

In this issue:

- Services
- From Camilla
- Celebrating the agricultural year
- What else has been happening
- Coming up
- Friends of St Andrew's
- The bells and the spire
- St Andrew's and Ukraine



August Services

7th August	10.45 am Holy Communion 6 pm Songs of Praise	
14th August	10.45 am Holy Communion	LAMMAS
21st August	10.45 am Holy Communion	
28th August	10.45 am Holy Communion	

September Services

4th September	10.45 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong	
11th September	10.45 am Holy Communion	
18th September	10.45 am Holy Communion	
25th September	10.45 am Holy Communion	HARVEST THANKSGIVING

From Camilla

I know that many of the wider family of St Andrew's generously contributed to my wonderful gifts but were unable to be there when I was presented with them in church so I'd like to thank you all for your kindness.

Not only did I receive three beautiful rose bushes and a standard variegated Ligustrum but on the following morning two magnificent trees were delivered – a Cornus kousa chinensis in full glorious flower and a multi-stemmed silver birch!

I am deeply grateful for your ongoing support, friendship and encouragement. St Andrew's is truly a very special community and it is both a joy and a privilege to minister among you.

My current licence to St Andrew's expires in September and I am delighted that the diocese has decided to renew it for a further term of 12 months. As you'll read elsewhere in this Newsletter there are lots of exciting things happening at St Andrew's. We are facing some challenges but with them come great opportunities. I'm glad that I am going to be able to share them with you.



With love and prayers

Camilla

Celebrating the agricultural year

With the coming of longer days and warmer weather the countryside has been springing into growth and our worship at St Andrew's reflects the agricultural cycle.

We started with Plough Sunday back in cold and dark January and then in May we marked Rogationtide with our Rogation service and procession at Whipley Manor Farm. On a beautiful day we walked round the farm stopping at intervals for readings, hymns and prayers as we asked God to bless not just the fields in anticipation of the harvest but also the



whole countryside and all the work that takes place there and on farms. Adrian had borrowed a trailer so anybody who preferred not to walk was still able to ride round the farm with us. On our return Betty and Gill, assisted by others, had prepared a ploughman's lunch for us in one of the barns.

On August 14th we will be celebrating Lammas. (see Coming Up)

The cycle of agricultural festivals comes to an end on 25th September with our Harvest Thanksgiving service. (see Coming Up)

What else has been happening?



Ascension Day walk and service.

A group of people from St Andrew's and Holy Trinity, Bramley met at the Grafham Room and walked together along part of the boundary between the two parishes echoing the traditional practice of 'beating the bounds'. We were joined by more people at St Francis Chapel

by the lake at Wintershall for a Eucharist led and celebrated jointly by Camilla and Andy Davis before staying to eat a picnic supper together

Jenn and Paul's wedding

Jenn Brown (one of Doreen and John Mackney's granddaughters) married Paul Domican at St Andrew's on June 25th.

Summer Party



Colin Thorpe once again nobly allowed us to descend on his garden at Old Barns for our summer party on July 17th. Although it was a hot day there was a pleasant breeze and we managed to stay cool under an array of tents and gazebos as we shared a magnificent lunch together. The food had its own special 'tent' – a magnificent 1930s fairground spinner belonging to Colin

which added a unique dimension to the proceedings. The garden looked wonderful and we were visited at intervals by the resident duck and her brood of nine ducklings which didn't seem to be in the slightest bit perturbed by the assembled throng. It was a wonderfully happy occasion and lovely to welcome friends from the wider St Andrew's family.



Coming up:

Songs of Praise 7th August

Instead of traditional Evensong we will be having a Songs of Praise service on this evening.

What we sing is up to you! There are slips of paper at the back of church on which you can write the name of your chosen hymn or you can email Camilla with the details (camillawhite@waitrose.com) by 5th August. Please indicate if you would be willing to say something about why you have chosen that hymn at the service.

The name of the hymns will then be put into a metaphorical hat and an appropriate number selected before the service.

You are invited to bring a picnic so we can eat together after the service.

Lammastide Eucharist -14th August

The name, Lammas, comes from old English and means 'loaf-mass'. The festival preserves the custom of offering the first fruits of the new harvest to God in thanksgiving. Wheat from Whitley Manor Farm will be ground into flour at Bramley Mill and then baked into bread which we will use at Holy Communion that day.

Harvest Thanksgiving – 25th September

Weather permitting we are hoping to hold this service outdoors in the lower churchyard with its wonderful views of the Surrey Hills. As a result we will not be decorating the church for Harvest but you are invited to bring fruit, vegetables and flowers on the Sunday morning to create an instant harvest display. (More details nearer the time.)

We will again be collecting donations for the Cranleigh Foodbank at this service. Please remember that the Foodbank is unable to accept fresh produce or homemade items.

[Friends of St Andrew's](#)

We are going to be setting up the 'Friends of St Andrew's Church, Grafham', and inviting anyone who would like to show their support for St Andrew's – and indeed their support for community life in Grafham generally to join. In return for a modest annual subscription, which will help with the upkeep of the fabric of the church, Friends will be invited to attend various events and activities, some of which are already being planned. We are delighted that Barbara Salvage has kindly agreed to chair the 'Friends' and are very grateful to her for her support and enthusiasm.

A leaflet about the 'Friends' is in the course of preparation, so there will be more news about the group shortly. In the meantime please let Camilla (camillawhite@waitrose.com) know if you would like to help in encouraging people to join the 'Friends' or in organising future events.



[The Bells and the Spire](#)

As many of you will know, our bells are currently silent because after over 160 years of constant use on Sundays various moving parts need replacement. They will be taken away to a specialist firm in Abingdon, which means that scaffolding will need to be put around the spire and while it is in place we intend to carry out some minor repairs to the spire itself and re-gild the weather vane.



We are hoping to be able to commission the work in time for the bells to be ringing again by Christmas, though this is dependent on our being able to raise the necessary funds in the near future. Although we will be launching an appeal to enable us to carry out the necessary structural and

restoration works to the church building in due course, a separate appeal specifically for the bells will be made soon. In the meantime if you would like to know more, please contact Stuart White.



St Andrew's and Ukraine

Barbara Salvage writes:

When in February Russia threatened Ukraine, it felt very ominous. A close friend of my elder daughter was born in Ukraine, coming to the UK with his parents when he was eight. They eventually settled in Shalford and he is now 29 and has a younger brother. While one Grandmother has been living in the UK for a while his second Grandmother arrived only recently, escaping Ukraine via Warsaw. Initially his parents tried to dismiss the threats but as we know reality soon struck.

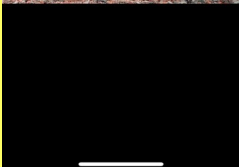
Following the initial shock, they were spurred into action and their home became a delivery point for donations to the relief organisations & individuals they have worked with. St Andrews & Grafham W.I. have generously contributed to those donations. I have made a number of trips to their home with bags & boxes of dried food & medical supplies. In addition, my daughter Jennifer, created an image of Sunflowers, the Ukrainian national flower, called Defiance & Hope (see her website artyjrs.com) from which she produced cards & a colouring sheet for adults & children to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee's continuing response to the situation. We were overwhelmed by the initial very generous response of St Andrew's for the colouring sheets which totalled £42.



The following is the email I received from Inna & Alex thanking you & giving you an idea what has happened to those donations.:

"On behalf of Ukrainians in Ukraine we would like to thank you & leaders & parishioners of St Andrew's for the generous donations.

We have included donations from you in the aid that was sent via a representative of <https://www.hospitallers.co.uk/> Hospitallers are a voluntary organisation of paramedics. Other aid donations you brought to us was sent directly to the front line for people that often have lost everything and require medical help and food. Since hospitals are also bombed there is a great shortage of medicine. Alex from Guildford has delivered by car the aid to Poland where it was picked up by volunteer we trust & delivered to the front line & also to hospitals.



Alex is originally from Ukraine but lives with his wife & two daughters here. His mum is from Gostomel that is near Bucha. She has animal shelter for 500 cats & dogs and also was under occupation but refused to leave the animals.

I wanted to send you a picture of people who have received the aid but it's very painful to see their sad faces and I am not sure if they would want to be shown in such disastrous time for them. However I can share some. The photos are not from news, those are from real life.





Nowadays social media & news can make people feel that events in Ukraine are somewhat computer game or movie and you see that some people start discussions on politics or history. I am myself after so many months cannot get into my head that it's a reality. I feel like this is a bad dream and when you wake up it hits badly mentally that I feel physical pain. The only way out is to keep helping. This is what is now save many.

I would like to thank you all for your continuous help not only with aid but also with help to refugees here.

Many thanks again for your generosity & compassion.

Inna & Alex”

Inna and Alex have also given us a list of items which continue to be needed. The list can be seen on the Community page of the website. Please bring anything you would like to donate to church and we will pass it on.

While we were preparing this newsletter, Barbara heard from her friends that their home town had recently been bombarded by Russian forces.



CONTACTS

The Reverend Camilla White: camillawhite@waitrose.com 01483 892645

Parish Administrator: office@standrewsgrafham.org.uk

Website: www.standrewsgrafham.org.uk