

St Andrew's Church

M a g a z i n e

*A Place of Peace
and Reconciliation*

**Harvest 2025
Issue 29**

To find all the latest information about Sunday services and mid-week activities at St Andrew's, visit our website or Facebook page. The address is at the bottom of page 23.

We welcome items for future editions. They should be sent to John Daymond at: john.daymond1@btinternet.com

Deadline for the Christmas Edition is Sunday, 26 October 2025

*Suggested
contribution 75p*



These two windows, by artist John K. Clark, are part of a 22 window collection that were produced to mark the 'Glasgow — City of Culture' in 1990. They were installed in Queen's Park Synagogue, Glasgow, between 1990 and 1992. The windows tell the story of the Jewish Year through their various festivals. When Queens Park Synagogue closed in 2002 the windows were moved to Giffnock Synagogue, a few miles outside Glasgow.



The top picture celebrates the Festival of Booths, when families are encouraged to build a shelter outside their homes. The lower window represents the Ingathering of Crops, a joyful occasion.

A harvest we bear, our talents and time.
A calling to share: such is God's design.

Be Careful What You Pray For!



*Bishop Sophie,
Bishop of
Coventry Diocese,
writes:*

It has been a great joy to arrive in the Diocese of Coventry and to experience the warm welcome of the people of the churches and wider community. It is clear that there are many reasons to be encouraged as we see God at work in growing and developing churches, new worshipping communities, chaplaincies and schools.

As we approach harvest, I have been reflecting on the beauty of the growth around us. St Andrew's has, I know, been very committed to the fifth mark of mission 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. Achieving a Gold Eco Award from A Rocha, amply demonstrates the commitment of the whole church working together.

Arriving at the Bishop's house this year, we were struck by the number of fruit trees in the garden. These have been nurtured over many years. Ironically, one of my hopes for a garden has always been to have fruit trees that provide luscious fruit. It seems now that we are likely to be overwhelmed with apples in the Autumn. We are also enjoying plums and figs, fresh from the trees.

The bible is full of examples of growth and fruitfulness. Psalm 1 speaks of the person who follows God's ways being 'Like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers'. The book of the Prophet Isaiah promises: 'You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail'. (Isaiah 58:11) and the final book of the bible (Revelation 22:2) ends with a picture of the restored creation: 'On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations'.

Fruit trees remind us that God gives the growth. Well nurtured they provide nourishment and goodness for the people God loves and created. Perhaps you are longing to experience God's growth and favour in your life at this time. Perhaps you know someone who needs that fresh experience of God's grace and strength.

May I encourage you to join me in praying for growth and flourishing for yourself, those you know and love and for the churches and communities of our Diocese this harvest, that we may see great fruit as we trust in him, the God who delights in bringing growth to his people throughout the ages. May God bless you richly today and always.

Be Careful What You Wish For!



*Rev'd Canon
Dr Edmund
Newey
writes:*

Here is a traditional bedtime story from Mozambique.

Once upon a time there was a family of gazelles. They wandered the forest with their horns held high on their heads. Their mother said to them, 'God has made your horns very beautiful. They are just right for what you need, Make sure you keep them that way'. Every day they would walk to the deep pool of water from which they drank. They would look at their reflection in the water and admire their horns. They would say, 'Thank you, God, that we have just what we need'.

The gazelles took their mother's advice and were a contented family. All except the youngest one. One day he looked at his reflection in the water and said to himself, 'I have the most beautiful horns of all. Two little horns are not enough. The world would be a better place if I had more.' And as he said that, to his astonishment, an extra pair of horns, bigger than the first, grew.

The next day he went back to the water pool where everyone was drinking and showed off his new horns to his brothers and sisters. And when he looked at his reflection, he thought to himself, 'My, how these bigger horns suit me! How much better if I had even more'. And as he said it, to his amazement, another pair of horns, even bigger than the previous ones, grew.

His mother started to worry. 'My dear son, don't do this!', she pleaded, 'it's not good for you to have more than you need'. But the gazelle did not listen to her. He kept growing more and more horns, and they kept getting bigger and bigger. And the more he had the prouder he grew of what he had achieved.

But then one day, something terrible happened. A drought came to the land. The pool where the gazelles drank became drier and drier. When the mother came to drink, she had to put her head deep down into the hole in order to reach the water. When the young gazelles came to drink, they too had to stretch deep, deep, down to reach the water. But when the youngest gazelle tried to drink, he couldn't. He had so many horns and they were so big, that no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get his head into the hole. And because he couldn't reach the water he grew more and more thirsty. And without water to drink, he wasted away and died.

*The world has enough for everyone to have what they need;
but there is not enough for everyone to have more than they need.*

*We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on our lands,
But nations who are deep in debt are left with empty hands.
The world is full of people who struggle to survive,
While we have food in plenty – O God, our care revive!*

*Some good gifts around us have been acquired by stealth;
Forgive us, Lord, and move our hearts,
that we may share our wealth.* (Alison Blenkinsop)

Generosity Week: Love Into Action

Generosity Week at St Andrew's: "Love into Action"

Sunday, 28th September –
Sunday, 5th October 2025



This year, St Andrew's is embracing the Church of England's Generosity Week with a fresh focus: **Love into Action**. Moving beyond the traditional emphasis on financial giving, (*though your generosity remains vital to our future!*), we're placing God at the centre of our campaign, inspired by St Augustine of Hippo's prayer: "**Knowing, Loving & Serving You.**"

What is "Love into Action"?

Love into Action is about celebrating the people, passion, and purpose that make St Andrew's a thriving, welcoming community. Throughout the week, we'll shine a light on the countless ways our congregation serves one another and the wider Rugby town, through volunteering, acts of kindness, and shared ministry. These acts not only strengthen our bonds as a church family but also deepen our spiritual growth and connection with God.

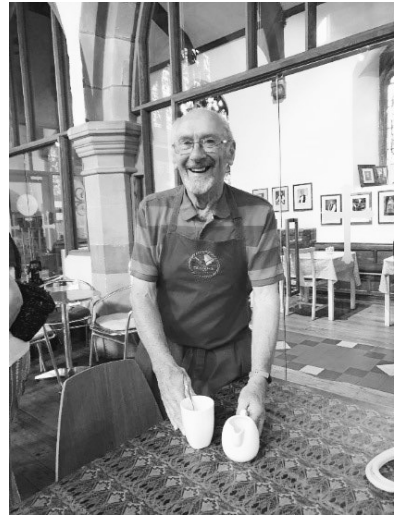
Expect heartfelt interviews, inspiring stories, and powerful testimonials from those in our congregation who give their time, talents, and love to St Andrew's. You won't want to miss the special services and features over the two Sundays of Generosity Week — 28th September and 5th October, concluding with a delicious family 'bring & share' Harvest lunch (*after Altogether Worship — Sunday, 5th October, 12:30pm*). Please mark your diaries and join us as we explore how putting **Love into Action** transforms lives, including our own.

Ron's Story of Volunteering at St Andrew's

One shining example is **Ron**, whose dedication to St Andrew's, whether serving in the café, stewarding funerals, or singing in the Community Choir, embodies the spirit of this year's theme, **Love into Action**.

Ron, a retired chemistry teacher, has always been drawn to working with people. For him, volunteering is about giving back to a church that has given him so much. '**It's not just about coming through the door on a Sunday**', he says. '**It's about being part of a family, supporting each other, and using our gifts to make others feel welcome**'.

His journey highlights how small acts can make a big difference, like arriving early to prepare tea and coffee for a meeting, staying to wash up afterward, or simply saying hello. To him, the café is more than just a place for refreshments; it's a welcoming space where the **'church's doors remain open'** and the wider community of Rugby can find warmth and hospitality. Yet, as he reminds us, **'more hands are always needed'**. He hopes younger generations will step forward, bringing their energy and ideas to help St Andrew's Community Café continue to grow and thrive.



Faith is at the centre of Ron's service, and he shares, how like for many of us, faith and volunteering go hand in hand. He has a special fondness for the Sunday evening Iona service. **'It feels more personal and engaging'**, he explains. **'There's something deeply comforting about it. It's the one service I never miss'**.

Ron's message to those considering volunteering and helping at St Andrew's is straightforward and encouraging: **'Have a go! Don't overthink it — just give it a try. You've got nothing to lose. If it doesn't feel right, that's okay — we'll find something else that suits you better.'**

Thank you, Ron, for your support in our Community Café – you truly are a shining star! We're sure your story will inspire many in our congregation to 'have a go' and put their Love into Action too.

How will you put 'Love into Action' this Generosity Week?

Ron's story is a call to all of us. Whether it's an hour a month or a regular commitment, every act of service strengthens our church family and extends God's love to those who walk through our doors. As Ron puts it, **'There's more to the church than me and the café. Find out for yourself'**.

This story is just one of many we'll be sharing. Come along to hear how **Love into Action** is lived out every day at St Andrew's, and discover how you, too, can be part of this blessed journey. **We can't wait to see you there!** Let's make this Generosity Week a time of inspiration, reflection, and renewed commitment to serving God and one another.

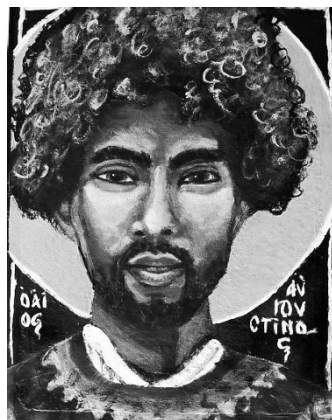
Prayer for our Love into Action week: 'Knowing, Loving, and Serving God'

As we journey together through Generosity Week at St Andrew's, we invite everyone in our church family to centre their hearts and minds on our call to **Love into Action**. To guide and inspire us, we will pray together St Augustine of Hippo's prayer, '**Knowing, Loving, and Serving You**'.

St Augustine's prayer reminds us that our acts of service, whether volunteering, helping, or simply being present for one another, are rooted in our relationship with God. May we be drawn to pray this special prayer wherever we are: at home, in the car, on the bus, while walking the dog, doing the washing up, at work, or in quiet reflection. May the Holy Spirit move us to pray aloud or in silence, individually or together, as we seek to live out our faith with **Love into Action**.

St Augustine of Hippo's Prayer

*Eternal God,
who are the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
and so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
& Teacher of the Faith.

Icon by Gracie Morbitzer, from her book
The Modern Saints.

May this prayer guide us as we discover what it means to turn **Love into Action**, whether by volunteering, offering help, or simply with friendly words of encouragement to each other. In the words of St Augustine, may it fill us with '**the joy of hearts that love you**' and the '**the strength of wills that serve you**'.

Excited to find out more about Generosity Week and Love into Action?

If you'd like to learn how you can get involved in 'Love into Action' at St Andrew's, our Generosity Week coordinators would love to chat! Please speak to Fr Edmund, Fr James, Joyce, or Simon. Whether you're curious about volunteering, sharing your story, or simply want to know more – just ask!

Giving Thanks For Our Loved Ones



*Rev'd Sharon Crofts,
Associate Minister
writes:*

The stories written by C.S. Lewis (of 'The Chronicles of Narnia' fame) are perhaps not to everyone's taste, but for me, as a child, I adored and found myself lost in the imaginations of Narnia, the wonderful – yet often uneasy – even cruel and difficult world beyond the fur coats at the back of the wardrobe.

How about you?

When I became a Christian as an adult in the 1990's, I became aware that C.S. Lewis was a Christian man and was probably one of the most popular Christian writers of the twentieth century. As a Christian I came to realise the story of Narnia and Aslan the Lion were allusions to God, Jesus and the Christian faith. In writing about the Chronicles of Narnia the Oxford Reeder states 'Beneath the surface, however, lies a deeper layer of meaning rooted in biblical symbolism and Christian theology. From acts of creation to redemption and rebirth, the Narnia series offers profound reflections on the Christian faith'. *Oxford Reeder, Sept 18 2024.*

I found myself drawn to Lewis' writings again whilst ministering within the hospital chaplaincy and discovering his reflections on Joy, Grief, Love and Faith. I was initially drawn to his writing 'A Grief Observed', written after the death of his beloved wife Helen, but Lewis had experienced a lifetime of grief with his mother dying when he was a young boy and also during his military service during the first world war. Lewis met and married Helen Joy Davidson, an American poet and writer in her own right, later in his life. They married in 1956 and sadly Helen died from cancer in 1960. Lewis was though, a man who was deeply in love with Helen, and her death, as you would imagine, deeply grieved him. This led him to his collated reflections that ultimately went beyond his grief for Helen to

expressions of his previous experiences of loss and also in his writings of condolences to friends who's loved ones had died.

I'd like to share first his poetic epitaph for Helen, followed by a reflection on the pain of grief, in the hope that something of his reflection may speak to anyone who is grieving now.

Epitaph for Helen Joy Davidman

Here the whole world
 (stars, water, air
And field, and forest, as they were
Reflected in a single mind)
Like cast-off clothes was left behind
In ashes yet with hope that she,
Re-born from holy poverty,
In Lenten lands, hereafter may
Resume them on her Easter Day.

Being an embarrassment

I cannot talk to the children about her. (Helen had been previously married and had had two sons during her first marriage). The moment I try, there appears on their faces neither grief, nor love, nor fear, not pity, but the most fatal of all non-conductors, embarrassment. They look as if I were committing an indecency ... I can't blame them. It's the way boys are ... (Remember we are talking about young adult boys in the 1960's).

Or are the boys right? What would Helen herself think of this terrible

little notebook to which I come back and back? Are these jottings morbid? ... Part of every misery is, so to speak, the misery's shadow or reflection: the fact that you don't merely suffer but have to keep on thinking about the fact that you suffer. I not only live each endless day in grief, but live each day thinking about living each day in grief. Do these notes merely aggravate that side of it? Merely confirm the monotonous, treadmill march of the mind round one subject? But what am I to do? I must have some drug, and reading isn't a strong enough drug now... .

An odd by-product of my loss is that I'm aware of being an embarrassment to everyone I meet. At work, the club, in the street, I see people, as they approach me, trying to make up their minds whether they'll say something about it or not. I hate it if they do, and if they don't ... I like best the well-brought up young men, almost boys, who walk up to me as if I were a dentist, turn very red, get it over, and then edge away to the bar as quickly as they decently can. Perhaps the bereaved ought to be isolated in special settlements like lepers.

To some I'm worse than an embarrassment. I am a death's head. Whenever I meet a happily married pair I can feel them both thinking, 'One of other of us must some day be as he is now'.

'A Grief Observed' by C.S. Lewis

Lewis spoke honestly and openly from his heart about the pain of his

grief for his beloved wife, and although it was sixty years ago, he was desperate to express his grief in his writing as it was clearly too painful – and I might add, not the done thing to share openly in talking about your grief in a more public setting.

However, in the 1960's many lived in tighter and more connected communities in comparison to contemporary society, where a family's grief was known about and supported by the local community.

Bereavement Point

Today, at our Bereavement Point meetings, we offer a safe space for people who are grieving to come and talk about their loved ones. We appreciate that talking about what grief is really like can be extremely difficult, but Bereavement Point is a place where you can have open and honest conversation about your loved ones, without the embarrassment of how you might make others feel, and it is also a space where we celebrate and give thanks for what your loved ones lives meant to you.

Harvest is about giving thanks to God for all the good things that God has gifted us. I believe that this includes the people in our lives whom God has gifted us and we have had the privilege of loving.

Whilst the stories of how we lost our loved ones are difficult, the

memories of the love we shared with them are worthy of us giving thanks for them, even in our loss.

Bereavement Point is held at 2pm on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Tuesday of each month.

No appointment or booking is necessary. Just come along and join us. Bereavement Point is where your grief is welcome.

Finally, I hope and pray that if you are grieving, that a letter from Lewis to a friend may bring some words of comfort to you:

The pain is not the whole thing

I have just got your letter of 22nd containing the sad news of your father's death. But, dear lady, I hope you and your mother are not really trying to pretend it didn't happen. It does happen, happens to all of us, and I have no patience with the high-minded people who make out that it 'doesn't matter'. It matters a great deal, and very solemnly.

And for those who are left, the pain is not the whole thing. I feel very strongly (and I am not alone in this) that some great good comes from the dead to the living in the months or weeks after the death. I think I was much helped by my own father after his death; as if our Lord welcomed the newly dead with the gift of some power to bless those they have left behind ... Certainly they often seem just at that time to be very near us.
From 'Letters of C.S. Lewis'.

News From The Towers



*Christine
Homer,
Bell Captain,
writes:*

Since I wrote for the last magazine we have rung for one wedding blessing, and for the special events of the 80th anniversaries of both VE day (8th May) and VJ day (15th August). Our new training bell has been in weekly use (give-or-take holidays).

As some of you will know, I have been ill recently and unfortunately was unable to go on the tower outing to Leicestershire in June, which I am told was enjoyed by all those who went. Thanks to Pip, Des and Laurie for organising that.

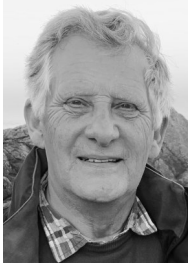
I was very pleased to have recovered enough to join the Coventry Cathedral ringers ringing after James' priesting at the cathedral. I hope those of you who came heard us. There are 13 bells in the Cathedral tower, 12 in musical scale (C#) plus a flat 6th that allows ringing on a lighter octave. The bells were left unringable by the destruction of the old cathedral in 1940. (The tower can move too easily without a building to provide support). They were rehung in 1987, in a frame designed to remove the stresses on the tower structure. One of the first occasions they rang (before they were even re-dedicated) was for the victory parade following Coventry City's win of the FA cup. (The precentor at the time was a big football fan and requested the ringing). The bells are rung *after* the Sunday morning services, as most of the ringers are also committed to service ringing elsewhere.

I have just returned from a 5-day tour in Wiltshire with my University Bell-Ringing Society, which makes up for my missing the tower tour. I rang at 23 towers over five days, some very historic interesting churches in towns and villages in and around Chippenham (mostly with six bells in them), including the tower where one of my student friends learnt to ring. One church had a very prominent display of a thank-you letter from their diocese for paying their parish share in full!

Handbell practices have stopped for the time being: we will probably restart in a month or two, focusing on Christmas carols, but without Charlotte who, as some of you will know, has moved for a new job. We wish her well for her move to London. If anyone else would like to join the team (for handbells or tower bells), let me know – or just come along to an advertised practice.

'Rich In Goods But Poor In Soul'

The Challenge of Harvest 2025



*Rev'd Peter
Beresford
writes:*

The title for this little article comes from a fine 'modern' hymn by Harry Fosdick entitled 'God of grace and God of glory'. As it happens I have chosen words from the same hymn to begin and end this article that I used to conclude my 'Courage to be' article in the last edition. (I do have other favourite hymns too!)

In both cases this hymn challenges us to step back from the instinctive desire in many of us to 'look after number one'. The end of each verse ends in the form of a simple prayer: '... give us wisdom, give us courage...'. We know deep down that both are needed if we are to make a difference. The question is ... do we?

In this edition of the St Andrew's Church Magazine our focus is on HARVEST. Let's explore briefly how this theme (of Harvest) can both challenge and encourage us to be better stewards of God's creation, and to value more the food that we eat each day.

The shelves of our supermarkets are bulging with a choice of fresh food — too much of it imported by sea and air from other countries. Large quantities

of cut flowers are also grown and 'harvested' in parts of Africa and elsewhere. As beautiful as these are for us to enjoy, the precious reserves of water in such countries are being seriously depleted by these flower farms. We need also to be aware of the wages paid to the workers involved.

Readers can, I'm sure, also picture other farming practices and commercial operations that can harm the natural environment both here and overseas. However all of us can, at Harvest time, still enjoy singing out our harvest hymns of praise to God, the giver and sustainer of all life — but may we also remember to be thankful to and pray for all those involved in our farming community, whether in arable or in livestock.

They work long hours to earn a living for themselves and their families, and to bring food to our tables. We need also to be thankful to them for the 'background' work that they put in keeping the English countryside the varied and beautiful place that it is for all of us to explore and enjoy.

I conclude as I began with a challenge, first and foremost to myself: when it comes to the purchase and consumption of our food how much thought and care DO we put into our choices? There is a saying by the devout and much-loved past Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi: 'There is enough for every one's need but not for everyone's greed'. May God grant us both the wisdom and the courage to act on such words.

My Ten Favourite Hymns



*John Howes,
Lay Worship
Leader,
writes:*

Do you have a favourite hymn?

I must admit that I have a love-hate relationship with hymns. In my previous parish, I was Director of Music for about 20 years and it fell to me to oversee the choice of hymns for every service. Whilst this could be a rewarding role, I could also find myself subject to criticism from parishioners - too many new hymns, too many old-fashioned hymns, too many hymns which are difficult to sing, too many simplistic hymns, and so on.

After a while, I began to get a feel for which hymns worked well with a congregation. As I led from the keyboard, I could feel whether the people were picking up a melody and relaxing into the singing of a hymn, like a groundswell of public opinion assenting to the music choice.

The surprising thing was that this often happened with more modern hymns, by which I mean those written during the past 50 years or so. (I'm not a fan of evangelical worship songs though I do respect those who enjoy this kind of praise).

The key thing for me, in making my choice, was to find a hymn with good words and good melody. I didn't particularly mind whether the hymn was written in 1225 or 2025, as long as, I felt, it complemented the theme of the service and gave the congregation a chance to reflect on the Gospel and perhaps go away uplifted in some way.

Nowadays, I prefer a backseat role and enjoy attending services where I am not expected to play or lead music. I also refrain publicly from commenting on the hymn choices of others, because I know how difficult a task it is to get things right.

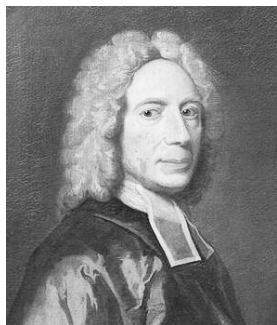
Anyway, I thought I would choose my favourite ten hymns. I have confined my selection to the Ancient and Modern hymnbook. Perhaps you might like to send the editor your own list.

**10 Let us build a house where love
can dwell 365 (Marty Haugen,
1994)**

I went to a music worship led by the American composer, Marty Haugen, a few years back and really warmed to him. This has a striking melody and visionary words, 'Let us build a house where prophets speak/ and words are strong and true, / where all God's children dare to seek / to dream God's reign anew'.

**9 When I survey the wondrous
cross 157 (Isaac Watts, 1707)**

I remember reading that this was Gandhi's favourite hymn. It has a mournful, lilting melody called Rockingham and the lyrics of the first verse are so moving and say so much. 'When I survey the wond'rous Cross / On which the Prince of Glory dy'd, / My richest Gain I count but Loss, / And pour Contempt on all my Pride'.



Isaac Watts
who wrote
*When I Survey
The Wondrous
Cross*.

**8 O Jesus I have promised 748
(John Ernest Bode, 1858)**

I remember singing this to quite a jazzy tune when I was at junior school but I do now love the Wolvercote setting with its dramatic key change half-way through. It

needs a big, powerful organ and confident congregation to raise the roof while singing, 'I shall not fear the battle, if thou art by my side'. Great stuff.

**7 And Did Those Feet 576 (William
Blake, 1808)**

I'm a huge admirer of the incredible poet and artist William Blake and these words, imagining that Christ — or maybe Joseph of Arimathea — once visited Glastonbury, are never better than when sung to the tune, *Jerusalem*, by Parry. I'm full of admiration for organists who play this well as it is not an easy setting and I definitely used to cheat a bit when I was at the keyboard.

**6 Thanks Be To God 368 (Stephen
Deane, c1990)**

I attended a music week at Lee Abbey many years ago led by the Catholic composer Stephen Deane and came across this hymn of his. It's a fantastically rousing contemporary gathering song with simple but sound words and a chorus in Latin. Sadly, no-one seems to sing it any more.

**5 It is a thing most wonderful 145
(William Walsham How, 1872)**

This must have been a hymn I sang in primary school. When I look at the words now, they are a little saccharine and probably aimed at children. William How was the Bishop of Wakefield and wrote more than 50 hymns. There is a simple charm to the whole thing.

**4 Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve
You 604 (Richard Gillard, 1978)**

This is a favourite from the 1980s and 1990s. Its sentiments, about serving one another, letting us be Christ to one another, are timeless, and the simple tune means it is easy to sing. A favourite of my late parents-in-law, this always brings a tear to the eye.

3 O God you search me and you know me 747 (Bernadette Farrell, 1993)

I remember this collection coming out. It included *Christ Be Our Light*, another cracking 20th century hymn. I met Bernadette Farrell at Coventry Cathedral and attended one of her music workshops. She always works with excellent words and has a fine sense of melody.

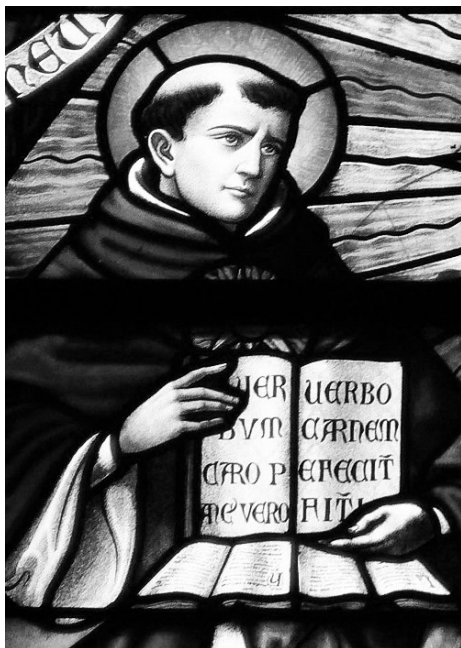


Catholic composer Bernadette Farrell with former Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

2 Of the glorious body telling 457 (St Thomas Aquinas, c1250)

This is also known as *Now, my tongue, the mystery telling*. I love hymns with long stories, and the fact that this was written in Latin in the 13th century with a glorious plainchant melody makes it even more appealing. Just imagine Aquinas sitting down and writing this. Where was he? What was he

doing? I always associate this with Holy Thursday and the transfer of the Sacrament to its resting place for Good Friday.



Thomas Aquinas is shown here holding a book with an excerpt from the *Pange Lingua*.

1 My Song is Love Unknown 147 (Samuel Crossman, 1664)

Crossman was a Puritan minister ejected from the Church of England. Whatever his theological disagreements, he wrote this beautiful poem which has been paired with the glorious *Love Unknown* melody. Part of the second verse always gets me, 'But O, my Friend, / my Friend indeed, / who at my need / his life did spend!'

I find that an immensely humbling thought and am continually amazed at how other people do things for me, when I seem so undeserving.

UNFCCC COP30: Belem

COP30 — The Conference of the Parties — the parties are the countries that signed up to the original United Nations Climate Agreement in 1992 held in Paris, will meet to accelerate actions toward the goals that were agreed then and The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Belem Do Para, Brazil from Monday 10 November to Friday 21 November 2025.

Belem was chosen to host as the area and country have suffered significantly from the effects of Climate Change and by holding COP30 there shows the delegates the dramatic effects endured. As the past few years have shown, the critical crises have not changed with wildfires across Europe and Canada, and smaller fires in the UK caused by winds bringing heat from North Africa; there have been higher temperatures and less rainfall in many areas whilst in direct contrast other areas including China have experienced increased rainfall leading to major flooding; all of these dramatic weather conditions affect animals, birds, as well as humans. They also affect crop production and yields which directly impacts the supply and availability of goods in our shops and increases prices due to the reduction in availability and lack of self-sufficiency.

Temperatures in Greece in July were recorded at 44C (111.2F) and temperatures in UK reached the mid thirties with several areas receiving hosepipe bans together with warnings to reduce water consumption. As of 28 May 2025 approximately 26.08% of the USA and Puerto Rico are experiencing drought conditions with significant impacts on agriculture and water supplies. Drought has been described as a slow onset disaster and can lead to the risk of disease and death, water scarcity impacts 40% of the world's population

and as many as 700 million are at risk of being displaced by 2030.

Rising temperatures caused by climate change are making already dry areas drier and wet regions wetter. In dry regions, this means when temperatures rise, water evaporates more quickly, and thus increases the risk of drought or periods of drought. Between 80-90% of all documented disasters from natural hazards during the past 10 years have resulted from floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, heat waves and severe storms.

Delegates to Cop30 will gather to discuss, compromise and agree actions as the target reduction of 1.5 degrees in greenhouse gasses set previously remains in grave doubt; this continues to be affected by many governments and countries declaring u-turns on major policies, many going back and allowing further fossil fuel development, delaying dates for the withdrawal of petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles, delaying the dates for the introduction of electric vehicles together with changes or removal of subsidies for them, the continuation or expansion of coal mining, the continuation of and new oil exploration and drilling, delay to further wind farms on land and at sea, delays and postponement of hydrogen powered vehicles, artificial pricing of energy to both domestic and business customers together with Climate Change Deniers.

We will be holding a Prayer Event in the Lady Chapel, in St Andrew's Church from 10.00 to 13.00 on Saturday 15 November and you are welcome to join in, to pray silently or aloud for COP30, and the delegates deliberations, Should you not be able to attend during that time, either at home or wherever you will be, you could pray to ensure all the prayers and voices are heard and cannot be ignored.

A Harvest Reaping



*Rev'd Canon
Sue Hardwick
writes:*

A couple of the cosmic dramas that are constantly playing out:

A very ancient black hole, many times the size of our own sun, absorbing another vast black hole. They have, apparently, been 'circling' one another, until the victor finally pulled the loser into its impenetrable depths. Truly a battle of the titans; a star-wars to defy the comprehension of the most imaginative script-writer... .

And then the Comet, the oldest ever discovered at maybe five billion years old, traversing the skies... .

In comparison, the recent discovery on the south coast of England of mini-dinosaurs from very many millions of years ago, makes them seem positively youthful. And then the news that spiders, as well as elephants, can sense noise or disturbance over a long distance.

How fabulous that, alongside the so-sophisticated and brilliant discoveries of the world up there, we are still discovering truly extra-ordinary things about our world down here.

At our own feet, there is a world of life to be found in the cracks between two paving stones, reminding us that the wonder of Creation is not to be found only by scanning the heavens, but also by looking and discovering what lies and lives so close at hand.

Opposite worlds? No, I don't think so.

Although our four seasons are controlled and dictated by what happens 'out there', there is a wondrous symmetry and symbiosis between the two worlds.

Humankind has been on a leaning curve vis a vis nature and the natural world since we first walked this Earth. For many millions of years we have relied on interpreting the messages from the skies. If at sea,

about coming storms; when to furl the sails, or head for safe harbour. If on land, to tell us when to plant, to water, to harvest.

The news that constantly bombards us with depressing or heart-breaking images can dull our senses to what of beauty is also around us. Harvest-time is a golden opportunity to be re-enchanted by the vastness, the wonder, the glorious beauty of God's world, God's Creation. His Garden of Eden. We need to remember to look up, look down, look all around. To drink it in and absorb it through every sense.

However, we need also to remind ourselves that Harvest isn't just about sheaves of wheat, or the produce we bring to the altar on Harvest Sunday. It is an opportunity, also, to re-visit and re-assess our attitude and responsibility towards the food we eat.

We are so used nowadays to be able to access our favourite foods all the year round, regardless of whether they have to be flown in from distant climes when out of season, or unable to be produced here. But it is not a good or responsible use of limited Earth resources, whether those are the foods themselves, the cost of transport or, most importantly, the impact on climate change.

So, maybe reflecting particularly on this and making any appropriate resolutions for action, can be part of the gifts we bring to God and lay at his feet this Harvest-time.

GASK Memorial Update

You may recall the previous news about the planned memorial to Geoffrey Antekell Studdert Kennedy. This memorial will be placed in the Church grounds that will be named a Peace Garden in memory of Rex Pogson. We are memorialising these two great men of service and sacrifice with their links to St Andrew's Church and areas wider afield in this project.

The memorial was discussed by the Coventry DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches) on 23 July and the planning group are excited to announce we are moving ahead into the next phase of the project to establish the memorial: fund raising activities to raise the project budget of £27,000.

Yes, a large figure to achieve; with the condition that all funding for the memorial is separate from any Church Funds either existing now or in the future, and will be obtained from external sources as well as some in-house events. Do watch out for details of these for your dairy. Several grant providing bodies have already been approached, and whilst acknowledging the challenging financial situation we all find ourselves in, your support for the project is invited. We will be producing an information brochure to accompany the memorial and which will include the names of Benefactors (charities, organisations, companies, individuals) who have provided financial support.

As part of the project we are planning to place a time capsule beneath the memorial and will be inviting the children together with their worship leaders to prepare this. Should you be able to support the project or require any further information please contact Reverend Edmund or John Daymond. Thanks in advance for your support.

Ordination Rev Dr James Sampson Foster

Reverend Doctor James Sampson Foster arrived with his wife Lydia and daughter Annabelle at St Andrew's on Monday 7 July 2024 as Curate and has achieved much in the past year under the guidance of Reverend Doctor Edmund as his Training Incumbent.

The endeavours of the past year came to fruition on Sunday 29 June when in Coventry Cathedral James was Ordained as a Priest by The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry.

Sixty members of St Andrew's joined together to support James on his special day, as the usual 10.30 service had been suspended to allow as many as possible to attend the service at Coventry Cathedral.

Alongside James a further five candidates were Ordained Priest by Bishop Sophie being; Rolene Cort of St Margaret's Whitnash, Beks Rothnie of All Saints Coventry, Adrian Thacker of St Mary's Clifton upon Dunsmore and the Good Shepherd Newton with Christ Church Brownsover, Luke Thomas of St Michael's Budbrooke, and Modupe Adeoye of St Nicholas Nuneaton. Members attending were particularly pleased to see Adrian Ordained as Priest as he and his family have long connections with St Andrew's.

During the final element of the service Bishop Sophie presented each of the newly ordained priests with a bible.

Following the service a 'bring and share luncheon' was enjoyed by the majority of those attending during which James was greeted and presented by Edmund with a Home Communion Set and several cards.

Following the luncheon and tidying up of the dining area we travelled back to St Andrew's with great anticipation of the upcoming service where James would preside at his first Holy Communion as Priest. The joyous day continued on our return to St Andrew's with the first Eucharistic Service Presided over by James as Priest with 59 members in the congregation and after the service keen greetings to James on his special day marking the next chapter in his faith journey.



Welcome To Bishop Sophie

*John Daymond,
Editor, writes:*

On the evening of Thursday 19 June, Rugby Deanery held, at St Andrew's, a Eucharist on the Feast of Corpus Christi entitled 'Building Up The Body In Love' serving as a welcome first visit (hopefully of many) to Rugby for Bishop Sophie.

This provided Bishop Sophie the opportunity to Preside and Preach at the Deanery Service. Over 125 members formed the congregation having left their cool drinks and ventured out in the warmth to provide a very warm welcome to Bishop Sophie.

During the service five members of Churches and Chaplaincies across the Rugby Deanery gave a brief account of their ministry within the Body of Christ, and after their testimony receiving a personal blessing from Bishop Sophie.

Representatives were from St Nicholas Frankton, St George's Hillmorton, a Chaplain from Onley Prison, Rebecca from St Andrew's and Ian from St Oswald's.

Rebecca who has been at St Andrew's since she was nine and is a Young Chorister, provided her testimony, representing all choristers and choirs, after which Bishop Sophie presented her with the Red Ribboned Medal from the RSCM (The Royal School of Choral Music) the highest award available to her at

present in the Voice for Life programme. This achievement was delightedly acknowledged by the whole congregation,

Before the final blessing Bishop Sophie acknowledged the Director of Music and the Choir for their contribution of music and singing that so lifted the service.

During refreshments after the service Bishop Sophie took time to speak to many of those attending despite having had an already busy day.

The Deacon assisting Bishop Sophie was Adrian Thacker, Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Clifton and Newbold with Brownsover, the Old Testament Reading was read by Helen Bryant, Ordinand, and the New Testament Reading was read by The Reverend Steve Gold, Area Dean of Rugby Deanery and the Intercessions were lead by Father Philip Morton Vicar of St Peter and St John with St George's.

We thank Bishop Sophie for presiding over this service as one of the first services held following her installation on Saturday 7 June in Coventry Cathedral as the 10th Bishop of Coventry and the first female Bishop of Coventry.

Upon her installation, The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley became The Lord Bishop of Coventry, being not only the 10th Bishop of Coventry and the first female Bishop of Coventry but also the 10th most senior Bishop in the Church of England.

Get To Know Your Clergy!

There are three types of Clergy — The Threefold Order of Deacons, Priests and Bishops.

Deacons can conduct services, visit the sick, perform baptisms, take funerals and administer the Sacraments at the Eucharist, and they may conduct weddings

Priests can do all of the Deacon's Ministry with the additions that he / she can absolve from sin, give God's Blessing and bless the Bread and Wine, the Hosts, at Holy Communion.

Bishops can do all of a Deacon and Priests Ministry but can also Confirm and Ordain.

All other Ranks are Administrative.

A Curate or Deacon is a priest who is an assistant as a Parish Priest either permanent or as a trainee.

A Vicar or Priest is in charge of a Parish — an area of the country that has a Parish Church, and has pastoral responsibility for everyone in the Parish whether they are church members or not. Some parishes have Rectors instead of Vicars, this is a historical title and refers to the different tithes that were paid to him /her but broadly all Rectors and Vicars are the same in all but name.

A Chaplain is a Lay Person, Deacon or Priest who has pastoral care of an institution such as a school, hospital, prison, army camp, RAF site or navy

ship or is a personal assistant of a senior member of the Clergy such as a Bishop.

A Rural or Urban Dean is a senior vicar who chair the Deanery Chapter of Clergy. They are responsible for services in the churches in the area (the Deanery) and train priests; if there is a vacancy they will assist with the installation of new clergy.

A Canon or Prebendaries (depending on the tradition of the Diocese) is a vicar who has been given the honorary title for long or distinguished service, he/she is given a seat in the Cathedral Chapter in return for preaching at the Cathedral once or twice a year.

An Archdeacon is titled as Venerable rather than Reverend for Vicar, and is a Vicar who assists the Bishop — he/she has overall responsibility for several Deaneries in his/her Archdeaconry. Some call him/her the eyes and ears of The Bishop. They are Episcopal Vicars which means that they are responsible for the pastoral and practical management of the Diocese within their archdeaconry or specific area of responsibility.

The Dean of the Cathedral is the Vicar of the Cathedral Church where the Bishop is invited as a guest. The Dean, and not the Bishop, is actually in charge of the Cathedral.

The Bishop is the leader of a group of Archdeaconries, called a Diocese.

His/Her throne, the Cathedra is found in the church of the Diocese — the Cathedral.

The Chancellor is a priest on the Bishop's staff who is responsible for the teaching and theological study in the Diocese and for ensuring clergy continue to study whilst in service.

The Archbishop is a senior Bishop who has oversight of a group of Dioceses called a Province. In England and Wales there are three Archbishops in charge of each of the three Provinces — the Archbishop of Wales, the Archbishop of York and The Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury is not just Archbishop of the Canterbury Province but is Leader of the Anglican Church Worldwide.

The Regency Monarch, King Charles III is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and Defender of The Faith, The Head of the Church.

The Diocese of Coventry formed on 5 May 1918 has over 200 parishes formed into 11 deaneries and on the 4 November 2024 it was announced that the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley was appointed Bishop of Coventry becoming the 10th Bishop of Coventry, and the first female Bishop, being the 10th most senior Bishop.

In England there are 42 Dioceses each with a Cathedral and a Diocesan Bishop. There are 150 Bishops, 6,753 Benefices, 12,366 Parishes and 15,529 Churches.

Trivial Pursuits

When next you mean to bake a cake
Think hard what measures you must take:

For flour, fat, sugar, three times six
Give Revelations' devil's mix,
But whisk with courage: all's O.K.:
An egggy threesome saves the day!
Then add some flavour to complete
And turn Temptation to a Treat!

Ironing is a noble work
And one the housewife should not shirk ;
The time it takes is no great matter:
It renders everything much flatter;
A sheet or tablecloth will fit
More neatly in a drawer if it
Can carefully be folded thrice:
That's smooth perfection in a trice.

The number three is often good,
Not just for linen or in food;
Pythagoras put number three
To represent a deity.
'Beginning, Middle, End' said he,
'Is everything that needs to be'
We're ruled by Graces, Furies, Fates;
The realm consists of three Estates;

In Spirit, Mind and Body we
Exist in Air and Earth and Sea.
Faith, Hope and Charity oppose
The Devil, World and Flesh, our
Foes .
But oh! How grateful I would be
To understand the Rule of Three!

*With thanks to Anne Redd
for submitting one of her gems.*

2025 Festival Of Christmas Trees

2025 marks the Silver Jubilee of the St Andrew's Festival of Christmas Trees.

Last year saw a total of 35 decorated trees on display, provided by and representing, local organisations and charities. Each tree was different yet decorated to a common theme. The festivals have raised much for charity over the years and will continue to do so this year and in future years.

Each year the trees are judged by the Mayor of Rugby whilst a public vote also takes place for separate categories.

Should you or an organisation you know be interested in decorating a tree for inclusion in the festival this year, watch out for the announcement of the adopted theme and make a note of the set up day: Thursday 27 November.



Thank you for your support in the first 25 years and as we enter the next 25.



The Thirteen Bells Cafe

**Now open and welcoming
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Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm

Saturday 10am to 12 noon

*Try our Soup and Sandwich
or a delicious Toastie*



Fairtrade Tea, Coffee and Hot Chocolate



Toasted Tea Cakes, Snacks and Cakes

*Nourishment for the Soul whilst
enjoying nourishment for the Body*

Who's Who at St Andrew's

- Rector:** The Rev'd Canon Dr Edmund Newey
01788 574313 mobile: 07414 904931
rector@rugbychurch.org.uk *Note: Day off Saturday*
- Associate Minister (Compassionate Communities):**
The Rev'd Sharon Crofts, sharon.crofts@rugbychurch.org
- Associate Minister (Mission Hub):** The Rev'd Alison Baxter,
missionhub@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Retired Clergy:** The Rev'd Pam Gould, The Rev'd Canon Graham Hardwick,
The Rev'd Peter Privett, The Rev'd Peter Beresford
- Assistant Curate:** The Rev'd Dr James Sampson-Foster,
james.sampsonfoster@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Ordinand:** Helen Bryant, helen.bryant@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Lay Ministers:** Sue Goddard, Gwyneth Hickman, Sue Minton
- Youth Ministry Lead:** Magz Parmenter, sayf@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Music Team:**
- Director of Music:** William Uglow, directorofmusic@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Young Choristers' Trainer:** Rachel Cliffe, youngchoristers@rugbychurch.org.uk
- St Andrew's Community Singers:**
Conductor: Amie Boyd amiemusic01@gmail.com
- Administrator:** Kate Foster, 01788 565609, office@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Community Engagement Lead:** Ben Jennings. ben.jennings@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Wardens:** Joyce Woodings, warden1@rugbychurch.org.uk
Hash Mistry, warden2@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Assistant Warden:** Ian Sheppard, asstwarden1@rugbychurch.org.uk
- Bell Tower Captain:** Christine Homer

St Andrew's Church Website: www.standrewrugby.org.uk



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