



Summer Newsletter 2021



St. Andrew's Bishopstone

GLORIOUS THINGS

writes Rev'd Arwen, Rector of St Andrew's



greatly and we all enter this new chapter with some trepidation and a fragile hope. Parish churches, the land over, dwell in the grassroots of community life. Our community is the Galilean banks, the Judean countryside, the Jerusalem cobbles of the Gospel and with open eyes we can see the love of God in every single corner of it; in the happen-chance chat, in the unsolicited kindnesses, in the sharing of a precious story, even in the quiet solitude of grief, Christ is always there. Grassroots is where it and He is at. This is why the parish system has served England so well, because it joins in with the footsteps of Jesus, who is already walking in people's lives. The church brings those footsteps into conscious awareness, through fellowship, prayers and the administration of the sacraments.

St Andrew's Church has only recently recovered its fuller life. For eighteen months we've served our community with restricted services and

funerals, but in the last four months, we have recovered the joy of weddings finally able to be held, baptising babes born during lockdown, preparing candidates for confirmation by our new suffragan bishop, and of course the arrival of a newly ordained deacon. These are glorious things and we give thanks to God for restoring the balance, the equilibrium back into our parish ministry, our parish church. These are the glorious things, of which God is spoken and we welcome and look for Jesus in every single one of these events, indeed, in every single one of you, because the Christian way of life was brought by a man who walked along the river banks and cobbled streets, by a God who shunned palaces and thrones to sit beside wells and walls instead. Our doors are open to all of you. We will walk with you wherever you may be, and invite you to walk with us, whoever you are.

What a time we have all had; masks, tests, vaccinations, lockdowns, distancing and many layers of grief - whether named or unnamed. These things have stretched our community

Choral Services

Choral Evensong

Every 1st Sunday at 6pm

Choral Matins

On the 2nd Sunday at 10.30am

Both offered in the traditional form of the Anglican Church.

whose timeless and beautiful language sits so well in the long history that St Andrew's carries with her. All are welcome.

(Said Evensong Weds at 5.30pm)

Sunday Services

Holy Communion

8am and 10.30am

The Holy Eucharist is where we remember our faith, pray for our world and parish, and receive the presence of God in the most Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome
Midweek Mass Weds at 10am

Sacred Silence

Breathing Space

Last Friday at 6.15pm

We offer a time of silence in the sacred space on the last Friday of every month. No words, just a spiritual and holy space in which to bring our weary selves.

St Andrew's is also open on a Wednesday 10.45 - 12pm

ANCIENT & MODERN

We are online!

Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook, look at our website, or visit our Youtube Channel!



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to receive the new e-newsletter



Father Trevor returns ...

It was a great joy, on the 1st August, to welcome Fr Trevor back to St Andrew's after this long year of his first waiting for, and then recovering from, a back operation. It is good to know that we will have three more months of his ministry here in Bishopstone, before he returns (in November) to Devon for a very well earned retirement down in Torquay.

New plans and ideas

Bishopstone PCC (the Parochial Church Council) have become the grateful recipients of a large legacy which is enabling us to newly think about the opportunities and future of this beautiful parish church, ever mindful that every historic generation has always taken St Andrew's another little step forward. A small group have now begun investigating sensitive ways to improve the church facilities, how to offer more for our community and how to open the doors more frequently for people to enter in. *Please sign up for our e-newsletter to keep updated (email rectoryebb@gmail.com)*



Every step of the way ...

Your parish church is here for you; whether regular church-goer or not, the Church of England encourages you to walk with us whether in daily life or for the huge life experiences. We are here to accompany you, to bring prayers and the presence of the loving God for the ordinary and extraordinary; including baptisms (christenings), weddings and those difficult days at the end of life. *Your parish church is here for you.* You can find all our contact details overleaf

The Last Word ...

On a cold rainy day, the parish priest went to visit someone she hadn't seen in church for quite a while. The house, heated by a fireplace, was nice and warm. When asked why he had stopped coming, the parishioner replied, "I can practice my faith at home". Without saying a word the priest took the fireplace tongs, lifted a live coal from the fire, and set it down, alone, on the grate away from the other coals. They watched its hot red colour turn different shades of grey as it slowly cooled, losing its heat to become a dull cold grey.

After a while the man said to his priest, ' I will see you on Sunday.....



God bless you all