



"The snowdrop and primrose our woodlands adorn, and violets bathe in the wet o' the morn." Robert Burns

The days are lengthening and the first signs of spring are appearing. The snowdrops and primroses in the churchyard are spreading naturally and are such a welcome sight.



Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2024 from all of us at St Andrew's.

Read about news from the last few months and a busy programme of services and events to come. We very much hope you will be able to join us in the months ahead. We also have major news to share concerning the second phase of roof work, a challenging project for us in terms of logistics and fund-raising. And mid-summer, a wonderful concert to look forward to.....

LOOKING BACK... "Remembrance," "A fond farewell" and "An entertaining Arts Evening".

The last few months have seen some significant moments in the life of St. Andrew's.

- As ever, the major focus of November was our Remembrance Service, supported by the Royal Corps of Signals from Azimghur Barracks.
- A few days later, we held a very special and joyous service to say farewell to our curate Anjali Kanagaratnam. She has been an inspirational support to us and will be deeply missed by us all.
- The end of November was one of the year's highlights, when over 100 gathered on a dark Friday evening to hear about the life and work of David Hockney. A fascinating and entertaining talk by Chris Stephens, Director of the Holburne Museum in Bath, was followed by wine and canapés. It was a truly great evening, supported jointly between St Andrew's Castle Combe and St Nicholas Slaughterford.



The Christmas season was soon upon us, and in a beautifully decorated church, we enjoyed a village get together over cake, coffee and a glass of mulled wine, with a few pop-up stalls and a raffle. Christmas week commenced with Carols by Candlelight, when a full church listened to the 7 lessons and sang hymns telling the Christmas story, and then our Christmas Eve service – which was an hour earlier than normal! – brought villagers and many from the wider area to share in that special moment of peace and celebration.

SPRINGING FORWARD... The 3 "C's" Our Challenges, Community events and Concert.

News and events for the coming months; we hope to see you at some of these events, and also to ask for your help

RAISING THE ROOF!!! – Southern Slopes Project.



In 2016, after many years of fundraising and growing concern over water damage, the north side of St. Andrew's was re-roofed, at a cost of about £120k. This side was chosen as it was in the poorest condition; however, we have known for some years that the entirety of the roof needs replacing. Inevitably, further deterioration has taken place of the other slopes – just how much will become evident in the 5 yearly inspection of the structure taking place imminently – and we can delay no longer in re-roofing them.

The logistical issues in the work to the northern side were considerable; the south facing aspect, which will include the porch and all the 'village-facing' roofs, is going to be a formidable challenge. We already know that we will need in excess of £330,000 to complete these works.

We plan to start as soon as practicable in spring 2025 – it is necessary with all the logistics, securing of permissions and engaging contractors, to plan ahead and fix on a timetable. We have some funds to make a start and we will apply for any available grants, but clearly we have a massive hill to climb.

If you can help us in any way – financially, or in terms of logistical or fund-raising support – we would be so grateful to hear from you via the email below, or by calling Mike Roberts on 07717 546070 or Michael Constable 01249 782706.



LENT LUNCH

On **Wednesday 13th March, from 12 to 2pm**, we will be holding a Lent Lunch in the village hall. It is a simple lunch of delicious homemade soups and bread, followed by coffee. Please come and sample a bowl –or 3! – and chat with villagers. It's always a lovely event. We ask for donations, which will be given to a charity feeding the hungry.



ANNUAL CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD SPRING CLEAN.

Please come and help!!



Then on **Saturday 16th March, from 9am till 12pm**, we gather indoors and out to make St. Andrew's look beautiful. Armed with either cleaning materials or gardening tools, we have a thorough clean through, dust away the winter cobwebs and polish till everything shines, whilst outside we carry out essential husbandry and a tidy ready for the coming spring and all that lies ahead. It also gives us the opportunity to check on the flora and fauna in the churchyard, and all the work that is done outside is carried out for the benefit and enhancement of our natural environment.

Please help if you can by spending an hour or two with us on the day, every extra pair of hands makes a tremendous difference, plus a break to sample coffee and cookies halfway through the morning.

A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING CONCERT.



Following on from the great success of our Hockney Evening, we are delighted to announce an enchanting evening of music with Chiltern Winds, an award-winning quintet of graduates from the Royal Academy of Music. The concert will take place on **Saturday 29th June**. We hope you will be able to join us; details to follow. –

put the day in your diary so not to miss out.



ST. ANDREW'S WARMLY WELCOMES YOU TO OUR SERVICES.

There is always an opportunity to meet others over coffee after each of our services.

Sunday 18th February	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 3rd March	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th March	11am	Morning Praise

Easter Experience in the Church. Displays depicting the story of Easter throughout Holy Week. Easter Garden, The Crucifixion, Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane.



Easter Sunday 31st March 11.00 am Holy Communion.

A special celebration of Communion for our Community and Visitors.

Sunday 7th April	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th April	11am	Morning Praise

For any further information about St Andrew's Church please get in touch with us, by email at standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com <https://standrewschurchcastlecombe.org>