

ST ANDREW'S GRAFHAM



Newsletter
May/June 2021

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May Services

2nd May	10.45am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Book of Common Prayer
9th May	10.45am	Holy Communion	Rogation
13th May Thursday	8pm	Holy Communion	Ascension Day
16th May	10.45am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
23rd May	10.45am	Holy Communion	Pentecost <i>Plough Sunday on Zoom</i>
30th May	10.45am	Morning Prayer	

June Services

6th June	10.45am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Book of Common Prayer
13th June	10.45 am	Holy Communion	Book of Common Prayer
20th June	10.45 am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
27th June	10.45 am	Holy Communion	Book of Common Prayer

Easter

We were delighted to return to church on Palm Sunday so we could be together throughout Holy Week.

Our service on Easter Sunday in the churchyard was made extra joyful by warm sunshine and being able to sing some of the great Easter hymns.



Loo Blessing



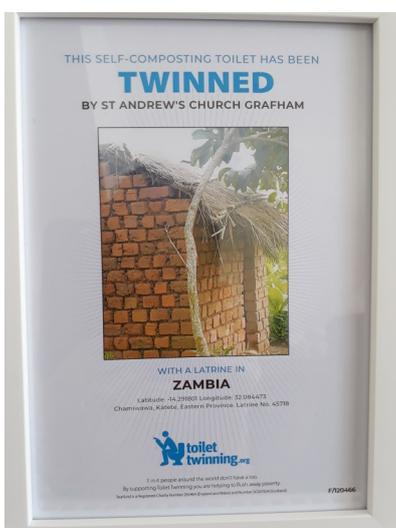
Our composting loo arrived in January and was carried into position by a sturdy team. It is now fully functional and on Sunday 25th April we welcomed Bishop Jo to lead our service and to bless the loo.



Bishop Jo's visit to St Andrew's was a wonderful and joyous occasion. Bishop Jo said that she hadn't presided at the Eucharist outdoors before except on retreats and that she hadn't ever blessed a loo. So this was a 'double first' for her. The strong wind provided some challenges but as always we managed with the resourcefulness and resilience which characterises St Andrew's.

Camilla had sent Bishop Jo a cartoon from the Church Times of a bishop blessing a loo using a loo brush to sprinkle the water and Bishop Jo decided to go for a re-enactment. Zoë and Wilf helped her by holding the loo-brush container filled with water and the picture of the loo in Zambia with which ours is twinned through toilettwinning.org.

After 160 years the congregation at St Andrew's now has a loo and we are very grateful for the financial and practical support that has made it possible.



However 2 billion people in the world don't have access to a safe and hygienic toilet which not only endangers their health but deprives them of the dignity and privacy we take for granted. It seems appropriate that in thanksgiving for our own loo we should help someone else. There's a picture of our 'twin' in the loo. Bishop Jo not only blessed our own loo but that as well at long distance.

Toilettwinning.org is part of Tearfund which is a Christian charity working with the most vulnerable and marginalised people around the world in more than 50 countries, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality, seeking to bring an end to extreme poverty. Anyone can twin their existing loo so you might like to express your own gratitude for the loo at St Andrew's by doing so or by making a donation to Toilet Twinning's work.

You don't have to stop at the loo - you can twin a wheelie bin or a tap too! Tearfund estimates that up to a million people die each year due to mismanaged waste and one in three people don't have access to safe drinking water.

If you choose to twin a loo, a tap or a bin online you can say where in the world you would like it to be.

Click on one of these links if you'd like to know more.

www.toilettwinning.org

www.taptwinning.org www.bintwinning.org



Our church building

Many of you will know that since the 1970s our church building has been affected by subsidence and at different times steps have been taken to deal with this. Unfortunately during the last eighteen months further significant movement has been noticed. The PCC has consulted structural engineers whose preliminary advice is that substantial work is required in the near future.

Although a challenge, it is also a great opportunity and we are investigating a full restoration project to return the interior of St Andrew's to its former glory. Preliminary discussions indicate that the Diocese would be supportive of this as well as the essential works.

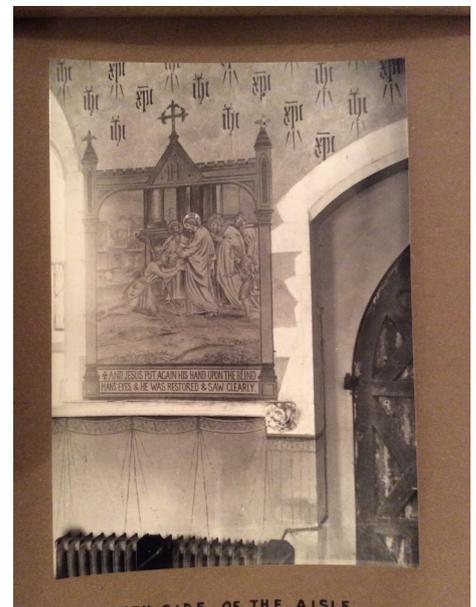


We are hopeful that much of the work can be funded through grants though in due course an Appeal will be launched and local fundraising undertaken.

The PCC has appointed a Buildings Sub-Committee

and a Fundraising Sub-Committee.

Please pray for the members of both Sub-Committees, the Churchwardens and the PCC as they seek to discern the way forward.



We will be telling you more in the coming months but Stuart White is a member of both Sub-Committees and is happy to answer any questions which you may have in the meantime. stuartwhite@waitrose.com

Bats in St Andrew's bell tower

In April, representatives from The Surrey Bat Group and Bats in Churches visited St Andrew's to investigate our resident bats and give us advice on how we might live side by side in the future. It is possible that the our bell tower is host to a nursery roost of long-eared bats which will now be investigated further with a full survey later in the season. We look forward to the results.



Looking ahead

All services on Zoom have now ceased (with the exception of Morning Prayer on Wednesday)

Camilla started 'Thought for the Week' during the first lockdown last year as a spiritual resource when we were not able to meet together communally or individually. As the restrictions are now gradually being lifted and we have increased freedom of movement and activity, it seems appropriate that 'Thought for the Week' should come to an end on the Wednesday before Pentecost. It may be that there will be short bursts of 'Thoughts' during Advent and Lent!

Evensongs

We are resuming our summer Evensongs on the first Sunday of each month at 6pm (2nd May; 6th June; 4th July; 1st August and 5th September) and hope that at some stage during this time we will be able to sing together in church and to share refreshments after the service. There will also be a service at 10.45am that day

Rogation Sunday 9th May

The word 'rogation' comes from the Latin *rogare*, 'to ask'. Traditionally Rogation days are the three weekdays before Ascension Day. During the pre-Reformation period, processions were made, often round the parish boundaries, asking God for his protection and blessing on the parish and its crops. In the seventeenth century the poet George Herbert interpreted the procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship and reconciling differences between neighbours, and of charitable giving to the poor. More recently the scope of Rogationtide has been extended to encourage us to think about responsible and accountable stewardship of all God's creation; all work, not just agricultural, and the needs of the whole world. We will be observing Rogationtide on Sunday 9th May, though sadly the current Covid restrictions mean that we can't have our usual Rogation walk and lunch at Whitley Manor Farm this year. We will find new ways of honouring this significant time in the agricultural year. Our service will take place at 10.45am in the churchyard at St Andrew's so please make sure that you wear enough clothes and suitable footwear. Do bring a rug or a blanket if you wish.

[Ascension Day – Thursday 13th May](#)

Join us for a special service of Holy Communion at 8.00pm as we will celebrate one of the great feast days of the Church. The Ascension takes Jesus back to his 'proper' place at God's right hand on high. It celebrates his kingship and majesty. No longer is he confined to a particular time or place in history and so he is now able to be fully present with us today.

[Pentecost – Sunday 23rd May](#)

We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which Jesus has promised to his disciples to strengthen and encourage them and us as we are called to be the new body of Christ – the Church – in the world. Pentecost marks the culmination of the Great Fifty Days of the Easter season.

[Thy Kingdom Come 13th - 23rd May](#)

During the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost we are encouraged to take part in the global prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come' which originated in an initiative by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2016 and has now spread worldwide across all denominations.

We are asked to pray:

That we may deepen our own relationship with Jesus Christ

For 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus

For the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

There is lots of information and plenty of resources to help you online at www.thykingdomcome.global



CONTACTS

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