



"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade".



Such is the nature of the British spring, and this week brings snow flurries and some lovely sunshine. Spring is a time of awakening and renewal, and of course a lot going on at St. Andrew's! We extend a very warm welcome to everyone reading this newsletter, and invite you to join us for some of the services and community events to be enjoyed at this special time in the Church calendar.

LOOKING BACK.....

Our last newsletter was in the run up to Advent, so we had a busy season of Christmas events, including a festive coffee morning with a few pop-up stalls, and a lovely number of villagers. Our carol service was a magical evening, telling the story of Christmas through readings and carols, and followed by nibbles and mulled wine. The church was full and there was a lovely atmosphere (and the warm scent of mulled spices)... We ended the Advent season with Midnight Mass. In a packed church, we were delighted to have Anjali Kanagaratnam with us as she took her first Midnight Service, surrounded by friends and family - a very special moment.

During the late winter, there have been **some significant repair works carried out in the church**, but done so cleverly that they can't be seen! Our very brave and talented master carpenter repaired the roof over the doorway at the very top of the bell tower, not an easy task. He then moved on to the wooden panelling which has been carefully repaired along the southern wall. A number of pews have had hidden supports added beneath the wooden flooring, as they were in a poor state. St. Andrew's was then offered the opportunity of a **beautiful baby grand piano**, and in honour of its' arrival, a whole section of staging was re-built to support its' weight. Our thanks to Guy Wood for all his efforts and clever repairs. The piano has now arrived, is being tuned, and will be ready to grace us through future services and concerts.



We are now in Lent, and although it is a quiet and reflective time, there is still much going on in the life of St. Andrew's. Lent is a time when we particularly think of the needs of others, and of those who are suffering great hardship and need. We are particularly thinking of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and the overwhelming task facing aid agencies there. We are directly collecting donations in the church, and on **Wednesday 22nd March, we will be holding our Lent Lunch** in aid of this appeal. We offer a simple lunch in the Village Hall with a delicious selection of soup, bread and coffee. This is a lovely and well-supported community event, bringing people together to eat and to chat; at the same time, we will raise vital funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal in support of Turkey and Syria.

We have welcomed record numbers of visitors to St Andrew's over the last year to enjoy the peace within the building together with the wealth of historic interest.

The paper trail around the church gives a brief introduction and the info-point download on to a smart phone, gives a more comprehensive experience and has been used by many.

An usual view inside St Andrew's Church. Please do visit the church which is open every day.





In the weeks ahead.....

THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

The snowdrops are up in the churchyard and the first primroses are pushing up. As everything wakes up, it is time to give the churchyard some attention and do a gentle tidy to prepare us for the Spring. The annual tidy is a lovely moment to spot wildflowers and signs of wildlife either visiting or living in the Churchyard. (We are very careful not to disturb any of the critters we share the grounds with). We would really appreciate it if you are able to spare an hour or two and join us.



At the same time, we apply a lot of elbow grease, polish and extended dusters to the interior of the church, to make everything glorious in time for Mothering Sunday and Easter. We would be delighted (and grateful!!) if you would like to join us for the **annual Spring Clean, inside and out, on Saturday 18th March from 9.30am**. Everyone gets stuck in and the result is always so pleasing. All washed down with coffee and biscuits mid-morning. We'd love to see you.

The following day is **Mothering Sunday**, so our family service will be an opportunity for us to get together with our family and friends, and to share in coffee and cake afterwards!

SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday 18th March 9.30am **Annual Spring Clean** of the Church and Churchyard
Sunday 19th March 11am **Mothering Sunday** Family Service 11am
Wednesday 22nd March 12 till 2pm **Lent Lunch** in the Village Hall



Sunday 2nd April 11am Palm Sunday Holy Communion. There will be a procession from the Roman Bridge at the far end of the village following our Pony Sidney prior to this, commencing at 10.45. Do join us for the procession.

Easter Experience in the Church. Displays depicting the story of Easter throughout Holy Week.

Good Friday Private Prayer

Easter Sunday 9th April 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th April 11am Family Service

Wednesday 3rd May 7.30pm **Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting** ----in the church -- All Welcome



Saturday 6th May The King's Coronation

Sunday 7th May 11am Special Holy Communion Coronation Service, followed by drinks and nibbles. This will be an opportunity for the whole parish to come together and celebrate this historic moment in the life of our nation and our church.



Sunday 21st May 11am Family Service

Please join us for services on the dates above. Our morning services are followed by coffee and refreshments, to give us time to chat and be together.