



Dear **Friends Of St Andrews**,

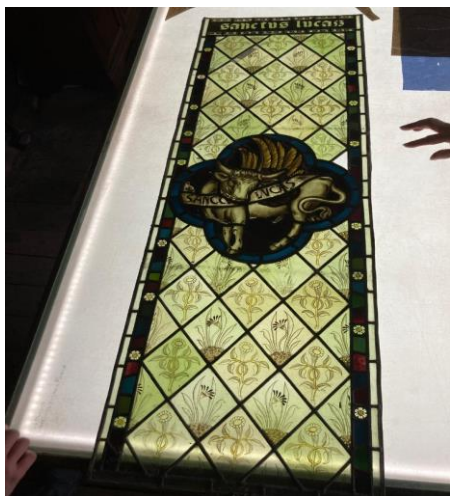
Last month I had the opportunity of visiting the City of Wells where our William Morris (WM) East Window is currently residing in the tender care of Holywell Glass.

I could just furnish you with photographs but thought that you might like a few words as well.



The premises of Holywell Glass are fascinating in themselves, being a working mill until as recently as the middle of the last century – and so I have included photo one which shows some of the magnificent timbers within which the restorers and conservators work.

Our precious window was still in storage in a fireproof room when I visited, but they brought a couple of panels for me to look at on their backlit table. (One example is illustrated below on the next page).



I think what surprised me most were - what I thought - were plain quarries (Quarry here meaning a four-sided piece of glass, either square or diamond shaped). In fact, they are not plain at all, but each one is hand painted with a WM designed flower. Not something that we can readily see from the ground.

Sarah, who is the chief conservator and who oversaw the removal of the window from St Andrew's, is one remarkably skilled and conscientious person. She explained to me that some of the stained glass has failed as it was not fired at a high enough temperature. The panels will be carefully cleaned, re(hand) painted and finally re-fired at the correct temperature.

Whilst I was there, they were actually working on a window from Lanteglos Church. Sarah's description of her work to conserve rather than restore the window to its original condition was fascinating. If a piece of glass was so damaged that the image could no longer be seen, then she would research the artist (who would have a style) and find a similar image from another window - or if there were fingers still visible but no hand, then she would work out what position the hand was in - and redraw it. If, however, there was insufficient evidence of

what had been present, then the piece would be left blank – there would be no guessing.



The photo (left) of the similar sections with a head on were her three attempts at repainting the head. If the colour, forehead or lie of the hair were not as she wanted, then she painted another until she was satisfied that it was as the original would have looked. Her attention to detail was astonishing – and I came away knowing that our window is indeed in very good hands.

When the East Window is returned to St Andrew's, I understand that there will

be a viewing stage – and I would very much encourage you to take a look if you are able – as you will see the window in so much more detail than when looking up from the ground.

If you want to see more photos, then you will have to come and find me,

Yours in Christ,

Teresa

Revd Teresa Folland

St Andrew's Bells Restoration Project

If you live in Stratton you may have noticed that only five bells have been ringing on Sunday mornings since the middle of April. This is due to major restoration work being needed in the belfry before we can ring all eight again.

The bells of St Andrew's are amongst the finest cast by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough. They are highly regarded amongst bellringers, both locally and nationally, for their fine tone and are the second heaviest peal of eight bells in the county of Cornwall.

The damage in brief: the 6th bell's cast iron bellframe is cracked, so it cannot be rung and the frame castings of the six heaviest bells have been pushed up and out of position by the effects of RSJ rusting expansion. Fortunately, all the necessary work can be carried out in the belfry, thus avoiding the entire bell installation having to be removed from the Tower, the cost of which would be astronomical.

Whilst undertaking this work, it makes sense to check all the main bearings for wear and fit them with fresh lubricant and seals. Also, the first seven bells' clappers will be removed from the bells and sent away for rebushing, refacing and annealing, allowing them to strike more evenly.

Bottom line: we need to raise £32,000 (inc VAT) to complete this work. Fortunately, we have some money in the Tower Sangwin Fund and I will be applying to various organisations for funding. However, if you would like to contribute to our Bells Restoration Project do please get in touch either with myself or our PCC Treasurer, Simon Waring.

We cannot wait to get this beautiful peal of eight bells ringing again!

Jo Barnes, Tower Captain

FoStA launches a new website

Those of you who visit the FoStA website from time to time will have noticed that a new website has been launched. This work was long overdue as the original site was constructed by John Gimson around 2008 and has remained broadly unchanged in style ever since.

Your current webmaster, who took over from John in 2016, has had it in mind to update the site for some years. Unfortunately, I did not have the skillset to do this and, instead, tried to freshen up the original site using what little knowledge I had. The WebPlus software was as old as the website itself and has not been supported since 2017. A major crash of the site earlier in 2025 finally brought things to a head and FoStA agreed to commission Blue I.T. to start work on designing an entirely new site.

This work is now complete and we planned to go live with the new version in late October. The new site has fewer pages, looks much “fresher” - with new “web-friendly fonts” and new photographs taken by me specially for the project. Most importantly, the new site automatically adapts to whatever device it is being viewed on - PC, tablet or mobile phone.

I thought it might be fun to show you how much things have changed in terms of design and functionality over almost 17 years. The oldest page I could find is from 2012. In those days there was no photograph on the first page and not even a page for services.



Friends of St Andrew's

The Parish Church of St Andrew, Stratton, Cornwall

Our aim: To help preserve and maintain the building and churchyard for future generations

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The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 event at St Andrew's

Note: Below are details of the event that was held on 2 June 2012. We are planning to add an archive to this web site to help provide a record of past events - so this page will then be moved to a new location.

Saturday 2nd June 2012

Starting at 11.30 am - with a Celebration Ringing of Bells, followed by a Celebration Service at St Andrew's, then a grand parade to Banfield Park for a **Picnic in the Paddock**, with entertainment, refreshments and events. See more details on the poster.

A reason to celebrate

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was the UK's first - and after some internet searching, it doesn't appear that anyone living in the UK at the time is still with us.

Stratton's history goes back 200 years *before* the Domesday records and there is a strong Royal heritage, reinforced by the Royalist victory in the 1643 Battle of Stratton (also known as the battle of Stamford Hill).

It's not surprising therefore that Stratton is staging a celebratory event or that St Andrew's Church is leading the effort.

The event will be attended by Mr Mike Williams, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Cornwall.

Free commemorative mug

There will be a free mug for each primary school-age child attending from a local school.

Exhibition of Stratton memorabilia

There will also be an exhibition of Stratton archive material so we are calling all Strattonians, both near and far, to come and join the party.

If you have any memorabilia, in whatever form, why not send it to us to exhibit, preferably scanned and sent as an e-mail attachment (we would rather not have the responsibility of caring for originals).

If you have anything Stratton-related which has occurred during the last 60 years, please contact Mrs Yal Barker via [e-mail](#).

Please help publicise this event

Clicking on the image below will enable you to download a poster (an A4 colour PDF) all ready to print and display wherever you can.

If this isn't practicable for any reason, please tell your friends and family about the event and encourage them to attend.



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If you have experienced difficulty accessing the new site please try clearing your history/cookies/bookmarks and then do a fresh google search. The old site has left its footprints behind and will take a while to fade away.

David Goodwin

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our webmaster for all his dedicated time and input with this project. It has proved to be no easy task and everyone will benefit from his work and attention to detail. Thank You David.

Our web address remains the same as before. Ed

Obituaries R I P

John Gimson

13th July 1939 – 31st March 2025

A service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of his life was held in the Castle, Bude on 30th April 2025.

John died on 31st March after a short illness. He had lived in the Bude area for about 25 years and was well known to many.

He, and his late wife Betty, were founder members of FoStA and both had been committee members and stalwart supporters. We owe a great deal to their enthusiasm and inventiveness.

We offer sincere condolences to his daughter Susan.



Russell John Hopgood

11th September 1935 – 9th July 2025

A funeral service took place at St Andrew's Church, Stratton on Wednesday 6th August at 2pm followed by burial in the churchyard.

Russ, as he was known by everyone, was very much a 'Stratton Boy' and a son of Cornwall. He was a quiet, gentle man who will be sorely missed by ex-colleagues and friends as well as his family. He now rests in his chosen spot near the church he supported for so long through FoStA

We offer sincere condolences and our prayers to his widow Jen, daughter Cindy and all the family of whom he was so proud.

Mary Gwendoline Buse

1931 – 12th July 2025

A service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mary Gwendoline Buse was held at St Martin’s United Reformed Church, in Bude, on 6th August 2025. Mary died at St Anne’s Rest Home, Whitstone on 12th July 2025 aged 93 years.

Born in Stratton in the days when it was a busy town she remained closely interested in the people and place all her life. She was a fund of local knowledge and cared deeply for all who had been part of her childhood and adolescence. A quiet, gentle lady with a ready smile will be missed by all who knew her. Mary had been a faithful friend of FoStA since its inception and we very much valued her support.

We offer condolences and our prayers to her son Nigel and all the family.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 29th November GIFT DAY and Craft Fayre 10am – 4pm at St Andrew’s. Light Lunches and refreshments all day.

Sunday 30th November ST ANDREW’S DAY Songs of Praise 4pm

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th December Christmas Tree Festival at the church. 10am – 4pm each day. Refreshments all day.

Saturday 20th December Carols and Canapés by kind invitation of Anne and Geoff Day at Crossways, New Road, Stratton at 7pm. Tickets at £12.50 are available from Val Barker. All proceeds for FoStA.

Update on Fundraising for the East Window Restoration.

Fundraising continues for the East Window restoration project and we are now very close to the revised target of £50,360 + VAT. Funds raised to date are:

Church Fundraising £1,553

FoStA Fundraising £5,902

Grants already received
£6,250

Grants promised £33,500

The balance is available from the Fabric Fund if required, but fundraising continues and it is hoped this won't be necessary.

VAT will need to be paid but can then be claimed back.



With the funds raised or promised to date this has allowed us to instruct Holy Well Glass to proceed with the restoration work.

Spot What's Missing

They attended the site in August and within three days the window had been removed and a temporary polycarbonate sheet installed in its place. The window is now at Holy Well Glass's workshop in Wells and restoration work is expected to take approximately 5 months.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed or helped in any way during our appeal.

Simon Waring, Treasurer



Tony, apprentice with Holy Well Glass, holding up the apex window panel showing Christ the King in Glory.

Photograph on previous page, courtesy of David Goodwin.



Two quick snaps taken of Sarah (Holy Well Glass Craftsperson) holding up two of the precious sections of glass from the top of the window.

When the window comes back home and before the panes are re-inserted, we hope to have an open day at St Andrew's to give interested people the opportunity to have a close look at the stained glass. The detail is breathtaking, and one does not appreciate the quality, symbolism and artistry until it is viewed from a short distance.

We are so fortunate to have this beautiful window as part of our heritage here in Stratton.

Ed



St Andrew's Church, Stratton

On Sunday August 31st a Benefice service of Holy Communion was celebrated for Creationtide. At this service the St Andrew's Creation Chapel was dedicated and the new Creationtide flag blessed. The guest speaker was Dr Sharon Willoughby who has recently taken up the post of Diocesan Environment Officer.

At St Andrew's there is an awareness of conservation needs thanks to our own Creation Champion, Sheila Waring, who has encouraged the PCC, congregation and wider church family to be involved and proactive with many of these issues over the last few years. Her latest project has been making a few subtle changes to make one of the side chapels into an area which will

highlight many of the conservation needs but most importantly dedicated to the One who is God the Creator and Sustainer of Life.

The winning flag design by Mrs Christina Ball, from a competition run by the Friends of St Andrew's Church, was presented to the Rector, Revd Teresa Folland, and placed on the Altar. The flag itself was then shown to the congregation after which it was taken, by Mr Paul and Mrs Christine Davy, to St Andrew's Creation Chapel where it was blessed by the Rector and the Chapel dedicated. The production and costs of the flag had been arranged by Paul Davy and then generously gifted to the church.

During the service Sharon Willoughby gave a very interesting address touching on her career progression, her new post as Diocesan Environment Officer and some of her hopes and aspirations for the Diocese and its people, all based on her chosen text from the Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 13.

After the service and Revd Teresa had given the final blessing, everyone went outside to watch as the flag was hoisted on the Tower flagpole on a very blustery day. All then returned to the church for light refreshments.

75 people, including children, had shared together in worship, fellowship and hospitality.

The Rector and people of St Andrew's would like to thank all those who took part in the competition, and also the DAC Secretary and the Chancellor for all their help and encouragement with the flag competition and its final production.

Ed

Sermon Cricket

Have you ever wondered how cathedral choirs manage to get through the countless sermons they have to endure during the weekly diet of services? After all, the liturgy is broadly the same but what is spoken from the pulpit is invariably different. And while bad sermons are an endurance test, good sermons, though they can be challenging or discomforting, can also be uplifting and comforting. Writing a sermon is not easy, but as a bishop once advised a trainee priest: "preaching is like drilling for oil; if you find you do not strike oil soon, stop boring!" Sadly, not all sermons are up to standard, even when poached from the internet. So, how does a cathedral choir survive the numerous sermons they must endure? Tim Popple, an alto lay clerk at Bristol Cathedral, says the answer is to play 'sermon cricket'. In his book Evensong – Notes from the Choir he describes the scoring system thus: the preacher is awarded one run for mentioning God, four runs for Jesus and six for Satan or the Devil. If the preacher uses the words "I" or "me", the wicket falls. The greater the run score the more the preacher spoke about faith and less about themselves. When 10 wickets fall, choristers feel they are no longer under an obligation to listen! Of course, sermon cricket does not have to be confined to cathedrals and can be played in parish churches too!

Meryl Goodwin

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## **Communications**

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

## **Val Barker writes –**

There seems to be so much news this time that there isn't any space for me but I'm squeezing in to say how much we have appreciated your continuing support and thank all those involved in gifting funds towards the East Window restoration – it has been humbling and quite unbelievable. As you will have read in Simon's report, we are nearly there with the fundraising and the project is going ahead. When we started thinking of this last year it certainly gave me some worrying times and many misgivings but prayers are answered and as Teresa said, the window is in safe hands and on the way to looking like it did in 1874.

With gratitude and all the very best of wishes.

Val

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Members are sent a copy by post and  
a PDF version

is available on the FoStA web site - [www.fosta.org.uk](http://www.fosta.org.uk)

### **Rector**

The Revd Teresa Folland

5 Cormorant Close, Bude. EX23 8FJ

Tel: 01288 352599 e-mail: [teresa.folland@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.folland@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mrs Val Barker

Chynoweth, Bowden, Stratton, Bude EX23 9BH

Tel: 01288 353435 e-mail: [memsec@fosta.org.uk](mailto:memsec@fosta.org.uk)