



St Andrew's Church, Stratton

Cover photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP

Dear Friends,

No doubt you have all been wondering why the Newsletter is late this time so I will explain. Your Editor made a conscious decision to hold production so as to be able to tell you about our new Priest in Charge and to give you the news that there is completion to the changes at the back of the church. One has come to fruition the other has not quite, yet, but will be very soon.

In July the Bishop of Truro, the Rt. Rev'd Philip Mountstephen, was pleased to announce that the Rev'd Teresa Folland, at the time assistant curate in the parish of Launceston, was to be Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Stratton, Launcells, Poughill, Kilkhampton and Morwenstow. Her Licensing and Installation took place on the evening of 8th October, at St James the Great Church, Kilkhampton. This inauguration to a new ministry was conducted by Bishop Philip. It was a truly wonderful occasion, uplifting and full of joy and promise.

So, we begin a new chapter with the first female priest on our 'Vicars of Stratton' board that is on the wall in the Sanctuary of the Church. On a personal note – I was baptised at St Andrew's in 1944 and this will be the tenth Priest we have had during my lifetime. When Teresa tolled the bell at her installation - in true Cornish tradition I could almost hear everyone counting - it rang out clearly 10 times.

Her first service as celebrant and preacher in our group of churches was on Sunday 13th October and took place here, at St Andrew's. She stayed afterwards and chatted with everyone beginning in a very positive way to get to know her flock - her opening question being, "What is it that you treasure most about your church?"



The Revd Teresa Folland

after taking her first service
at St Andrew's.

As time goes by and Teresa gets more settled I'm sure you will all get to know her as I hope she will write a regular letter in this publication. We have much to look forward to and we are all delighted to have her with us.

Unfortunately we are rather behind schedule with the changes at the back of the church due to unforeseen circumstances and illness but the carpenter has now got the kitchen units installed and the appliances are on the way. Despite the fact that it has all taken rather a long time (or so it seems) we are really appreciating the space and the convenience as we experienced during our celebrations at the end of May, after a recent funeral of a longstanding church member and after Sunday services.

Earlier this year a working party was arranged to do some work in the Churchyard – weeding, clearing drains, pruning etc. and it was a good opportunity to tidy up some of the older graves that needed attention. People who live locally are very good at keeping a watching brief on their relatives' graves and helping to keep the area tidy and attractive. Some have arranged to have monuments restored and cleaned professionally and it certainly makes the whole area looked loved and cared for. I know many of you live far from Stratton but help with volunteering at any time would be much appreciated.

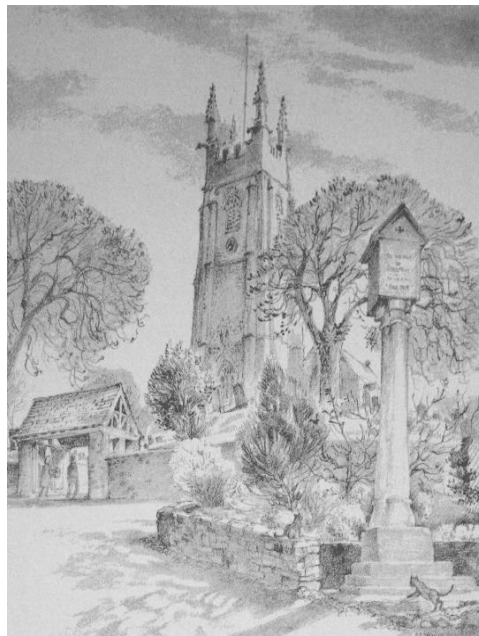
The next big job is to restore the oak gates at the Lychgate entrance. The bottom is getting rotten and needs repair to stop further damage. Luckily we have a carpenter who is preservation aware and he will utilise the oak timber from the floor edging that was removed at the rear of the church. Nothing is thrown away when it can be saved to use again. We hope to get that done very soon.

Many thanks to the majority who have returned their GDPR consent forms duly completed. If you haven't returned yours yet there is still time.

So, as ever, it just leaves me to say 'Thank You' to everyone who helps maintain and enhance our beautiful church of St Andrew and 'God's Acre' which surrounds it.

With the best of wishes from us all here in Stratton.

Val



New Thurible



Photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP

Mr Andrew Davey, Thurifer pictured during the Flower Festival in May with the new Thurible gifted by the Friends of St Andrew's in celebration and to mark our 10th Anniversary.



Photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP

Report on the 10th Anniversary Celebrations

The weekend celebrations for FoStA's 10th anniversary at the end of May proved to be a very happy and joyous occasion. It was wonderful that so many Friends could join us, many travelling considerable distances to be able to be here in Stratton and as one member said, "I feel like I'm coming home." What could be better than that! It was also lovely to know that there were so many of you who would have liked to be with us but who were present in spirit, sending thoughts and good wishes.

The dinner, attended by 48 Friends, was held at An Mor in Hartland Terrace, Bude on the Saturday evening with the after dinner speaker being our special guest, Revd Dr David Standen. We were all delighted to see him again and I hope he felt that he, John and his Mum had received a real 'Stratton Welcome'. His talk was inspirational and anecdotal in equal parts and thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

A vote of thanks was given, by the Chairman, to our Guest Speaker and visiting Friends one of whom was the daughter of the Revd Williams. She had come to Stratton as a child of two when her Father was made Vicar in 1932. Fr David was presented with a Stylus Paschalis and a linocut by Jonathan Howlett entitled 'Stratton Dreaming'. He also received a personal gift from Jonathan of his Grandfather's Ordination Bible. His Grandfather, Canon Cyril Leslie Jones, was Vicar of Stratton 1911 – 1932. Interesting to note that the Canon was the first Priest of Stratton to occupy the new 'purpose built' Vicarage along Diddies Road and Fr David was the last.

The bells rang out on the Sunday morning calling people to worship for a Thanksgiving Parish Mass and Baptism at 10.30am. The officiant and preacher was Fr David, Organist Dafydd Thomas and the Lesson was read by Mrs Janet Standen. A new Thurible, gifted by the Friends to mark the 10th Anniversary, was blessed before being put into use at the service. It had been suitably engraved by Paul Petvin of The Alchemist. The little girl Baptised and welcomed into the Church family was a delight, with a ready smile for everyone. The service was attended by 89 people amid the beautiful displays of the Flower Festival dedicated to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for all the many blessings we receive from Him each and every day.

Our worship was followed by lunch in the church for more than 50 people with the Grace being said by Fr Brian Dorrington, our Elder Statesman. The food on offer had been greatly enhanced by the kind generosity of A Ryan & Son, Master Butchers of Much Wenlock in Shropshire. Sue and Paddy Ryan (Daughter and Son in Law of the late Mike and Barbara Worden) provided delicious quiches, game pies, pork pies with the Pièce de Résistance being the Anniversary Pie made by their son, Sam. It was a triumph of his pastry chef skills and tasted wonderful.

The event continued into the afternoon with much chatting and catching up for friends old and new – some finding it hard to say goodbye and bring everything to a close.

Ed

'The Pie'



Photograph courtesy of Mr David Goodwin JP



It has been pointed out to me that most of the FoStA fund raising and social activities take place during the evening hours and several local members have requested some sort of get together perhaps over lunch or at tea time.

This is under discussion and we have hopes of arranging maybe a light lunch or high tea in the Spring.

Details will be circulated at a later date. *Ed*

Photography Competition for a 2020 Christmas Card

As you know each year we try to introduce a new card into our stock and you have all been very generous in your support of this fundraising activity before Christmas each year. One of the committee members had the idea of a competition, for the FoStA members, to submit photos for our new 2020 Christmas Card. If we were to get a lot of entries we might even have more than one card printed. The winners will be chosen by a selection panel chaired by our Web Master, David Goodwin. The competition will run from now until the end of March 2020. Please send your photographs to me by e-mail as jpegs with your name and address and a suggested title for the scene. Winning entries will be announced in the Spring Newsletter and when the cards are printed a suitable acknowledgement will be made.

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## **New Lectern Steps**



In 2018 a member of the Friends, Mr Alan Barber, made a gift of a set of steps he had fashioned for the Lectern.

They are the same height as the previous set but the treads are larger making it safer to negotiate. They also have a non-slip base and handles to help when they need to be moved. We are extremely grateful to Alan both for his generosity and his skill. Many thanks from us all.



## In Memoriam



One of our original members **Mrs Margaret Freeman** died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. A 'Stratton Girl' who was a support to the Friends and who always took great interest in all the comings and goings in her home town. She had for some years lived in Chesterfield in Derbyshire and will be sorely missed by all her relations and many friends

We offer sincere condolences and our prayers to her husband George and all the family.

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**Dr David Giles** died on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019. A private cremation was followed in early September by a Memorial Service. A hugely respected retired local GP who will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Apart from many local organisations he had been very much involved with a hospital, Medic Melawi in Africa, and over several years encouraged St Andrew's church family to take an interest in the work there and give support as we were able. He will be much missed but remembered with gratitude and affection.

We offer sincere condolences to his wife, family and friends.

May they rest in Peace.

## ITEMS for SALE

### New ~ a free-standing A5 calendar for 2020

The 2020 calendar, kindly produced by David Goodwin, has now arrived and is available for purchase.

The calendar is printed on photographic paper with both colour and black and white images. The cover features an extract from 'Stratton Dreaming' as below.

Please contact Val Barker if you are interested as supplies will be limited. Sold individually at £4.50 each including an envelope.



A member, who attended the anniversary dinner, had commented on the quality and variety of cards and photographs available on the website and suggested that consideration might be given to producing a FoStA calendar.

So, thank you so much for the idea. I am pleased to say that David has done an amazing job with the art work and the result is a lovely desk calendar which would make an ideal gift for someone at Christmas or you might want to buy one for yourself. (I shall certainly expect one in my stocking!) Please see the order form enclosed with this edition of the Newsletter or simply give me a ring or send an e-mail if you wish to make a purchase. *Ed*

**\*Please remember that there is an on-line FoStA Shop\***

## **Christmas Cards**

We have a limited stock of previous years' cards available for sale and two new cards this year. Our intention is to have all new stock next year after the photographic competition.

Please refer to the enclosed order form for description and prices. Illustrations will be available on the FoStA Shop page of the website.

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## **Dates for Your Diary**

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - **St Andrew's Day**  
Gift Day and Craft Fayre in the church 10am – 4pm  
A Quarter Peal of bells will be rung during the day in celebration
- Quiz Night. Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> 7 for 7.30pm  
Details will be posted on the Website in due course
- Spring Social Get-Together – Details to follow
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Last day for submission of entries please for the  
Christmas Card Photographic Competition
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The online monthly church calendar is kept up to date by our Web Master with services and events so do check for further details at [www.fosta.org.uk](http://www.fosta.org.uk)



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[www.fosta.org.uk](http://www.fosta.org.uk)

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