



St Andrew's Church
CASTLE COMBE



The woods in the valley are already turning autumnal due to the lack of summer rain, and the grass in the churchyard has paled to dry gold – but the steady rains of the bank holiday weekend have brought welcome relief and fresh green shoots. As we head into autumn, there are numerous special services and events to tell you about, and hope that you will be able to join us over the coming months.

St Andrew's Tower. Work to replace the lead roof.

We are entering the final phase of our re-roof programme at St Andrew's. Over the past 10 years all slopes will have been replaced. **A major achievement!**

The lead tower roof is the smallest area in size but is the highest so a major scaffolding construction is now being put in place. The roofer, West Country Tiling will shortly start work to replace the roof which although repaired and patched over the years is leaking badly and could cause damage to the fabric beneath. Our fan vaulting and faceless turret clock. At the same time gully, and stonework will be attended to.

All these works over the years would not have been possible without the support of many, the community, friends of the church, visitors and grant bodies. Also, we have benefited from a loan facility from Bristol Diocese which we are now paying off.



We would like to thank especially the following with their involvement with the latest Tower Roof project.
National Churches Trust, Headley Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust all for their generous support.

We are hoping to see these works completed before the winter months.

*Thank
you*

Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride. We will be welcoming cyclist, riders, and walkers on Saturday 12th September for this annual event.

Churchyard News.

As the summer comes to an end we have taken stock of the results of a very hot few months. Some of the trees and shrubs have clearly struggled. The rear churchyard, which is left long all through the summer months to allow the wildflowers to set seed, has stayed relatively green compared to the closely mowed areas on the south side of the church. As a result, there has been much more bird activity there, and small mammals have been able to pass unseen through the long grasses. Mike Roberts has installed a small shallow water bowl and kept this topped up through the summer to help our hedgehog family and other creatures keep hydrated. We took advantage of the very dry conditions and have mowed all the long grass areas now. The churchyard grass is looking much happier for the recent rain.



We have plans to plant bulbs to naturalise across some areas of the churchyard during the autumn – so do keep an eye out for a planting date when we hope extra hands will join us for this very satisfying task: one day we hope to see flowers like the ones in the photo on the left. Apart from the beauty of the flowers and lifting everyone's spirits at a bleak time of year, these flowers provide essential food for our early pollinators.



Harvest Festival.

Do join us on Sunday 20th September at 11am for this wonderful service celebrating the harvest season. The church will be richly decorated with flowers from local gardens and hedgerows, and the service will reflect the importance of the natural world around us. We ask for donations of dry foods to be donated to Doorway in Chippenham, and these can be dropped off at the rear of the church at any point in the week leading up to the service. The service will be followed by a light lunch in the church; if you are able to come, please let Julie (07580 537005) or Sally know (07811 465985) so we have an idea of numbers.



Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September 2026
St Andrew's Church Castle Combe

Life in Castle Combe in the 1970s and 1980s

Do you remember using candles during the oil crisis or The Silver Jubilee celebrations?

It would be great to hear your memories of the 70s and 80s in the village or elsewhere. There will be a display of photos and other memorabilia from that period in the church.

Please join us for a **Coffee and Cake morning** on Friday 11th September in Andrew's, to meet up with others and share memories. Following this, the church will be manned by local volunteers until 4pm, and on Saturday 12th between 11 am and 4 pm. For further information go to <https://heritageopendays.org> or email karen@shrubhouse.com

Coffee & Cake Mornings at St Andrew's

Our monthly coffee mornings are a great opportunity to meet and mix with friends old and new. Though we say it ourselves, our cake provision is really rather delicious, so do join us between 10.30 and 12 on the following dates (please note September is not a Wednesday like the rest of our dates).



Friday 11th September (to coincide with
Heritage Open Day)
Wednesday 14th October
Wednesday 18th November

All are welcome.

St Andrew's warmly welcomes you to our Services

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

Sunday 6th September 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September 11.00 am Harvest Festival Service. Followed by lunch in the church.



Sunday 4th October 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October 11.00 am Morning Praise "Songs of Praise". Hymns chosen by parishioners.



Sunday 1st November 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November 10.50 am Remembrance Sunday – service starts with the Act of Remembrance in front of the War Memorial and is followed by the service inside St Andrew's.

Sunday 15th November 11.00 am Morning Praise which will be Church Heritage Sunday



And finally..... Whilst the number of tourists visiting the village is a real issue for the local population, it is worth reflecting on the outreach of St. Andrew's across the world. We freely supply hundreds of prayer sheets and heritage leaflets to all those coming through the door, and they are taken away from the village. In a recent audit of nationalities visiting the church, it was discovered that nearly 90 countries were represented. Some of these are repeat visitors who come back to the church again and again, remarking on the special atmosphere and wonderful peace they find inside the building. Several hundred years of prayer, hope and peace bring comfort to thousands of people from across the world.

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