



The Pentecost Window – The Lady Chapel (North Chapel East)
by Clayton & Bell and inserted 1898, St Andrew's Church, Stratton

Donors James Frederick & Alice Delmar and dedicated to George Frederick & Adeline Elizabeth Delmar of Trelana in the Parish of Poughill

*Cover photograph and the close-up from central section of the window on page 2
courtesy of David Goodwin JP*

A Letter from the Revd Teresa Folland

Dear **F**riends of **S**t **A**ndrews,

So here we are again, another newsletter and still we find ourselves in the midst of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Of course, we have moved on a little, we understand the disease a little better, the numbers are currently falling and we have successfully passed the first stage of the roadmap. As I write, the second stage looks hopeful – and of course the vaccination programme is rolling out well.

I was considering the parallels of the Christian seasons with the Pandemic and in particular the season of Easter through to Pentecost. Easter was of course a huge sense of loss and trauma. Jesus, the Messiah, the hoped for one was cruelly snatched from the disciples and followers and murdered upon the cross. Their world was turned upside down and they locked themselves away for fear (of the Jews). There has of course been a great deal of fear and anxiety during this time of Covid and many of us have felt locked away.

Following the resurrection of our Lord, there were many sightings of him in that 40-day period between Easter and Ascension Day. The disciples though startled and puzzled by his appearances, have come to realise that Jesus has overcome death, he has control over death, the ultimate threat and have realized that out of death comes life; new life. As we have emerged from lockdowns and are emerging from the latest lockdown, we are beginning to see that there is new life, different life and that God is the only One who is in control. Humanity for all it's ego certainly has no control over the Pandemic, we are startled and puzzled by it and are merely beginning to learn how to limit the wholesale effect of the disease.

Through all the Christian seasons, we have in the back of our memories the promise of 'Immanuel', God with us, which is the great Christmas message.

Pentecost is when God says I am with you always, not limited to one single human being, Jesus the Christ, but with every one of you, all the time. He pours out himself by his life giving, power enabling, tongue loosening Holy Spirit.

From Pentecost we learn that God's Spirit lives within us and we recognise fully that all life and hope is found in God, not human beings. And so as we emerge into this brave new and different world – because nothing will ever be the same again – as we emerge into this season of Pentecost – when God says over to you the church now; we will do well to re-remember who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, who is the one in whom all life is held together, the one in whom our future lies; to take comfort that God is in control of all and to rest secure in that knowledge as we consider how we should live both our individual lives and our St Andrew's community lives.

May God grant us wisdom for the future and reverence for the past.

Yours in Christ,

Teresa



Val Barker writes:

Dear Friends,

These last months have been a challenge for us all in so many ways so I thought it would be good for me to write to you about the positives as, whatever has happened nationally or on a personal level to any one of us, I am sure you will agree that, we all have so much to be grateful for and our blessings are without number.

Our daily lives here in Stratton have been much the same as yours but we are fortunate to live in an area where there were low levels of infection during the pandemic and we have the balm of beautiful coastal and country scenery. Stratton always looks particularly lovely at this time of year and although I was quite perturbed when trees in a neighbouring garden were cut down, I now have an even more magnificent view over the town and surrounding countryside. 'Every cloud etc'. Most of you will be able to imagine the scene and picture it in your mind's eye.

Easter heralded the church re-opening and because our inside decorations were minimal we decided to make a statement outside and erect a large wooden cross in the churchyard on the west side. It was well received and proved that change can bring it's own rewards and delights.

It was dark when we came out of church on Maundy Thursday after the Watch & the cross, which we had put up earlier in the day, looked atmospheric, silhouetted as it was against the Tower.

Good Friday was marked with a Zoom Liturgy of the Passion according to Mark which was dramatized and then on Holy Saturday we were once again in St Andrew's for the Easter Eve Vigil.





The Cross on Good Friday and then on Easter Day

I know you all really appreciate the views in and around the church and this was brought very much to mind by the amazing number of you who purchased calendars before Christmas. We sold so many that there had to be a second print run. Do hope you are all enjoying the wonderful photographs taken by David Goodwin, our Webmaster. He is already working on next year's issue!

So many of our members 'do' things for St Andrew's so I thought I would introduce you to one or two more.

At Easter time and then with the death of HRH the Prince Philip, our volunteer Paul Davy (seen left), who looks after the flags at St Andrew's had to deal with a flurry of activity. Firstly, the halyard needed to be replaced and this is a difficult procedure as the new one has to be sewn onto the old one, pulled through the narrow loop of the flagpole and then secured carefully. Luckily two members of the Barker family who have experience with this were on hand to help with the task.



The Diocesan flag was flown at Easter but then when the Duke died the Union flag had to be hoisted and then flown at half-mast. There are protocols to be observed and Paul knows exactly what has to be done and how to do it.

The other person who deserves mention is the St Andrew's tower captain Jo Barnes. She tolled the tenor bell 100 times to commemorate the funeral of Prince Philip on Saturday April 17th. All was undertaken in accordance with the guidance of the Central Council of Church Bellringers. The tenor bell at St Andrew's church weighs a little over 21 cwt. so this was no easy task. In a statement Jo gave to the local newspaper she said: "We were asked to ring the bell half muffled, which means that a leather pad is fitted to the bell's clapper to reduce the volume. By only muffling the clapper on one side you get an 'echo' effect as blows are alternately loud and soft. This is especially poignant and effective for funerals and other sad occasions." The campanologists and social history enthusiasts among you might find it interesting to know that when the bells were recast by Messrs. John



Taylor & Co. of Loughborough in 1911 an inscription was put on the tenor bell and it reads as follows:



Cast on Thursday 12th October 1911.
Rev. Cyril Leslie-Jones, Vicar,
Mr Churchwarden Trewin,
Mr Churchwarden Bray,
Mr J Jordan, Captain.

When the newly cast bells were brought back they arrived at Bude Railway Station and were conveyed from there to Stratton by George Pearce with his horse and wagon. On arrival at the church it was said that he backed his horse and wagon right up to the west door and, by all accounts, had to make several trips from there to Bude and back, to collect all eight bells!

George was the Father of Leslie Pearce, late of Westfield, Howard Lane, and Grandfather of Doreen White, Joyce Davis and Derek Pearce.

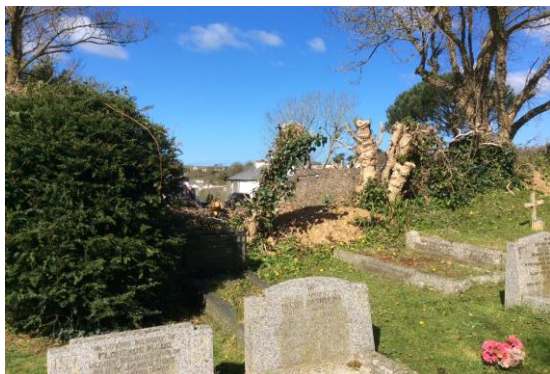
Churchyard Boundary Hedge Renovation and Renewal

It is so nice to see the churchyard trees breaking forth into leaf, the wonderful young greening which is so hard to describe but so distinct and appreciated. The boundary walls and hedges help to make the whole area an oasis of peace and calm and a magnet for wildlife. Over the years there has been considerable involvement with the County Forester as the trees are in a Conservation Area and advice has been needed as to pruning and, in some cases, more radical treatment. Some of the boundary areas in the top portion of the churchyard will need considerable attention later this year as the hedge became overgrown with brush and very old small trees which were becoming a safety hazard overhanging gravestones and making access to burial plots quite difficult.



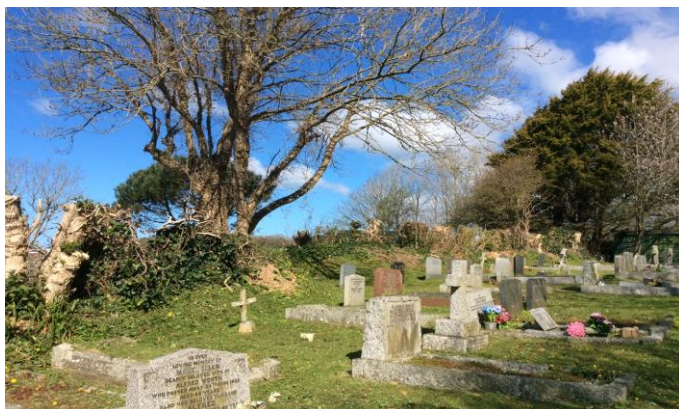
Last year, in the late Autumn, the tree surgeon was employed to cut back some of the dead wood and as the pictures show there is quite a lot of remedial work to be done.

With the cooperation of the neighbours and in discussion with members of the Fabric Committee it was agreed that the hedge should be gradually built up over the coming months and then in the Autumn new planting of native woodland saplings can be undertaken. Apart from making a good hedge we want to ensure that it ultimately provides a good natural habit for insects, birds and other creatures – doing our bit for the environment. Hopefully we can also plant an area with wild flowers at the foot of the hedge to encourage bees and other insects. This is a project that FoStA will be helping with and as time goes by we will keep you updated as to how things are progressing.



The neighbouring property can be seen through the gaps in the hedge. The remaining old tree stumps were left in place.

The whole area now looks brighter and more welcoming for those visiting graves of loved ones.



In due course work needs to be done on the east boundary as well and for this we will need to find a good craftsman who can repair a proper

Cornish Hedge. Tree roots are most of the problem as they have become entangled in the stonework and as the tree canopy sways around in those winter gales we have so often, the stones get loosened and then start to move out of position and eventually are dislodged. Sections of this hedge are getting damaged in this way and parts beginning to fall out – all will need attention.

With the quinquennial inspection due this year I feel sure there will be much else in the pipeline for us to think about and consider and hopefully before too long there will be opportunities for more freedom with our activities and socialising. Not being able to have conversations in church has been quite difficult especially when one wants to give a welcome to visitors or converse with people wanting information but we have to keep right on obeying the rules and keep each other safe.

Some of you might remember that in the May of 2015 we had the privilege of an evening, in the church, with Dr Helen Wilson. She captivated her audience as she brought alive for us the Pinwill family, Violet in particular, and the wonderful carvings created for St Andrew's and many other churches by three remarkable and talented sisters. At this time Helen told us that she hoped to write a book and during the lockdown she was able to complete and publish her book – The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters. It is a gem full of remarkable colour photographs and a wealth of fascinating information **and** there is a whole section about Pinwill work in St Andrew's. For more information about the book and the author visit www.pinwillsisters.org.uk

So, it just remains for me to thank each and every one of you for continuing to support us despite the fact that things have been far from usual this past year or so. It is appreciated and everyone at St Andrew's is forever grateful and do, please, keep your letters and communications coming, we love hearing from you.

In the meantime, stay safe and keep well.

With all good wishes from everyone at St Andrew's. *Val*

Obituaries



Mr Kenneth Standen

It was with great sadness that we heard of Ken's death on 23rd December 2020 at the age of 86. A service to celebrate and remember his life was held at Taunton Crematorium

Chapel on January 8th 2021, led by his son, the Rev'd Dr David Standen. The service very much reflected Ken's career in the RAF, his roles as husband and father and his steadfast, lifelong faith which was so much part of his full and happy life.

We got to know Ken, here in Stratton, during 2008 when he and his wife Janet became members of FoStA and were regular visitors and whenever they were able always ready with their support, taking part in services at St Andrew's and attending social events. A charming man and a perfect gentleman it was a privilege to have known Ken and he will, I am sure, be sadly missed by his widow, Janet, and all the family. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

Mr Michael Thorp June 1943 – May 2020

Mick died on 3rd May last year and his ashes were brought back to Stratton and interred in the Wingate family plot in St Andrew's Churchyard. When he enjoyed good health, Mick, who had been a life member of FoStA, took great interest in St Andrew's as a relative, Revd George Wingate MA, had been Vicar at Stratton from 1892 until 1899 and several other members of his family had been laid to rest here. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Mrs Betty Gimson

It was with much sadness that we heard that Betty had died on Monday 19th April at the Nursing Home where she had resided for several years. Late of Coombe Rise, Poughill, Betty with her husband John, had been regular worshippers at St Andrew's and both very involved with our parish life. Betty was a skilled flower arranger and was a regular contributor at

the flower festivals and always helped with other fundraising and social activities adding her sense of fun and positivity. She is remembered for her hosting of Lent lunches which as well as providing tasty fare were well known for the wonderful hospitality and welcome that was afforded to all who came to her home. She was a founder member of the FoStA committee, and it is in some part thanks to her energy and encouragement that we have the organisation we have today. She was never daunted or put off by challenges as she had a wonderful 'can do' attitude. Betty loved to sing and over the years had been a member of several choirs and as someone said, 'always sang every hymn as if it were her favourite!' – and doesn't that say it all.

We offer each family our sincere condolences & prayers.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

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## **Legacy**

Mrs Thelma Copeland, who died on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, by her Will left £1,000.00 to the Friends of St Andrew's.

## **In Memoriam Donations**

Mrs Thelma Copeland who died 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

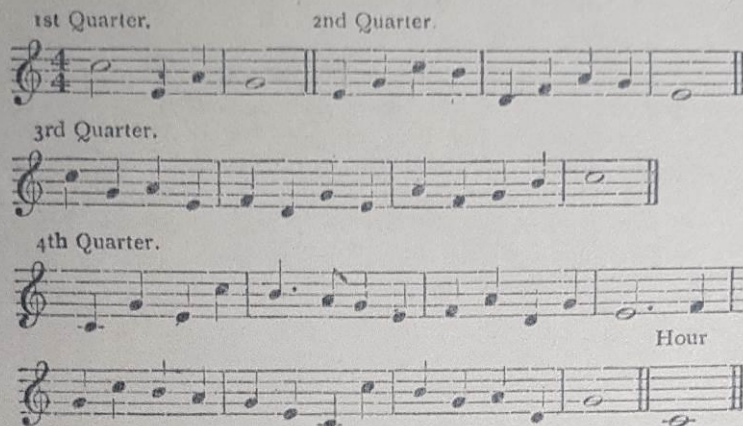
Mr William Bond who died 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Mr Jack Daniels who died 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Donations in memory of all those listed were very kindly and generously given to FoStA at the request of their families.

# St. Andrew's Church, Stratton.

## THE GUILDFORD CHIMES



Composed by George Wilkins, organist of St. Nicholas's Church, Guildford. He was a pupil of Hopkins, and wrote a number of services, anthems, and some excellent hymn tunes. The chimes were originally set up in Holy Trinity Church in 1843. First copied at Chard, and for a time called Chard Chimes, they have also recently been put up at Bournville, Irthlingborough, Macclesfield and Northleach

- 1st Quarter. "Lift up your heart."
- 2nd Quarter. "God is with you,  
and will NOT leave you."
- 3rd Quarter. "Trust in God, be not afraid ;  
Be still and rest in Him."
- The Hour. "Time is passing, hour by hour,  
Its fleeting moments go.  
Lift up your heart and praise the Lord,  
And count your blessings, so :—  
1, 2, 3, 4, etc.

*A strengthening exercise, especially at midnight.*

Written by ELEANOR AUSTIN, of Stoke-on-Trent,  
when a patient in Stratton Hospital, October, 1949.

MAY THE CHIMES GIVE A MESSAGE TO OTHERS  
AS THEY DID TO ME.—E.M.A.

BEN OKE, PRINTER, HOLSWORTHY.



Page 11 – shows an interesting article from the church archives regarding the Guildford Chimes of the Tower clock. They are still enjoyed by the people of Stratton and surrounding countryside and said to be a comfort to many at the hospital.

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The online monthly 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

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*If you are prepared to view the newsletter on-line or print it yourself,
please let me know.*

Items for Sale

Please remember that there is an on-line FoStA Shop and there are two new cards featuring the Virgin and Child statue in St Andrew's Chapel.

