

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



St Andrew's Church
CASTLE COMBE



“Autumn is the time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale”.



As the chilly nights get darker, we appreciate the low golden light of autumn and the glorious colours in the woods around the valley.

Do join us for our services and community events in the coming months, and for the very special Advent and Christmas services.

It has been a very busy summer at St. Andrew's, as we welcomed thousands of visitors from across the UK and every corner of the world. Many are returning, and leave special messages in the visitors' book or a prayer on the prayer tree in the Knight's Chapel; all find the peace and tranquillity that emanate from this lovely old building.



Amongst our normal services, we have had several weddings and a baptism, and in the last few weeks have taken part in the national Heritage Open Days, celebrating creativity – we had an artist in residence demonstrating cyanotyping, working on the stained glass windows, which was fascinating and a great talking point for visitors.



The church looked glorious with autumn flowers, all picked from local gardens and allotments, as we then held our Harvest Festival service. Focussing on the finite resources of our planet and the climate crisis, our donations were sent to charities working in the flood disaster in Libya and earthquake in Morocco. After the service, a car full of non-perishable food donations was taken to our local foodbank.

We continue to hold regular coffee mornings, which are a lovely opportunity for friends and neighbours to meet, chat and share that sense of community.

FAREWELL TO ANJALI

As many of you will know, we will sadly be bidding farewell to our curate, Anjali Kanagaratnam, this November. We are delighted for her that she has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of South Severnside, Bristol West Deanery and Racial Justice Co-Ordinator in the Diocese of Bristol. We know that this combined role will play to her strengths. Since she joined the Benefice as curate about 4 years ago, we have been fortunate to have her with us for the majority of our services. She has forged a strong and caring relationship with St. Andrew's, through her services and special moments in the community, and we have been inspired by her teaching. We will miss her, and all that she brings through the door – especially her smile! We wish Anjali, Neil and all the family every happiness as they start their new adventure. Her final service with us is on 19th Nov. at 11.00am

Palm Sunday with Anjali





THE CHURCHYARD

As the summer season faded, we had the long grass in the rear churchyard cut for the first time this year. Leaving the wildflowers and grasses to grow all summer provides a varied and sheltered habitat for wildlife and allows it all to set seed. This late cut and removal of the grass ensures that there is an opportunity for that seed to fall - and importantly that there is no enrichment of the soil through the clippings. This gentle and organic management preserves an environment that has been remarkably untouched for potentially hundreds of years.

Our garden bank, dividing the upper and lower churchyard, has been a great success in its second year. Many of the plants have fully established and it is currently covered in bees feeding on all the pink sedum flowers, which are also useful for our flower arrangements. We are very happy to receive donations of any spare (and fairly hardy) plants for this bank, and we hope it will continue to flourish.

SPECIAL EVENTS

COFFEE MORNINGS

Do join us for our coffee mornings 10.30 to 12 noon on 11th October and 15th November; the 13th December one is likely to have a wee drop of festive cheer! A chance to meet and chat.



“HOCKNEY AND ME”

On Friday 24th November at 7.30pm, we will be hosting a very special occasion in support of St Nicholas, Slaughterford. Chris Stephens, Director of the Holburne Museum in Bath and previously head of displays and lead curator of Modern British Art at the Tate, will be giving a talk and fascinating insight to his friend David Hockney. This promises to be a rare opportunity to learn about a man considered

one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century. The talk will be accompanied by wine and nibbles. Tickets are available at £15 or £25 for 2. Please contact Merope Sylvester mjsylvester@hotmail.com or Michael and Sally Constable - St Andrews Church standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com for tickets

SERVICES

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

Sunday 1st October 11.00 am Holy Communion.

Sunday 15th October 11.00 am Morning Praise.

Sunday 29th October 11.00 am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
with Grittleton and Slaughterford.

Sunday 5th November 11.00 am Holy Communion.

Sunday 12th November 10.50 am **Remembrance by the War Memorial in the village followed by a short service in the church.** The Royal Corps of Signals will be able to join us as they have done in previous years.

Sunday 19th November 11.00 am Morning Praise, **St Andrew's farewell service to Anjali.**

Sunday 3rd December 11.00 am Holy Communion.

Sunday 17th December 6.00 pm **Candlelit Carols.**
Traditional 7 Lessons and Carols followed by Christmas refreshments.

Sunday 24th December **Please note new time**
10.00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion.

St Andrew's Website:- <https://standrewschurchcastlecombe.org/>



For any help, support or assistance in getting to church or in any other way, please do contact us:

Sally & Michael Constable	07811465985	Julie Hare	07580537005
Karen Munnings	07973201706	Mike Roberts	07717546070
Nicola Wood	07802880206		
Or e-mail St Andrew's Church	standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com		

Note: We are keen to contact you with news from St Andrew's, but should you not wish to receive these newsletters in the future please tell us by emailing: standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com