



CHESTERTON CHIMES

News from St Andrew's Church, Chesterton
A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages



WELCOME to the reborn Chesterton Chimes!

NICK MOIR

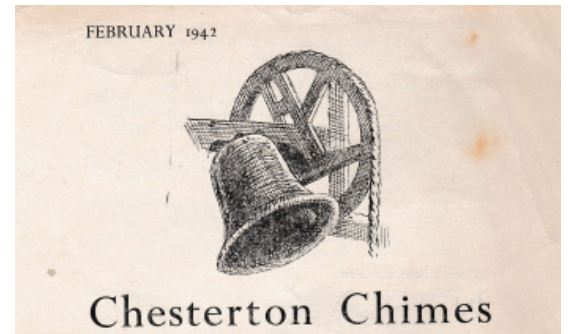
Many of you will remember our old church newsletter that was distributed throughout the parish. That first saw the light of day in February 1942 and was a response to the paper shortage during the long years of the Second World War. It was named after the bells that had long remained silent in those dark days. We live in another period of crisis when our bells have also been silenced and our church life – like everything else – much altered and severely restricted. Indeed, never before in its history has public worship had to be suspended at St Andrew's, even through times of war, plague and famine.

We are very glad then to be returning to a measure of normality and the resumption of public worship in our lovely church building. Why then a revival of a monthly newsletter? Well, before lockdown we planned on a termly cycle with a calendar of services and events published every four months, with more immediate news appearing in our weekly pewsheets. But now it is difficult to plan much more than a month ahead as the rules and guidelines that govern us are changing by the week. A month ahead is the best we can do! Added to which we are minimising the distribution of paper copies of things in church so will not be distributing paper pewsheets generally.

Modern technology has enabled us to continue worshipping as a community online. A year or two ago we also invested in a church database (ChurchSuite) that helps us to keep in touch with everybody electronically. We will be sending out a Friday email every week with reminders about the Sunday services and any updates to the information in the Chimes – and we will also keep the website up-to-date with our news and information. This month – and through to our Harvest Festival on 4 October – we are returning to the 'Celebrating' theme in our Sunday morning worship but with a special focus on creation and the natural world. On September 12-13 we will have a weekend celebrating our churchyard, with a work party on the Saturday and a Thinking our Faith special on the Sunday evening.

We will also be (very belatedly!) having our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Monday 21 September at 7.30pm. You can view a very comprehensive annual report and financial statement on the website.* We will be electing churchwardens, six PCC members and two deanery synod members. Would you consider standing for election? We would very much welcome some new faces (as well as some of the old ones!).

*Linda does a weekly delivery to homes of printed materials for those unable to access the website – do be in touch with her if you'd like to be included.



What's On: Sundays

6 September, 13th Sunday after Trinity /

Celebrating nature

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP, C & L)

10:00am All-Age Service (C&L)

10:45am 'Coffee' (M)

5:30pm Informal Worship (L)

13 September, 14th Sunday after Trinity /

Celebrating the churchyard

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP, C & L)

10:00am All-Age Service (L)

10:45am 'Coffee' (M)

Holy Communion

11:00am Liturgy of the Word (C)

11:30am Liturgy of the Sacrament (C)

5:30pm Thinking our Faith (Z)

20 September, 15th Sunday after Trinity /

Celebrating education

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP, C & L)

10:00am All-Age Service (L)

10:45am 'Coffee' (M)

5:30pm Contemplative Communion (C)

27 September, 16th Sunday after Trinity /

Celebrating work

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP, C & L)

10:00am All-Age Service (L)

10:45am 'Coffee' (M)

Holy Communion

11:00am Liturgy of the Word (C)

11:30am Liturgy of the Sacrament (C)

5:30pm Taizé Service (Z)

What's On: Weekdays

Mondays

8:30am Morning Prayer (M)

4:00pm Wholeness & Healing Prayer Group
(M); fortnightly, 7 & 14

Tuesdays

8:30am Morning Prayer (M)

8-9pm Home Group

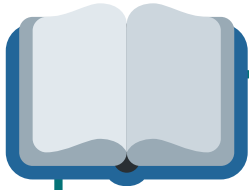
Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

8:30am Morning Prayer (M)

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR
LINKS TO THE SERVICES.
Z=ZOOM, M=MEET,
L=LIVESTREAM,
C=IN CHURCH, H=IN HALL



THERE WILL BE A NEW
SYSTEM FOR RESERVING A
SEAT AT OUR 10/11AM
SUNDAY SERVICES. PLEASE
SEE THE WEBSITE FOR
DETAILS; IF YOU DO NOT
HAVE ONLINE ACCESS YOU
CAN RING LINDA AT THE
OFFICE (306150) ON
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY
MORNINGS AND SHE WILL
RESERVE A PLACE FOR YOU.



READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER

Readings for 30 August

2 Corinthians 3:4-11;
Mark 7:31-37

Monday 31	Acts 8:26-end
Tuesday 1 Sep	Acts 9:1-19a
Wednesday 2	Acts 9:19b-31
Thursday 3	Acts 9:32-end
Friday 4	Acts 10:1-16
Saturday 5	Acts 10:17-33

Readings for 6 September

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Matthew 18:15-20

Monday 7	Acts 10:34-end
Tuesday 8	Acts 11:1-18
Wednesday 9	Acts 11:19-end
Thursday 10	Acts 12:1-17
Friday 11	Acts 12:18-end
Saturday 12	Acts 13:1-12

Readings for 13 September

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-13
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday 14	John 12:27-36a
Holy Cross Day	
Tuesday 15	Acts 13:44-14:7
Wednesday 16	Acts 14:8-end
Thursday 17	Acts 15:1-21
Friday 18	Acts 15:22-35
Saturday 19	Acts 15:36-16:5

Readings for 20 September

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Matthew 20:1-16

Monday 21	2 Timothy 3:14-end
Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	
Tuesday 22	Acts 16:25-end
Wednesday 23	Acts 17:1-15
Thursday 24	Acts 17:16-end
Friday 25	Acts 18:1-21
Saturday 26	Acts 18:22-19:7

Readings for 27 September

Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Monday 28	Acts 19:8-20
Tuesday 29	Acts 12:1-11
Michael and All Angels	
Wednesday 30	Acts 20:1-16
Thursday 1 Oct	Acts 20:17-end
Friday 2	Acts 21:1-16
Saturday 3	Acts 21:17-36



NEWS AND MESSAGES

Connor sends a message,

including his thanks for the gift received from us: 'To everyone at St Andrew's, I would like to thank you all for letting me be part of your church family. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve your community and young people over the past two years. I have learned so much in my time at St Andrew's about supporting people and discipling them in their journey with Jesus; the wisdom I've gained will last me a lifetime. I hope you all continue to grow as a church and that you will live all your days with the message of Jesus in your hearts.'

Graham and Ali Kings (pictured below!) have just moved back to Chesterton and will be joining St Andrew's again.

Graham and Ali, Ros, Miriam and Katie Kings worshipped at St Andrew's Chesterton, 1995-2000.

In retirement, Graham will be an Hon Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Ely and Ali will continue to practise as a psychotherapist. Two grandchildren were born this year and a third is arriving in October.

Azul Wasi News

Because of the rise in Covid cases in Cusco, Azul Wasi is still in lockdown and it isn't anticipated that schools will return before Christmas.

Life at Azul Wasi is very challenging for Alcides and his team as they cope with home-educating and caring for all the children. As a result of a recent grant they have been able to employ an extra person, Genesis, to help with the tutoring. We are hoping to find a way of putting on a fundraising opportunity in the autumn, but if in the meantime you would like to make a donation towards the fund for the food at Azul Wasi, it is now possible to do so online via the special donation button on the Azul Wasi page: <https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi/>. Mary & Chris Pountain - azulwasista@gmail.com

....in the midst of the renovations...

The last service at which the organ at St Andrew's was played

was a funeral in March, just as the Coronavirus was closing in on us. Since then, the old organ has been completely dismantled, the pipes removed and thoroughly cleaned and restored, all during the lockdown. The organ chamber has been given a lick of paint and after a few weeks standing empty, is now again filled up with the new organ - made up of new mechanisms, the restored pipes and a few new ranks of pipes. Even as I write, the screen that has been specially made to fill the archway between the chamber and the chancel, is being installed. After that the organ builders will be able to put in the last few pipes and connect everything up with the brand-new console. From mid-September, for three weeks, they will do the final delicate adjustments of the pipework, before the organ is handed over to us again, hopefully to provide very many years of music. I am looking forward very much to being to show it off to you in due course. Peter Wadl



HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT'S HAPPENING

Just a reminder that the Wholeness & Healing Prayer

Group has been meeting regularly via Zoom while church has been closed. Now that some services are back we still won't be able to pray quietly with people behind the font, probably for a good while yet. If you would like prayers either for yourself or someone else, do get in touch with one of us directly or through Kathryn. You may give as much or as little detail as you wish and of course it will be in complete confidence.

Rosemary, Alison, Maggie, Margaret, Jeanne, Peter, Kathryn

The churchyard is looking good.

Volunteers have been uncovering overgrown tombs, and removing litter. The site is important for wildflowers, birds, butterflies and bees. We are able to share in a grant to make life good for

hedgehogs. On the second weekend of September, there will be a Churchyard Celebration. At 10.30 on Saturday 12th, a party will set to with rakes and secateurs, and on Sunday evening at 5.30, there will be a Zoom discussion of the human and natural history of the area. We are launching a new page on the website, and the Diocesan Advisory Committee is currently considering our plans for an information board which we hope will interest many who walk past the church every day. We have invited teenagers and children to send in artworks – any medium – based on two elements in nature (birds and trees, insects and flowers). These will be displayed in church and on the website, and all artists will receive a voucher for art materials, which they can choose at Tindalls in King Street.

Peter Hilken

Poetry groups: two groups have worked on reading religious poems, from a variety of poets writing on matters of our deepest concerns - hope, fear, grief, love, creation, eternity. The approach has been different to what many experienced at school, focusing on how best to read poems aloud, to give pleasure to ourselves and to listeners. One participant comments: "I initially felt shy about reading aloud, but came to see that the emphasis on speaking and hearing the poems added a whole new dimension to the ultimate understanding and feeling for them." I will be starting a new - fortnightly - series on zoom in September. Those who think they do not like poetry particularly welcome. For more information please contact me, Peter Hilken (details on the final page).

St Andrew's Hall: a message from Rachel

After 3 months on full time furlough I finally returned to working at the Hall in July, part-time for a total of two days a week. Our Finance Officer Jan returned in August half time (7 hours a month). It was such a good feeling to be back in the building and to be doing something productive. I have been working hard to make the hall COVID-19 Secure, completing risk assessments, installing cleaning equipment and over 20 hand sanitizer stations throughout the building! With a deep clean planned in the first week in September the Hall will be open to take bookings from Monday 7 September.

I have made contact with all of our regular user groups and where it is safe to do so some are keen to return. Other groups of course are unable to meet face to face yet and due to 2 metre social distancing measures some groups are simply too large or for other reasons under current government legislation not permitted to meet yet.

As with everywhere we go these days the Hall is going to operate quite differently from before which is definitely going to take us all some getting used to. So while the Hall will open to small group bookings the office will remain closed to visitors. If you need to make contact with any of the office staff please call or email (contact details on the back of this newsletter) It goes against the very nature of how we have been in the past and I will very much miss people dropping by for a friendly chat.

Things of course won't be like this forever, and as we all hope, restrictions will lift over the coming weeks and months and many more of our community activities will be able to resume. We must all be patient! Updates will continue to be posted on the Hall website www.standrews-hall.co.uk where you can see all of the new rules and regulations as they update in the future.

Thought for the Month

WRITTEN BY NICK MOIR

I have been reading 'A History of the Bible: the Book and its Faiths' by the Oxford scholar, John Barton. It is published by Penguin, not a usual purveyor of theology, and has clearly made its mark with a wider audience than (sadly) one might expect. So the cover and inside pages are filled with enconiums from the wider literati and, indeed, the front cover proclaims that it is 'The Sunday Times Bestseller'.

It is a very good book – I would certainly recommend it, though its perspective is slightly on the dry liberal side for me. It is a great achievement these days for a Christian biblical scholar to write in such a way as to engage a largely secular audience – due both to the unfashionableness of being interested in (and therefore having much knowledge of) the Bible and also to the incapacity of too many of those 'within the camp' to communicate in a way that engages the curiosity and sympathy of those outside.

I was thinking about the book when in Morning Prayer last week we read the gruesome and difficult story of Ananias and Sapphira in the Book of Acts. Lover of the Bible though I am, there are times when you would much rather the lectionary compilers had just moved on to the next passage. I remember thinking that more than once when chaplain of St John's with a crowded chapel of those who were perhaps less well acquainted with – and devoted to – the Bible than I was. I guess it's a little like being at a party with a relative who says something profoundly shocking or embarrassing. You feel responsible as you brought them, you love them and most of the time it's fine – it's just every now and then you find yourself praying, 'Oh God, why did you allow that bit in?'

John Barton's book helped me with this. And the point he makes that helped me may seem somewhat obscure and irrelevant – the fact that what came to be called the New Testament was from early days written not on scrolls (like the books of the Old Testament – and lots of other sacred literature) but in notebooks (codices). I knew this before, but had thought this was just a technological point, a shift of fashion and technology, such as from pen and paper to word processor and hard disk. But Barton argues that the choice was deliberate and for a deeper purpose.

Codices were not a new invention but had hitherto not been thought appropriate for higher, sacred purposes, but were more utilitarian – for taking notes and making lists. The writers and compilers of the New Testament did not think they were creating Holy Scripture in the same way as they read their received Scriptures. Their written words did not have the same place in their new era as the old ones.

That doesn't mean they were less important or significant – on the contrary, what they were proclaiming had the capacity to re-read and redefine what had gone before, so that it had more authority, but the authority didn't lie so much in the text as in the teaching that lay behind the text. In using books for their writings the early Christians were being innovative both technologically (they were much easier to transport and disseminate) but also theologically (they weren't worried so much about the written words as what they were bearing witness to).



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