

Farming Today

Lambing started on 29th January, the ewes having been housed for several weeks; 11 new-born lambs turned out at 4 days old to minimise health problems. The ewes have been scanned with the result an average of 2.07 lambs per ewe.

The ground is too wet at present for fertiliser application but it has been delivered and so is ready to go. It has increased in price by £20 per tonne since it was purchased. All the equipment has been serviced in the farm workshop.

Four Agricultural Training Board courses have been organised on the farm for staff and neighbours;

1. Sprayer – All attendees were issued with a National Register of Spray Operative Certificates.
2. First Aid,
3. Abrasive Wheels (angle grinder),
4. Fork Lift refresher, which is needed every 3 years.

Hedge cutting stops between 28th February and 1st September for bird and wildlife protection.

4,500 plants of mixed hedge planting has been completed on the home farm and tenanted land



The first lambs this year with their mothers

including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, dogwood and hornbeam. That is 6 plants per metre grant aided, all being guarded and staked against rabbit and muntjak.

45 cricket bat willows planted along Sandon Brook which will mature and be cut for cricket bats in about 20 years' time. Gillian



Some of you will remember James Gilder, grandson of Reg and Peggy Bush. Here he is on his wedding day, 31st August 2024, to journalist Rachel. He is currently rector of Wanstead in East London.



The Lent course helping you to explore how we are all made uniquely and are loved and liked by God written by Peter Hill, pictured.

St Andrew's
Room 10:30
am Tuesday
11th, 18th &
25th March,
1st, 8th & 15th
April.



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We meet in the St Andrew's Room on second Wednesday of the month 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm so come along. Further information Contact: Alison 01245 474858 or e-mail: tots@sandon-church.info

David and Moira

Their son, Eirwen, writes, "Moira and David Edwards both died unexpectedly, within 6 days of each other, in the last week of November 2024. Their funeral was held on Wednesday 15th January 2025, at Chelmsford Crematorium. It was a joint funeral, celebrating both their lives, and their life together. It was lovely to see so many of their friends and neighbours from Sandon there."

During the memorial service it was recalled that David loved bird watching, and was born in Guernsey in 1941. When he went to Wales and Cardiff University he also worked as a bus conductor. For many years he taught Chemistry in Barking, moving later in his career to the Plume School in Maldon. It was also recorded how he loved his allotment and indeed its produce. David served for a while as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Moira was remembered for her love of books. They met at Cardiff University. Much of Moira's education was in Leeds despite being born in Glamorgan in 1944. Moira was frugal and creative and would take in knitting to extend her income. She also organised baby sitting in Sandon for a while.



Later she set up a play group in the village. Moira also served for a while on the Parish Council.

Both of them loved travel and camaraderie. They loved their two children Eirwen and Karen and loved visiting historical sites. The coffins came in to the crematorium to "Time to Say Goodbye" by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. The Humanist Celebrant, Ruth Silverstone offered a musical reflection of Queen singing "These are the Days of our Life." The Lake Isle of Inniskerry by William Butler Yeats was read as words for committal followed by Eric Idle singing, "Some things in life are bad - Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" as exit music.

This was followed by a reception at the Crown. *Richard Cecil*

Their chosen charities were Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Nurses, and Chelmsford Community Transport.



Soup & Sandwich Lunch at St Andrew's Church

1st Tuesday of the month
Next Lunch is 4th March
Future dates 1st April, 6th May.

Join us for lunch for fellowship (and food of course!!)
We would love to see you.
No cost but
Donations gratefully received

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:30pm
Contact: Judy Cecil for more details on 01245 224747

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Letter from the Wardens

What should Church Wardens write in a letter for the Parish Magazine?

Sitting on the banks of the River Bure in Wroxham reminded me, Andy, of the need for peace and space in life. Of the need to be still and let the World waft by. Be still and know that God is God is something we all need to make time to think about and embrace if we are to maintain, not just our spiritual health, but also our mental and physical health as well.

When you retire from the world of work you imagine that life will be less hectic; no more rush, plenty of time to do, well, nothing at all. The last six months or so have shown that that could not be further from the case. There have been a multitude of different tasks that needed to be performed by both of us as Wardens to ensure that St Andrew's Church has continued to function.

We have had a wonderfully successful and fulfilling Christmas season as a Church; culminating with Bishop Adam leading our Christmas Morning Eucharist. Christmas is gone, so now we are looking forward to Lent and then Easter. A Parish profile has been written and we are now

advertising for a new priest for Sandon.

A few of us have continued meeting on five mornings every week to pray, not just about St Andrew's and Sandon but about the many and various needs of those both close to home and far further away. Happily, God answers our prayers, though often not in the way we had expected. Often the answers have been surprising, maybe even startling. That is one of the wonderful things about worshipping the God who created everything, sustains everything and has provided salvation for the whole of creation. You just never know quite what he is going to do next. We think we know where we are headed and then he grins at us and we find ourselves on a different track entirely! It really is one of the joys of being part of the Christian Faith.

So here we are in the spring looking forward to more surprises in store from the God we worship and love. Let us not limit God by our feeble human thoughts. Let us just enjoy the roller coaster ride that is sure to come!

The church electoral roll is being rewritten as is required each 6 years. This is in readiness for the Annual Church Meetings

which we are planning for Sunday 27th April after the morning service at 11:15 am. All on the electoral roll and those resident in the parish are welcome to the first part where the wardens are elected. Here you have the opportunity to see us replaced. The longer second part includes reports from the different aspects of the church and elections to the Parochial Church Council. Church members on the electoral roll are eligible to join the PCC, subject to safeguarding checks, and all who are on the roll are eligible to vote.

We must record our thanks to the Friends of Sandon Church for all that they achieved. We understand that they are passing the remaining funds to the PCC for use on aspects of the fabric of the church.

In the autumn during advent several of us looked at the Sermon on the Mount as found in chapters 5 to 7 of Matthew's

gospel and focussed more closely on the Lord's prayer found at the centre.

This lent we plan to use some material prepared by people from the Diocese of Gloucester but

based in Bristol, who over many years have helped the marginalised in the city. I, Richard, have just read a book by one of the participants. She describes some tremendous work for God and for the people there. In it, she talks about how through not just her work, but through the Lent course that she understands that God loves her. But more than that she says God likes her! Something we all need to hear. Do join in on Tuesday

mornings from 11th March at 10:30 am in the St Andrew's Room.

*Andy and Richard
Church Wardens*



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Have you ever?

Have you ever tried to start the car
with the key to your front door yale
Or attempted to make a phone call
with the TV remote control?

Have you lost the keys that were in your hand
a mere ten seconds ago
Or worn your glasses on your head
then hunted for them high and low?

Have you firmly asserted an argument
and then been wracked by doubt
Or forgotten the time-change and arrived in church
as people are coming out?

Have you turned up at orchestra practice
with music but no flute
Or put the cake in the top oven
while ensuring the bottom's alright?

Have you waited an age at the station
while your friend waits for you on the prom
Or answered the phone to a boyfriend
but called his name all wrong?

Have you left your bike at the doctor's
and not missed it till a week has gone past?
Then, when asked by the policeman
not known what colour it was?

If you think you're round the bend
in causing such a fuss,
Don't worry my friend, you're not going mad
you're just like the rest of us

You speak for yourself; I hear somebody say
and indeed I will and I do,
But be warned, that friend, tho' you may not admit it,
these things could happen to you!

*Rosemary Taylor
who says all these things have happened to her!*

Easyfundraising

*Help us to raise money for St Andrew's... for free
without leaving your home!*

This article was published a couple of years ago when
the total amount raised stood at £270; currently it
stands at £652.60.

We currently have 20 Supporters but, of that 20, two
individuals have raised nearly 90% of the total
between them. It would be wonderful if we could
increase that.

Remembering to visit the Easyfundraising site before
making a purchase can be a problem. I would
recommend installing the Donation Reminder
available from the site. This is a 'Browser extension'
and automatically checks whether any online
shopping site visited is willing to make a donation
through Easyfundraising; I would recommend that it is
installed on all devices used for online shopping.

As well as encouraging our current Supporters to
increase their use of in the scheme, we would love to
see new recruits to Easyfundraising. Every time you
shop online via easyfundraising at one of 3,300 plus
retailers including M&S, Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis,
Sainsbury's and Aviva, a donation will be made to St
Andrew's and it won't cost a penny extra.

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewssandon/> & sign up for free! If this link
doesn't work, try copying it into a browser or simply go
to the Easyfundraising website, find St Andrews
Church Sandon and sign up! Your donations will be
collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to
St. Andrew's. It couldn't be easier! There are no
catches or hidden charges and St Andrew's is really
grateful for your donations. You can even encourage
family and friends to raise money for us too.

Thank you in advance for your support.

*Nick Bobeldijk
Easyfundraising Supporter and Coordinator*



The banner features three icons at the top: a pink heart with a smiley face labeled 'Join', a green shopping basket labeled 'Shop', and a yellow coin with a pound sign labeled 'Raise'. Below these is a large teal section with the text 'Collect FREE funds for us' in white, followed by 'any time you shop with' in a smaller font. At the bottom of this section is the Easyfundraising logo with the tagline 'feel good shopping'. The bottom of the banner is a solid teal bar with the text 'Sign up now' in white.



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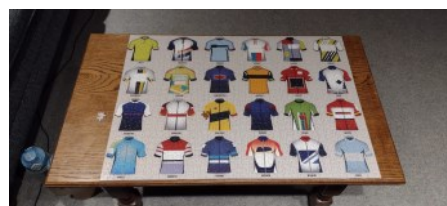





Thank you for the jigsaws! This one turned out to be more of a logic puzzle than a jigsaw.



And we think that rather than being the world's most difficult jigsaw, this one was actually made easier by being double sided!



Jigsaw complete. Thank you. Although there is a missing piece and an incorrect extra one!

Revision of Electoral Roll

This year there is a complete revision of the church electoral roll.

This means anyone who wishes to be included on the roll needs to fill out a form.

Forms will on the table at the back of church.

Completed forms need to be returned by the 31st March to Liz Bobeldijk.

There will be a box at the back of church into which to put them.

So, when we received pictures from our son and daughter-in-law, showing 2 completed puzzles we were delighted. They are the top two to the right with their comments.

It is an interesting contrast to another puzzle that we bought online for our other son and his wife. They sent us a picture of the completed puzzle, shown below with their comments. There were enough pieces but one was the wrong piece. I am happy to report that the manufacturer has provided a replacement puzzle. Interestingly only in a plastic bag and not in the box!

Richard Cecil

Liz Bobeldijk adds:

Our annual Fayre was a great success with lots of people coming through the door. Father Christmas looked amazing in his grotto and the children enjoyed visiting him to receive a gift and have a photo taken with the man himself. There were some lovely stalls for people to enjoy some Christmas shopping. Plenty of treats to enjoy too, including homemade mince pies and mulled wine.

There were great raffle prizes, including the turkey raffle, and a 1st prize of £100, in the main raffle which was won by Vicki Hall.

I would like to thank all the stall holders and everyone that helped on the day, setting up and cleaning away. Of course thanks to all on the organising committee.

Please keep in mind the date for this year which will be Saturday 15th November.

We also have our annual summer fête to look forward to.

See June magazine for details.

Saint Andrew's Parish Church Contacts

Rector	Vacancy	
Church Wardens	Richard Cecil**	224747
	Andy Horne**	475279
PCC Secretary	Judy Cecil**	224747
PCC Treasurer	Nick Bobeldijk ⁺	471756
Safeguarding Officer	Alison Read*	474858
Electoral Roll	Liz Bobeldijk	471756
Bell Ringing	Mike Worboys	224612
Tiny Tots	Alison Read*	474858
Flower Arranging	Lesley Worboys	224612
Organist	Cathie Horne*	475279
Choir	Gill Haddington	529305
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil**	224747
Parochial Church Council Members	as * above and Colin Bryan ⁺ , David Farrar ⁺ , Christine Mennie ⁺ , and Janet Terry ⁺	

Authorised to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion

As ⁺ above and Valerie Grimwood, Gill Hodge and Michael Puffett

Regular Events see pages 18 & 19 for full details of worship.

Sundays	10:00 am	Morning Worship/Communion
Tuesdays	9:30 am	Morning Worship/Communion
	7:45 pm	Ringing Practice
Wednesday (Zoom)	8:30 pm	Night Prayer
sandon-church.info		
Thursday (Zoom)	8:30 am	Compass Churches Morning Prayer
compasschurches.org.uk		
Thursday	3:00 pm	Choir Practice

Zoom services links can be found at the websites just prior to the service.

St Andrew's, Sandon

www.sandon-church.info

Editor Richard Cecil
Advertising Claire Jefferies
Distribution Manager Alison Read

Copy for June's magazine by
10th May 2025 please.
magazine@sandon-church.info



We commend to God's care:
23rd December Interment of ashes
of Gary Ewers

Our Church is open!

The church is open for quiet contemplation and prayer every day from about 8:30am to 5:00pm (exact times will vary).

Howe Green URC



We were delighted to celebrate the Christmas season with so many friends and neighbours attending our Carols by Candlelight Service. The chapel was full and the rafters were raised with the songs of Christmas, and we remembered those that we had lost during the year. We were able to make a considerable donation to Little Havens Hospice from our collection. Our thanks to everyone who supported us to make this possible.

We continue the year with our regular monthly services on the third Sunday of the month at 3 pm:

Sunday 16th March

Sunday 20th April

which is our Easter celebration
Sunday 18th May

We welcome everyone to join us. Please keep an eye open for our coffee mornings, as well, and join us for fellowship and scrummy cakes.
Jane Clark

Church Services

St. Andrew's, Sandon

Services currently planned online via Zoom are shown in italics.

Also, we hope to say Morning Prayer in church at 8:30 am each morning Sunday to Thursday ie 5 mornings per week.

March

Sunday 2nd

Sunday next before Lent

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 4th

Shrove Tuesday

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

Wednesday 5th

Ash Wednesday

3:00 pm Ashing Service Revd Carol Ball

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 9th

Lent 1

10:00 am Worship Together

Tuesday 11th

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Keith Anderson

Wednesday 12th

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 16th

Lent 2

10:00 am Agape Meal

3:00 pm Worship at Howe Green URC

Tuesday 18th

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

Wednesday 19th

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 23rd

Lent 3

10:00 am Morning Worship

Tuesday 25th

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Mark Pape

Wednesday 26th

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 30th

Mothering Sunday

10:00 am Mothering Sunday

April

Tuesday 1st

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

Wednesday 2nd

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 6th

Lent 5

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 8th

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Keith Anderson

Wednesday 9th

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Sunday 13th

Palm Sunday

10:00 am Worship Together

meet on the Green at 9:45

Monday 14th

Monday of Holy Week

9:30 am Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 15th

Wednesday 16th

Thursday 17th

Friday 18th

Sunday 20th

Tuesday 22nd

Wednesday 23rd

Sunday 27th

Tuesday 29th

Wednesday 30th

May

Sunday 4th

Tuesday 6th

Wednesday 7th

Sunday 11th

Tuesday 13th

Wednesday 14th

Sunday 18th

Tuesday 20th

Wednesday 21st

Sunday 25th

Tuesday 27th

Wednesday 28th

We are in a vacancy and so some details may change. But please turn up!

Tuesday of Holy Week

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

Wednesday of Holy Week

9:30 am Stations of the Cross

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday of Holy Week

7:00 pm Passover Meal

Good Friday

2:00 pm The Passion

Easter Day

5:45 am Sunrise Service followed by breakfast

10:00 am Easter Communion

Venerable Jonathan Croucher

3:00 pm Worship at Howe Green URC

9:30 am Morning Worship

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Easter 2

10:00 am Morning Worship

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Mark Pape

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Easter 3

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Easter 4

10:00 am Worship Together

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Keith Anderson

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Easter 5

10:00 am Agape Meal

3:00 pm Worship at Howe Green URC

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Carol Ball

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Easter 6

10:00 am Morning Worship

9:30 am Said Communion Revd Mark Pape

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Tales of childhood

Narrow gauge railways for the most part

In the depths of winter, I thought it might be a good idea to write about a summer holiday long past.

At the moment, I am happily ensconced in a small apartment overlooking the bridge at Wroxham on the Norfolk Broads. There are swans on the river and lots of moored boats, though none are moving. It's way too cold outside for that!

I was thinking back to a summer long gone. I was thirteen years old and we had headed off for a family holiday in North Wales. We travelled overnight. No M25 and my mother was the slow driver to end all slow drivers. The up side was that my brother and I managed to demand several stops for sausage, egg and chips on the way up the M1.

It had been arranged that we would meet my aunt with a toddler and relatively small baby in Aberdyfi. They duly arrived on the train so the small MG 1300 car had to accommodate three adults, two teenage boys, a toddler and a baby. It was a tight

fit and of course before the time of rear seat belts or child seats!

Our holiday home was a cottage above a railway tunnel. I could happily clamber on a rocky hill and watch trains to my heart's delight. You will probably have realised from previous articles that I am, and was totally obsessed by trains either model or the real thing.

I remember being taken, squashed in the car, to Harlech castle. I always have enjoyed visiting castles as our son will testify. Maybe, however, the highlight of the holiday was the little railways, or at least some of them, in Wales.

We missed the Ffestiniog for some reason and headed for the Talylyn. It was a long slow steam haul up through the Welsh mountains with ice cream at each end. I recall taking lots of black and white photos on an old bellows camera my dad had given me.

The Talylyn railway was so good that we decided to visit the Vale of Rheidol railway that runs from Aberystwyth to a place called Devil's Bridge. Big mistake!

The weather was foul, but then this was North Wales. The car

kept steaming up inside. Eventually we found a parking spot in Aberystwyth and headed for the station. Unlike the other "Little Railways" of Wales the Vale of Rheidol was run by British Rail. It was a steep and beautiful ride to Devil's Bridge but pretty damp as well.

What happens when you get to the end of the line? Well of course you all get off the train. What happened next was less expected.

Railway employees getting irate with each other. The locomotive being moved from one end of the train to the other ready for the return journey. Or at least it would have been if someone had remembered to change the points! CRUNCH! Loco derailed with no hope of getting it back on the track. We were stuck in the middle of nowhere with no way back and two very tetchy young children and two hungry teenagers.

What happened next would, I think, be illegal now, and I'm not so sure it was a good idea even back then! We all found ourselves sitting on the floor of a flat bed lorry heading back down the valley to Aberystwyth. To this day I don't have any idea how it was arranged but we duly arrived back

in Aberystwyth and then Aberdovey in time for a rather late dinner.

What you need to work out now, is how much of my recollection of part of this holiday is true and how much is a complete fisherman's tale enhanced by the passage of time! *Andy Horne*

Big Garden Birdwatch

Sandon Church took part this January. On Saturday 25th from 8 am to 9 am, Christine Mennie and Judy Cecil sat in the Garden of Remembrance and watched and listened. We heard more birds than we saw, and realised why January was chosen to observe, so that you can actually see birds without them hiding amongst the leaves. We were perhaps a little late in starting that morning as there were more birds around dawn, but that would not be the best time for us humans! We recorded 2 bluetits, 1 blackbird, 1 robin, 10 pigeons and 9 crows. Our observations have been registered online as our contribution to the 2025 garden birdwatch. Sadly we expect the numbers of many species observed will be decreased compared with previous years.

Judy Cecil

In Egypt, Scripture is set in stone

Author: Stuart Ford, 28 November 2024

Word in Action and Prayer in Action from Bible Society
used with permission (www.biblesociety.org.uk)



Egypt's magnificent cave churches are hollowed out of a mountain on which a miracle took place 1,000 years ago, and they serve a desperately poor population.

We were surrounded by mountains of rubbish. Bag on top of bag, on top of bag. On the sides of the road, piled high on cars, even on the rooftops. The people living in this part of Cairo are the city's rubbish collectors. They collect rubbish from across the city and bring it back to their neighbourhood, or even their homes, to be processed. They're desperately poor, sometimes being paid as little as 30p a month for each residence they collect from.

You can share the Bible today with people in Egypt and across the Middle East who are seeking God. Many of these people are also Christians. As we passed through the streets on our way to the cave churches where they worship we saw crosses and pictures of Jesus pinned to the walls. And their faith has been strengthened year after year thanks to the kind giving of people like you. Not only does your support provide Scriptures, it helps train Bible study group leaders so they can engage with God's word more deeply.

How faith moves mountains

We drove through a little archway and the mountains of rubbish gave way to a mountain of stone.

This is Mokattam, a mountain of great significance to the Coptic Christians of Cairo. It's home to the relics of St Simon the Tanner, a tenth-century man who is credited with an extraordinary miracle through his prayers. It's believed that having read Jesus' words in Matthew 17:20 that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains, he prayed for Mokattam mountain to move and it rose out of the ground three times, and high enough to see the sun underneath it.

It was here in the 1970s that a Coptic priest called Abouna Simon and the wider Christian community began to carve huge holes directly into the rock which would serve as churches. The largest of these six caves can seat thousands and is believed to be the largest church in the Middle East.

The sheer magnitude of this cave church took my breath away. Not only the size, but the beauty of the gargantuan reliefs depicting Bible stories that they etched directly into the mountainside. To stand beside the mountain and look up is to view a Bible in stone, a testament to faith and a monument to stand for the ages.

The Bible changes lives in the cave churches

'The Bible is light and life. Without it we have no light or life,' says Sara, who worships at Mokattam.



She had an open Bible on her lap and eagerly showed me the passages that spoke of this life that comes from God – passages like Jeremiah 5.24: 'I send the autumn rains and the spring rains and give you the harvest season each year,' she read.

For decades, Bible Society of Egypt has been distributing tens of thousands of Bibles from this central and popular hub. It's a ministry that Bible Society supporters have been fuelling over the years.

Whenever a person is welcomed into the Church, they receive a Bible. When a couple gets married, they receive a Bible. The team at the Mokattam churches then follow up with them, helping them to encounter God through that Bible. Thanks to your regular giving, hundreds of church leaders are being trained in Egypt and Bible study groups are being supported to help people understand the Scriptures they are being provided with and encounter Jesus.

The Church in Egypt estimates that about 15 per cent of the country's population are Christian



into the cave churches at Mokattam, the support you are



providing to Bible Society of Egypt is more crucial than ever. As we left, Abouna Abra'am told me to thank all the Bible Society supporters in England and Wales. Your support will help continue a four-decade ministry of inscribing the Bible not just into the stones of the mountain, but into the hearts of the people living in its shadow.

that's more than 15 million souls. Abouna Abra'am, who has served the Mokattam community as a priest for nearly 40 years, told me: 'There is nothing more valuable you can get than the Bible. The word of God gives life.' That's exactly what the people receive when they come here. The Bible is bringing life in the midst of poverty and beyond, all across Cairo and Egypt. As worshippers continue to pour

My journey with you Lord

As an innocent child, praying at the bedside
believing you were there to guide
performing miracles in my heart
knowing you through love and care

Sometimes feeling alone, not knowing where you were
Angry inside, frustration shown, knowledge just a blur
Then taking a breath, feeling calm, gathering my thoughts
All I needed to do was listen and there your presence was brought

Faith is growing, every day, getting stronger the more I learn
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thirsty, so I yearn
Happy am I to share the news of your good deeds and pray
That all I tell will follow you as I have done, your way

Now I am old, my body weak, my faith is still as strong
I will continue to journey with you, even when my body is gone
Living beside you Lord and Father in the Heaven above
Thank you for showing me and mine the world's greatest Love

Claire Jefferies

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Churchyard Tidy
Please help keep our churchyard tidy.

We have Saturday Mornings once a month to work together
Saturday 8th March
Saturday 12th April
Saturday 10th May
We begin work at 10am and finish at 12 noon.
Refreshments supplied to keep us going.
Hope to see you



*The Churchyard working party
was never seen again*



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Menu - Corn and Cauliflower Chowder

Serves 4

2 table spoons olive oil,
1 medium onion chopped,
4 cloves sliced garlic,
400 g cauliflower florets,
500 g frozen or tinned sweetcorn,
400 ml can coconut milk,
½ vegetable stock cube,
juice of ½ lemon.

Heat oil in a large saucepan and cook onion for 5 minutes until soft and sweet. Add garlic and a good pinch of salt and cook for 2 minutes.

Add cauliflower florets and corn, coconut milk, stock cube and 800 ml hot water.

Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes until the cauliflower is soft and the soup slightly thickens.

Blend then add lemon juice and a good grind of black pepper. Taste and add more seasoning if needed.

Narelle Arnold



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Sundial

Marks I see upon the stone
Which surround the door, Norman it seems
Lines chased out there, holed above
Beside the beautiful ag-ed door, south facing gleams.
An ancient sundial catching suns south rays
Fashioned perhaps in Norman days?

Many times have I looked upon
That oaken Priests door
Where in years long passed he would enter
His chancel, onto his sanctuary floor
Before the invention of the clock
That sundial there to inform the flock
Of start of service in the day
The time for congregation to meet and pray.

What stories, there written in our walls
Of simpler times where farms were many, small
And when life, centred on the lighted hours
Worlds apart from theirs to ours

Richard Simmonds 31st January 25

Editor's Note - As I prepare this part of the magazine, Judy and I are in a small village in India. Last Friday, they had fasting prayer and tonight they have what they might call feasting prayer. They plan to pray till 1 am. But at the moment we hear worship music being broadcast from a big loudspeaker on top of the church. Our hosts explain that the purpose is to tell people in the village who don't have a time piece or can't read one that worship will begin shortly. Much like bells do in Sandon.

These little Sundials that Richard refers to in the poem are called, by the British Sundial Society, BSS, 'mass dials', because they indicated when the mass would be. BSS have a record of these and tell me 5 are recorded on Sandon Church. I think I have found 4. I expect you understand why I cannot just nip out to check!

Snowdrops

In the first month, cold, heavy skies
Undug bare earth - it glistens still.
There in front of my eyes,
And to my mind instill
A birdsong planted, there the thought,
Of Spring's return - a moment caught.

The yews that were once a single spear
The mossy tombs, antiqued aged
The blackened greens I fear,
Left me earth bound, engaged
To the grey skies, each lichen tomb
Decaying leaves on paving strewn.

When there peeping in the fence's lee
A dash of white amongst the green.
A closer view I see
Of snowdrops in between
The greying stones, in chilling air
Lifts the spirit, caught unaware.

Richard Simmonds 17th January 25



Precipice by Robert Harris *published 2024 by Hutchinson Heineman*

This was a Christmas present read by both of us as we travelled to and in India recently. A gripping story, based on fact, set in Britain as the First World War began.

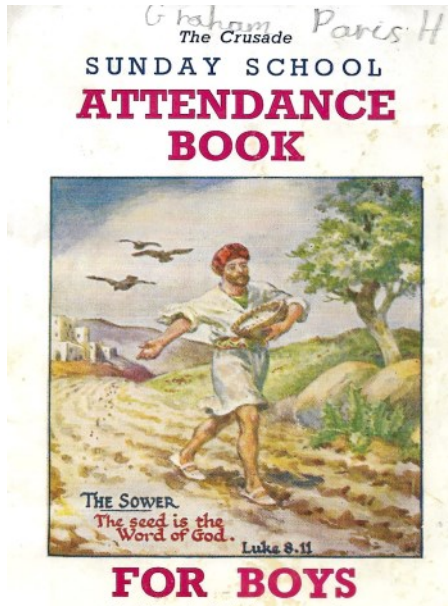
It tells us of a love affair between society girl Venetia and the Prime Minister of the day Herbert Asquith. The frequent letters they send to each other recall the amazing postal service of those times with up to 12 deliveries a day in London. As the book describes the intimacy of their relationship you are drawn into the politics as well as the human

joys and sorrows. You learn about young Winston Churchill, bombastic and forthright even then, sometimes getting his way with disastrous results, the Dardanelles campaign. A decision taken perhaps as the Prime Minister's attention was turned to infatuation?

A great read and one of those books, once started you do not want to put down. Ideal for long flights and train rides. We would recommend it. Please let us know if you want to borrow it.

Richard and Judy Cecil

Graham Parish at Sunday School



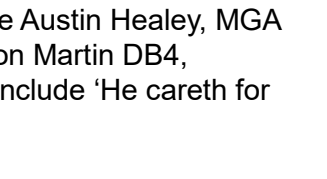
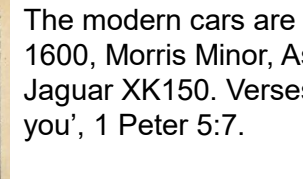
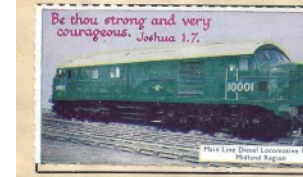
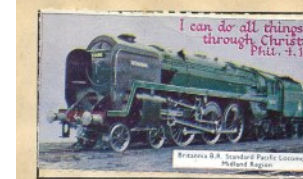
How do you encourage children, especially boys, to come to Sunday school? Well how was that done when Graham was a boy?

Graham Parish has his 'Crusade Sunday School Attendance Book'.

The boys' version suggests you can collect stickers with pictures of air liners, cars, railway engines liners -all 'modern', and also historic aeroplanes and historic railway engines.

Looking inside the little book is a trip down memory lane for those of us old enough, or maybe a history lesson for youngsters. The modern air liners are the Heron, Bristol Freighter, Bristol helicopter which looks a lot like a Chinook, Viscount, Constellation, Britannia and Comet IV.

Each picture has a short bible verse eg for the Viscount: 'Take unto you the whole armour of God', Ephesians 6:13 and the Constellation 'Fight the good fight of faith', 1 Timothy 6:10.

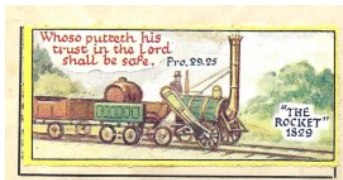


The modern cars are the Austin Healey, MGA 1600, Morris Minor, Aston Martin DB4, Jaguar XK150. Verses include 'He careth for you', 1 Peter 5:7.

The modern railway engines are both steam and diesels and one of the verses is 'Be thou strong and very courageous', Joshua 1:7.

The modern liners include Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary and Empress of Britain, the last with verse: 'Jesus came unto them walking on the water', Mark 6:45.





The historic aeroplanes include Bleriot's cross channel monoplane 1909 with 'God hath power to help', 2 Chronicles 25:8 and the Wright brothers' biplane 1903 with verse 'My son, give me thine heart', Proverbs 23:28 and the Herring-Curtis biplane with 'Ask and it shall be given you', Matthew 7:7.

The final group are historic Railway engines; Little England 1851 with 'Be strong and of a good courage', Joshua 1:6, The Rocket 1829 with 'Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe', Proverbs 29:25 and Puffing Billy 1813 with 'While he was young he began to seek God' 2 Chronicles 34:3 and Stephenson's Locomotion 1823 with 'Speak Lord for thy servant heareth' 1 Samuel 3:9.

The book has every sticker in place so I am thinking the encouragement was sufficient to bring Graham to Sunday school every week. Maybe then Sunday football was not so much of a pull and many children did attend. I am sure you will agree, times have changed and in many ways. We have no Sunday school at St Andrew's and I doubt saving stickers in a book would be an attraction nowadays. Finding a way to encourage children and their parents to come to look at aspects of faith in Jesus remains a huge challenge.

Judy Cecil