



'A Stratton Centenary' a linocut print by Jonathan Howlett

*Dear Friends,*

It hardly seems possible that six months have gone by since my last letter, however that is the nature of time and along with the tide, it waits for no man.

Since last I wrote many things have happened. I have thrown away my Sat. Nav. as it is completely useless and more of an hindrance than a help. Being told you have arrived at your destination in the middle of nowhere is not a great help. Many of the local residents and some visitors didn't have the same problem when finding "Long Paddock" in Barnfield Park, the home of Bill and Sue Kneebone, where both the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and St. Andrew's Summer Fete were held.

Both occasions were blessed by large crowds and great weather (the sun does shine sometimes). There were stalls and attractions of every variety, where you could buy cakes and scones, books and bric-a-brac, not to mention pop, crisps and beer. The tugs of war over the river were a sight to behold, great competition, but more importantly great fun. The Diamond Jubilee and Church Fete were great community celebrations enjoyed by all.

During my time here I have been privileged to be part of a number of weddings, baptisms and funerals. Many of the visitors to the church on these occasions make the comment that this is "*a beautiful Church*" and "*how well cared for it is*". It is a "beautiful church" and it is "very well cared for" but it does come at a cost. Recently we have had the roof repaired and at the moment the south wall is being re-pointed. This is not to forget the daily tasks like unblocking drains to avoid flooding and cutting the grass to maintain a beautiful churchyard. It all takes time effort and money.

The work of the Friends of St. Andrew's is vital in helping to maintain the church and it would be difficult to imagine how many of these tasks would be done without your help. So may

I thank you for your previous help and also ask for your continued support in enabling St. Andrew's Church not only to be a "beautiful church" but also a beacon of Christianity in this place.

Yours in Christ's Service

*David*

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## FABRIC REPORT

My last report mentioned work needed at the recommendation of the church Architect in the 2011 Quinquennial report.

I have been very pleased to have some FoStA members volunteer to help the Fabric Committee with these tasks and as a result we have had some busy days getting the church paths back to reasonable appearance and safety. A surprising amount of earth, weed and leaf debris was extracted from between slates and cobbles and subsequent weed killer and regular sweeping is attempting to prevent deterioration again.

The rather sad looking tree pictured in the Spring newsletter has sprouted well as is shown here.



Additionally inside the church some floor tiles have been stabilised, woodworm areas treated high and low, annual cleaning of the tower steps completed and high cobwebs removed.

Our ancient doors have been treated with preservative and the "new" Vestry, now 13 years old is to have its woodwork oiled.

Many thanks to all the FoStA folk involved. More jobs are pending so any additional volunteers will be much appreciated.

Considerable expense has been saved by careful work at the top of the Tower. The merlons have been stabilised with new mortar where needed and the lead roof augmented with tar patches where any leakage may occur. Tell tales that had been regularly observed after the storms 20-30 years ago are now no longer required.

FoStA made grants for the merlon work and some repairs to the Nave roof in early April.

During August the South wall mortar, from the Tower to the Priest's door from the ground to the window sill level, has been removed and replaced with the correct lime mortar. This has been done by the firm Hiax from Bideford and the FoStA committee agreed to make a grant for the cost.



*The before and after pictures of the south wall*

Our largest Union Flag has been flown a lot this year, for the Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics, and as a result it is looking rather tatty! We have a smaller one that is also frayed so we are collecting donations to replace them, and when money becomes available, we will purchase one suitable for all occasions. Specific donations for the flag will be very welcome.

The third printing of the Survey of Monuments and Burials in the Churchyard has just been done and each edition has additions from new information as it becomes available. It is a source of fascinating eulogies apart from a record of past Stratton residents.

Our ancient Festival Frontal and Superfrontal is in need of expert repair and through the Diocesan Advisory Committee a Cornish

lady has agreed with the PCC and DAC to work on it this autumn. Her work is being done largely for love with FoStA agreeing to pay her expenses.

*Dr Ian Barker, Churchwarden.*

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## ***Val Barker writes:***

We are very fortunate in that we now have, as Ian has reported, a small band of Friends who are helping in practical ways and their efforts are much appreciated. There is the builder who has joined the Fabric Committee and has subsequently undertaken several repair jobs in the church and churchyard; the retired builder who routinely helps maintain the churchyard paths and several other folk we are able to call upon when the going gets tough! Where would we be without our amazing volunteers?

I once heard an Archdeacon say, *"Our Lord didn't ask for volunteers but just simply said You, You and You"*. Perhaps so, but doesn't it lift your heart when folk just step forward without being pressured and kindly help for the sheer joy of giving that service.

Stratton has had a very busy year so far with the Jubilee celebrations run under the umbrella of St Andrew's Church. The fundraising by the Organising Group exceeded all expectations and they were able to run the event free from all charges.

All Stratton and Bude primary aged school children were given a free commemoration mug, there was a children's painting competition, and a commemorative tree was planted in Rattenbury Gardens followed by a fun event in Long Paddock in Howard Lane all of which was preceded by a Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's.

This happy community event was quickly followed by yet another - the Summer Fete. Held on June 30<sup>th</sup> it followed the pattern of



previous years. We were fortunate with the weather – a real blessing considering it has been the wettest Summer for 100 years!

We now, as I write this report, eagerly anticipate the coming Flower Festival. It is to be held at the end of September to coincide with the Harvest Thanksgiving. This will be a departure from the norm as for many years now the annual festival has been over the late Spring Bank Holiday.

But, the theme last year was all about “Ringing the Changes” so the alternative timing is not all that surprising perhaps. We are all delighted to welcome Lyzette Bevan as co-ordinator: a retired florist of some merit who has actually exhibited at Chelsea and who is making it all great fun and is skilled at sharing her knowledge and expertise. The theme this year, *‘A Moment to Give Thanks’*, promises to be a veritable feast for the senses.

The next big event for the church and the community will be at St Andrew’s tide: the Patronal Festival Mass at 7.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, with the Gift Day, St Andrew’s Fayre and the Ringing Festival on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 10am.

All the arrangements will be posted on the FoStA website and ‘A Church Near You’ so do keep the events in mind as we would be very pleased to see some of you.

The next fundraising event for FoStA is well into the planning stage and promises to be an amazing event. All news as soon as. So much to look forward to ...

It just remains for me, on behalf of everyone at St. Andrew’s, to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you for all you do and for all you will do.



Stratton Square  
From an original by  
Patricia Greenwell.



# A STRATTON WEDDING.

Georgina Lashbrook and Zenon Jakubiak

Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2012



Even though Georgina lived in Leeds, she was always going to be married in Stratton, even if it meant bringing a lot of people down the long road from the North. Her grand-parents were married in St Andrews Church in 1936, I grew up here and, as a lad, sang in the choir. Georgie was baptised here. We are old Strattonians and nowhere else would do.

We all decided on a Do-It-Yourself wedding. The bride's dress from E-Bay, perfect with a little alteration, flowers bought, mainly, at the supermarket and arranged by the bride's Mum and her friend Maria and a reception at the Community Hall with outside caterers coming from Bodmin.

From her experience as a singer, the bride was able to call in favours from her professional friends: Simon to play piano in church, Sarah to sing and Ceri, who did Georgie's last album cover, to take the photos. My wife, Joan, spent weeks making bunting and decorations, I did a 'family weddings through the ages' photo display and Georgie made most everything else, from invitations to activity bags for the children. Graeme from Wooda lent us tables, my old mate Mervyn rolled up with his trailer and

Phil let us use his Stratside car park. Friends and family spent Friday getting the hall ready and, unbelievably, rolled out of bed, with thick heads, to clean up on Sunday morning.

The colour throughout was red and white, (a slight insult to a Spurs fan like me but I had to live with it.) There were four Best Men (a latest trend apparently) five Bridesmaids and two Flower girls. The theme was 40/50's complete with a vintage Alvis car and a statue of Elvis.

The groom's dad is a priest in the Ukrainian Church, so we wondered what he would think of our ceremony. There was no need to worry; Fr. David Barnes, ably assisted by Jane Bradbury, was on top form. Full of enthusiasm, he quietly and light-heartedly put everyone at ease and the service was a delight. There were readings from Georgie's sister Rachel and her friend Annabelle and contemporary live music as well as traditional hymns. Ablaze with colour and with the sun shining in through its stained glass windows, St Andrew's church was majestic! David's entertaining comparison between making a good Yorkshire pudding and a good marriage went down well with our new Yorkshire relations and the groom's parents were suitably impressed.



The sun shone on the 'happy couple' as we threw confetti and the sound of the bells, ringing out across the valley, brought back emotional memories to me of when I used to lie in bed in our Bowden cottage, as a small child, listening to them. The rain came just as we finished taking the photos so there was a mad dash to the Tree Inn for canapés and drinks. Some of the ladies struggled across the wet cobbles in their very high-heeled shoes but there were plenty of umbrellas to protect their hair-dos and it was the only shower that day. The Tree Inn provided excellent food and service, what a shame there were just too many guests to have the reception there. We moved down to the Hall, later, for the main meal, toasts and speeches and more people came



during the evening to enjoy various pasties and wedding cake and to listen to a first class Rock and Roll band called the Bobcats.

A bridal bouquet was placed on the Grandparents' grave where they both rest peacefully near the bronze harpist memorial. I imagined, as the bells echoed around the churchyard and vibrated the steel strings of the harp, Granny saying, "Well Father, didn't the maid look boodiful."

*T.Lashbrook. (The Bride's Father and a FoStA Founder Member)*



# Membership News and Comment

## **Addresses**

Please remember to inform the membership secretary if you have a change of postal address or e-mail. Keeping in touch is really important to us.

## **Standing Orders**

Even more of you are now paying by Standing Order – the majority in fact – and that is a great help as it saves on administration costs but be assured that we are quite happy to continue with all the other means of payment if that is more convenient to you.

## **Website - [www.fosta.org.uk](http://www.fosta.org.uk)**

We know from comments made that many of you routinely visit our web site. It's four years since FoStA started so the web site has grown as FoStA's activity increased. We try to ensure that the web site is easy to use, but there is also the need to modify the structure to accommodate the additional information.

You may notice a few changes over the coming months but hopefully it will remain user friendly. The plan is to focus on current news and projects, but we aim create an archive to include details of past events. So be prepared to see some differences to the layout.

Do remember though to use the links to external sites such as the Hawker Society, and particularly the Church Near You web site

which will have up to date information about services at St Andrew's.

If you have ideas or suggestions about how best to develop the web site, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

## **Donations**

Special thanks are due to those who have very kindly made donations this year or who have enhanced their membership subscriptions. It is appreciated.

## **New Members**

There is a need to keep adding new members to FoStA to continue our steady growth.

If every member reading this could encourage one other person to join it would be amazing. Why not download the information and application form from the website and pass it on to a friend or family member or even, like someone has done recently, buy a membership for someone as a gift?

## **Contributors**

I am genuinely grateful to those who fundraise; those who help find new members; those who write articles for the newsletter; our volunteers and the committee who are forever supportive and especially to all our membership who have made it all possible.

## **OBITUARIES R.I.P.**

**Trevor Hingston.** It is with sadness that I report the death of Trevor whose funeral was held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. As Trevor's daughter said in a letter afterwards, "It was a very special service at St Andrew's". Our condolences and prayers are offered to Pat and all the family. Trevor was one of FoStA's early members and his association with St Andrew's goes back quite a way including many years of helping with the Fete.

**Terence William Arthur Barnard.** Just before going into print with this edition of the newsletter we have heard of the sudden and untimely death of another of our members. Terry or Ter, as he was fondly known to his family and friends, died on 11th September 2012. He will be sadly missed. We offer our condolences, prayers and love to his wife Phyllis and all the family.

VB

*Members are frequently invited to submit articles for inclusion in the Newsletter and we are grateful to Mrs Ruth Thomas for this interesting piece of social history.*

*Ruth is the daughter of the Revd Arthur Charles Williams who was Vicar of Stratton from 1932 until 1945. Father Williams is still fondly remembered by some of our older church members.*

## A Childhood in Stratton

My father was appointed vicar of Stratton in June 1932. I was 2 years old. We moved into the modern vicarage. It had metal window frames which leaked when it rained. Towels were placed along all the window sills. There was a Cornish range which had to be lit for hot water. Cooking was done on an oil stove. Gas was brought up to the house just before the war.

I have only a few memories of the early years. My mother's health was bad until she had an operation in 1938. People were kind in looking after me. I remember going to the Durstan family and playing tiddly winks on the floor of the sitting room of the Retreat House, now the Stratton Gardens Hotel.



*The Retreat House – as it was around 1933*

About this time the church was treated for death watch beetle. The name fascinated me as a child. One day I went with my father to

Keat's shop in Bude to buy a small iron bed. He had been looking after a young man who was dying and lying on packing cases in the kitchen. There were so many cockroaches that he had to pull his cassock over his shoulders while he sat with the young man at night.

As a young man my father had fought in the First World War and been taken prisoner. He joined the Territorial Army in 1938. In August 1939 he was doing a summer holiday duty at the English church in Spa in Belgium. I went with him to deliver notices to the hotels. At one hotel there were so many people. I learnt that they were Jews who had managed to get out of Germany. I wonder how many survived. We had to leave Belgium early and arrived back in Stratton just as war was declared. My father was called up immediately and went off to Bristol as an army chaplain.

Cecil Lawson the vicar of Poundstock came to live with us. He looked after the two parishes. We had two nurses billeted in the Vicarage and Miss Lidster who had been the housekeeper to the Church Training College in Truro. She had dementia and remained with us until we moved to Penzance. We had blackouts made with wooden frames covered with roofing felt. One day she took them all down and the Vicarage was a blaze of light much to the disgust of the air raid warden.

I had been a boarder at a school in Bude since I was six. My mother went back to teaching at the school. Bude was a safe place so there were many evacuees. I was friendly with two girls whose Jewish parents were in Rotterdam. They had to bicycle to school each day from Prustacott. There were children from the Channel Islands and several who had parents who were prisoners of the Japanese. Later in the war there was a American camp near the school. I remember the morning that they left. Lorry after lorry went by. I wonder how many of them were killed on Omaha Beach.

My great friend was Pat Harvey. We still telephone each other frequently. Her parents ran the White House (the old vicarage) as a small hotel. It was used as a nursing home at the beginning of the war, but this did not last long. We had bicycles and we went in and out to Bude and all around the countryside. We were on the beach at Northcott Mouth when the plane towing the flag for shooting

practice plunged into the sea. The young pilot is buried in Stratton Churchyard. We used to hear the planes going over at night to bomb Plymouth.

There was sadness and worry for many people, but there was great kindness. When a pig was killed a bit of pork would arrive at the Vicarage. One of my tasks was to collect a pat of butter from the Doctor and deliver to an old woman who was bedridden with arthritis. Time was spent “making do”. We made skirts by cutting off the tops of dresses; caps to go on the back of your heads from old felt hats. Hats were always worn in church. Cakes were made with dried egg and paraffin oil. Pat and I used to help with harvest at Slugget’s Farm in Diddies. Miss Slugget tried to teach me to milk without much success.

My father was invalided out of the army in 1944. That summer we had three cousins evacuated when the flying bombs were attacking London. There was a lot of snow in January 1945 and many people went tobogganing in a field off the road to Bideford. At this time my father was appointed as vicar of St Mary’s, Penzance. I was heartbroken to leave Stratton which I still think of as home. There was a presentation to my parents and I was given a “Wireless”. This was a treasured possession; it came with me all the time I was nursing and I was still using it after I was married and had three children.

*Editor’s comment. What needs to be added to Ruth’s account is that after his move to Penzance, Revd Williams became the Venerable Archdeacon of Bodmin. One of his duties brought him back to St Andrew’s in 1961 for the dedication of the restored oak pews. The work took nearly two years and cost over £2000; at today’s prices, that would be over £36,000!*



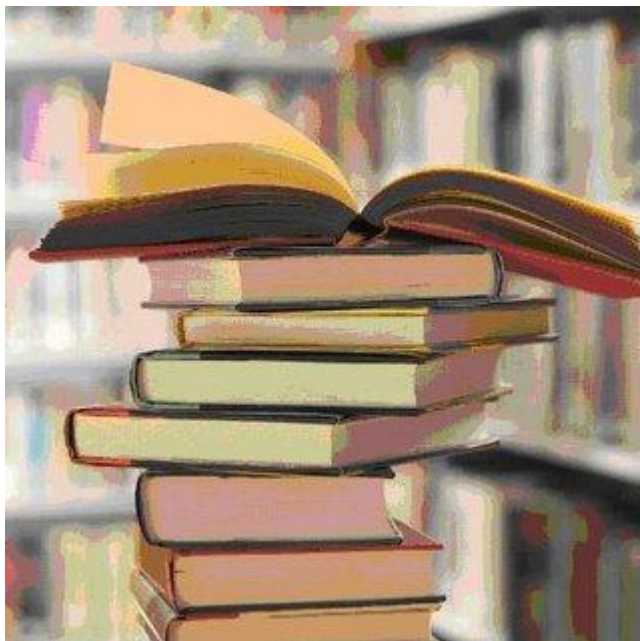
# BookFest 2013

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

10 am to 5 pm.

After the phenomenal success of our event in March, we can genuinely declare that BookFest 2013 will be back due to **popular** demand. Our first visitor at BookFest 2012 arrived from Boscastle at 8.30am, at least an hour and a half before opening time, and it quickly became apparent that people had embraced the point that this was so much more than merely a 'book sale' with its image of dog-eared and tattered paperbacks in a draughty Parish hall.

Capitalising on our fundamental and best resource, namely St Andrew's, we used our renowned 'style and panache' to create a literary "experience", which had additional elements beyond selling books and which would hopefully live up to its billing – albeit somewhat tongue-in-cheek – as North Cornwall's largest book event !





Some of the most interesting and amusing comments concerned the re-creation of a 1950's Sitting Room with its sofa/standard lamp/valve radio. An homage to the Diamond Jubilee, it was universally loved by all age groups. So many people commented on the enjoyment of sitting and chatting informally, surrounded by books to browse. Children thought it was fun and significantly everyone felt very 'at home', despite being in a church.

Next year we intend to summon up the spirit of the 1960's so dig out your mini skirt, your Beatles records and dust off your copy of Lady Chatterley's Lover!

We are hoping to have displays featuring our famous Burne-Jones window, and on Stratton in the Civil War, as next year will be the 370th anniversary of that important battle.

We intend to have an area devoted to Genealogy/Family History, which will show you how to research your family tree without recourse to expensive on-line companies, and to have a professional book appraiser available to give you advice about those family heirloom volumes. And there will be a chance to meet our Guest of Honour ...

Our 'Which Book' interactive element will continue. It was conceived as a means for people who are often unsung heroes in St Andrew's, to have a say in the event and, perhaps for the first time, to have the opportunity to engage in some creative writing. It garnered gloriously varied contributions and stirred up many previously forgotten but welcome memories. Poetry emerged as the overwhelming influence and there may be an opportunity to ferment those creative juices in an open to all Poetry competition.

There will of course be our delicious food to enjoy and books to be bought or brought or both. We will be honouring our commitment to provide free books for children where we can. If you have any books, vinyl/CDs, vintage magazines or memories that you would care to donate, please contact us. We will be actively sourcing material after Christmas. Rest assured, we never put a healthy book down; we can always rehome your trusted friends!

If you are Christmas Gift giving, please remember that a book can change someone's life for ever, socks and 'smellies' cannot.

On a sad note, it was with great regret that we learnt of the untimely death of Maeve Binchy last month. Maeve was a much loved, exuberant and caring woman, whose numerous novels

have given great pleasure to her many admirers and whose generosity of time and spirit was legendary.

Maeve supported our many endeavours with donations of signed copies of her work and with kind wishes written in her bold and hasty script. We mourn her passing, with grateful thanks for her thoughts for our work at St Andrew's, and our prayers go out to her husband Gordon.

*Nicola Nartowski.*



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