

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH STRATTON GIFT DAY 2020

The building may be closed but Church is still open.

Ordinarily I would have been writing to all the folk who live in Stratton about our upcoming Craft Fayre and Gift Day which would coincide with the Patronal Festival of St Andrew on the 30th November.

But of course there is nothing ordinary about our way of life now that the pandemic has caused us to re-think and re-order our way of life.

It has been a strange year for St Andrew's Church; it started well with Sunday services, some delightful children's teas and we even managed to celebrate St Piran's Day with a tea for the older members of our community using the fabulous facilities of the new kitchen.

But then, Covid 19 hit us and our church doors were closed for the first time for hundreds of years, with funerals taking place at a graveside.

It felt very strange on VE Day when I was permitted to toll a single bell, albeit alone in an empty church, to mark the 75th anniversary.

There was much joy in July when we were able to reopen despite the limited numbers and many restrictions, but we were able to offer public worship once more.

Since then the second lockdown has come into place and we are once more closed for public worship, but are able to open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer.

And so there will be no Fayre or Gift Day and like many organisations our fund raising activities have been severely curtailed. However, the costs of keeping our beautiful church well maintained do not diminish. We would therefore ask you to consider giving what you would have given had you come to a fund-raising event, or even to give for the first time; the details of how you may do this are detailed below.

Please be assured that although the church building is closed, the church community is very much still active; we meet every day for prayer via zoom and we particularly hold all those who live or work or worship in Stratton in prayer each Friday.

So please do support us as we support you in prayer,

Yours in Christ, Revd Teresa

This year the safety of our volunteers has prevented delivery of this letter so we are now encouraging donations to the church either by sending a cheque direct to St Andrew's PCC via Rob Varley at The Old Court House, Stratton, EX23 9DQ or BACS can be used: Sort Code 30-91-41 Account Number 00694200 Reference Gift Day. An alternative is to go to www.justgiving.com and search for St Andrew's Church Stratton. You can also find the link on our FaceBook page. Very many thanks. Any queries please phone Churchwarden Simon Waring on 01288 321813 or email waring626@btinternet.com