



Dear **Friends of St Andrews**,

It's that season of year again when it's time to write to you all and to thank you for your ongoing love and support of St Andrews.

This time I have the pleasure of introducing to you our new fund-raising idea!

We all know how special it was to be able to conserve the beautiful William Morris East window – and the memory of that is still very much in the forefront of our minds as the window was recently (19th July) reconsecrated by Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro. It was a splendid occasion. Whilst there we pointed out to him the two censuring angels which are unique to St Andrews; one is blue and the other green.

A while back, we contacted Stockwell Ceramics a Cornish company based in the Tamar Valley in Southeast Cornwall, who after receiving photographs of the two angels – gleaming on their return from Holy Well Glass - have now transposed those images on to ceramic to make two tree hanging ornaments, just in time for Christmas!

The angels can be purchased individually for £10 or as a pair for £17.50 and you will receive them boxed, either to give away as a gift or to store them safely from one year to the next.

I've ordered mine already, but hurry as there is an initial limited stock. Please contact Mrs Val Barker for your order.

I hope you will enjoy this new way to support FoStA and I guess that just leaves me to wish you a very merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Teresa

Reverend Teresa Folland

East Window Conclusion.

In the Spring Newsletter it was reported that the conservation works to our beautiful East Window had been completed and the window reinstalled in the Church. It was also reported that the Bishop of Truro was to come to St Andrews on July 19th for the blessing of our window and to help us celebrate its return. In fact this turned into a double celebration as the repairs to the bell frames had also been completed, so a joint Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing was held. Thank you to Val Barker and Sheila Waring for putting the service together.

It was wonderful to see St Andrews so full for the service and it was lovely to welcome Bishop David and his wife Helen to the Church, along with many invited friends and guests who had contributed to both projects in so many ways.

The service began with the Bishop's procession, which included our Tower Captain Jo Barnes, and representing FoStA Joan Law, who had travelled down from London for the occasion. During the service the poem 'Stratton Sunday Morning', written by the late Miss Joan Heard, was read by Jo Barnes, and an introduction to the East Window was given by Val Barker. In his address, the Bishop spoke about the stones that make the church, not just the solid stones of the church building which are constant, but also the living stones of the church made up of the congregations and worshippers, which change with each generation.

After the service had finished all gathered at the back of the church for refreshments and a chance to socialise. Many also stayed to enjoy the concert in the evening, which was our own 'Last Night' at the end of the weeklong

St Andrew's Music and Arts Festival. A joyful end to a very joyful day.

With the restoration works now complete it has now been possible to look back and review how successful the fund raising for the project had been. The final cost for the project was £60,432. The final total raised by the appeal, including fundraising and grants, was £60,254. This means that it was only necessary for St Andrews to use £178 from general funds, which for such a major project is a tremendous result.

This was despite a significant hiccup during the project. Back at the beginning of 2025 the Government announced that the Listed Churches VAT recovery scheme was to be extended for another year to April 2026. We therefore anticipated being able to recover £10,072 of VAT. The first claim made in November 2025 for £4029 was successful, but when the next claim was made in February 2026 it was discovered that the scheme had finished. It transpired that although the scheme had been extended, the Government only set aside a maximum figure for the fund, so the scheme would finish before April if this figure was reached first. This has been a significant problem for many Churches undergoing major works, but fortunately we were able to appeal to the Church of England Church Buildings Council who awarded us grants to offset the VAT we were not able to reclaim.

St Andrews are especially grateful to FoStA for the success of this project. Not only did the FoStA committee agree to provide a grant to the church for £25,000, but the

membership of FoStA donated a total of £6,798 for the appeal. As a result, FoStA were able to contribute a magnificent £31,798 to St Andrews, just over 50% of the total costs. As always the PCC of St Andrew's Church are extremely grateful for the unfailing generosity of the FoStA membership.

Simon Waring, Treasurer

The Lychgate

The congregation of St Andrew's pride themselves on the welcome they give to people who visit our beautiful church. Whether that be our regular church members who come each Sunday to the services, or the occasional visitor, we hope that our building feels loved and welcoming to all.

The lychgate marks the physical and symbolic line between holy (consecrated) ground and the outside world. Traditionally in the Medieval times bodies were brought on a hand-bier and rested under the roof of the lychgate while waiting for the priest to begin the burial rites. St Andrew's lychgate was erected in 1932 by Edwin Worden & Co using oak from the last wooden warship HMS Defiance. Inscribed on the front above the entrance is:-
"To the glory of God and in memory of Cyril Leslie Jones MA Vicar of Stratton 1911 to 1932. Honary Canon Truro Cathedral. This Lychgate is erected by Parishioners and friends."

The Gates were given in memory of Elizabeth Howlett by her husband and family.

With our thoughts on how we welcome visitors to the church we set our sights on our lychgate, the first entrance into the churchyard. It was obvious that a good cleaning session was necessary, so armed with various brushes, a group of volunteers spent a Saturday morning working to clean things up. The many cobwebs in the roof were the first to be removed. The lantern lamp had not been working for some time and on closer inspection it was found necessary to replace it, which FoStA were happy to fund. The two gates were also removed and stained. Research is on-going as to whether the oak beams should be treated and it is hoped that we will be able to have some flower-baskets to brighten the entrance. On special occasions such as feast days and fund-raising events, the lychgate will be decorated with flowers and bunting.



Photograph and article by Sheila Waring

For those who aren't aware, Elizabeth Howlett was Canon Leslie Jones' daughter, the Mother of Jonathan Howlett and Angela Lacey Marsh who although living great distances from Stratton are both very much in touch and give us their support in all we do at St Andrew's.

Ed

Obituary

It was with great sadness that we heard, from her son, that Patricia Greenwell had died, earlier this year, quite unexpectedly on 5th March. She was laid to rest on 10th April at Westmill Woodland Burial Ground, near Highworth, North of Swindon. Her son, Mark, said that it is an amazingly wonderful location.



Pat, along with her husband and family lived for many years at Hillside House in Spicers Lane and was very much a part of our lives in Stratton. She was a generous FoStA member and over those years and even after moving to Swindon her gifts of artwork raised considerable sums for St Andrew's. We still use her pencil drawing of Church Square and the War Memorial on the cover of our monthly News Sheet. She will not be forgotten.

I know that she was a avid reader of the FoStA Newsletter and was always eager for news of all her friends in Stratton when we were in touch. She genuinely cared for everyone.

We send our condolences and prayers to her family.
Pat will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Val Barker writes –

Dear Friends,

Another six months has flown by in a haze of activity since I last wrote but it is very gratifying to know that we are all part of a busy church worshipping community and outreach group. All the support we have had from the church family, local folk and FoStA members far and wide has been humbling but also inspiring. There is much to be thankful for as well as having the reassurance that prayers are answered. All the projects and events have gone extremely well as you will have read in the previous articles from Teresa, Sheila and Simon and we now take a moment to draw breath before thinking about Harvest Thanksgiving, the Patronal Festival, the Christmas Tree Festival, Christmas and all that entails.

Talking of Christmas, our Web Master and resident photographer has been busy and produced cards to be sold for FoStA which can be viewed on the newly produced FoStA shop pages on the website. The beautiful ceramic angels will also feature of course. We do hope you will feel able to support this fundraising activity with everything being made much easier via the website.

If you would like to pay by online banking for any goods you might purchase the FoStA bank details are as follows:
Sort Code 30-91-41 Bank is TSB
Account name FoStA (Please be aware that the name is case sensitive). Account number 00586386

I know there are some who prefer to use snail mail and pay by cheque and that is fine too, just contact me in the usual way.

We are doing our best to save on paper and postage for obvious reasons and it is also often more convenient. It has become more evident over the last few years that increasingly members are happy to read their newsletter online or print a copy for themselves. If you feel you could do this just let me know for next time. Thank you.

Another thought to ponder – if anyone could provide an article for the Spring newsletter that would be wonderful. It is always good to have input from others and adds interest for our readers.

We will be thinking of you all throughout Autumn and Winter – I have already seen an article in the newspaper that predicts a snowy cold winter for us! Still, maybe some nice photo opportunities for someone.

As ever, with thanks to you all wherever you may be and wishing everyone a holy, happy and joyous Christmastide when it comes.

Val.

Dates for Your Diary

The following are not specifically FoStA events but some of you may be interested in them.

Saturday November 28th GIFT DAY and CRAFT FAYRE

In the church from 10am until 4pm.

Thursday Dec 10th, 11th & 12th CHRISTMAS TREE

FESTIVAL In the church each day from 10am until 4pm.

Sunday December 20th NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

6pm at St Andrews.

Illustrations of the Christmas Cards on sale this year.



St Andrew's on a cold & frosty morning



Christmas at St Andrew's



The Holy Family



Finlandia



Censing Angels

Price is £4 for 5 cards with envelopes.

The cards are blank inside except Finlandia which says, 'Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year'.

FoStA

FUNDRAISER

for

The Friends of
St Andrew's Church Stratton,

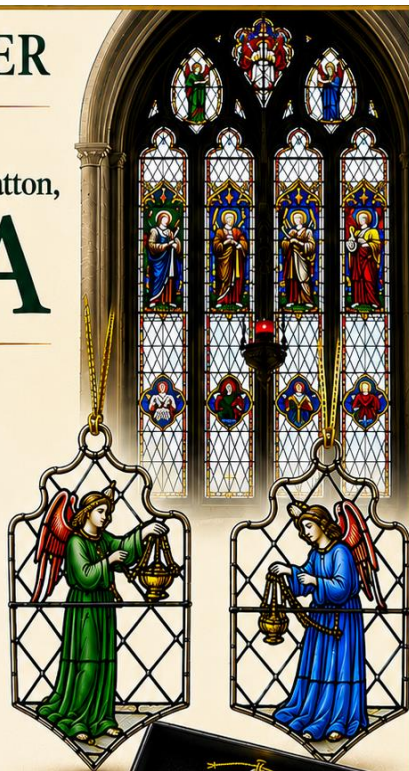
FoStA



These **Hanging Ornaments** were handmade in Cornwall by **Stockwell Ceramics**, a crafts company who produce high quality, handmade jewelry and decorations which are sold in various places including the V&A Museum, Chatsworth House and many other giftshops around the country.

The ornaments are a bespoke product made to our own special requirements. It is a way in which FoStA wished to offer a lasting memento of the conservation work, undertaken by **Holywell Glass of Wells**, on our important stained glass East Window.

Each ornament comes in a presentation box making them an ideal keepsake or gift especially at Christmas time as they make lovely tree ornaments. There are blue and green angels as can be seen at the top of the East Window.



Ideal
keepsake
or gift –
especially at
Christmas time!



The cost is **£10** each
or **£17.50** for a pair,
i.e. 1 blue and 1 green.

Each ornament measures approximately
7.5 x 4cms and the box 8.5 x 8.5cms.



They may be purchased now by contacting

Val Barker, Chair of FoStA,

at 01288 353435 or email

ianandvalstratton@hotmail.co.uk



Proceeds support the conservation of St Andrew's Church

»»» *Thank you* »»»

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

Items for Sale

Please see the new web page for our shop at www.fosta.org.uk

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Photography courtesy of David Goodwin J P