

'Friends of St Andrew's'

**Newsletter
No. 20
April 2013**



St Andrew's Church is open every day during daylight hours for people to visit and for private prayer. A visitors' book is available for signing and also a book for relatives of those buried in the churchyard to record their memories and thoughts. A votive candle stand is there for anyone to light a candle in memory of a loved one or to accompany a prayer.

Regular church services are held at 9.30am on most Sundays and details are on the church noticeboard and in 5Alive. Visitors are always welcome.

On the second Sunday of each month there is an All Age Family service at St Andrew's at 9.30am. Do try to come, and if you have children in the family they will be made very welcome.

On the fourth Sunday of each month there is a United Benefice service at one of the five churches.

Noticeboards in the porch give details of all that is taking place in and around the Church, churchyard and local community. Do take a few minutes to read them when you next visit.

Caretaker. Sue and Judith Bennett continue to clean and care for the church weekly and open it daily. Many thanks for this.

Church Flowers



A small group of villagers arrange flowers in church throughout the year, apart from the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas and the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter when the church is left bare. Each member of the group is responsible for two weeks at a

time and a rota is pinned in the porch.

On three occasions in the year, Christmas, Easter and Harvest, the group works together to fill the church and porch with flowers to celebrate these special occasions. If you would like to join this group, please contact Viva Perry for more details.

Book of Remembrance

In the Church there is a 'Book of Remembrance'. Each month this displays names of loved ones no longer with us. If you would like the name and dates of family or a close friend entered in this book, please speak to any PCC member. There will be a charge of £20 for this

towards the care and upkeep of the churchyard and gardens of remembrance.

New hymn books.

Last year it was decided to buy new hymn books. 42 were bought together with 2 large print editions. For the choir and organist a further 10 copies were bought with music.

Almost half of the books have now been donated or bought for the church in memory of a loved one. Thank you to all involved.

The Churchyard

We continue to thank the regular team of workers who cut the grass throughout the year and keep the churchyard looking lovely. We are sorry that Ray, Jane, Linda and Graham are no longer able to do this and do thank them for the many years of service they have given.



We continue to thank Sue and Roland for all their hard work and welcome Doug to the team. Thank you also to Mary and Byron Shave for looking after the flower beds in the Gardens of Remembrance.

We are still looking for more offers of help either on a regular basis or to provide cover for holiday times. If you could offer help, please contact any of the names above.

A suggestion has been made that areas of the churchyard be left uncut to encourage wildlife. We are considering this and a decision will be made shortly.

The removal of artificial flowers has also tidied up the churchyard. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Just inside the gates you will see this plaque dedicating the flagpole to the memory of Revd. Bill Burlton and Donald and Edith Bridgeman. Thank you once again to their families for donations towards this.

'Policy for burials, interment of ashes, and maintenance of graves and headstones' Copies are available in porch and also from the Benefice Office.

Children in Church.

We welcome families with young children to our services. There is an area in church where the young children may play and books and toys are provided.

We also have a children's prayer corner as seen below.



Toilet for St Andrew's Church.

After years of planning and fundraising we have installed a toilet under the bell tower. It is suitable for disabled people.



Belltower

We have a group of bellringers who practise every Monday evening, ring before most services and ring for funerals and weddings if requested.

We have a loyal band of bellringers at St Andrews and try to ring for all the Sunday services. Unfortunately this is not always possible as there are only six people who are available to ring on Sundays. As there are six bells, we need to all be available on any one weekend to ring them all. We do still ring on 5 or even 4 sometimes but we find it tedious and not a good sound.

We practise every Monday evening from 7.30 until 9 o'clock. Ten people turn up regularly for practises. We are joined by three youngsters, none of whom live in the village and an ex Berkeley ringer who joined us when Berkeley practises stopped due to the 4th bell becoming un-ringable.

Bell ringing is quite a social activity. Anyone is welcome to join in a practise at another tower or join in with social activities in your own or another branch.

Cromhall Tower belongs to the Wotton Branch of Church Bell Ringers, as does Tortworth but Tytherington belongs to the Bristol Rural Branch.

If you are interested in coming up to the Tower to watch us ring or have a go yourself you would be very welcome. Just turn up on a Monday evening or contact Peggy (294545) or Peter Collett (07717 883561) It would be great to have a few more ringers in the village. You don't need to be musical or physically strong.

Providing you are over 11 years of age, can climb the few steps to the Tower and able to count to six, you could learn to ring.

Why not give it a go!

The CRoFTT Benefice Community Office

The Office is manned on Thursday mornings when our benefice administrator is working. Revd. Jenny is often there on either Tuesday or Thursday and, if you wish to speak with her, please ring or email the office to make an appointment.

Photocopying and printing may also be done for you at very competitive prices and over 1,000 copies of our benefice magazine '5Alive' are printed there each month

Contact details:

01454 260096 or office@crofft.org.uk

Tat3

Cromhall Senior Citizens have continued to meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 3pm in Cromhall Village Hall. New visitors and helpers are always welcome.

During 2012 we had two outings, a lunch at Tortworth Farm Table and tea at Nailsworth Garden Centre. Thank you to those who helped with transport.

At Christmas we were invited to St Andrew's Primary School for a preview of the Christmas play. It was greatly enjoyed by all.

Our Spring afternoon outing will be on May 16th. More details on posters and in 5Alive.

Cromhall 100 club

This is our 4th year of running the 100 club. The draws take place in Cromhall Shop and results are to be found on Cromhall.com website and in 5Alive. Congratulations to all winners and thanks to all who support church funds by buying numbers each year.

Forthcoming events.

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Thursday May 16th – Tat3 Spring outing for senior citizens of Cromhall. Details will be in the May 5Alive.

Sat June 8th 2pm – Cromhall Garden Fête. Details on posters and in 5Alive next month.

Queries

If you have any queries regarding St Andrew's Church or churchyard, please contact any member of the Parochial Church Council. Ann Greenhalgh – Warden, Stephen Youngs (treasurer), Sue Wray (secretary), Doug Collett, Zena Whitefield and Clare Johnson.

Jennifer Oldershaw stood down from PCC in March this year and we thank her for all she has done over her many years of service.

Cromhall.com has up to date details of services and events and now includes many pictures of the church, its clock and the memorial stones in the churchyard.

We also have our own website -

www.saintandrewscromhall.org.uk

You can also find details of your local church at

www.achurchnearyou.com