



THE FISHERMAN - THURSDAY'S CATCH

Issue 30: 7 January 2021

Happy New Year

Welcome to the first edition of *The Fisherman - Thursday Catch* in 2021, which seeks to bring together the community of St Andrew's whilst we are necessarily physically distanced from each other as a consequence of the pandemic. We hope you will enjoy this issue and thank those who have contributed to it.

In a twist on the New Year adage of "*out with the old, in with the new*" we are introducing a familiar feature from *The Fisherman* of pre-Covid-19 times - the monthly letter from a member of the clergy here at St Andrew's, starting with our curate, the Revd Duncan Goldthorpe.



Dear Friends,

January 2021

At the start of the year my guess is that many of you, will, like me, be hoping for a fresh start. We want to break free from the restrictions that Covid has brought us. There is a desire from us to see positive changes. The rolling out of the Covid-19 vaccines gives us hope of a new future. Our Scriptures are also full of exhortations to renewal – of our minds, and hearts and our relationship to God and to each other. The church has always been in the business of new beginnings, it has seen more than 2000 New Years in and resolved to try harder each year. But what of us and what of God? Well, there is one thing we can do, one thing that will make a difference to everything else

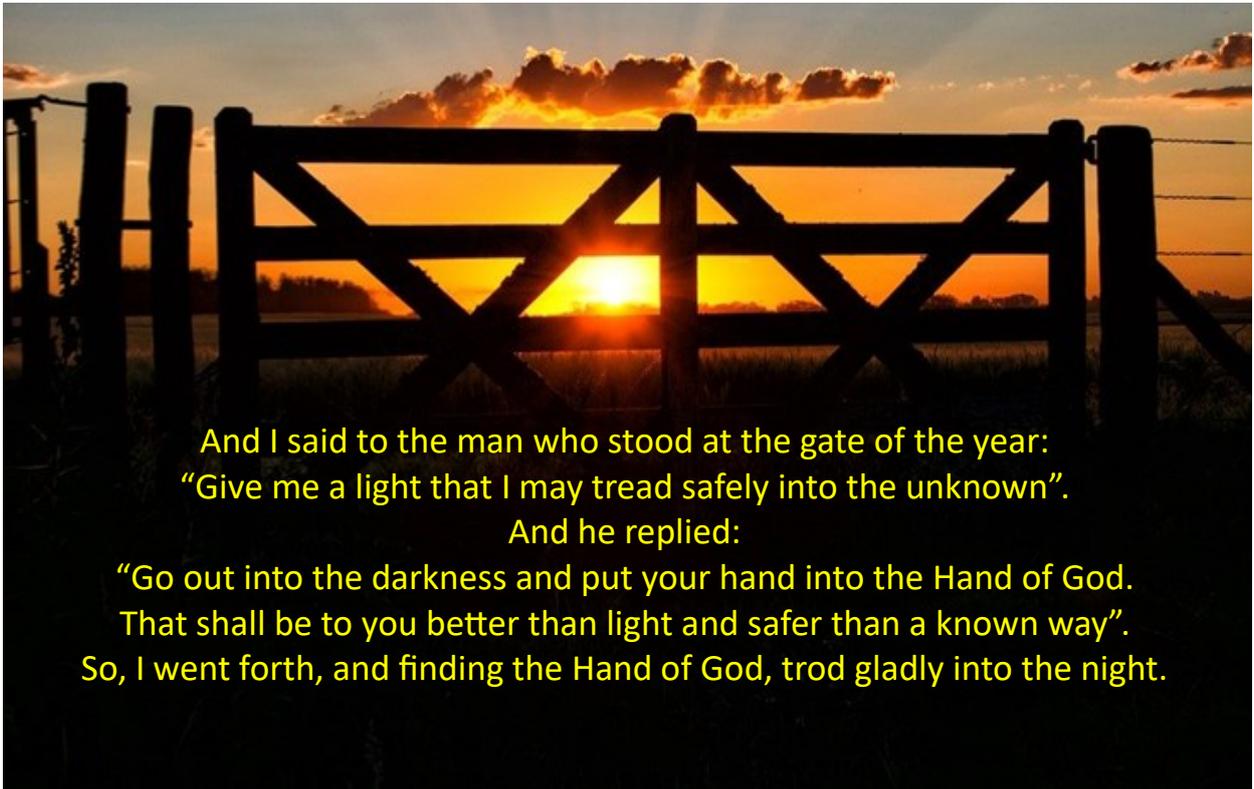
we do; remember the verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 " *...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength*". Jesus said similar words in Matthew 22, but he added "*and love your neighbour as you love yourself*." If we colour everything we do with love as that prayer suggests we will surely make a difference. I am going to try this year; will you join me by recalling those words as often as you can?

Each year, in churches throughout the land we are reminded that the light of God's love has come into the world and the darkness will not overcome it. This is a bit like the night sky; we see the pinpricks of light, stars shining light years away, and the vast darkness of space cannot overwhelm them, they are still visible to us here on earth. Jesus is that light of the world that gives us hope and a future.

Let us re-commit ourselves to allowing the light of his love to shine into the dark corners of our lives and the lives of others. Sharing this light with those around us through our words and actions will make the world a brighter place. What can we do differently this year that will allow others to experience God's love? For as long as time has been recorded, the greeting 'Happy New Year' has been used. With each New Year comes the chance of a fresh start, the resolve to do or to achieve more and the hope of brighter things to come.

However, in our personal lives I guess that many of us are also carrying our own sorrows, fears and anxieties and New Year reminds us that we are stepping out into the depth of the unknown and worldly darkness again. How can we embrace our unknown future in trust and hope?

I came across this poem of hope recently, it was written by Minnie Louise Haskin and broadcast by King George VI in his Christmas speech in 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War:



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And so as we journey forward let us do so together in the knowledge that Jesus is with us every step of the way, no matter where our path leads us. God bless, stay safe and go well into 2021.

Duncan



Thank you from the Churchwardens

Over the Christmas period a large number of people put in a lot of work to ensure that all the Christmas services ran smoothly. Diana and I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way through, for example, drawing up orders of service, organising trails and activities, being a sidesperson, reading at services, writing prayers the list could go on. However, one person in particular undertook a significant amount of additional work, over and above that which a curate would normally expect to do. Our particular thanks, therefore, go to Duncan for all the additional work that he did in the run-up to and over the Christmas period. Not many curates have to shoulder the responsibility for organising so many services during their curacy. Duncan, all members of the parish are very grateful for all the additional work that you have undertaken, and are continuing to undertake, during the vacancy. Thank you.

Ian and Diana

Are you interested in being a Trustee?

The current trustees of the JA and EC Hall Trust Fund, the charity that was set up in 1962 to support St Andrew's, are wishing to appoint a fourth trustee to oversee the management of this very generous fund. Any interested person would need some understanding of the functioning of a charity. The commitment would be 4 or 5 meetings a year during the day (currently Thursdays at 10.00am). The appointment will be for 1 year in the first instance with the possibility of reappointment up to a maximum of 3 consecutive years. If you are interested in applying for this position please provide a brief statement supporting your expression of interest, including information on your experience of trusts and your understanding of financial matters.

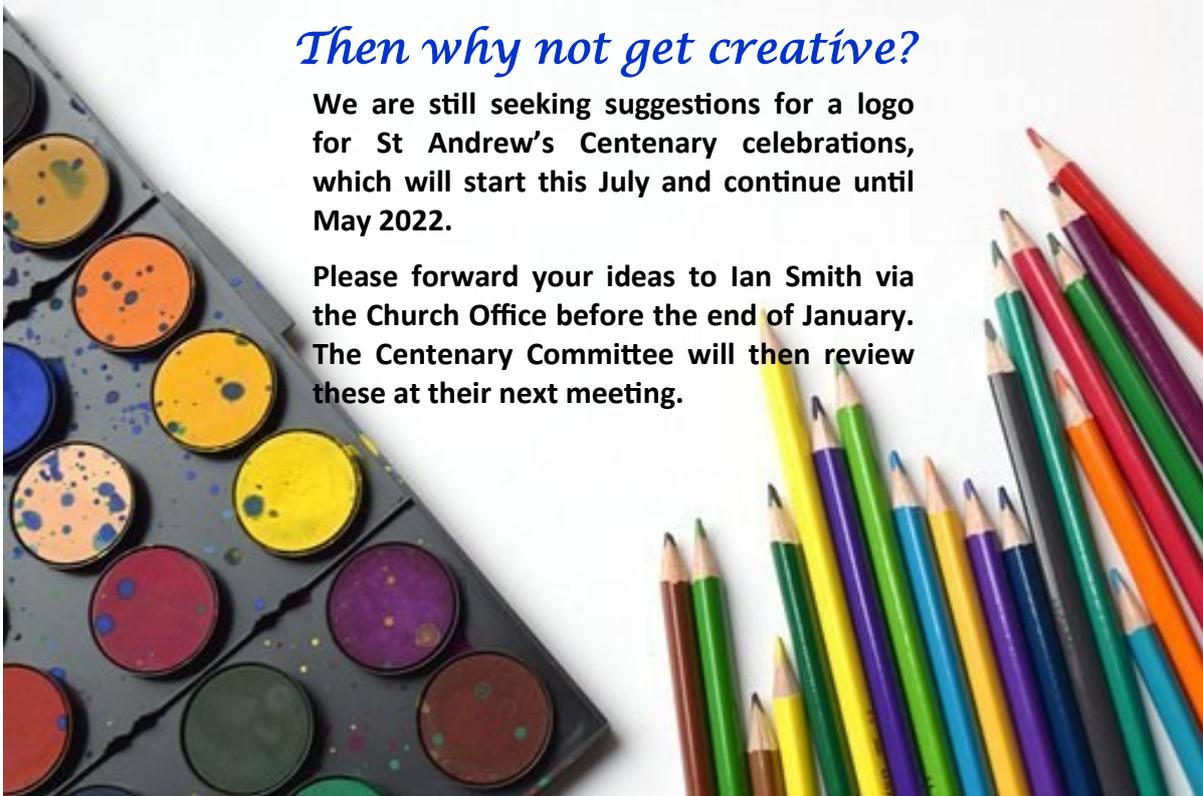
Expressions of interest should be sent to Ian Smith (Chairman of the JA and EC Hall Trust) at the Church Office by Thursday 14 January 2021. The Trustees welcome applications from anyone regardless of gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

Wondering what to do during the new lockdown?

Then why not get creative?

We are still seeking suggestions for a logo for St Andrew's Centenary celebrations, which will start this July and continue until May 2022.

Please forward your ideas to Ian Smith via the Church Office before the end of January. The Centenary Committee will then review these at their next meeting.



Launch of World Watch List 2021 on YouTube

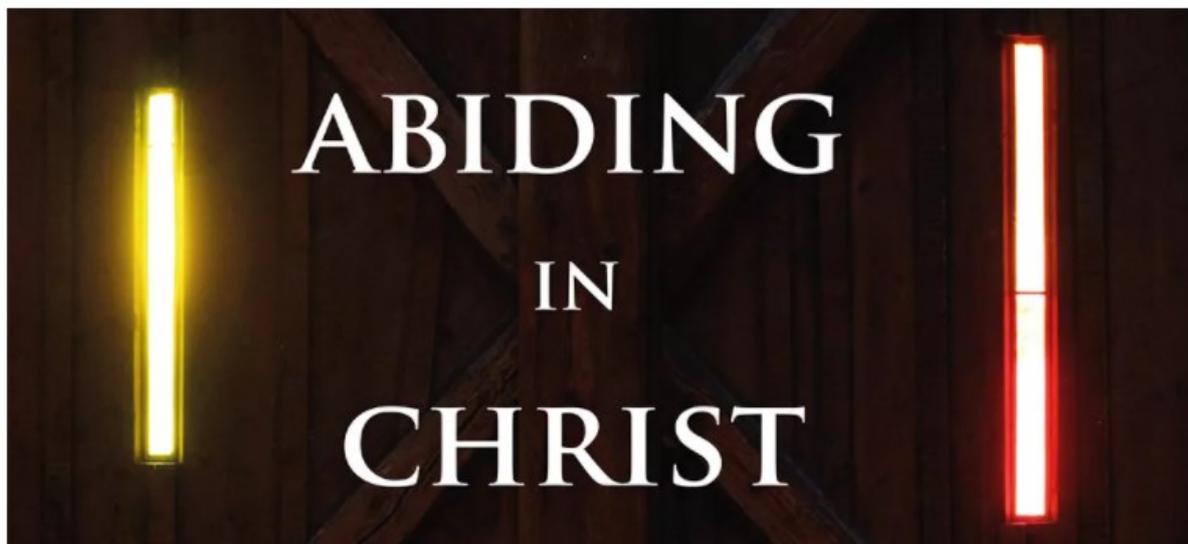
I'm sure you remember that last October our Mission and Outreach Partner was Open Doors - a international charity that serves persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. Every year they launch the World Watch List in the Palace of Westminster drawing the attention of all MPs to those top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. The launch this year is on Wednesday 13 January at 4.00pm, and, because of the lockdown, it will be on YouTube. The link you will need is opendoorsuk.org/wwl

It's not an event we can celebrate - in fact it's an international violation of a basic human right - but we can pray for our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world who do not have the freedom we have to read the Bible, meet together, worship together, pray together and know our Lord and Saviour as a church community. They risk arrest, torture, and even death, if they are found out.

Jenny Tomlinson

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

Bedford Churches Together



<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

Daily reflections <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

Due to Covid-19, and tier 4 restrictions, services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2021 will take place online and in a smaller format than usual.

Each church is encouraged in their own way to have part of their prayer focus on the unity of all Christian churches and our joint witness to the peoples of Bedford.

You are invited to join with other congregations on:

Monday 18th St. Mary's 7:30pm Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76614219800?pwd=cjZyWHVsNWVkUkVFN1RtSkJlZGQ0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 766 1421 9800 Passcode: 888Zpa

Tuesday 19th Holy Cross RC 10:15am <https://holycrossbedford.org.uk/>

Thursday 21st Quaker Meeting 12:15 for 12:30pm Zoom

As you know this is largely or entirely silent.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89048844344?pwd=VmpITW16L2tBSVJBcXJBbVUwSnpCZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 4884 4344 Passcode: 744479

Saturday 23rd Polish RC Church 5.00pm details to follow

Sunday 24th We all pray for each other and for Christian Unity in own church services

Monday 25th Priory Methodist 12noon Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285200403?pwd=V0RFbjZvb1N3ZG1SWGF0TTFOUHhEZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 8520 0403 Passcode: 247455

One tap mobile +442034815237,,89285200403#,,,,*247455# United Kingdom

On the move

The Revd Paul Cudby, a former curate at St Andrew's writes...

Dear St. Andrew's,

Doubtless my name won't mean much to quite a few of you since it's been fourteen years since I was your curate, but I remember my four years, from 2002-2006, with great happiness and have been able to keep in touch with some of you over the intervening years while I have been vicar of Tanworth in Arden in the diocese of Birmingham.

Well it's time to move on again!

I've been lucky enough to have two periods of sabbatical study leave while I've been here. The first one led to writing the book 'The Shaken Path' which some of you bought after I came to give a seminar on it in 2019. Last year I was away again and spent three months by the side of a Scottish loch (Loch Sunart) with woodland and a mountain (Ben Resipole) at my back. Yes there will be another book in due course, but for me it was the internal processing of discovering an unexpectedly deeper connection with the Holy Spirit's presence in the natural world which started the whole process of realising I was being called to move on again. There was a sense of the beginnings of something, but I couldn't put it into words, even to myself, and I found it difficult to explain at the time. I think perhaps you could describe it as seeing a shoot peering up through the ground but it's so new that there aren't any leaves yet so you don't know if it's a weed or an oak tree.

So it is with a mixture of sadness at endings and excitement about new beginnings that I can now tell you that we have just had our last Christmas in the parish of Tanworth in Arden, and that we will be moving to Oxford Diocese, probably towards the end of February, where I will be the next vicar of Wooburn Green (near High Wycombe).

As ever, Alison and I would be very grateful for your prayers as there is a great deal to do in a short space of time.

As we enter 2021 and a whole new world, may you know God's peace.

Paul



Fancy a natter? Why not Zoom in for a chat?

Lockdown again...and the opportunity to meet in person with friends for a good natter is "out of bounds" for a while. However we've all been learning this year that technology can assist us at times like these, so we can come together virtually for that chat. Just Zoom in after the Sunday service or on Wednesdays and now also on Fridays. All are welcome.

Wednesdays at 11.30am

Fridays at 3.00pm

Sundays at 11.15am

You will find a link to the St Andrew's Zoom in the weekly emails. See you there!



Our Church Diary for the next two weeks (8 - 21 January)

Please note that this diary now includes those items from the Parish Calendar of Events 2021 which are taking place. Events shown in the Parish Calendar which cannot take place due to current Covid-19 restrictions are **not** listed here.

Friday	8	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		3.00pm	Zoom Tea and Talk	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
		8.00pm	Compline	Online via Zoom
Saturday	9	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Sunday	10	BAPTISM OF CHRIST - EPIPHANY I		
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	YouTube live stream
		11.15am	Zoom Coffee & Chat	Online via Zoom
		6.00pm	Evening Service	Online via Zoom
Monday	11	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		1.30pm	Mission and Outreach Committee	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Tuesday	12	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Wednesday	13	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		11.30am	Zoom Coffee & Chat	Online via Zoom
		2.30pm	Events Committee	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Thursday	14	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Friday	15	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		3.00pm	Zoom Tea and Talk	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
		8.00pm	Compline	Online via Zoom
Saturday	16	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Sunday	17	EPIPHANY 2		
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	YouTube live stream
		11.15am	Zoom Coffee & Chat	Online via Zoom
Monday	18	Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 - 25 January)		
		8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		2.30pm	Mothers' Union	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom

Tuesday	19	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
		7.45pm	Parochial Church Council	Online via Zoom
Wednesday	20	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		11.30am	Zoom Coffee & Chat	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom
Thursday	21	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Online via Zoom
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Online via Zoom

Our Sunday Services

Sunday 10 January: Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)

10.00am Parish Eucharist (Live-stream on YouTube)

Celebrant: The Revd David Powell

Preacher: The Revd Belinda Searle-Barnes

6.00pm Evening Prayer (On Zoom)

Officiant: The Revd Belinda Searle-Barnes

Sunday 17 January: Epiphany 2

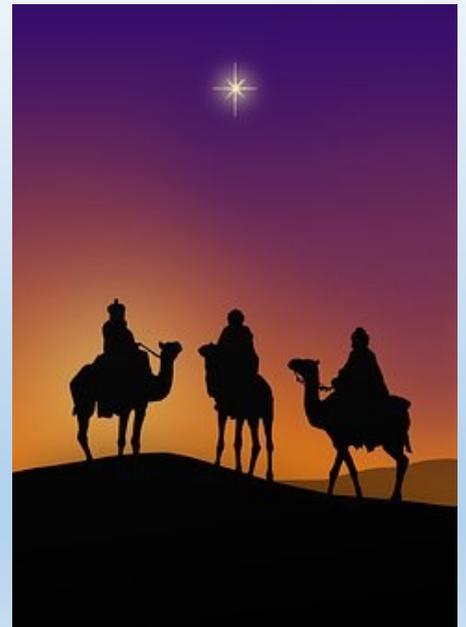
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Live-stream on YouTube)

Celebrant: The Revd Belinda Searle-Barnes

Preacher: The Revd Duncan Goldthorpe

6.00pm Evening Prayer (Recorded on YouTube)

Officiant: The Revd Peter Littleford



Contacting us during the lockdown

During the lockdown, we cannot guarantee that the Church Office will be staffed every day from 9.00am – 5.00pm, but the telephone answering machine will be regularly checked. Contact will always be available via email, which will be regularly monitored Monday to Friday. If you are wanting a quick reply, then email is best. Kelly's email is centremanager@standrewsbedford.org and Karen's is office@standrewsbedford.org.

However, for anything urgent, when the Church Office is not staffed, either Duncan or one of the Churchwardens can be contacted by phone: Duncan on 01234 268689 or 07907 694177 and the Churchwarden on 07543 096504.

The next edition of The Fisherman - Thursday's Catch will be published on Thursday 21 January 2021.

The Fisherman - Thursday's Catch would welcome your contributions. We will be pleased to receive articles for this publication at any time, but if you are aiming for a particular week, items need to be with us by Wednesday morning prior to the publication date at the very latest (sooner is better and increases the chances of your item being fitted in!). Please email articles to office@standrewsbedford.org or send hard copies to the Church Office. Thank you.

As we may place publications on the church website, please ensure that any images used are copyright free and that any individuals identified in your photographs are happy for their image to appear on-line and to be shared in the email version. All articles are printed at the discretion of the Thursday Fisherman Team and represent the writers' personal views and are not necessarily those held by the members of the fortnightly Fisherman Editorial Team. We endeavour to ensure the information is up-to-date and correct.