



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT

SEPTEMBER
2023

Thanks to David C
for this beautiful
entrance to our
church.



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

£1.50



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.

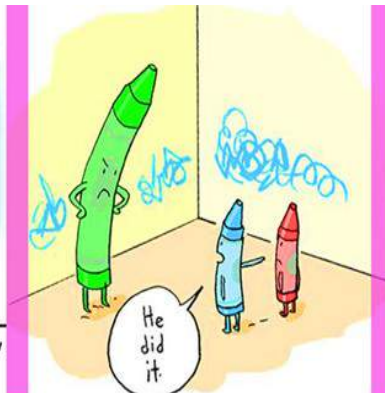
*This Service will also be on zoom. Do check out our website and on Facebook for links.

MINI PILGRIMAGE:

26th September and we are going to St. Mary's Church in Studley, adjoining to The Turks Head in Alcester



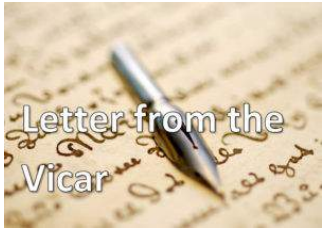
"First you buy me a new coat and now a trip to Lion Safari Park. What's got into you lately?"



He did it.



"This is the best security device we have. Put a pair of these just inside the front door."



Taking action

I don't know about you but I have already started noticing the nights drawing in. Coupled with this for me is a disappointment that somehow, we've been robbed of summer. OK, June was quite nice but very dry. Mother nature seemed to make us pay for it with a monsoon in July and August was mixed. Hasn't been great has it? Unless of course you've got webbed feet! My shorts have not been worn much (a relief to many), my sandals have remained in their box (a vicar with sandals? no!) and. . . where did I put the sun cream last August? Mind you, as we lament the weather, we need to remember those who have been caught up in extreme temperatures this Summer particularly around the Mediterranean, a stark reminder of the effects of climate change. It is all too easy to simply think of ourselves but Premier Christianity Magazine recently challenged us to continue to think wider. Let us continue to pray for countries such as . . .

South Sudan is a country with many challenges, not least a bloody civil war that has ravaged the country for decades. Sadly, the country has also been affected by devastating floods in recent years. Hundreds of thousands of people have been affected, and tens of thousands have been displaced from their homes. The floods have destroyed the crops in most of the lowland.

India, climate change is fuelling deadly heatwaves, with temperatures in some regions reaching 50°C. Heatwaves have severe health consequences, such as heat stress, dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke – especially for vulnerable populations like the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions. The high temperatures lead to water shortages, with devastating knock-on effects for farmers like crop failures and reduced crop yields.

Brazil has experienced a range of climate-related disasters in recent years, including devastating floods and wildfires. Three years ago the

Pantanal region experienced its worst drought in 47 years. Designated a UNESCO World Natural Heritage and Biosphere Reserve, the Pantanal National Park is one of the largest wetlands on earth, with more than 4,700 different species of animals and plants.

East Africa, a rapidly changing climate has led to prolonged and serious drought since 2021. Many harvests have failed and, in an area where livestock is relied upon for basic sustenance, millions of cattle are emaciated or dead. More than 13 million people have been displaced, forced to search for water and pasture.

Climate change is affecting us all and we find ourselves now in the eleventh hour, with scientists saying that we need change at an unprecedented speed and scale if we stand any chance of stopping the damage that is being wreaked across the globe. As Christians we must play our part. We can all make healthy lifestyle choices as part of our discipleship (e.g. eating less red meat, walking instead of driving, not flying etc.). But the sad reality is that these things alone will not work quickly enough to prevent the crisis of climate breakdown. We need to use our voices, our influences where we can with decision makers and our leaders both locally and nationally. Let us all make every effort to keep this crucial issue alive in our minds. We are all stewards of the earth God has made and given to us.

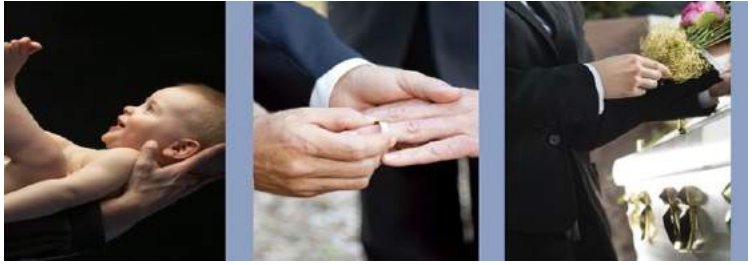
Weather patterns are changing and it's concerning but let us wake up to the message and do what we can to make a difference.

God bless you,

Revd Craig



PARISH REGISTERS



Wedding:

22 July Peter Hurst & Sophie Parslow (see page 28)

Funerals:

July

- 24 Chris Cushing (70)
- 27 Sally Greenway (Burial of Ashes)
- 28 Sally Webb (86)

August

- 14 Dot Lyndon (76)
- 17 Chris Clarke (81)
- 21 Beryl Upcott (92)



"What is it with your profession! You're the 39th doctor this year to tell me I'm a hypochondriac."



"Those old religious paintings were done before they loosened the dress code."



Can I please confirm who's calling?

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,”

2 Peter 1:10

It feels very strange to be conscious that I am at a turning point in my life. Behind me is the life I have lived so far and ahead is a totally different life – for the moment I’m suspended between the two. The feeling is just like the moment when you drive quickly over a humpback bridge and your stomach leaps as you are momentarily hanging in mid-air.

Despite very little Churchgoing in my family I developed a deep, reverential relationship with God from a young age; regularly praying and reading my little red Gideons Bible. Even as a difficult teenager when I was truant from school I would go to Holy Trinity Church and sit for hours reading the Bible.

As the next 13 or so years went by my faith grew and matured, and it was through Revd James Warren that the first ‘call’ to Ordination came to me. He said to me one evening, “God has big plans for you Isaac”. For months after that moment I prayed that God would reveal what this cryptic message meant. In response I felt repeatedly drawn by the Spirit towards priesthood. For several years I denied and ignored that feeling because I couldn’t believe that I had “what it takes”. It took many signs and wonders, a challenging St Andrew’s Day sermon from Revd Craig and an education in Benedictine spiritual life (thanks to Revd Paul) to revealed to me that it is not my choice to decide what I am called to do. God has chosen my path and He will provide me the tools I need – what is required of me is humility and obedience.

The process of ‘selection’ or ‘discernment’ is deliberately multi-faceted

and probing. Naturally it tested whether I am the sort of shepherd the Church needs for the 21st century, but it also asked whether I know what it is to be a shepherd, and if I have the resilience to remain steadfastly with my flock through all seasons. Not counting my final selection panel I have spent at least 60 hours completing various interviews and assessments. Over the last four years the process has itself formed me into a better disciple, and required perseverance and patience that I did not know that I had.

The culmination of the process was the “Stage 2” panel where, over a 36-hour period, I was interviewed in depth by four ‘Bishop’s Advisors’ and observed taking part in a group discussion designed to encourage creative tension. I was well prepared and felt I performed as well as I could but nonetheless I was convinced that I was not what the advisors were looking for. I was taken completely by surprise when the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Revd Mark Norris) rang me two weeks later to say that the recommendation of the panel was entirely positive and that Bishop Christopher was sending me for training!

In some ways I still cannot believe that I really am ‘called’ - yet at the same time I am so ready to give my whole life over to His service. I am thrilled that I will be beginning full-time study (at The Queen’s Foundation in Birmingham) in just a few weeks’ time.

I am excited to share this journey with my St Andrew’s family and am deeply thankful for all your prayers and encouragement which have brought me so far already.

Isaac Alun Jones.



Coffee Morning

With Bring and Buy

Everyone Welcome

9th September

10am till noon.

In PARISH CENTRE



SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

10am till Noon

In Parish Centre.

BRING AND BUY STALL

'Those who are weeds today, may be wheat tomorrow' . St. Augustine.

St Andrews Thursday Lunch



The next lunch is on 14th September 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.



This is a an opportunity to discuss together our faith in a relaxed and informal manor over a continental breakfast. There is no charge for this event.

Please sign up on list in Welcome Area.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.



Autumn is on the way - where does the year go? However we have had some enjoyable summer events. July saw a good number of us at Hillers for our summer outing; a rather drizzly afternoon but tea and chat and a little "retail therapy" was fine. Many thanks to the car drivers.

On 5th August, Hilary and David held an Afternoon Tea - a very convivial occasion (again despite the weather). This was the M.U. Summer of Hope Appeal which is usually held in August to commemorate our founder, Mary Sumner. It was decided to support the Coffee Tots charity in Coventry and the generosity of everyone there resulted in a wonderful total of £300 being sent to their Trust.

Wellesbourne M.U. held a Deanery Lunch on the 8th August - the first since before Covid - and they certainly hadn't lost their touch of presenting a lovely meal delightfully set out. Members were also there from Barford, Kington, Newbold-on-Stour and Wellesbourne of course so there was a chance to catch up with old friends. Karen Morris, Deanery President, gave a talk on current and forth-coming events and challenges.

Our normal monthly meetings will resume on Monday, 12th September when we are looking forward to Revd. Su McClellan's talk - "**Embrace the Middle East**". This will be an Open Meeting for everyone to come and hear what Sue has to say about her travels to this very troubled part of the world.



So - the Parish Centre at 2 pm on Monday, 12th September is the place to be!

Daphne Jones.



®

More about Fair Trade

With the editors permission I have been allowed to further accentuate the importance of the relationship between St Andrews and the global Fair Trade product industry so ably pioneered by Mary Boddington, Hilary Mattocks and Kay Sillitoe via their quixotic vision since the late 20th century, which remain on offer at the monthly dedicated church stall. Indeed, those products and hopefully a progressively new range, are expected to remain available throughout the year with the emergence of a phoenix conglomerate, Transform Trade, despite the demise of the trailblazer company so cruelly undermined by the untimely lethal pandemic.

Are you aware that all the tea and coffee served from the kitchen during church organised events are Fair Trade brands? Imagine what that means to support vulnerable communities fighting for trade justice throughout the world.

From the ashes of the former company championing the Fair Trade cause, (i.e. Traidcraft), Transform Trade has emerged to take up the cudgel. Apparently, gifts bequeathed through wills are an important adjunct to the coffers of a trailblazer. And an increasing number of citizens are seeking causes to which they can leave all or part of their “estate” nowadays. Personally, I found it difficult to comprehend recently, that according to the Bank of England, there is around £6bn worth of £20 paper notes and over £8bn worth of paper £50 notes unaccounted for before that “generation” of notes were withdrawn from circulation. Furthermore, many accounts remain dormant because banks and other financial institutions are unable to identify the beneficiaries. REALLY???? Why should the Banks benefit? Why doesn't that become the ownership of a national Trust? But there I go digressing again and I feel the next challenge coming on. (Sorry Clodagh, I accept that you said theological NOT political!).

I quote from the first annual report from Transform Trade published in July. *“Transform Trade works directly with tea growers, small-scale farmers and garment workers, following their lead so we know the solutions we invest in will be longlasting. Transform Trade partners with those experiencing injustice in trade and makes sure, wherever possible, that they are taking the lead, building local skills until our support is no longer needed at all”.*

The final phase is what emphatically resonates with me.

Anyway, enough of the ideology. How does it all translate into practicality?

Johura Khatum is a farmer in northern Bangladesh who started a tea garden following training from Transform Trade. That garden now supports her, her husband and 2 young sons, as she declares “Our land was barren, but now it is a “money “ mine. We never thought in our wildest dreams that we could generate such an income from it”. In part explanation, according to Transform Trade, “Tea growing can be a profitable commodity since it thrives in soils which can’t support other crops”.

Let's bring this article closer to home. A product which features monthly amongst those on offer at St Andrews is Maftoul. DOH!? Maftoul is often described as Palestinian Couscous. I am not a fan of couscous personally as a packet in my kitchen cupboard with a BBE: Sept 2018, testified. Note the past tense! However, the Fair Trade product differs considerably from the *“every little helps” one I ejected and having googled (other search engines are available) appropriate recipes I am now determined to give Palestinian couscous a try. Described by food writer Faith Gorsky as “hearty and satisfying, and perfect for a night when nothing less than soul-warming will do” why wouldn't I? When combined with onion and chickpeas and seasoned with 5 spice, cumin, salt and pepper it complements a lamb broth featuring tender pieces of slow-cooked lamb supremely. YUM!! Perhaps more suited to the Autumn and Winter seasons but then July and August haven't exactly been summery.*

Do I feel a new career formulating?? Eat your heart out Tom Kerridge or perhaps not having just revisited the brilliant Anthony Hopkins/Jodie Foster film “Silence of the Lambs”.

Rodney Grinnell (*proud to follow in the footsteps of such eminent crusaders and energised by the support of so many special and generous patrons*).

The Secret

I met God in the morning
When my day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise
Like a glory in my breast.
All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed.
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.
But I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I too had loosed the moorings,
With the Presence left behind.
So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day!

Ralph Spaulding Cushman.



NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

I will be hosting a 'Night at the Musicals' concert on Saturday 23rd September at 7pm, to raise money for church. **(See following page for details)**. There will be a little bit of everything and hopefully something for everyone! From the good old classics we all know and love, such as Les Miserables and Andrew Lloyd Webber, to some more recent shows that have been produced in the West End and on Broadway.

Musical Theatre has always been my passion, I love that from one song and some basic context, you can be completely lost in a story; and I hope to be able to share my passion with you on a whistle stop tour of musicals old and new.

Unfortunately, as I currently work shifts as a Manager in a hotel you may not have seen me recently on Sunday mornings, but St Andrew's is my second home, and my extended family. Many of you have watched me grow from a baby being rocked in a car seat to keep me quiet in church! To singing in the church choir throughout my childhood and teenage years! Singing in church has always held a special place in my heart, and musical theatre is my passion, so I feel very privileged to have the chance to once again bring these together in a concert to not only raise funds for St Andrew's, but to hopefully bring the community together too.

Tickets are available from any of the Gravestocks, by calling 07921 774404, emailing nightatthemusicals2023@gmail.com, or from Hilary Mattocks during Saturday morning Church coffee. Tickets are £10 each and include a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles. Children's tickets also available for £5.

Hope to see you there!

Vanessa Gravestock



A *Night* at the
MUSICALS

with Vanessa Gravestock and Guests

**THE VERY BEST OF BROADWAY & WEST END,
OLD AND NEW!**

Saturday 23rd September 7pm

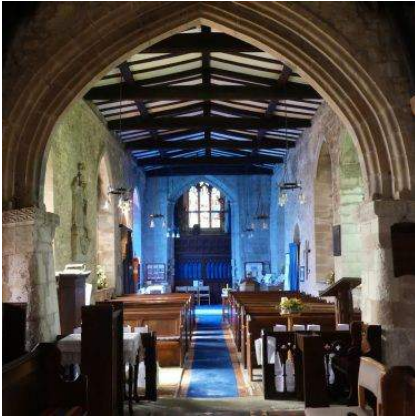
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH SHOTTERY
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

**TICKETS - £10 TO INCLUDE A GLASS OF WINE & NIBBLES
CHILDREN'S TICKETS - £5**

For tickets, please contact
nightatthemusicals2023@gmail.com

OR 07921 774404

All proceeds will go to St. Andrew's Church Shottery



MINI PILGRIMAGE TO ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH OFFCHURCH.

The happy band of pilgrims were met by a very entertaining Brian (Churchwarden Emeritus of St. Gregory's) who warmly welcomed us and proudly showed us around the church. As an aside he mentioned that only the Bishop could "fire" a Churchwarden Emeritus" - that was news to Jackie!! We gathered in the church-

yard and Brian pointed out the indentations on the tower caused by musket balls fired by Cromwell's troops returning from Edgehill. There is further evidence of Cromwell's presence in the west wall of the porch where marks were made by his archers sharpening their arrows. Though a Norman church there is evidence of Saxon stonework. The door to the church is unique as it consists of two layers of oak. This was to increase fortifications when Cromwell was around!

An item of interest were pieces of a Saxon stone coffin believed to be that of King Offa's son, Fremund.



The Chancel was almost entirely rebuilt in 1866 although several 12th century features still remain: a priest's door and "leper window" in the south wall, as well as two Saxon windows.

The Sanctuary houses a piscina (stone sink), an ambury (alcove) and a sedile (priest's seat).

The Millenium window was particularly appealing. This was commissioned to mark 2000 years of Christianity and was designed and created by local stained-glass artist Roger Sargent.

Outside we wandered in the prize-winning Churchyard which is designated "A sanctuary for wildlife". It is a haven for a host of native birds, small creatures and wild flowers.

St. Gregory's have recently entered into Interregnum. We wish them luck!

Following this most interesting visit we adjourned to a local hostelry for refreshments.

Clodagh



Jenny Gregg saw this noticeboard in Tasmania!

The plumber said:
"Why haven't you paid
the bill for the work I
did last Friday".

Paddy replied:
"Well it was not what
you quoted"

The plumber said:
"I didn't give you a
quote?"

Paddy replied,
"Yes you did! when I
asked what day you
could come? you said
you were free on
Friday!"

St Benedict for Today.

How might we become better disciples of Jesus Christ?

For the last six years I have been following the Benedictine Way, the practice of Christianity as known through the 'Rule' of St Benedict (c.480 -547). He stepped aside from the mainstream culture of his time to become a Christian, and he founded a monastery. His 'Rule' is for people living in community within a religious house, a rule that was eventually taken up across the then Roman Empire. St Benedict is the Patron Saint of Europe.

But his 'Rule' continues to inspire people outside as well as within monasteries.

Since 2005 I have been visiting a community of Anglican brothers and sisters who, since 2011, have lived at Mucknell Abbey, between Worcester and Pershore. On 8th September they are admitting me as an oblate to their community, a sort of special companion. So, I thought I'd bring something of Benedictine spirituality to St Andrew's, and am grateful to Craig for encouraging me to do so.

After our Tuesday Holy Communion service, from around 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m., on the third Tuesdays between September and December (19 September, 17 October, 21 November, and 19 December), I'll be leading an extended period of prayer, teaching, and reflection. It will be scripture, mainly psalm-based, and will include a reading of the St Benedict's 'Rule' and some modern commentary upon it. We'll end with a short liturgy of Night Prayer.

*Icon of St Benedict, written by
Brother Michael, Mucknell Abbey.*



St Benedict For Today' is not a course; it's an invitation to come along and experience Christianity and worship from a Benedictine perspective.

I have discovered that following the Benedictine Way makes for a stronger and more mature discipleship. Perhaps you might discover something similar in your Christian life.

All are welcome. Please come and join me.

Paul Edmondson.



JOHN TURNER cutting the cake in celebration of his 80th birthday with us on Sunday 20th August.

I knew a place called Yesterday
Where once I used to live.
Nobody there would turn away
Their time, they'd always give.
Everyone looked out for you
As you did the same for them,
In that place called Yesterday
I can still remember when.
People never had anything much
What they did have, it was shared.
They always waved and gave a smile,
That's how we knew they cared.
We used to call it mucking in,
That's what it was all about.
It was easier to help each other
When all you had was nowt.
Now I live here in the Present,
In a street of those unknown,
Whose life is so much easier
If they keep it close to home.
Yes, I was raised in Yesterday
Where we always had respect.
Here in this place called Present
I find it suffering from neglect.



Central England Guitar
Ensemble

C O N C E R T

Saturday, 25 November
at 7:30pm.

In St. Andrew's Church,
Shottery.

Tickets £10

Proceeds for St Andrew's
Church.

Tickets on Sale from
10th September
from John Fletcher
(07787 133219)

Stamp Concert 24th June *Review by Bob Macvie*

“Sensational, Magical, Awesome” were just some of the superlatives I heard after the first Stamp Concert at St. Andrew’s on a hot Saturday night in June. For those of us fortunate enough to be present it was a memorable night that will live long in the memory. In fact I can honestly say that it was the most inspiring hour I’ve spent at St. Andrew’s for many a day! Twenty two Primary aged children, many performing in public for the first time, literally sang their hearts out and blew us away with their enthusiasm, their sheer joy of singing and their ability! At times our dear old church was rocking as the choir let rip with a wonderful range of songs, from the spiritual Our Father to the upbeat **Revoluting Children**, from the musical Matilda. My personal favourite was a new song to me called **Power in Me**, written by Rebecca Lawrence, a music teacher from Jersey – it was in my head all night! What really struck me was the confidence that so many of the children had to stand up and sing solo parts which for children of that age is asking a lot, but if they did have nerves, none were apparent.



This is surely down to the fact that the amazing Caroline and Matt Penn, whose brainchild the Stamp choir is, love every minute they spend with the children and make every minute as much fun as possible – even the raffle was exciting!! Together their infectious presence ignites these children to believe in themselves and each other. In just a few, short months Stamp has grown and evolved into such a positive, force for good that the future looks incredibly rosy. Who knows what it will develop into? There are two other folk who deserve a special mention and that’s Pete and Naomi, who do so much behind the scenes, caring for the children and operating the technical stuff.

How wonderful it was to see St. Andrew’s almost completely full with parents, family and friends who rarely step foot in church enjoying themselves so much. Everyone was buzzing and smiling. Let’s hope that we can see Stamp performing again in church very soon – maybe one Sunday morning – so more of you can have the privilege of listening to them. *Bob Macvie*



OUR CHARITY COLLECTION ON 10TH SEPTEMBER WILL BE FOR FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK



WHAT IS FCN?

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times.



Born during the Second World War, Christopher Jones gained a First Class degree in Agriculture from Balliol College, Oxford. Later he and his wife Ita served the farming communities of Southern Nigeria and Kenya as Church Mission Society missionaries for over 10 years.

Returning to England, they revived their family farm in West Haddon, Northamptonshire (arable, beef and sheep) in the 1970s, which continues to operate today.

Inspired by his deep Christian faith to follow Jesus' teachings to walk alongside those in need, Christopher founded FCN in 1995, from the middle-bedroom of the farmhouse. This was a joint venture between the Agricultural Christian Fellowship (ACF) and Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre. The charity was founded under the name The Farm Crisis Network.

In 2001, farms in England and Wales were hit with 2,000 cases of Foot-and-Mouth disease. Over 10 million animals were slaughtered and thousands of businesses and jobs lost as a result. FCN became a key player in supporting farmers during the outbreak, with some volunteers working 18 hour days.

More people became aware of the work of FCN, leading to an increase in recruitment within the charity, which has continued to grow since. FCN's head office has been based at Christopher's and Ita's farm in West Haddon.

In 2013, The Farm Crisis Network changed its name to **The Farming Community Network**.

In 2020 the charity celebrated its 25th anniversary, and today supports over 6,000 farmers and farming families each year with a variety of issues – including animal disease, family disputes and mental ill-health.

Why does FCN exist?

Farming is not just a job – it's a way of life. It is a wonderful industry to work in, but it can also be inherently risky and volatile. Farmers are regularly forced to deal with issues on the farm that are beyond their control, such as animal disease, fluctuating market prices and the weather. Farming can also be a very isolating and lonely occupation, with farmers often spending long hours out in the field with little or no form of social interaction.

On top of their responsibilities on the farm, farm workers also deal with issues in their personal life, such as relationship breakdowns, physical health problems and bereavement. Furthermore, with Britain having left the European Union and significant changes in domestic agricultural policy, many farmers face great uncertainty about the future of their farm business.

All of this means that farmers and farming families across the UK are highly susceptible to poor mental wellbeing, including stress, anxiety and depression. Simply talking about your problems is often the first step towards improved mental wellbeing. But because of the stigma surrounding mental health, many within the farming community have difficulty coming forward and admitting that they need help. Farmers generally also don't discuss their issues with a friend or relative as they don't wish to become a burden. More often than not, they prefer to discuss their issues in confidence with someone who they have no emotional attachment to and who will treat their situation without judgment – this is where FCN can help.

What does FCN do?

We have a network of over 400 volunteers across England and Wales, many of whom are involved in farming, or have close links with agriculture, and therefore have a great understanding of the issues that farmers, farm workers and farming families regularly face. Our volunteers provide free, confidential,

pastoral and practical support to anyone who seeks help, regardless of whether the issue is personal or business-related.

In addition to local groups of volunteers, FCN runs a confidential national helpline (03000 111 999) and e-helpline (help@fcn.org.uk) which is open every day of the year from 7am-11pm.

Our volunteers will “walk with” anyone who seeks support and help them find a positive way through their problems. We have helped thousands of people deal with a variety of issues, including financial difficulties, animal disease, mental health and family disputes.

How do FCN volunteers support the farming community?

FCN volunteers provide support in a number of ways. These can include support with paperwork, building relationships with bank managers, acting as family mediators and even supporting farmers through legal issues.

More often than not, farm workers just need someone who will listen to them. FCN volunteers are on hand to provide a sympathetic ear, which is why our confidential helpline is such an important asset to those who seek our help.

Approximately 40 volunteers help with the running of the FCN helpline. Cases that come through the FCN helpline are usually referred to a local FCN volunteer, who will try and organise a face-to-face meeting with the person seeking help. It is entirely up to them how much support they need or want from FCN.

Through our FarmWell platform we provide the farming community with useful information around business resilience and personal wellbeing, helping farmers take a proactive approach in planning for the future, managing change and staying physically and mentally well.

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.

You are invited you to an
AUTUMN QUIET DAY
on
Saturday 14 October 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 contact
the Revd Joy Hance on 01789 414603
or email: joysmail@talk21.com by Sunday 8 October.

The next
PILGRIM COURSE

will start on **Wednesday 27 September 2023**
and run for 6 weeks.

This is Book 5 and the first book in the Grow Stage which explores the core of Christian belief in greater depth through the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.



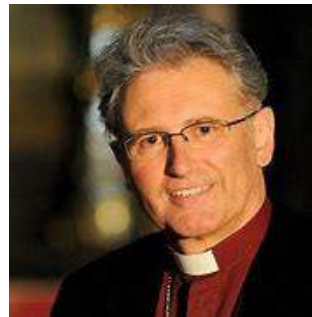
The course will meet at
5 Plover Close, Stratford on Avon
CV37 9EN at 7.30 pm.



Please let Revd Joy Hance, joysmail@talk21.com or
01789 414603, know if you are interested in coming by **10 September**,
so I can order the right number of books.

**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S
FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING
SERVICE.**

Advance notice—
Saturday 4th November is the date of
Bishop Christopher's Farewell and
Thanksgiving Service, which will be
held at Coventry Cathedral.





The very happy wedding picture of Peter Hurst and Sophie Parslow who were married on 22nd July in St. Andrews. Peter is the son of Jill and Richard Hurst.

1. Preserve thyself. It is easier to fix the blame than to fix the problem.
2. Leisure is a beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wear.
3. A penny saved is an oversight.
4. Information deteriorates upward.
5. The first 90% of the task takes 90% of the time; the last 10% takes the other 90%.
6. Experience is what you get just after you need it.
7. For any given large, complex, hard to understand, expensive problem, there exists at least one short, simple, easy, cheap wrong answer.
8. Anything that can be changed will be, until time runs out.
9. To err is human; to shrug is service.
10. There's never enough time to do it right, but there's always enough time to do it over.

The Yellow Brick Road

Let's start with a question, where in Welford is the Yellow Brick Road?

When I moved to live in Welford Chase two and a half years ago I was looking for walks to take my



Mini Schnauzer dog Poppy a walk not too far away and there it was right opposite me, it's really the Millennium Conservation Project, the yellow brick road is my name for the path that winds up from Binton Road to the Holt.

There is a comfort in walking the same path each day where I live in Welford, the fields, the footpaths are all on my doorstep, from my house I pass through the electric gates cross the road and onto the yellow brick road which runs beside the busy main road on the right, on the left with fields that meander along the River Avon where the sheep graze, and the fishermen come to find a spot along the River.

I find if I have something troubling me I can walk up there and look at the beauty of nature and meditate on the wonderful fauna and nothing seems quite so bad, I can then head home to a cup of coffee and read the newspaper and Poppy can have her breakfast, both ready to start our day with a smile on our faces and joy in our hearts.

Derek who takes care of the area asked me early on as I walk there every morning if I could phone him if anything was unforetold, well I thought I wonder what I would come across, one morning I came across a dead fox who had been hit on the Evesham road and crawled under a

tree to finish her days I wouldn't have known what to do, but Derek said no worries I will sort it out, it's a very tranquil path with the busyness of the traffic rushing by people going to work and on the other side the calmness of the sheep lined up waiting for the farmer coming to feed them on Mothering Sunday this year the sheep had returned to the field and beside them were the lovely little lambs it made my day, I can make a story about the sheep most days when they were little a big old tree that had fallen that became their gym workout with the bravest going first and then the word got round go on you have a go, I have a conversation most days with the sheep a Baa says hello, but more often than not they may say here she comes that mad woman who tries to talk to us.

As the seasons change we start off with the tiny snowdrops emerging from the cold damp earth their little white trumpets saying I am here



spring is on its way, Blue hyacinth's stand proud along the path, then the wonderful daffodils going up the path and beyond who can despair when we have such beautiful sights of the daffodils swaying in the wind, all the wild flowers that seem to pop up everywhere with the generosity of our feather friends.

Poppy loves to sniff the trees or just the grasses it keeps their brains active and on another thought she is just reading the newspaper to see what's happening in Welford.....

There are many lovely walks around Welford for our four legged friends but the Yellow Brick Road is my favourite and we must give thanks to Derek who often when we meet says ' I have cut the grass for you.. Jane, also the probation service who help

Derek in so many ways to make this end of Welford a place to be proud of .

BUT there is always a but please make sure the litter is always picked up also the doggy poo not left on the grass verges or on the branches of the trees in poo bags there is a bin which is emptied regularly at the start of the Yellow Brick Road, and in that way if we are all responsible for the places we walk we can still be the Village we are all proud to live in.

This is an article I was asked to write for our Village magazine *Welford Matters* it published every 2 months and is delivered to every house in Welford free of charge. To explain who Derek is he lives in the village and is 86 years young, and works tirelessly to maintain the Yellow Brick Road and beyond, he has help once a month from Community pay back scheme.

I hope you enjoy coming on my walk each day.

Every Blessing

Jane (Smith) and Poppy x



	The collection in July for THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY realised £295. 64.
	The collection in August for SIGHTSAVERS realised £391. 50.

Dive Deeper



During a number of conversations in recent months I have gradually become aware that there is a hunger and thirst to learn more through prayer, meditation, silence and the exploration of Scripture about God's love for each one of us and in so doing discover more about ourselves, too. Maybe you have been sensing these thoughts and feelings and would value the opportunity to embark on just such an adventure? Then why not join with me and others as we seek to **'Dive Deeper'**?

What? Dive Deeper is to be part course, part pilgrimage offering the opportunity to join with others to practice spiritual disciplines and create sacred space for encounter with God.

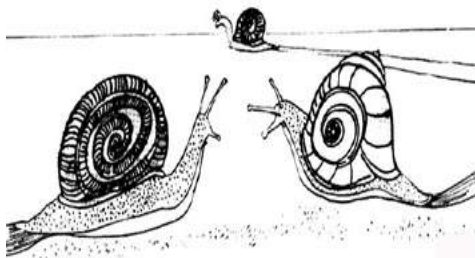
When? On six Saturday mornings: October 21st and 28th, and November 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, from 9-4.5a.m. – 12 noon.

Where? At Greystones, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4HU.

Cost? £60

If you are interested and would like more information and an application form do contact me, Revd Joan Whyman by phone: 07415 326214, or by email: joanwhyman@gmail.com.

Places will be limited and application forms need to be returned by October 1st, 2023.



"He's such a snob he's changed his name to Escargot."



Did you order an economical, pollution-free, self-propelling lawnmower?



I see they're taking a tougher line with litter louts.



Greystones Retreat Newsletter

September 1st 2023

Greystones- A place of rest and welcome

Greystones is the family home of myself (Rev Nikki Moon) and my husband Steve. After 15 months of careful restoration of this 1920's oak framed home set in 1.5 acres of land on the edge of the Cotswolds, we are ready to open our doors to welcome those who feel called to enter in for rest, hospitality, teaching and most importantly acceptance.



We invite you into our home as we feel called to share the space with you as part of our Christian ministry of hospitality and welcome so we run on a donations basis. All are welcome, all are accepted. Come as you are!

We are currently able to offer the following:

Spiritual Accompaniment or a Listening Ear - Rev Nikki is a fully trained Spiritual Companion.

Individual Quiet Days - space and time to rest and reflect.

Group quiet days or meeting space - groups of up to 20 are welcome for the day or part day.

Led day retreats - checkout www.ticketsource.co.uk/Greystones-retreat-space to see what's on.

(Please note retreats led by an external leader are subject to a fixed charge to cover the costs of the retreat leader).

In the future we hope to also offer space for prayer, yoga and meditation- get in touch if you are interested or if you have other ideas we can discuss together.

To book onto a led retreat please use the link above.

To book individual or group quiet days, meeting spaces, or to discuss Spiritual Accompaniment or if you want to lead a retreat at Greystones please get in touch using the following. Email: greystonesretreat@gmail.com. Tel: 07891 012660

With Blessings and love.

Nikki

If you wish to be added to the Greystones mailing list please email me at Greystonesretreat@gmail.com.



OUR TRUE REST

It was the steady, unmistakable, almost rhythmic 'thump - thump - thump' that drew my attention to the queuing vehicles at the traffic lights. There it stood, a gleaming representative of American engineering - a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. A name, which in the heyday of my youth, brought out an almost indecent longing amongst the members of the motor-cycle club to which I then belonged. And, even now, sixty years on I admit to a feeling I can't quite put my finger on.

As I slowed my pace I noticed another gentleman of my vintage sitting on a small garden wall, looking as I was, at that magnificent machine. Yes, I thought to myself, I expect your thoughts are my thoughts - memories of long ago, remembering friends, and recalling the time of our youth when the world (it seemed) was "our oyster" and things occurred then which were pivotal to our lives but unrecognised as such at the time.

Two things occurred in my late teen-age years - apart from a passion for motor-cycles - that I look back on and see now as moments that unexpectedly and quietly changed me 'inside'. The first was actually at our church of St. Andrew long before I ever felt the need to recognise Christ as totally relevant, not only to my life, but to all life. I attended a funeral service the details of which are long forgotten except one, which I recall as if it were last month.

The coffin stood at the front and the priest (the Revd. Elvet Jones) climbed up into the pulpit to deliver his address. (Yes - we used to have a 'six feet above contradiction' area !) and one action / sentence during his homily has always remained with me. Leaning over the pulpit's side he pointed down to the coffin and in a firm tone (which echoed his welsh heritage) said "there begins the greatest journey of all !" This was, I believe, the first serious challenge to my view of the world.

The second 'moment' has a hint of embarrassment. It was one Christmas Eve and I and a group of other 'lads and lasses' had been liberally imbibing at a hostelry and as the evening was drawing to an end I had this utterly compelling urge to attend church. I did not know why as - is common at that age - I did not 'do' religion. Not that I was an unbeliever but it was just not part of my life. But the memory of that urgent compulsion is still clear in my memory.

I, and one or two others of our group, arrived at the now long-gone St. James' church in Guild Street for the Midnight service. Unconfirmed, unchurched, and desperately longing for "something" I took Holy Communion. What the congregation may have made of us I have often wondered but I do not have any negative memories, only that what occurred 'inside' me at that time, along with those words of Revd Elvet Jones, were pivotal moments on my spiritual journey.

One may ask why these two moments *were* pivotal ? For many years I could not have clearly explained but, one day I came across a quote, by St. Augustine of Hippo which made all things clear.

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

Not only was this true for me, but I suspect, judging by the current state of our world, it is true for the souls of all humanity.

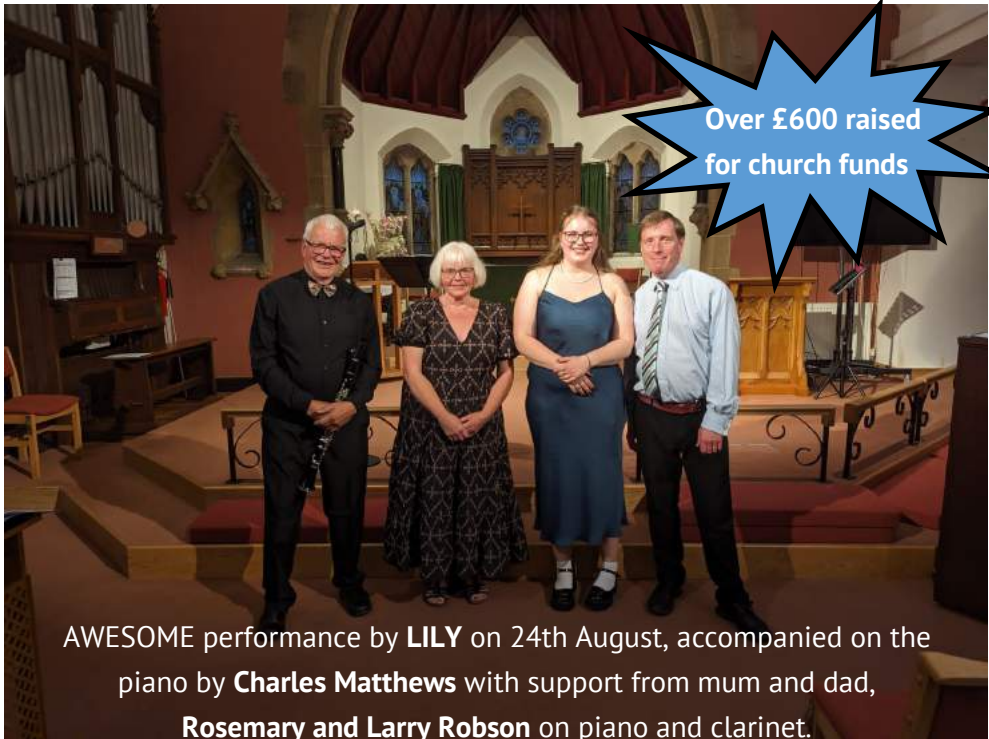
Alan Minchin.

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug."



A Back-To-School Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer. Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students. In Jesus' name we pray.



I generally try to include an item relating to Coventry Cathedral.....

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!!

PEEL AND STICK wallpaper featuring the baptistry window from Coventry Cathedral is currently offered for sale on the Canadian Amazon website.

It is waterproof and self-adhesive, made of PVC and recommended for the living room or bedroom. The roll size is 69" x 98"/175cm x 250cm (Height x Width), cut into 4 pieces for easy installation, and each piece size is 69 "x 24.5". It is described as environmentally friendly, wearable and durable with clear printing and vivid colours.

The cost is £52 per roll.
(You must provide your own font boulder.)



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Thursdays: 9.30am - 1.30pm)

Sally Sleath 293381 Email: parishoffice@saintandrewsshottery.org

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