Farm. Commemorated Tyne Cot Memorial. Shottery War Memorial has his initial as H but W on our Role of Honour in the church porch and in military records. *(more next month)*



® **Chocolate, whether in powder or viscous composition, is one of the most popular Fairtrade choices amongst St Andrews patrons.**

To the question “What is Fair Trade chocolate?”  
Wikipedia answers :

“Fair Trade chocolate is chocolate that is made with cacao beans from farmers who are paid a fair price for their crop, instead of the low price set by the market. This allows farmers to lift themselves out of poverty and build a better life for their families.”

That stated, being a general ignoramus, I wanted to know the difference between cacao and cocoa apart from the spelling.

Like me you have likely heard the terms “cacao” and “cocoa” used interchangeably, but there is a distinct difference between the two? Cacao refers to the basic raw material viz. the **cacao** beans that are harvested from the **cacao** tree. The product from which our edible chocolate is produced either for liquid or solid consumption is identified as **cocoa** and is created when the raw beans are finely ground into a powder, roasted and consumed as a drink or blended with other ingredients specific to various brands and generic identities to make chocolate.

And then I wanted to be exactly sure of what I was researching. So I looked into the Cacao tree and its fruit. Amazing.

Next I wanted to know where the cacao tree grows. Typically it thrives in rainforests. It is indigenous to South America but nowadays plantations are principally concentrated within 10 degrees north and south of the equator. Côte d'Ivoire, better known to us as the Ivory Coast and Ghana, reportedly produce **over half** of the world's chocolate. For those of us with a sweet palette that is a 12.75hr flight from Birmingham International.

The more I delved into this research the more quizzical it became and I would need to commandeer a full edition of Searchlight to give any semblance of integrity to the subject. As few as circa 2% of the delicate

little cacao flowers on a tree go on to produce cacao pods. The pods grow directly from the trunk and main branches and they do it throughout the year, taking about six months to grow into mature pods. Fortunately, because of their native environment and climate they mature and are harvested **twice a year**.

The pods are picked when they're ripe and left to rest for three or so days, after which they are 'cracked' (chopped open with great skill using sharp machetes). The empty pods are used as organic fertiliser while the seeds and pulp are scooped out and placed in wooden boxes in a fermentation shed. It's a critical, seven-day process by which the beans undergo a chemical reaction and the foundations of future chocolate flavours are laid. The boxes are turned on alternate days using wooden cocoa (or should that really be cacao?) paddles, gathering temperature data at each turn – the beans can reach 50°C. After seven days, the beans are turned out onto trays to dry naturally.

Apparently, the world's appetite for cocoa is booming. And yet cocoa farmers around the world often struggle to make a living, despite their position as the source of a highly prized commodity. Widespread poverty, deforestation, gender inequality, child labour and forced labour are persistent problems in the cocoa sector which could ultimately destroy it. But, equally, it doesn't have to be this way. Fairtrade is helping to change the cocoa business for the better in a number of ways. When you choose Fairtrade cocoa and chocolate, you are supporting the pursuit of global fairness.

Fairtrade is also pushing the envelope to establish living incomes for small-scale farmers. Fairtrade cocoa farmers are paid a **Fairtrade Minimum Price** for their goods, which acts as a safeguard when market prices drop. Organic production is further incentivized with a higher Minimum Price **AND** on top of the Minimum Price, farmer organisations also receive a **Fairtrade Premium** which they can invest in projects of their choice. Many farmers have used the Premium to improve their businesses and production, replacing old trees and investing in better facilities for crop collection, storage, transport and processing. By supporting smallholders to organise themselves more effectively, such

as cooperatives and grower groups, they can negotiate better terms of trade and reach more mutually advantageous outlets. (716 words)  
Point of trivia: Joanne Harris author of the well read book “Chocolat” was presented with an OBE by the Prince of Wales at an investiture at Windsor Castle earlier this year.



And now for a St Andrews “WILLY WONKA” style competition for a year’s supply\* of Fair Trade drinking chocolate sponsored by the Christine Foundation. Tickets will be on sale at the December Fair Trade stall and for the

remainder of 2023 at £5 each and the winner, to be drawn at the January church lunch on Thursday 11th January, 2024.

\* 1 packet ( 100gms) per month for 12 months (aggregate value £60)

**Rodney Grinnell**

**NOVEMBER**  
November comes  
And November goes,  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.  
With night coming early,  
And dawn coming late,  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.  
The fires burn  
And the kettles sing,  
And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring.  
*Elizabeth Jane Coatsworth  
31st May 1893 - 31st August 1986*

*"Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, sent the lovely cards, letters and emails, and the ladies who knit the wonderful shawl. After seven weeks I am now back at home to continue my recovery.  
My love and thanks to you all."  
Maureen Naish  
Thank you*



## One Thousand Men Are Walkin

One thousand men are walking  
Walking side by side  
Singing songs from home  
The spirit as their guide  
they walk toward the light milord  
they walk towards the sun  
they smoke and laugh and smile together  
no foes to outrun  
these men live on forever  
in the hearts of those they saved  
a nation truly grateful  
for the path of peace they paved  
they march as friends and comrades  
but they do not march for war  
step closer to salvation  
a tranquil steady corps  
the meadows lit with golden beams  
a beacon for the brave  
the emerald grass untrampled  
a reward for what they gave  
they dream of those they left behind  
and know they dream of them  
forever in those poppy fields  
there walks one thousand men

*Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14)*



The Children's Society

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