



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY



Mike and Helen—14th January 2023

February
2023

£1.50

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



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Eucharist*
 5.00pm Evensong (third Sunday)
 6.30pm Every other Sunday

1st Sunday: 10.00am All-Age Family Service (without Communion)
 2nd Sunday: 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Illumin8
 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.



22nd February; ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30pm. Parish Eucharist.

A little note to say that the fortnightly coffee mornings have raised approximately £2000.00 for Church Funds ; not only very welcome funds but a lovely morning of fellowship. Why not come along and see for yourself.

Dates are on the pew sheet and in Searchlight so keep an eye out.

Thanks to all those who have supported.

Carole Taylor





The Kiss still works!

A few years I read about a couple who shared a very special kiss. The story comes from a book entitled, "Ragamuffin Gospel." It describes a solemn scene between a surgeon and a young couple. It reads:-

"I stand by the bed where a young woman lies, her face postoperative, her mouth twisted in palsy, somewhat clownish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve, the one to the muscles of her mouth, had been severed. She will be this way from now on. I had followed with religious fervor the curve of her flesh; nevertheless, to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had to cut the little nerve. Her young husband is in the room. He stands on the opposite side of the bed and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight, isolated from me, the moment is a private one. Who are they, I ask myself? He and this wry mouth I have made, who gaze at each other so generously, so lovingly. The young woman speaks; "Will my mouth always be like this?" she asks. "Yes, I say, it will. It is because the nerve was cut." She nods and is silent. But the young man smiles. "I like it," he says, "It's kind of cute." All at once I know who he is. I understand and I lower my gaze. One is not bold in an encounter with a God moment. Unmindful, he bends to kiss her crooked mouth and I am so close I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate to hers, to show her that their kiss still works."

Since reading this story, the image of the young husband contorting his mouth and twisting his lips for an intimate kiss with his wife has stuck with me and has come to my mind again at this time of St. Valentine when we think about love. To me this story really shows what love is about. It makes me think again about how God symbolically did the very same thing for us, when he fashioned himself in the form of flesh, and became human in Jesus, something we celebrated not long ago at Christmas.

And what a love story this is! The God of the universe who stoops down from heaven, leans toward humankind, and shows his love to a disfigured people.

contorted Himself (so to speak) in order to manifest his vast love to a fallen world, to you and to me. “For God so loved the World, that he gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3.16).

This love story is one we are all invited to share in. During this month when we think of Valentines, roses and soppy pink cards, do take some time think too of the greatest expression of love from God who sent his only Son to show that the kiss still works!

With love and Blessings

Reverend Craig

**Congratulations to
Rev. Su who was
recently awarded
her Masters in
Theology and
Misson.**



God's work in us wasn't finished when we accepted Christ, it had just begun.

**Congratulations to Mike and Helen
on their marriage on 14th January.**



PARISH REGISTERS



FUNERALS:

December 2022


- 1st Nick Hance (81) - Burial of Ashes
- 13th Bill Cooper (75)
- 21st Sheila Preedy

January 2023

- 10th Edith Payne
- 11th John Butler (73)
- 17th Gillian Boyd (80)
- 24th Martha Nicholls (96)
- 25th Winnifred James



PARISH VISIT TO COVENTRY CATHEDRAL
SATURDAY 13th MAY 2023.
Further details later this Year.



The charity Collection on Sunday 10th December for the Shakespeare Hospice realised £394.28.



CONFIRMATION - 15th JANUARY.

Dot, Andy, Revd. Craig, Joshan, Lindsey, Vanessa.



Andy, Dot, Lindsey, Vanessa, Joshan, Bishop John.



Fairtrade product relaunch Sunday 19th February

After its prolonged hibernation due to Covid, St Andrews' Traidcraft initiative, so admirably trailblazed by Hillary and Kay is to be resurrected. Under new supervision, the patience of former patrons will be crucial to its future success whilst we establish product preferences.

Amongst initial products on offer will be teas, coffees, chocolate, biscuits, cooking sauces, rice, pasta, breakfast cereals and camel sweetbreads.

If anyone would be prepared to help with the sale of produce on the day, either at the launch or in subsequent months (3rd Sunday after 10am service) please let me know. All items will be clearly priced.

Rodney Grinnell (St Andrews Traidcraft supervisor).
0777 0555 258 and rodders@site49.co.uk

Footnote: I lied about the sweetbreads!!



Rupert Brooke and Henry Vaughan were among the guest poets when a dozen of us met at David and Hilary's for an evening of wine and poetry. We began with a tribute to Alan Boddington by reading a

couple of poignant poems from his anthology. There followed personal pieces and classic pieces, intermixed with intellectual and humorous works. It had been a cold, wet November day but poetry (and the wine) provided us with much needed warmth. Everyone enjoyed themselves. This is something we are thinking of repeating when the weather improves, perhaps you'd like to join us then?

Jan Walker



Our New Year meeting on 9th January was a chance to meet up again especially as our Christmas meeting

was cancelled owing to snow and ice!

After Hilary Capron had led us in our opening prayers, she gave a report on 2022.

There had been an interesting programme of meetings and quite a lot of involvement in other activities such as preparing the bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday, sending our small gift packs at Easter and Christmas, serving teas after the Time to Remember Service and making the Children's Corner our Transformation project for this year. We had also attended the Mary Sumner service at Wilmcote Church and supported the M.U. Summer of Hope Appeal at the Garden Tea Party.

There had also been plenty of support, particularly from Vera Hawkins, for the Coffee Tots refuge in Coventry with donations of knitted garments and teddy bears. So, plenty to keep us occupied.

We had welcomed several new members but were saddened by the loss of Jeanette Payne, Eileen Rollason and Corinne Richardson, all of whom had been members of Mothers' Union for many years.

After Hilary's report, books took centre stage. There were favourite books, news of recent books, quotations, poems and recommendations for "good reads" - all very enjoyable.

Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on Monday, 13th February when Jane Smith will be talking about her life in Poland (also bearing in mind that 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day).

We are always glad to welcome visitors so just come along if you are interested.

Daphne Jones



The next lunch will be on 9th February at 12.30pm.
£8.00. Do sign up for yet another delicious meal.

2023 PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

I am happy to let you know of our Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham from Monday 1st May through to Thursday 4th May (the start of 'Mary's month').

The opportunity to sign-up is now open.

You need to do so via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GQsLpW575x>

(with thanks to Isaac for setting up this data collection form).

If you know someone who would like to come, but who isn't on-line, please let me know as soon as possible via the Parish Office.

The cost of the trip is £270 per person. This includes a coach there and back, and three nights accommodation at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, bed, breakfast, and evening meal (the food is really very good - and the wine!).

If you feel you might like to come, but would like to find out more, please drop me a line to prosperohal@gmail.com

To all who might be a part of this: come with an open heart and travel with us in faith, and you will find the Spirit in abundance, praise, thanksgiving, and good fellowship.

A non-returnable deposit of £30 is required by Monday 6th February and the balance should be settled by Monday 6 April. Full information can be found via this link, along with the form you'll need to fill in:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GQsLpW575x>

Paul Edmondson





As we begin 2023, I would like to send out an appeal for new members to join St Andrew's church choir.

Singing is such a joyful way to serve, really good for your own health and well-being, and great for fun and fellowship.

Choir meets on Thursday at 6:30 for 1hour 15mins during termtime. 100% attendance is not expected (we all have lives and families outside of church), neither would you be expected to attend every sung service. But the more singers we have, the easier it is to manage if one or two are away.

A lot of the singing is done in unison and you don't necessarily have to read music, just be able to sing in tune. However we do want to maintain our ability as a 4part choir, so altos, tenors and basses would be brilliant to have on board, but don't hold back if you're a soprano!

I'm sure those of you who attended the Advent Carol Service or the 9 lessons and Carols will agree that these were joyous occasions, and we should be proud that such a standard of music can be produced by a Parish church. Additionally, how fortunate we are to have such a great organist in Matt Penn, who truly enhances all our singing week by week as well as at special occasions.

So, if you are wondering what more you can do this year, maybe this is the answer.

Please get in touch if you want to know more, or just turn up on a Thursday evening and give it a try!

Yours in anticipation.

Rosemary Robson , Director of Music



Bill Cooper had been busy researching and writing for our benefit till the day he passed away. His daughter, Michaela is very kindly continuing to share his work.

MORE ST ANDREW'S HISTORY

The Churchwardens

Much of my last two articles, about the priests-in-charge, was based on the 1942 booklet entitled A Short History of St Andrew's Church, Shottery, which was extremely helpful to me. It was also very informative about the early churchwardens, and I shall now write about them. Even though there are a couple of individuals about whom I haven't managed to find much information, this piece too needs to be split into two instalments,

One such person was **Mr F R Bell**, the very first churchwarden, at the outset in 1871. So far, all I have learned about him is that his home was at Shottery Lodge. However, more is known about Mr B J Bucknall and Mr G Canning, elected in 1878. **Benjamin James Bucknall**, a later occupant of Shottery Lodge, was a land agent, who had three daughters, and a son who worked in the colonial civil service, in Ceylon. Daughter Ida was the first bride to have a wedding at St Andrew's, when she married Gilbert Thwaites of Blackburn in 1891. When Benjamin Bucknall died in 1918, he had been a churchwarden for over 40 years.

George Canning was a farmer, at Shottery Manor Farm, and one of an extensive farming family, whose members farmed at Lapworth, Long Marston and Binton as well as Shottery. He appeared in the 1851 census, aged 11, when his father Thomas was farming 310 acres at Binton Hill Farm. My great-great grandparents were listed in that record, Thomas Leek working in the fields and Hannah Bennett in the house, before their marriage. By 1861, Thomas Canning had moved to Shottery Manor to farm 360 acres there, and George, aged 21, was working on the farm. George later took over the farm and was recorded in the Shottery censuses in 1871 and 1881 with his wife Ellen and several children. He gave up farming in 1886 but sadly, in 1887 his affairs were in the hands of the Official Receiver. His failure, like many others, was due to the Great Depression of British Agriculture between the 1870s and 1890s.

Thomas Miles of Mount Pleasant, Alcester Road, replaced Mr Canning in 1888, and served until his death in 1905, aged 92. He was listed in the 1881 and 1891 censuses as a farmer of 44 acres, employing 3 men. Despite that small acreage, he must have been a farmer of substance - when his house was sold in 1907, it was described as having seven bedrooms, with wine cellars, stables and a coach-house; and farm buildings that included a harness room, calf pens, cart shed, and a pig sty. The house was approached by a long carriage drive with an entrance lodge.

Thomas Miles built, and donated to St Andrew's, a substantial house in Hathaway Lane, known as The Parsonage and occupied by successive curates up to the 1960s.

Mr Miles' successor was **Samuel Hutton**, of Burnside, across the road from the church. Mr Hutton was a single man, living with his widowed mother Emma and sister Mabel - all of them stating their occupation in the 1901 and 1911 censuses as "living on own means". Looking them up a few decades earlier, I found the three at Aston, Birmingham in 1891 - and before that, Samuel's father William was alive, heading a family of nine children in 1871. William was described as a landed proprietor. The 1871 household also included four servants, and like many folk of the Victorian age, the family's wealth was derived from property. Samuel Hutton left Shotton in 1919 on his mother's death.

After forty years' service as churchwarden, Benjamin Bucknall died in 1918, and was succeeded by **Mr W G Bennett** as vicar's warden. He was another whom I haven't traced yet.

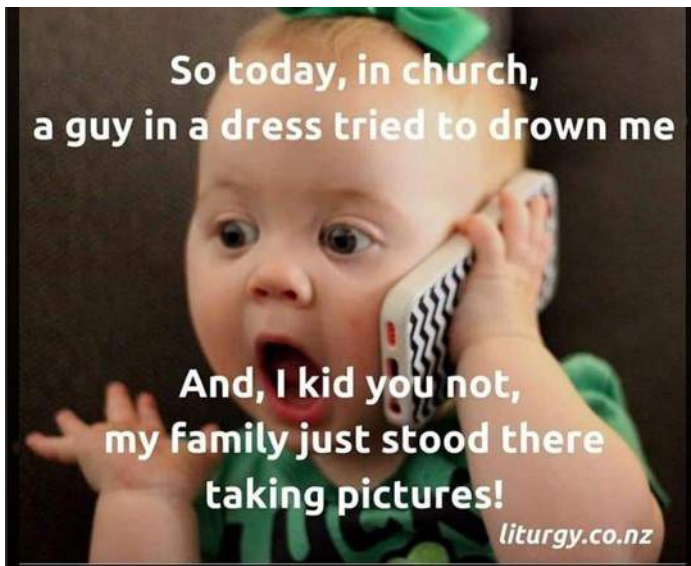
Mr Bennett was followed by **Slater Bickford**, a Staffordshire farmer's son who had come to Stratford to work in a bank. In 1911 he married Stratford widow Ethel Annie Groves at St Andrew's. In 1930 he bought a plot at the corner of Bishopton Lane and the Ridgeway from Philip Baker, the owner of Burmans Farm, so perhaps he built a house there; but by 1939 he was living in Luddington Lane. Mr and Mrs Bickford were devotees of pedigree dogs, and took first prize at Midland shows in 1913 and 1925 with their cocker spaniels, one of them aptly named Shotton Joe. Slater Bickford lived to be 81, dying in 1961. Mr Bickford's successor was Mr W H Howe, nominated in 1930.

Samuel Hutton's successor was **John Gazeley Fincher**, who bought a building and plumbing business in Ely Street, Stratford, and later moved to premises in

Tavern Lane, Shottery. The family lived at Brooklands, and daughter Catherine married Walter Sisam at St Andrew's in 1913. Son Frank managed a branch establishment at Wellesourne, but he was killed in action at Passchendaele in 1917. He had married Georgina Ada Ellis in 1908, and their son John was born in 1913. Frank is commemorated at the Menin Road Cemetery, Ypres; at the War Memorial at our church; and at the Masonic Hall in Great William Street. J G Fincher and Co. Ltd. was a long-established Shottery business; I remember being sent there on an errand as an office boy in the early 1960s. According to Companies House, the company was dissolved in 1969.

Mr Fincher's successor was **Mr Frederick Arthur Ball**, elected in 1929 and another whose details escaped me until I found a record of his brief stay at the hospital, in the 1939 Register. That lists him as a patient, with the profession of an engineer. I suspect the former was the reason for him being there, because everyone else recorded on that page was a patient, too. He tended also to use his second Christian name of Arthur, which complicates things further.

I will add more about Messrs **W H Howe** and **W E Davenport**, the churchwardens in 1942; and later incumbents in another article.



Flower Arranging update for 2022

2022 was a busy year for the floral support team at St Andrews. We continue to be blessed to have a large team who enjoy providing their skills as and when required.

We have a team of about 20 (of which many are not members of our congregation) to one and all, a huge thank you for giving up your time, expertise and floral donations, we could not have achieved what we do without all your help.



Additionally, I must mention the members of the Altar's Pedestal rota team, who seamlessly ensure the flowers are refreshed weekly, donating their time, skill and flowers.

If anyone reading this would like to join either or both Groups, please feel free to contact me.

I receive many donations from congregation members which are the backbone supporting the main church

celebrations, these are so gratefully received, making the floral events self-funded.

A Huge thank you.



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Donations were received towards the Christmas and Harvest Festivals from:

Tony Carver – in Memory of Jo and the Carver family

Di Jones – In memory of Jo Carver

Bob and Fran Kibblewhite

If you would like to make similar donations, feel free to contact me on 294121, 18 Hathaway Lane, niccarree@gmail.com, or drop a message into my Pigeon hole.

Nic Carree

PS More photos on our Facebook page.



On Saturday 18th Feb at 9am we will be holding our second Bible Breakfast. This is an informal chance to look at a piece of scripture over coffee and croissants. It provides a chance to chat and examine our faith in a friendly environment. There is no “study” as such and no pressure on anyone. There are no right or wrong answers. There is plenty of tea and coffee and we cater for gluten free as well. It proved very popular before Christmas and I hope it will again. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church so we don’t run out of croissants. A date for your diary.

Jan Walker



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. Friday March 3rd
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL
MOVEMENT)

“I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH”

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues that they face geographically, politically and socially as well as their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith, just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. Beginning in Samoa prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa 38 hours later.

Please join us at the **Methodist Church** on **Friday March 3rd** at the new time of **10.30am**. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including pre-school children and men, to the service and chatting with you over refreshments.

Becks Bartlett and Clodagh Mallison
(St. Andrew's representatives.)



If someone is on your mind, pray for them. God may have put them on your mind for a reason.



Let there be light.....and there was light !

As a church you have been so patient with the Fabric planning group as we endeavour to improve various aspects of our fabric and facilities. In order to make the best choices and to be very aware of costs involved this has taken a lot of time with meetings and planning to be sure we are spending money wisely.

At last we are beginning to see the completion of a number of improvements to our Church facilities and fabric. For most of us, the most obvious one is the completion of a completely new lighting system in the Church. This enables us to have much more control and variation in our lighting, being able to brighten and dim settings, select lighting in different areas with varying brightness and be able to put lighting on/off without the 10 minute wait as in the old system. As we get used to the intricacies of programming we will be able to use light and shade so much more creatively and effectively.

We have installed “Pay Modems”, one in the Office and one in the Church. This makes it possible to pay or make a donation by bankcard, as you might in a shop. These days, more and more payments are made by Card and this opportunity will be useful for all of us, but especially at weddings and funerals etc.



We have had installed a new Full Fibre Broadband into the Office. This has a number of benefits, firstly that it is cheaper than our previous supplier and secondly it is more flexible. Any email or message on the answer machine sent to the Office can now be picked up by any of our clergy on their mobile phones and so response times can be shortened.

David Whyman

Chair of Fabric Committee

Parkinson's UK is the main Parkinson's support and research charity in the UK.

What is Parkinson's?

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition. This means that it causes problems in the brain and gets worse over time. The number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the UK is about 145,000. That's around 1 adult in every 350.

Our vision, mission and values

Together we will find a cure and improve life for everybody affected by Parkinson's.

Our mission

We're a people-powered movement on the verge of major breakthroughs in Parkinson's. Together, we will find a cure. We help people to live as well as possible. And make sure everyone understands the real impact of Parkinson's.

Our values

People-first: we're a strong movement for change, informed, shaped and powered by people affected by Parkinson's. We value and support each other.

Uniting: we're people with Parkinson's, scientists and supporters, fundraisers and families, carers and clinicians. We're working, side by side, to improve the lives of everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Pioneering: we innovate across everything we do. Creative, courageous and with pioneering spirit, we strive to continually improve.

Driven: we live and breathe our purpose. We set clear goals and strive to deliver the greatest impact for everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Living with Parkinson's can feel overwhelming if people don't have the right

support. We're here to help everyone feel in control of life with Parkinson's.

From support with welfare benefits, to managing Parkinson's symptoms, to just having a friendly face to share with. You're not alone. Help is out there. And we can help you find what's available to you.



If you would like to make a donation and are unable to be in church on that 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 the details are as follows:-
Shottery St. Andrew PCC. Sort code 40:43:19 Account number 80739758 using your full name as the reference and identifying the charity you are supporting. Thank you.



New Event for your Diaries

If you would be interested in coming along once a week on a Thursday evening, in the Parish Centre, from 7.30pm, to join a friendly, social, group looking at walking through and dancing Scottish basic ceilidh and Scottish country dances, you would be very welcome to join us.

£5 per month with refreshments in the middle of the session. We are looking to commence on Thursday 30 March 2023.

If you are interested at all, please do contact:-

Sarah Cushing on 07950827753 or sarahlcushing@gmail.com

The Central England Guitar

Ensemble is coming back to give a concert on Saturday, 25th November 2023, at 7.30pm.



Rev. Mary Crameri shares...



[This was on a website called Anglican Women Clergy and I used it in a Thursday morning service. It was then suggested it would be a good article for Searchlight.]

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other, "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course, there has to be something after delivery. Maybe we're here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later." "Nonsense", said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said, "I don't know, but there would be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery has to be logically excluded." The second insisted, "Well, I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need the physical cord anymore". The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after – delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere." "Well I don't know" said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and She will take care of us." The first replied, "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now? The second said, "She is all around us. We're surrounded by Her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist." The first replied, "Well, I don't see Her, so it's only logical that She doesn't exist. To which, the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence, and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, you can hear Her loving voice calling down from above."

Maybe this is one of the best explanations of the concept of God.



OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND IN DEATH.

Mary C. Neal, MD, is an American orthopaedic surgeon whose medical expertise is spinal surgery. Whilst on holiday in 1999 in the Los Rios region of southern Chile she drowned in an accident when her kayak became pinned underwater whilst negotiating a waterfall. Despite frantic rescue efforts by those with her she remained trapped underwater far too long to have survived.

But a modern day miracle occurred and despite being underwater for a quarter of an hour Dr. Neal returned to this life, and instead of darkness and nothingness, reported her consciousness had moved from one dimension of life into a completely new, non-physical, dimension. Her experiences of her feelings and surroundings in heaven, her communication with angels and her deep sense of sadness on realizing it wasn't her time to remain are detailed in her book *"To Heaven And Back"* first published in 2012.

Though a Christian prior to her near-death experience she did not regard herself as "deeply spiritual or deeply religious and had no preconceived notions about life after death. My experience changed me profoundly in both spiritual and religious ways" she said when deciding to share her experience with the world.

The Holy Bible - in Colossians 3:2 NLT - tells us to "think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth" but as John Burke, senior pastor of Gateway Church, Austin, Texas - who has spent decades investigating near-death experiences from a Christian view point and through the lens of The Bible - asks, "But how do we think about a place we've never seen?"

Can the reported experiences of people who have died through various circumstances and then returned to share those experiences give us a guide as to how we think about the question raised by Pastor Burke ? After considering a large collection of encounters in death from people of all walks of life and gathered

together after decades of research, John Burke shows that we are now able to "think about the things of heaven" with far more confidence than earlier generations. However, it is up to every seeking soul to read, for themselves, that which has been brought together through various researchers and thus make up our own minds on the evidence presented. After all, as was said to me many years ago - if you are to embark on a journey it is prudent to at least have a map and some idea of your destination. And the final journey we make is one that none can avoid !

However, an obvious question is - is there any particular reason why, over the past 40 years or so, there has been this sudden witness to the world of these experiences ? My own personal impression is that as so much of humanity continues to turn away from God and His revelation through Our Lord Jesus Christ, and as the world quietly lurches evermore towards disaster with The Church struggling against the rising tide of atheism, growing hostility and denial, God is allowing glimpses of the reality of the spiritual dimension, of which earthly life is but a shadow, to be given to humanity in order to try to "wake up" and challenge many more souls to think deeply about who they are and why they are.

From the conclusions that Pastor John Burke has drawn from his decades of research and interviews with many who claim to have experienced just a little of Heaven one thing becomes strikingly obvious and this, perhaps, is God's loving message through those who have returned to share their very-often personal encounters - **that Christ is our hope in life and in death.**

Alan Minchin.



Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy
Everyone Welcome
10am till noon
11th (Book Fair)
and 25th February.

The image is a promotional poster for a 'Coffee Morning' event. It features a central illustration of a white coffee cup filled with dark coffee, with coffee beans scattered around its base. The text is arranged in a vertical stack, with the title 'Coffee Morning' in a large, elegant script font at the top. Below it, 'With Bring and Buy' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The phrase 'Everyone Welcome' follows in the same elegant script font. At the bottom, the event details are listed in a bold, sans-serif font: '10am till noon', '11th (Book Fair)', and 'and 25th February.' The entire poster is enclosed in a thin, dark border.

BOOK SALE

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY,
10am till 12 noon
in PARISH CENTRE



Donations of books (paper back only)
and jigsaws appreciated, which can
be left in the Parish Office.



From Darkness to Eastering (Book and e-book)

Bonnie B Thurston

This is a book about how, on a cosmic and a personal level, darkness gives way to light. It does not sugar-coat the reality of darkness but is full of hope, reminding voyagers that 'light shines in the darkness', that darkness is required to perceive light – and that Easter means the light has come, life triumphs, and the promised Holy Spirit will empower us for growth: 'eastering'

...

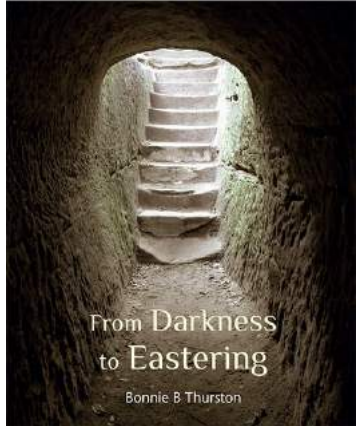
These reflective, prayerful poems are 'a ticket and passport for a spiritual journey' and can be used in a daily discipline or with groups.

'For each traveller I pray journeying mercies,' Bonnie Thurston writes.

'And I remind pilgrims: Take heart. He will come.'

You are in skilled hands here, so let yourself be carried along, ready to experience delight, or be jarred into discomfort. Above all ponder, weigh, take time. For each poem comes out of the quiet depths of a person who is a fellow pilgrim, illuminating the familiar with her own God-given insight.

– Esther de Waal



In Love With the Life of Life

Neil Paynter

Daily readings, with prayers, poems and actions, for Lent and Holy Week from members, associates and friends of the Iona Community.

Welcome Here. This is a short update on the recent work of Welcome Here. It's been a busy and demanding 12 months, but thanks to you and all those who support the work of Welcome Here, we have continued to help refugees coming to our area.

Four new families have been resettled in Stratford in the last year through the Government's official UK Resettlement Scheme. Welcome Here has continued to welcome new families, ensure they have the furniture and other things they need to make a home, and introduce them to local people, including refugees already settled in the town.

Meanwhile, Welcome Here volunteers have continued to help refugees from Afghanistan housed in a local hotel. While many of those who arrived in 2021 have moved on to more permanent housing, new families have been arriving, often needing clothes. A weekly conversation club, hosted by Welcome Here volunteers, has been running at the hotel throughout the year, and we have also organised the occasional outing.

Then this spring saw the start of the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. Most have come through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, being offered rooms in the homes of local hosts. Welcome Here has concentrated on offering regular drop-in socials, enabling the refugees to meet and socialise with each other. Initially we ran two drop-ins a week, but as more refugees found jobs, we now run just one drop-in a week on Thursday afternoons. And new refugees continue to arrive: we had a new enquiry from a local host about new arrivals over Christmas.

Finally, in September we discovered that asylum seekers were being placed in a central Stratford hotel. Unlike refugees, the lives of asylum seekers are limited by Home Office rules: they are not allowed to work or join education classes, and they have just £8 a week for living expenses (excluding food). Welcome Here has been supplying clothes, spending over £4,000 on things like underwear, night wear and shoes which cannot be easily supplied second-hand. Welcome Here volunteers are also supporting informal English conversation sessions at the hotel organised by Warwickshire County Council; these will shortly be restarting after the Christmas break.

Two years ago, there were fewer than 100 refugees in our area. Now there are over 600, and many with unmet needs.

So there is still plenty to do as we move into 2023. We still need help with the

various English sessions, especially for asylum seekers, where we would like to start a morning session to supplement the two afternoon sessions already being offered. We will be looking to raise more money to meet a continuing need for clothes as well as for sponsoring activities. And with the larger numbers we are working with, we are looking for people willing to help with organising things.

Welcome Here supports English sessions for asylum seekers at the Grosvenor Hotel on Mondays 3.00 – 5.00, Tuesdays 10.30 – 12.00, and Thursdays 2.00 – 4.00. If you would like more information about what's involved please contact Roger Matthews on 01789 289503 .

SEARCHLIGHT NEWS!

During lockdown I decided to enter the **National Parish Magazine** competition and submitted two issues of Searchlight. I had not realised that “Parish” meant more than just a church so was up against the big guns who covered their whole communities. Anyway, *“Out of 450 entries, your magazine achieved 21st place in the A5 magazine category.”* At least we got a mention in dispatches! Perhaps I might try the **National Church Magazine** competition another time.

Congratulations to Clodagh coming up to 43 years of editing Searchlight. The idea of a Parish magazine was first brought up by Rev'd . John Panting then Priest in Charge at St. Andrew's, who had a meeting with myself and my wife Kay, we agreed to edit and produce the magazine. Kay thought up the name “Searchlight”, we produced the magazine A4 size, typing pages on skins for a Gestetner machine at Holy Trinity Parish Office. We added a commercially produced Christian A4 insert page, we then with a group of volunteers stapled it all together at our house. A further group of volunteers then distributed it to subscribers around Shottery and Stratford upon Avon.

Roy Dyer



A celebration of the life of the **Right Reverend Simon Barrington-Ward, former Bishop of Coventry**, will take place on Saturday 4th March at Coventry Cathedral.

The celebration will also mark the publication of a book about Bishop Simon entitled; “***Exchange of Gifts: the Vision of Simon Barrington-Ward***” edited by Bishop Graham Kings and Ian Randall..

Simon Barrington-Ward served as the seventh Bishop of Coventry from 1985 to 1997. He was consecrated a bishop by Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, on All Saints’ Day 1985 (1 November) at Westminster Abbey.

After his retirement from Coventry, he continued as a bishop with pastoral care of the University of Cambridge, and an honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Ely,

Bishop Simon returned as an honorary assistant chaplain of Magdalene College, where he had been an honorary fellow since 1987, and a chaplain to the staff of Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

He was knighted as a Knight Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) in 2001.

Speakers at the Coventry Cathedral celebration event include:

- ● The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth
- ● The Rt Revd David Urquhart
- ● The Rt Revd Graham Dow
- ● The Revd Helen Orr, daughter of Bishop Simon.
-

The day will start at 11am and finish at 3pm. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance. coventrycathedral.org.uk

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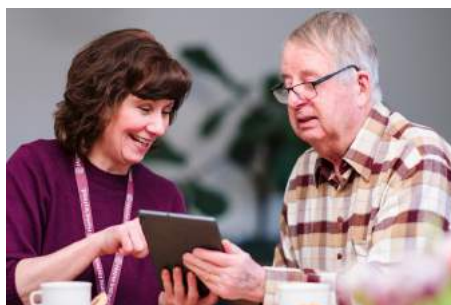
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Diary of a cross in the pocket.
Reminder to check out our Facebook page and our website (weekdays) short meditations by Revd. Joan Whyman.



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Revd. Canon David Capron, Revd. Mary Cramer and Revd. Joy Hance.

Preacher: Revd. Joan Whyman

Reader: Jan Walker

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Thursdays: 9.30am - 1.30pm)

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therobsonfamily@hotmail.com

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Listening and Prayer Team: Susie Fletcher – 01789 298738

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Organist: Matt Penn

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