



ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT



May 2024



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



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist*

6.30pm Evensong

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

3rd Sunday: 10.00am Celtic Communion*. 5.30pm Atrium.

Tuesdays: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion.

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





PENTECOST - more than just a birthday celebration

On May 19 we will celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. We remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on those fear filled disciples who were locked away in the upper room after Jesus had ascended into heaven. The promised Holy Spirit came upon them, they were changed from fear into courage. They stepped out onto the street proclaiming their faith in Jesus with renewed vigour and faith. The Church was born and its mission activity in the world begun.

But Pentecost is more than just a birthday celebration. Pentecost reminds us that as Christians we are members of the church of God through our baptism. Actually, 'members' is the wrong word – we are all 'partners' in the work and ministry of the church that began all those years ago in that upper room in Jerusalem. Pentecost reminds us that we are all called and consecrated as missionary disciples of Jesus, we are all called to take responsibility for the work of the Kingdom of God. The sad truth so often is that the church can turn in on itself and stops being outward looking. It can so easily forget Jesus' Great Commission (Matt.28.19) that we go out into the world to make disciples. When we forget this, we fail to be the Church of Christ but simply a group of like-minded people who simply enjoy each other's company.

I like what Pope Francis once said; "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. We need, a church that knows how to open her arms and welcome everyone."

The Holy Spirit comes to give us all we need to be the church Christ requires. And yet, sadly, we often pay a mere token respect to the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church and our lives. Perhaps we should ask ourselves: Do we put more trust in our resources and our expertise than in the action of God's Spirit in our lives

and in the lives of those among whom we work? Do we leave enough room for the Spirit, the '*God of surprises*', the God who chooses the weak to confound the strong, the God whose light enters through the cracks in our lives rather than through our successes and achievements?

At Pentecost let us celebrate the birthday of the church with real joy. But let us perhaps more crucially allow God the Holy Spirit to move, transform and reinvigorate us so that we, as partners with Christ and one another, may indeed go out, make disciples and transform our world.

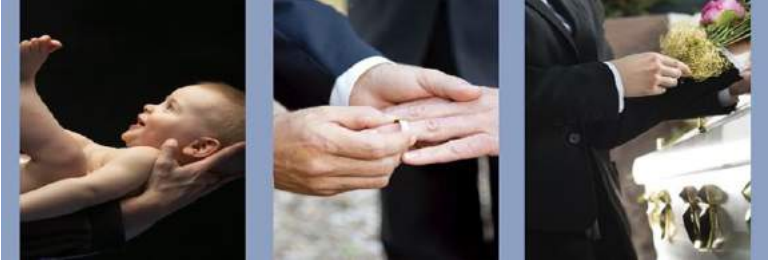
I will end with a lovely poem from Macolm Guite.



Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

***Blessings in Christ,
Reverend Craig***

PARISH REGISTERS



Baptisms:

14^h April: Spencer Hunt

21st April: Klara Jurek

Wedding:

19th April: Michelle Godwin & Simon Dent

Funeral:

19th April: Doris Cryer

“St Andrew’s is an INCLUSIVE CHURCH—a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the names of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”





Our monthly meeting on the 8th April, led by Hilary Capron, began with our usual short service of prayers, a hymn and a reading by Jan Walker - all celebrating the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary with M.U. branches throughout the world.

We were sorry to hear of the death of our friend and former member, Doris Cryer.

There was plenty of news in the Coventry Easter Bulletin - the Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Campaign, fund-raising for Away from it All scheme and the Christmas Appeal resulting in £110,000. The Members' Day will be at Kenilworth on Monday, 20th May.

The new planter was voted a great success and there had been many favourable comments.

Hilary was thanked for all the work involved and she said the Anniversary plate would be fixed when the spring flowers were changed.



This all led nicely on to the “business” of the afternoon; first of all, a quiz of Biblical quotations mentioning flowers, herbs, etc., and then the preparation of individual Easter gardens. These all looked very pretty with pansies, rosemary, herbs and seeds, etc.; - also thanks to Jane Smith for the decorative crosses.

Many thanks to Hilary for setting up this very enjoyable and pleasant meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Monday, 13th May at 2 p.m.

Revd. John and Elizabeth Horton will be presenting their book - "Behind the Wire". Visitors always welcome.

Daphne Jones

St Andrews Thursday Lunch



The next lunch is on 9th May 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.

St. Andrew's Bereavement Café.

We are looking to initiate holding a Bereavement Café here at St. Andrew's once a month. If you feel you would like to be part of the group for this initiative, to work with Revd. Sarah on getting this started, please do get in touch with Revd. Sarah via email: sarahlcushing@gmail.com or speak to her in church. This is very much in its infancy at the moment, but together we can work on getting this set up to commence later in the summer months. If you are interested in working on this with Revd. Sarah as a team, please do let her know.

On the **Day of Pentecost** the Christian Church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit given to God's holy people. The name comes from the Greek word Pentecost which means fiftieth. The holiday is celebrated on the Sunday after Ascension which is also fifty days after Easter, hence the name. The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. The church's transformation of the Jewish feast to a Christian festival was thus related to the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus was the first fruits of a new dispensation that fulfilled and succeeded the old dispensation of the Law. The feast was also known as White Sunday (Whitsunday) for the special white garments worn by those newly baptized on that day. In the first Book of Common Prayer of Edward VI (1549), the feast was officially called Whitsunday, and this name has continued in Anglican churches. Priests often wear red vestments at Pentecost to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit on that day, in some places members of the congregation sometimes wear red as well, and the altar is commonly dressed in a red frontal cloth. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes the promised outpouring of the Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission as occurring in Jerusalem during this feast. The accounts in Acts 2:1-4 text, which is always read on the day of Pentecost, depicts the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples assembled together. This assembly of the disciples emphasizes an important point: From the beginning, the experience of the Holy Spirit has been a corporate experience. Individuals as members of the Body of Christ participate in this experience, but the power of the Spirit is given for the life of the Church. Two key words referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit are promise and power. The promise of Jesus to send the Helper to the disciples was fulfilled, and the power of the Helper was bestowed, in the upper room at Pentecost. Fire and wind are signs of the Spirit's power as fire and wind signify God's power throughout the Old Testament. God goes before the people as a pillar of fire in the exodus; God sends a wind to part the Red Sea before them. God's power is now seen in the Pentecost story as the apostles proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. The gift of being able to understand each other in languages formerly unknown is a sign that God's word is no longer limited to one people or one place, one language or one race, but is now available to all people everywhere.

Easter 2024 Flowers

I am writing this on yet another wet day! Easter weekend turned out to be some of the best sunny dry weather for what seems months on end of rain.

What a joy it was for 18 of the “Blooming Lovely” team headed up by Bev Short to arrive on St Andrews laden with flowers and craft work to decorate the Church for the Easter festival.

For those who may not understand my reference to “Blooming Lovely”, it is the name used for a flower arranging class that meets every Wednesday to learn the art of flower arranging and ancillary craft skills. Anyone reading this who might like to find out more, feel free to contact me (see below).



Every festival we try to ensure the final result is fresh and different to all previous. Incorporated this Easter a large number of craft items made during our weekly training were included. The feedback received has been amazing, it seems the craft element added a new dimension, and has been so very much appreciated (who spotted the paper plates and gold fish bowls?)

We are so grateful for the floral and financial support that are donated by members of our congregation, these donations enable our team to undertake the floral decorations of the church at no cost for our Church., a huge thank you for your generosity.



Donations received towards the Easter Festival were:

Mrs D Jones – In memory of family members.

Mr A Mills in memory of “Mum”

Mrs H Capron in Memory of Rev David Capron



Mrs A Edwards in Memory of Alan

General donations from Mothers Union, Bob and Fran Kibblewhite, Mrs J Smith and Mr N Carree as well as many floral items.

A Huge thank you to one and all.

Nic Carree

My contact details for future floral / activities enquiries are:

niccarree@gmail.com.

[Tel:01789294121](tel:01789294121), Mob 07581408063 Or Pidgeon Hole opposite kitchen door

There is always room
to take a deep breath,
feel the restrictions dissolve,
as you take the hand of Jesus
and hear that everything
is going to be
more than okay.

My to-do list for today:

Count my blessings;
Practice kindness;
Let go of what I can't control;
Listen to my heart;
Be productive yet calm;
Just breathe.

CAN YOU SEE THE PERSON WHO
STOLE YOUR GLASSES?



DIVORCE? WHY?
YOU SEEM
PERFECT FOR
EACH OTHER.



SHE SAYS
SHE WANTS TO
DATE SOMEONE
WITH NO STRINGS
ATTACHED

HE'S A
LYRE

I can't tell you how glad I am to
have finally found a doctor who
doesn't harp at me about my weight.





"I am convinced that neither life nor death nor... anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If you enjoyed *The Bible Course* (either in our group or on your own) then why not go deeper into the story of salvation? The Wednesday afternoon Bible Group will be starting ***The Romans Course*** on 15th May and we would love you to join us.

This is a ten-session programme from *The Bible Society* which helps you explore Paul's letter to the Romans - arguably the most important single letter ever written and one that has changed countless lives, from St. Augustine to Martin Luther, John Wesley and David Suchet!

Each session includes a video talk by Dr. Andrew Ollerton as well as discussion of the relevant passages of Romans. It will be both exciting and challenging, tackling the big themes found in the book of Romans which are key to understanding the Christian faith and growing in relationship with God through Jesus our Lord. More details can be found at:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course/>

Please contact Nick or Alex Cutler if you would like to come.
(nickcutler59@gmail.com)

Bob's Baggies Cycle Challenge

First and foremost, my heartfelt thanks to all of you from St. Andrew's who so generously sponsored me on this 160-mile cycle ride from Rotherham to West Bromwich in aid of the Albion Foundation. I will have roughly raised about £1000 to help this notable charity as it supports the deprived, the disabled and so many others in the Sandwell area.

The ride itself was tough in many ways. Just cycling through Rotherham and Sheffield is not for the faint hearted as it's one long hill after another! In the 40 miles to Buxton, our first overnight stop, we climbed over 4000 ft in wet and windy conditions. It included ascending Winnats Pass which is a brutally steep hill. The steak and ale pie and a couple of pints of Titanic Plum Porter were just reward that night!

On the second day we rode 60 miles through the beautiful Derbyshire Dales to St. George's Park near Burton on Trent. There were some stunning views and I was delighted to hear the haunting sounds of curlews on the moors. Climbing out of Matlock up Bank Road with an average gradient of 11% was nearly the end of me but I made it – just!



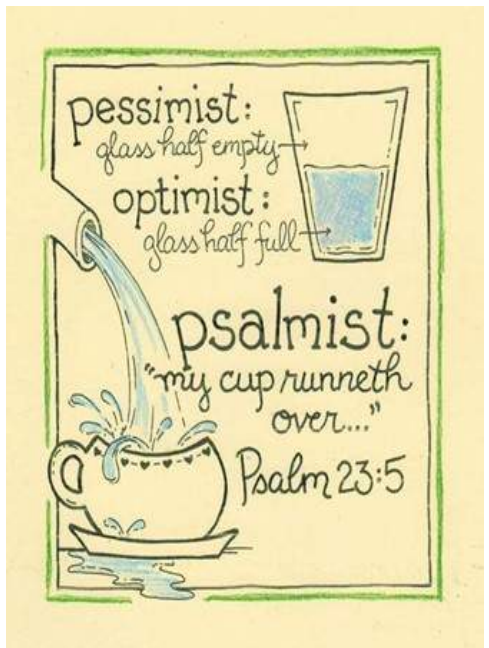
Staying at the Hilton at St. George's Park National Football Centre was certainly a highlight and a privilege as its facilities are second to none. How I enjoyed the swimming pool, sauna and steam room after two long days in the saddle! The food too is excellent and I thoroughly recommend it.

Day 3 saw us cycle another 60 miles back to The Hawthorns, West Bromwich and we actually had some sun in the morning before torrential rain descended near Lichfield. Our three groups met up for the last two miles so we could cycle in convoy to the ground, all wearing our smart new cycling tops. To my delight we were awarded medals presented by Shilen Patel, the WBA chairman and in the evening invited to parade around the pitch at half-time during the Albion v Rotherham match to the applause of the fans. A really special, poignant moment for me. The greatest joy was meeting 24 other guys who welcomed me into the group so warmly and encouraged me all the way – a real band of brothers! Thank you again for making this epic ride so worthwhile – it's much appreciated.

Bob Macvie



Easter flowers



This poster is above the PRAYER BOX found in the Welcome Area to the right of the door to the Church. It can be used by anyone coming to Church or the Parish Centre who might need prayer.

THE PRAYER BOX

Concerned for someone?

Prayer through difficult times

Have others to pray when you don't know how

Give thanks for a blessing received

Write your prayer on a prayer request slip and post it into the prayer box.

Prayers can be as simple or as detailed as you like. Prayers placed in the Prayer Box in the welcome area are kept in confidence and will be prayed over for 4 weeks every Sunday morning after the 10am service

THE LISTENING AND PRAYER TEAM



Holy Week 2024

What an amazing Holy Week that was for all of us who journeyed from The Bell on Palm Sunday through to the joyous celebrations of Easter Day! My personal thanks, and I'm sure of others too, go to Rev. Craig and his talented team for their imaginative efforts leading services which carried us through the drama of that fateful week. It felt like an emotional rollercoaster, experiencing both the highs and the lows in an uncanny way. And how rewarding that such a good number of people travelled the same path each night of the week.

On Monday in subdued lighting we walked the Stations of the Cross inside St. Andrew's as Craig relayed to us accounts from the Gospels and Walking the Way of the Cross by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell reflecting the thoughts of those closely involved with Jesus. We left in silence, touched and moved by what we'd heard and felt.

On Tuesday Rev. Sarah led us in a Celtic service with the mesmerising sounds of Taize music capturing the mood perfectly. Again we left in silence which had the effect of prolonging the sense of apprehension we were feeling as the week progressed.

The Light and Shadows service on Wednesday began in lightness but ended with candles being extinguished as darkness enveloped the church – Tenebrae (Latin for darkness) - and our world as Jesus's trial began.

On Maundy Thursday we felt the tensions that surrounded Jesus' last supper knowing, as he did, that all was coming to a head and there was no way out. Watching Rev. Craig in bare feet washing the feet of ten members of the congregation encapsulated the vulnerability of Jesus and His desire to serve

others. “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13: 15) As the lights went out and we were plunged into darkness the altar and sanctuary were completely stripped. It was so poignant that I was left with a feeling of emptiness and loneliness as if the light of Christ had deserted me too.

The Good Friday service revolved around “Words from the Cross” uttered by Jesus as He suffered the pain and humiliation of a public execution. The reflections by Reverends Sarah, Mary and Nicki were so moving and heartfelt that I was moved to tears at one point. The choir performed quite magnificently and enhanced the spoken words. Lasting nearly 90 minutes it was one of those services you don’t want to end!

On Saturday evening at 8.00pm we came together again, starting outside for The lighting of the Easter Candle and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. We listened to how God had saved his people through the ages, eventually sending Jesus his Son to be our Saviour and then to Rev. Paul as he sang the extremely demanding Exultet so beautifully. Finally we gathered around the font, renewing the promises made at our baptisms, affirming our allegiance to Christ and renouncing all that is evil.

And so to Easter Day! There was an air of excitement and expectation in the air of St. Andrew’s unlike any other Sunday of the year. At last we could celebrate that Christ was Risen – Alleluia, He is Risen indeed! And how we sang with exuberance and joy, smiles all round. The atmosphere in church was just electric. It was a triumphant service to round off a quite amazing week. Once again, my thanks to Rev. Craig, to all who contributed in any way and to all who attended.

Bob Macvie



JOIN US FOR...

CHOCOLATE BINGO

All Prizes on a chocolate theme!

FRIDAY
31ST MAY
2024
7PM

Tickets

Adults £10, under 16s £2.50

To include:
Bingo Card
Chocolate Counters
Hot dog
Chocolate Dessert

**Raising funds for St. Andrew's
Church Shottery.**



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH SHOTTERY PARISH CENTRE

Chocolate Raffle, drinks and
additional bingo cards
available to buy on the night!

Tickets - St Andrew's Church Shottery coffee mornings, after 10am
Sunday morning service or by ringing 07921 774404.
Pre-booking essential.



**Please note: Fair Trade Change of schedule for May:
To avoid clashing with the AGM the Fair Trade stall
will be held on 12th May after the 10am Eucharist.**

This is intended to be a very short and succinct article. I have jettisoned my normal bravado and levity in favour of a very direct and SERIOUS plea.

I make no apology for my inary Fair Trade result 'WE' as in the St achieved last month. momentous and grati-serious thought about



what I called the extraor-dwe (accent very much upon Andrew's family "WE") But whilst exhilarating, fying, it subjected me to the future of Fair Trade.

Like so many amongst the broad St Andrews family I am a family man. I have 3 "aging" children, (sorry kids!!), 8 grandchildren and to date, 7 great grandsons (oh for a great grand-daughter) and I really want to do everything I can to inspire the younger generation. It is for that reason that I am so easily persuaded to support Caroline Penn with her ambitions.

Most importantly, I have been authorised to encourage infancy in our community by none other than my erstwhile inspiration Christine Abercrombie who commanded (Yes "commanded"!!) me to apply a fund she left within my scrutiny in a futuristic way.

What's your point I hear you demanding? Fair trade needs supplementary help to remain purposeful. It is currently vulnerable to my own obsession and that is not good for any business. Ask Elon Musk or Mark Zuckerberg! Second thoughts, don't! They don't recognise how susceptible they are. Take a leaf out of Richard Branson's book and surround yourself with competent lieutenants and yet I am one of the biggest critics of Virgin Media. (sorry Clodagh, I do hear you, that's another story!!)

I am looking for someone to work alongside me to secure the long term future for Fair Trade at St Andrew's and I would love for that to be someone of my grandchildren's generation i.e. 18-30. I will not repel older applicants and the perfect scenario would actually be "1 and 1" but finding 1 only will be a challenge.

I would love for it to be a young person who can gain some benefit from a semi commercial exercise and working alongside a brilliant mentor (I am referring to Hilary Schmidt Hansen not me!!). It is 24 years since I was involved in a real commercial enterprise and out of date with modern merchandising techniques and so prepared to acquiesce to a modern marketing plan and thereby continue my daily schooling.

So, can you please interrogate your family and friendship circumstances in pursuit of a worthy candidate or 2? Perhaps the energy capsules residing within the younger element of St Andrew's congregation can identify someone who could benefit from a unique opportunity to supplement their CV.

(Apologies again Clodagh. I started with "This is intended to be a very short and succinct article". You can't trust yours truly can you?!!)

Rodney Grinnell



**Another of
our Easter
Floral
Arrangements.**



HOLY SPIRIT unconfined.

There are both strengths and weaknesses in adherence to the Christian calendar. The strengths come from the fact that the calendar—with its annual round of feast and fasts—present each doctrine of faith for consideration, and tends to produce a balanced devotional diet.

The weaknesses all spring from a disease that often besets the tidy mind—the disease that causes a person to lose the power of seeing a whole picture because the parts are categorized and stereotyped.

This month's festival is a case in point, Whit-Sunday, or Pentecost, is the day on which the Christian Church celebrates the manifest possession of the Apostles by the Holy Spirit.

This resulted in impassioned preaching, “speaking with tongues” and the appearance of a new phenomenon in the religious world—a missionary church that had solved the dual problem of witnessing fearlessly to unbelievers and enfolding the converts in a loving fellowship.

Not unnaturally, the Church has made Whit-Sunday the day of special honour to the Holy Spirit, in Whose power such wonders were done. But, if the matter stops there—one day a year to praise the Holy Spirit—the Church has done violence to its own declared doctrine of God.

For many years now discerning theologians have known that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the Cinderella of all the doctrines of the Church. Their anxiety about this can be well understood, for the Holy Spirit is God in action—and God not in action is an unthinkable notion.

It is, therefore, vitally necessary for Christians to guard against the mistake of separating their consideration of the Holy Spirit in the Church from other aspects of God's activity and pigeon-holing it for a mere once-a-year jubilation.

After all, without the Holy Spirit there would be neither the Church nor converts to come from outside the Church.

Any rejoicing about the Holy Spirit should spring from the following consideration—that there is no moment at which God ceases to be active, and no part of life from which He is absent, and therefore nothing in time or space from which the Holy Spirit should be removed.

It is natural, and to that extent right, for the Church to celebrate the more “spiritual” manifestations of the Spirit’s presence. But there is an equally strong case for paying respect to His work in the ongoing processes of Nature and the creative impulses of the arts.

To stress such a point and to wish for it to be a matter of daily (and not merely annual) praise, is not to fall into the error of pantheism.

Many Christians would be happier in the faith and have a better understanding of it, if they could realise that the world is vastly more than what is worldly, and that God’s activity is not by any means confined to officially consecrated places and occasions.

Jesse Proctor (The Ven)



I am very excited to share that I will be one of the VOCES8 Scholars for 2024-25. If you have never heard of VOCES8, and love vocal music, I highly recommend checking out their YouTube channel and recordings. They are a very successful and versatile group of singers, who perform vocal arrangements of everything from medieval music to pop songs. The scholarship itself- as far as I know at this point- will include attending several courses over the year, led by

Barnaby, the group’s artistic director and alto, and includes a studio recording and video for their channel. There may be other opportunities that come up over the course of the year, but they vary from year to year. This is such an incredible opportunity for an early-career singer, such as myself, and I’m so excited to get started! Thank you for all your support over the years which has enabled me to be able to pursue singing! *Lily Robson*



THE 'DIVINE FOOT' IN THE DOOR.

"The Bible discusses the beginning, the end, our purpose and our destiny. I have discovered that the Bible is a unified whole, the product of engineered design by a perfect Creator. The Bible, down to the smallest letter and part of a letter (Matthew 5:18) is there for our learning, discovery and amazement. Truly,

our God is an awesome God".

The words of a nuclear engineer / scientist - Dr. Jonathan Corrado - who has degrees in science, engineering and also theology and just one of a number of scientists who have put "their heads above the parapet" in disavowing the current acceptance of atheist dogma based on Charles Darwin's theory of accidental and mindless evolution, and upholding the biblical teachings of origins. Dr Corrado, like many others, have now realised from their observations and research that there must be an intelligent Creator.

The 1980's book "Evolution - A Theory in Crisis" written by scientist Michael Denton possibly "kicked the modern ball" into play and since then many scientists have "pinned their colours to the mast" speaking and writing against the almost uncritical acceptance of the dogmatic claims, despite the known impossibilities, of atheistic evolutionary theory as presented today.

A very revealing light on the atheistic approach to science investigation was seen in an infamous remark by Richard Lewontin, an evolutionary biologist who died in 2021, who said that atheistic scientists make that choice in spite of the apparent patent absurdities of some of its constructs. This is because they have a prior commitment to materialism. For atheistic scientists materialism is absolute because they cannot allow a 'divine foot' in the door. This reveals that despite whatever evidence there is to the contrary, the chosen atheistic philosophical mindset guides their approach and thoughts regardless.

I often wonder how Richard Lewontin dealt with the situation when British mathematical physicist Sir Roger Penrose announced that the odds against an accidental 'big-bang' beginning of life, as currently proposed and taught in today's world of science, were so vast (one in $10/10/123$ - a number so immense that it is said to have more zeros than the total number of

particles in the entire universe !) which, of course, makes the theory of origins as currently taught completely impossible. But it is still taught because the only other option is the 'divine foot in the door' !

Why is this situation so important ? Because one reason (probably the main reason) is that so many people in today's world have now rejected God and the Christian gospel because they have been told that there is no God, that the whole Universe is here by accident and life really has no real purpose beyond ourselves. The mantra that evolution is 'scientific fact' has blinded so many people.

Johannes Kepler, a 16th/17th devout Christian scientist, said that scientists - as humans - "can think God's thoughts after Him". As more scientists admit to the wonder of God's creation, and speak out in defence of it, may the Churches find the will to work harder to get the "divine foot" through the door to where it belongs and then, perhaps, western Christianity and The Church will cease to be in decline.

And only then, I believe, will the darkness and evil of today be overcome and light and goodness return humanity to the time when God viewed His creation, *and saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*" (Genesis 1:31).

Alan Minchin



Life by the River in Welford

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.
This was sent to me by a friend to help my thoughts during the floods

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan Ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the boat.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you are stressed, float a while.
10. No matter the storm, you are with God, there's always a rainbow.

After All..

we have 2 swans just started nesting, 2 Canada Geese nesting right now (they had better hurry or they will miss the boat) Moorhens, loads of Dogs and a few cats and my favourite Jemima puddle goose...

So I am just off to B&Q to buy the wood...

After so much rain since the New Year we were evacuated 4 times, twice when the whole site was closed and Charlecote Pheasant was our home for 4 days, then the second time I went to my friends in Coventry, the 3rd and 4 time I went to the Blue Boar 2 miles up the road. I had a lovely big room with a big -big bed I called it the Bridal Suite but waited up all night but the Bridegroom never turned up!!!

We seem to be on flood alert most weeks but at the moment it seems okay, you may wonder how I cope with the River swirling around me, but at the beginning of the year I did a course "Retreat Into Daily Life" where you talk each week to a spiritual companion and she encouraged me to spend more time with God in silence and to use the River as my main focus as it changes so much just like our lives. It's not easy at first but gradually I feel it is working

and has become a daily routine and journaling my thoughts. I still do get anxious but I have to put my faith in God and hand it all over to Him.

Let me introduce you to Jemima Puddle goose she has a broken wing so cannot fly, since my lovely dog Poppy died I have changed from buying Dog food to buying Swan and goose food, she comes round most days at first it was a loud squawk just as I was getting out of the car so I had to give her a telling off - I said if you keep coming up like that then it will be no food for you - well she did take notice of me and it's now a gentle squeak as if to say Hi I am here get the food out, the Canada Geese are very angry at her all of the time and attack her, but this week the lovely swan who have the Rule of the River came round and warned the goose off.

There have been 12 goslings born to one little duck family, but nature as it is she has only 1 left so let's hope she keeps that little one, each year we have abundance of water Lillies which disappear after a few months to the bottom of the River but in the last few days they will cover the water as the seasons come round.

Just to end on a snail note the Church in Welford St Peter's has a post box on the wall around the Church I posted a card there and did wonder if my friend would ever receive it, but on Facebook Book this morning our postman posted a picture of a letter that had been eaten by snails..... I am pleased to say my friend received the card—lessons . I won't be feeding the snails again.

As we move forward into the summer months let us remember that God is present in all situations and he is ready to carry you only if you take his hand.

Every Blessing

Jane Smith.



Jemima with broken wing.



A Date for your Diary!



Many of you will remember in
October 2022
a wonderful evening with the
singer

Jonathan Veira.

He is returning to
St. Andrew's Church, Shottery
on

Saturday, September 14th, 2024
for an evening of music and fun
and laughter

as Jonathan shares the stories of his life
on the stage and his Christian faith.

Charity of the Month

Our May charity will be CHRISTIAN AID. The collection will be taken on 12th May.

Everyone is equal in the sight of God

For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference.

Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

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

We believe in life before death

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

We're part of a global movement for change

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

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

◆ We push our political leaders to tackle climate change and tax dodging – which hit the poorest the hardest – and for our society to welcome those who have been forced to flee their homes overseas.

◆ We aim to end poverty and injustice worldwide. This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

This is just some of the work we do. There is so much more,. We need your support to continue with this invaluable work. Please give generously.



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.





Coventry Cathedral—before and now!



Life Ways Carers Café - a Lifeline for Carers

- Do you care for a loved one or friend at home?
- Would you like to come to a friendly group of carers for support, events, activities and refreshments.,
- Meet with people in a similar situation every 1st Thursday afternoon in the month: 2–4 pm.
- Refresh and rejuvenate—"Its a life-line for me. I love it, it really helps break the loneliness".

Contact Nicola Harvey
0786282663 or Beverley
Peachey 07799841193



Another of our glorious Easter arrangements.



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Stratford-upon-Avon care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,
call: 01789 444 369 or
visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk

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or

Telephone 01789 269598

Diary of a cross in the pocket.

**Reminder to check out our Facebook
page and our website
(weekdays) short
meditations by
Rev. Joan Whyman.**



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Orion Johnson 550825 orionj@hotmail.co.uk

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

Sally Sleath 293381 Email: parishoffice@saintandrewsshottery.org

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

Bible Group: Nick & Alex Cutler - nickcutler59@gmail.com

Book Group: Revd. Craig Grocock (as above)

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

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

Choir: Director of Music: Rosemary Robson—296134 or

therobsonfamily@hotmail.com **Choir Conductor:** Larry Robson (as above)

Church Flowers: Nic Carree. 294121. niccarree@gmail.com. 07581408063

Gift Aid Secretary: Anne Challis. challis.stratford@talktalk.net

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

Listening and Prayer Team: Susie Fletcher –298738

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

Organist: Matt Penn

Parish Centre bookings: Parish Office

Parish Safeguarding: David Millington 269598 or dmillington3@hotmail.com
and Liz Talbot: liztalbot3@gmail.com