

The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

www.standrewschurchguernsey.org



Newsletter for Trinity 6, 11 July 2021

The Rector writes ...



I am writing this newsletter on Friday morning, before I begin the four-day meeting of the Church of England's General Synod. Sadly, that meeting will be held online, although we were expecting a physical meeting in London when we planned to be away from Guernsey at the beginning of July. However, the UK Covid-19 regulations changed after we had made our travel plans. So we are staying in Norwich for longer than we had planned – which has the advantage of allowing us to spend more time with our family, including our grandson.

Although it's something of a 'busman's holiday', we are enjoying the change of scene, and the opportunity to explore some of the beautiful churches in north Norfolk, including St Mary's church, Barningham Winter (the 'Winter' half of the name derives from a local family). The church is isolated in the middle of parkland, with no houses anywhere near. It fell into ruin at the Reformation in the

sixteenth century, as the local population declined, but the chancel was rescued and rebuilt in the nineteenth century – it is on the right of the picture, beyond the ruined tower. But the worship of God continues in that place.

Like so many churches, in Guernsey as much as in Norfolk, this church carries the history of the community, as well as being an enduring witness to Christian faith in all 'the changing scenes of life'.

The meeting of General Synod will inevitably have its ups and downs, disagreements as well as lighter moments. At the heart of everything is the enduring conviction that God, who calls us to be his people, is faithful.

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After the 10 am service on Sunday 25 July, I plan to offer an update on our plans and aspirations for developing St Andrew's church over a cup of coffee.

Forest Parish Church Flower Festival

Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 July, 10 am - 5 pm

Sports-themed floral displays. Table of home-made crafts and gifts for sale and refreshments available. All welcome!

On Friday 9 July at 7.30 pm, a Summer Concert at Forest Parish Church as part of the church's Flower Festival. Performers: The State of Harmony Choir and clarinet and piano duo, Claire & Chris Claxton. Free entry and refreshments. Retiring collection to be split between GROW. and church funds.

This week ...

Thursday 15 July 7.00 pm Choir practice (augmented choir)

St Andrew's church is open daily, without restriction, from around 10 am until the late afternoon or early evening.

Holy Communion, and laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Wednesday at 10.30 am at the **Monnaie Chapel**. The Monnaie Chapel is a remarkable place – accessed off the Rue du Monnaie (halfway up the road, on the left, when approaching from Les Poidevins).



Looking ahead ...

Choral Evensong will be sung at St Andrew's church on the feast of St James, Sunday 25 July, at 6.30 pm.

The augmented choir has begun its preparation for this service of Choral Evensong on 24 June. If you would like to join the augmented choir, please have a word with Chris Claxton.

There are posters on the notice board for various concerts and events to be held around Guernsey in coming weeks.

Prayers for the week

A prayer for this week:

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray

- for the members of the Church of England's General Synod, meeting online this weekend, from Friday afternoon until Monday evening;
- for those who are anxious about the opening of Guernsey's borders, and for those who have the responsibility of reassuring and supporting the community;
- for the people of Haiti, following the assassination of President Jovenal Moise last Wednesday.

We pray, in the Guernsey churches prayer list, for the staff of the States of Guernsey and the douzaine offices around the island.

We pray for all who live in the parish of St Andrew and for our church community.

And, by name, for Stella Machon, Audrey Gollop, Jean Walpole, Chris and Cindy Kennedy, Georgina, Chris and Diane Lesbirel, Ann Nicholson, Fletch O'Hara, Elisa Wales, Jonathan Charmley and Ray Tonkinson.

Finally ...

I am grateful to those who are taking the services, and opening and closing the church each day, whilst I am away from Guernsey.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Tim

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Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

New Testament reading: Ephesians 1 vv 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: Mark 6 vv 14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the



Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.



Prayer after Communion

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.