

St Andrew’s Church, Taunton

A Message from the Rev’d Peter Furber



St Andrew’s Church Taunton

Re-Inspire

All change! used to be a cry we heard on the railways. We are certainly facing change. We have moved from summer to autumn. Gone are the balmy days of sunshine (or too much heat), of beaches and cricket. It is definitely cooler – sweater weather, and the nights are drawing in. Much needed rain is slightly more frequent. There is an unmistakable feeling that winter is approaching. On the plus side, we begin to see the beautiful autumnal colours in the trees and bushes, as we admire the beauty of God’s creation. Importantly, we come near to the saints’ days of November - All Souls Day, All Saints Day and the several saints’ days that occur during November. Then the Feast of Christ the King leads us into Advent, when we change to the Year B set of readings in the Lectionary, as we go through our 3 year cycle of readings, covering as much of the New Testament as reasonably possible.

Advent is a tricky season for Christians to navigate in our secular and commercial society. It is difficult to observe it properly without feeling too Christmassy and anticipating the 25th in advance.

Of course there is another big change on the horizon. The PCC has approved a Parish Profile and an advert for a new vicar is about to be placed in the *Church Times*. We hope there will be plenty of applicants, allowing us to draw up a strong shortlist for interview. If we are fortunate enough to appoint someone at that stage, the successful candidate will still have to give notice (probably 3 months) to her or his current parish.

Our new vicar will naturally bring fresh ideas and a different way of doing things. That will mean change, but let us not be afraid of it; let us see it as a challenge and an exciting opportunity as we seek to serve our community and bring the light of Christ where it is needed.

Peter

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St Andrews Church Taunton

Reaching lives for change and hope

Children@10 News

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to Children@10 after the long summer break. We returned on 6 September, and it was wonderful to see the children settling back in so quickly. We are also delighted to welcome



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Miracle to our team of helpers. Now that her youngest child has started

school and joined Children@10, Miracle has kindly offered to support our sessions.

Over the summer, our Children@10 families enjoyed time visiting relatives and adventures around Somerset and beyond. One highlight was our picnic at Vivary Park on 23 August, where families and leaders came together for a relaxed afternoon. Lizzie kindly provided the food; Adeel brought a badminton set. The children had great fun in the playground and enjoyed a well-earned ice cream.

We are very grateful to all our helpers for their time, care and encouragement, and we look forward to sharing another happy term together in church.

Nicola Sawyer

Messy Church

Messy Church enjoyed a wonderful gathering on 19 September, this time at Rowbarton Methodist Church. Our theme was the Prodigal Son, and there was a lively mix of activities for everyone to enjoy, from making jewellery to creating marshmallow pigs to decorate biscuits. After the crafts, we came together for a short time of worship, watching a video of the story before



Nicola led us in prayer. We were reminded of the beautiful message at the heart of the story: the father never gave up on his son, but kept watching and waiting for him, just as God does for us.



We then returned to the hall, which had been transformed into a welcoming dining area, with a delicious tea waiting for everyone. Our next Messy Church will be on 21 November at St Andrew's Church, when our theme will be Saints. Everyone is warmly welcome, and we would be especially glad to hear from anyone who would like to help.

Mary Sumner started the `Mother's Union` back in 1876. Her vision was to help families of all classes, to bring up their children within the church.

Staplegrove MU branch have celebrated the 150 year`s, with a picnic in June and various selling stalls, a raffle and tombola. This was our main



fund raiser, where we made £365. Half has gone to the Worldwide Fund, helping countries, who have met with adversity. The other half has gone to AFIA (Away From It All), in the UK, giving families days out, or a holiday.

In August, we had a display in the library for two weeks. This was a joint effort with the MU @ the Minster. The display showed the history of the MU, a world map to show our link dioceses and where the MU is today. Leaflets and magazines were available to view.

Bath & Wells Flourish House laid on a drop in afternoon. The room was laid up for afternoon teas, where members enjoyed chatting, whilst enjoying a cream tea, plus other nibbles and some celebration cake. Some MU members

met old friends, not seen for some time. The literature stall is always welcomed, for the sale of cards, calendars, diaries and other produce.

On Mary Sumner Day August 9th at St. John`s Church, we had prayers for the vision of Mary Sumner back in 1876. The prayers gave brief information about her vision, followed by prayers of thanks.

Lastly, evensong on the 5th September at Wells Cathedral with an address from Revd Louise Bale, The MU Chaplain.

Di Ruff Staplegrove Branch Leader
07462967816



St Andrew's Church School



It was wonderful to see so many of our new families at our Welcome Service on Tuesday. We are so grateful that you took time out of your busy lives to join us as we welcomed you and your child into the St Andrew's family.



As I shared during the service, placing a pebble in the bowl symbolises becoming part of our school family and community. Throughout their time with us, that pebble will remain a reminder that they belong here. When the time comes for them to take their pebble home, hopefully not until the end of Year 6, they will leave carrying not only the pebble but also a little piece of St Andrew's with them, just

as they will always leave a lasting mark on our school family.

It was also a pleasure to see our new Pupil Chaplains being commissioned to serve and support our school community. We are incredibly proud of the commitment they have shown in taking on this important role and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make throughout the year.

Pupil Chaplains are children who help to make our school a kind, caring and welcoming place. They support worship and prayer, help organise events and encourage others to live out our school values every day. Inspired by Jesus' words in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," they help everyone in our school family to experience and enjoy life in all its fullness by showing kindness, compassion, respect and service to others.

I think the big smiles say it all!

Kaye Frounks
Headteacher
St Andrew's Church School



Servers at St Andrew's

Since its dedication, St. Andrew's church has used members of the congregation to assist the priest at celebrations of Holy Communion and other services. Originally these duties were performed by men and boys and they were given the title altar servers. They wore black cassocks and (after a probationary period of training) white cottas. In the fullness of time, girls and ladies were allowed to serve and the robes for both sexes were changed to the red cassock albs and white cottas worn today.

When I was admitted as a server (over 60 years ago!) there were over 20 servers. The more senior members serving at the main Sunday services and the junior servers being rostered to early morning (7 am) weekday communion services. Today, there are just two Holy Communion services most weeks and a few more services at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas.

We currently have a loyal and dedicated team of seven servers all of whom have other responsibilities within and away from St Andrew's and it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide the optimum number of three servers for all our services.

It would be good if we could increase our numbers so that we could reduce the pressures on our current team.

We accept anyone over the age of 10, full training would be given.

If you think you may wish to join our team, please speak to me when I can give you more details of this important contribution to worship at St Andrew's.

Martyn Trott





Fair Trade Fortnight 2026

By celebrating Fair Trade Fortnight as a church, we are reminded that our everyday choices can make a real difference. Choosing Fair Trade products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and other goods helps support farmers and workers by ensuring they receive a fairer price for their hard work.

This celebration reflects our Christian calling to love our neighbours, stand up for justice, and care for God's creation. It is an opportunity to consider how our choices can contribute to a more just and sustainable world. Together, even small choices can make a big difference in building a fairer and more just world.



A note for your diaries – Fair Trade Coffee morning on 17th October at 10 O'clock in church – all welcome!

Vicar: In vacancy

Wardens: David Budd
07485 091694 and Harry
Lewis c/o church office

Reader: Jeremy Harvey

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Mothers Union: Di Ruff
— Staplegrove Branch

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Ali Aish, Nicola Sawyer,
St Andrew's records, St.
Andrew's School, Darren
Chalmers, with thanks.

Our Website
www.tandrewstaunton.
org