

CHESTERTON CHIMES

News from St Andrew's Church, Chesterton
A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages

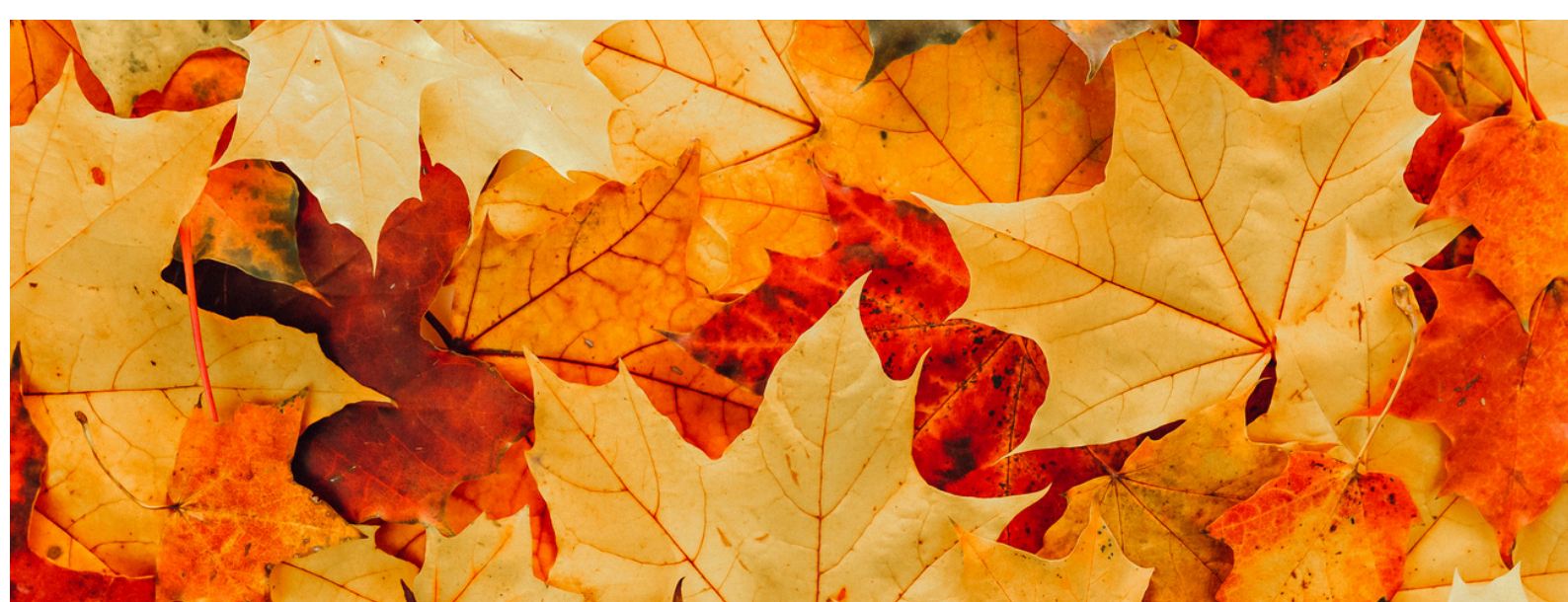


Welcome...

...to October and November's edition of the Chesterton Chimes. In this edition, you'll find service details for October and November, as well as news and details of upcoming events.

You can find updates from our children and youth work ([pages 6 and 7](#)), updates from Azul Wazi ([page 8](#)), reflections from an Essex pilgrimage ([pages 11 and 12](#)), as well as [exciting news about the Equiano Family Window \(page 13\)](#). Elsewhere we look ahead to St Andrew's Day weekend events, and besides other news from our community, the Thought for the Month is from Philip ([page 16](#)).

For full details of all our services, please look at [pages 2 and 3](#).



Services in October

at St Andrew's Chesterton

8am

every Sunday

Holy Communion

from the Book of Common Prayer

Quiet. Thoughtful Sermon. Traditional prayers.

10am

every Sunday

5 October - Harvest

Family Service + Short Communion

A shorter, less formal service (35-40 mins), with an interactive talk. A break for refreshments, before a shorter Communion service open to all.

5:30 pm

Choral Evensong

12 October

Sung Eucharist + Junior Church

A longer Communion service in church with choral music. Groups for ages 0-16 run in rooms in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.

19 October

All-Age Communion

All generations worship together. Words and music blend the traditional and contemporary. A warm and social time with refreshments at the end.

5:30pm

Iona Healing Service

26 October

Parish Communion + Cafe Church

A traditional service with hymns & thoughtful sermon in church. Cafe Church is an informal and creative service suited to young children - in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.

Services in November

at St Andrew's Chesterton

8 am
every Sunday

Holy Communion
from the Book of Common Prayer
Quiet. Thoughtful Sermon. Traditional prayers.

10 am
every Sunday

2 November - All Saints
Family Service + Short Communion

A shorter, less formal service (35-40 mins), with an interactive talk.
A break for refreshments, before a shorter Communion service open to all.

4:00 pm
Time to Remember
Service

9 November - Remembrance
Service of the Word + Junior Church

A service in church with an act of remembering at 11 am.
Groups for ages 0-16 run in rooms in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.

16 November
All-Age Communion

All generations worship together. Words and music blend the traditional and contemporary. A warm and social time with refreshments at the end.

5:30 pm
Contemplative Service

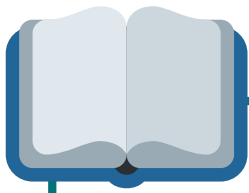
23 November - Christ the King
Parish Communion + Cafe Church

A traditional service with hymns & thoughtful sermon in church. Cafe Church is an informal and creative service suited to young children - in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.

30 November - Advent
All-Age Communion

All generations worship together. Words and music blend the traditional and contemporary. A warm and social time with refreshments at the end.

5:30 pm
Choral Service for
Andrewtide



READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER: OCTOBER

Readings for 5 October

16th Sunday after Trinity

Lamentations 3.19-26,

2 Timothy 1.1-14, Luke 17.5-10

Monday 6	Mark 12.28-34
Tuesday 7	Mark 12.35-end
Wednesday 8	Mark 13.1-13
Thursday 9	Mark 13.14-23
Friday 10	Mark 13.24-31
Saturday 11	Mark 13.32-end

Readings for 12 October

17th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 29.1,4-7, Psalm 66.1-11,

2 Timothy 2.8-15, Luke 17.11-19

Monday 13	Mark 14.1-11
Tuesday 14	Mark 14.12-25
Wednesday 15	Mark 14.26-42
Thursday 16	Mark 14.43-52
Friday 17	Mark 14.53-65
Saturday 18	Luke 1.1-4

Luke the Evangelist

Readings for 19 October

18th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 31.27-34, Psalm 119.97-104,

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5, Luke 18.1-8

Monday 20	Mark 15.1-15
Tuesday 21	Mark 15.16-32
Wednesday 22	Mark 15.33-41
Thursday 23	Mark 15.42-end
Friday 24	Mark 16.1-8
Saturday 25	Mark 16.9-end

Readings for 26 October

Last Sunday after Trinity

Joel 2.23-end, Psalm 65,

2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18, Luke 18.9-14

Monday 27	John 13.1-11
Tuesday 28	Luke 6.12-16
<i>Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>	
Wednesday 29	John 13.21-30
Thursday 30	John 13.31-end
Friday 31	John 14.1-14
Saturday 1 November	Luke 9.18-27
<i>All Saints' Day</i>	

Weekday prayer and Bible study

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

09:00am Morning Prayer online

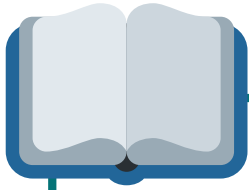
Tuesdays

09:00am Weekly Morning Prayer in Church

10:30am Fornightly Bible Study Group (Hall)

For more information contact John Reynolds:
reynolds.4@btinternet.com





READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER: NOVEMBER

Readings for 2 November

All Saints' Day

**Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149,
Ephesians 1.11-end, Luke 6.20-31**

Monday 3	Matthew 1.18-end
Tuesday 4	Matthew 2.1-15
Wednesday 5	Matthew 2.16-end
Thursday 6	Matthew 3
Friday 7	Matthew 4.1-11
Saturday 8	Matthew 4.12-22

Readings for 23 November

Christ the King

**Jeremiah 23.1-6, Psalm 46,
Colossians 1.11-20, Luke 23.33-43**

Monday 24	Matthew 9.18-34
Tuesday 25	Matthew 9.35-10.15
Wednesday 26	Matthew 10.16-33
Thursday 27	Matthew 10.34-11.1
Friday 28	Matthew 11.2-19
Saturday 29	Matthew 11.20-end

Readings for 9 November

Rememberance Sunday

**Job 19.23-27a, Psalm 17.1-9,
2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-end,
Luke 20.27-38**

Monday 10	Matthew 4.23-5.12
Tuesday 11	Matthew 5.13-20
Wednesday 12	Matthew 5.21-37
Thursday 13	Matthew 5.38-end
Friday 14	Matthew 6.1-18
Saturday 15	Matthew 6.19-end

Readings for 16 November

2nd Sunday before Advent

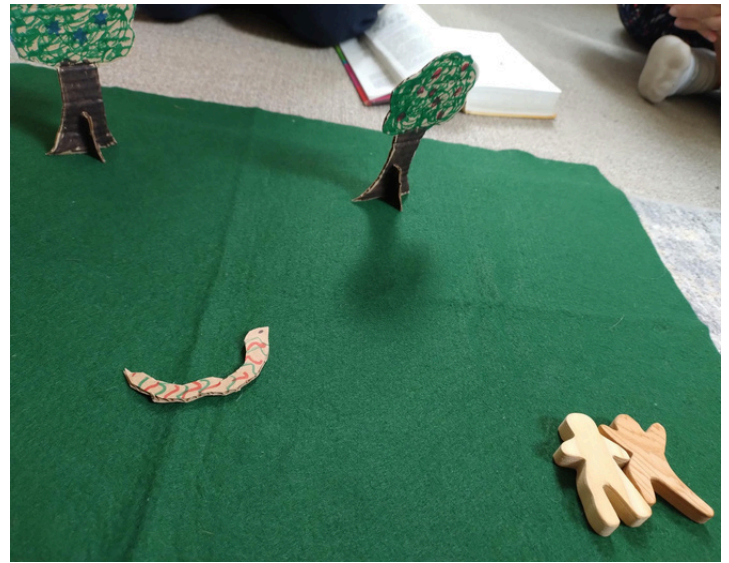
**Malachi 4.1-2a, Psalm 98,
2 Thessalonians 3.6-13, Luke 21.5-19**

Monday 17	Matthew 7.1-12
Tuesday 18	Matthew 7.13-end
Wednesday 19	Matthew 8.1-13
Thursday 20	Matthew 8.14-22
Friday 21	Matthew 8.23-end
Saturday 22	Matthew 9.1-17



NEWS AND MESSAGES: JUNIOR CHURCH

Welcome back to all after the summer holidays! Although memories may already be fading, we hope you had a fun and relaxing time. Junior Church restarted on Sunday 14th September, with a successful return of the Seekers Group for older primary school children. In celebration of Creationtide, the Wonderers and Seekers addressed the stories of Creation. Wonderers learned about the creation itself, while Seekers found out that there were two trees in the Garden of Eden, the tree of knowledge and the tree of eternal life. The angel with the flaming sword elicited some great artwork. We will continue our exploration of the Old Testament in our groups and at Café Church for the remainder of the term, as well as covering Remembrance on 9th November. Note that the return of Seekers has increased the pressure on our current volunteers, so we would still love to receive enquiries about helping out with any age group.



Remember, enquiring about how you might help with Junior Church is not binding! To start a conversation about how you could help, just contact our Youth Worker, Jess
jess.bent@standrews-chesterton.org



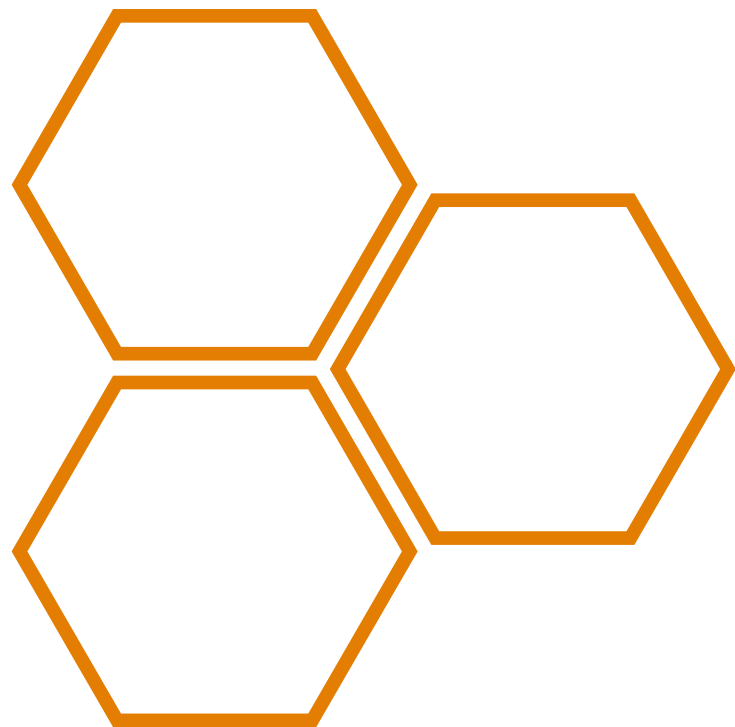
NEWS AND MESSAGES: YOUTH GROUP

Wow! And just like that summer is over and school is back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and are settling into the rhythm of school.

For St Andrew's youth there is a lot of fun to be had this term. We started out with a punting trip to kick the academic year off and began a new series on the **Sermon on the Mount** at WHY group. We have also had our first Games and Lunch and Youth Group for the year.

Coming up in October we have a movie night on the 5th, WHY group on the 12th, and Games and Lunch on the 19th. In November, there will be WHY Group (9th), Games and Lunch (16th), Youth Group (23rd), and a chance to participate in helping with the St Andrew's Day weekend at the end of the month.

If you know a young person who has just started (or is already in!) secondary school and would be interested in joining, get in touch with me at jess.bent@standrews-chesterton.org or pass on my details to them.





NEWS: AZUL WASI

All seems to be going well at Azul Wasi, although we expect there will be changes in the future as a result of Alcides' problems with his eyesight. We continue to support Alcides and the 12 children who live there with our monthly donation of £925 towards the food costs, and occasional help when a need arises.

Over the summer, Alex Barker from our congregation spent a month volunteering at Azul Wasi. Since then, he has been travelling in Peru and visiting friends in Rio de Janeiro. We look forward to hearing about his time at Azul Wasi when he returns.

Just before Alex arrived at Azul Wasi, the children went on a camping trip with their tutor Dante and his wife Victoria. The children at Azul Wasi have always loved playing football and during the school holidays Alcides arranged a football tournament. We heard from Alex that he enjoyed introducing them to both rugby and volleyball. He also took his part in helping in the kitchen.

There is more information about Azul Wasi, how our involvement started and has developed, and [how you can donate](#) on the [St Andrew's Church website](#).

Mary and Chris Pountain
azulwasista@gmail.com



Alex Barker visits Azul Wasi



NEWS: ADRIAN LAYER MARRIES



Adrian Layer was one of our former Time for God volunteers 2012-13, when he was hosted by the Peyton Jones family. It was therefore Dorothy who shared the news during the notices on 11 May this year that Adrian was being married to his long-term partner Siegfried, that very day.

The Peyton Jones were joining the celebrations by video call later that day. Subsequently Adrian has shared photos of the day with us and we wanted those who remember him to share their joy too. This coincided with a move of home the same month for Adrian, as Adrian explained, he and Siegfried had lived a significant distance away from each other for a while, since Siegfried had completed his PhD 6 months before and got a job with Zeiss in Aalen, while Adrian had remained in Heidelberg.

They are now living in a lovely flat in Aalen but Adrian changed jobs to become a registrar of “births, deaths, marriages, change of name and change of sex”. This has also meant a change of church which will be a significant upheaval as they had found so much acceptance and love in their Heidelberg church. We wish them every happiness in their lives together.



New book shines a light on a forgotten political pioneer

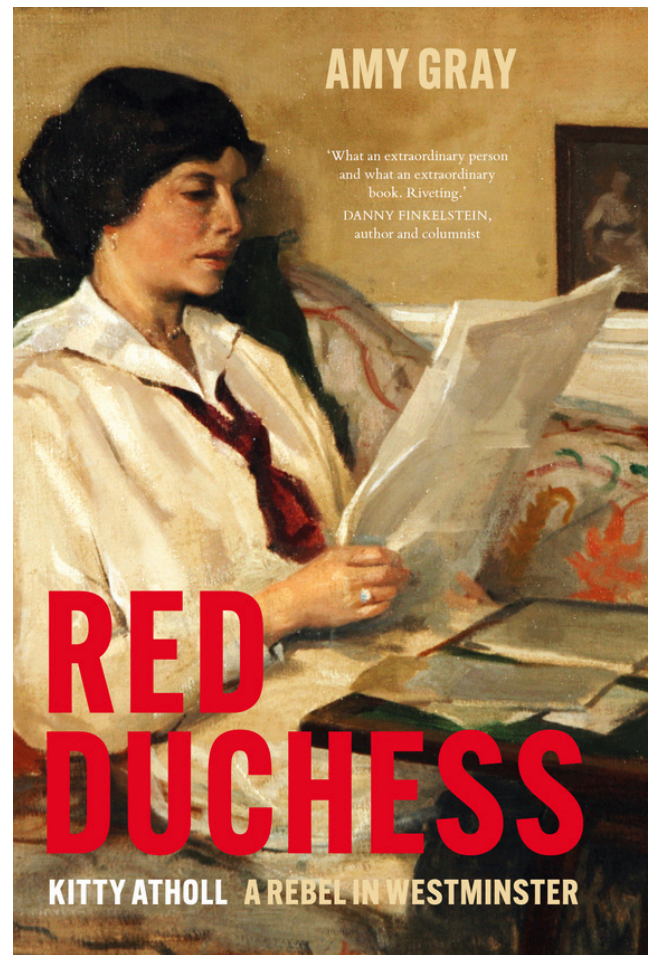
Amy Gray's new book tells the fascinating story of Scotland's first woman MP, who later became the first Conservative woman minister. Once opposed to women's suffrage, Kitty Atholl later defied her party on key issues, including appeasement, which led male colleagues to write her out of Conservative history. Her life was dramatic both publicly and privately, marked by political battles, infertility, marital challenges, and near financial ruin.

Cambridge played a notable role in her story. Her sister, Agnata Ramsay, famously topped the Classical Tripos in 1887 and later married Henry Montagu Butler, Master of Trinity College. The Duchess visited her sister in Cambridge often, and Gray drew on rich archival sources in the University Library, including letters in the Stanley Baldwin collection, as well as correspondence at the Churchill Archives Centre, reflecting the Duchess's family and political connections.

"Researching her life was like discovering a hidden history," says Amy. "She was courageous, flawed, and endlessly fascinating."

During her 1938 by-election campaign, newspapers remarked, "*Anything* the Duchess does is news," as she stood up to the Conservative party machine and Britain's fascists. Gray's book brings this remarkable woman back into the spotlight.

'Red Duchess' is available to purchase online and in major bookshops.

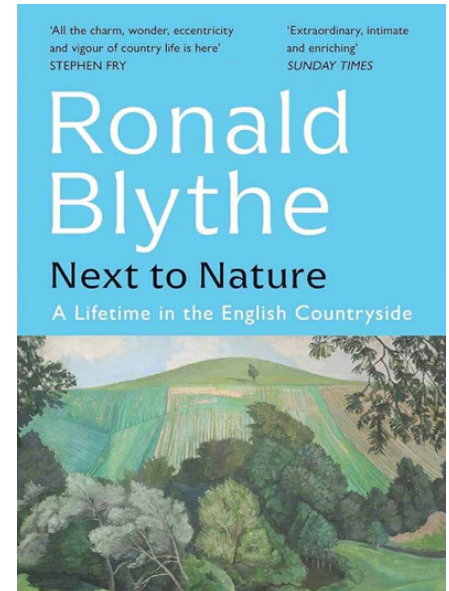


AN ESSEX PILGRIMAGE

BY MARY POUNTAIN

According to the British Pilgrimage Trust website (www.britishpilgrimage.org): 'The concept of holy places is central to the practice of pilgrimage. Holy places are locations that hold a special spiritual, historical, or cultural significance. The word holy is a loaded term these days, but, coming from the Old English halig, it means anything which makes you feel wholesome, healthy, or holistic. Each place carries a sense of the sacred, offering you a chance to pause, reflect, and feel a connection to the past, and to the divine, however you conceive it.'

At the beginning of August, Chris and I set off on what we would describe as a little pilgrimage to visit a number of churches in Essex (eleven in all). We didn't walk long distances carrying heavy rucksacks and, with only two days free to make this trip, we weren't able to spend huge amounts of time in each of the churches; and certainly there was no element of hardship, with a comfortable AirBnB and plenty of pubs to find refreshment and food! But we did encounter some dragons!



But it turned out to be something more than a touristic church crawl and more than a holiday. The two-day trip was inspired by the book **Next to Nature: A Lifetime in the English Countryside**, by the celebrated writer Ronald Blythe (London: John Murray, 2022). Blythe is probably best known for his book **Akenfield**, his evocative portrait of the vanishing way of life in rural Suffolk between 1880 and 1966 (London: Allen Lane, 1969), but he wrote many other books – short stories, poems, histories, novels and essays. He was also a Church of England Lay Reader, and had a weekly column in **The Church Times** for many years, a collection of which was published as **Word from Wormingford: A Parish Year** (London: Viking, 1997). **Next to Nature** is divided into twelve sections over the year. Each month starts with a wood engraving by his friend John Nash and an introduction by one of his many eminent friends. It is a book that I have been enjoying reading and re-reading in short sections.

We certainly experienced grace and peace in the churches mentioned in *Next to Nature* that we visited, which we found lovingly preserved and actively reflecting the communities some of them still serve. We were easily able to imagine Ronald taking services and preaching sermons in these places, and we drew inspiration from his own very humane spirituality, as related in his mingling of gentle, witty and well-observed comments on rural life with meditations on his life and faith, on literature, poetry, art and history and meetings with friends: we got the impression that for him, the rich variety of his life was not compartmentalised but was completely integrated.

AN ESSEX PILGRIMAGE

Ronald lived in Bottengoms Farm, a 16th-century yeoman farmer's house nestled in woodland in Wormingford, near Colchester. It is an isolated farmhouse in a patch of woodland at the end of a farm track, deep in the rolling countryside of the Stour Valley, on the border between Suffolk and Essex. For many years, Ronald had been a frequent lodger at Bottengoms with his friends, the East Anglian artists John and Christine Nash, who were the owners. His deep friendship with them resulted in them leaving Bottengoms to Ronald when they died. So it became his own home in 1977 and he lived there for 46 years until his death in 2023 at the age of 100.



I had come across Next to Nature last autumn when I read in a BBC news item that Ronald had bequeathed Bottengoms to the Essex Wildlife Trust: his wish was for the estate to become a nature reserve and to include a studio to inspire writers, artists, photographers, natural historians and historians for generations to come. Work is currently going on to achieve this, and it has been cordoned off to prevent public access, but on a quiet morning we were able to walk around its perimeter, enjoying blackberries from the hedgerow.

A few days before we set off, I had looked at some websites for further background information and found an interesting and moving podcast by Zoé Brown, who was a neighbour and who had become a close friend of Ronald (Ronnie to her). She was one of the team of local friends who cared for him over his last six years as he became more frail, supplying him with hot meals every day and enabling him to remain living at Bottengoms right up until his death there. It is one of a series of podcasts narrated by Zoé Brown which she calls 'The Airing Cupboard' — The extraordinary stories of ordinary people, in which she gives other people's stories an airing. This one, though, is her personal story of her friendship with this extraordinary man as he comes towards the end of his long life. She does actually record these podcasts in her airing cupboard!

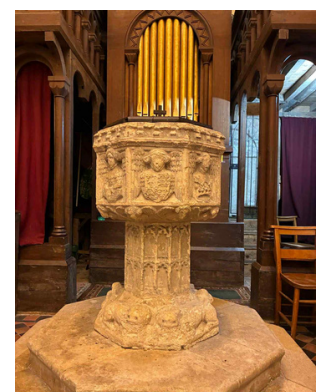
www.buzzsprout.com/348590/episodes/12943831-ronald-blythe-an-intimate-little-story-from-bottengoms or just go to www.theairingcupboard.org/ - and look for season 5, episode 48.

I can recommend listening to this and to other stories from The Airing Cupboard - they are available on YouTube, Spotify and other platforms.

So Chris and I are grateful to Ronald Blythe for introducing us to a part of Essex that we might never have otherwise discovered, to sense peace in these holy places, to have the chance to admire the extraordinary beauty of the churches and the creativity, craftsmanship and faith of past generations, to ponder on their inspiration, and through this and his writing to reflect on our own faith.

If you would like to read a little about the churches we visited and see photos of them, I have made an online photo/diary on an app called Polar Steps - largely for our own memories, but also to share with family and anyone who might be interested. If so, I can let you have the link for this.

Mary Pountain
mary.pountain@gmail.com



Equiano Family Window update

The commission to design the Equiano Family Window in St Andrew's Church has been awarded to the Cambridge-born visual artist **Selena Scott**.

Readers of Chesterton Chimes may recall that back in June-July we shared the four short-listed artists and their initial sketch designs. Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback and comments. We had over 300 responses from members of the congregation and wider community. The survey showed stronger support for designs that were more figurative (depicting the family) than symbolic. **Selina and her initial design scored highest in all groups.**

After further conversations with the Equiano Family Project Committee, Selena produced a revised design for the window (below). This design was presented to the St Andrew's PCC in September and the commission awarded. The project has several more stages to reach before the window can be made a reality: we need to secure Faculty and Planning permissions for the new window; and a stained-glass workshop needs to help translate Selena's rich design into the medium of glass. **We also need help from as many people as possible to raise the necessary funds for the window.** An important stage has nevertheless been reached in this exciting project with Selena's appointment.

In the coming months, we hope to organise a '**Meet the artist**' event, as we anticipate Selena will want to hear more from members of the community in response to her revised design, and as she prepares a final design for the glass-makers. If you are interested in helping make the Equiano Family Window a reality, please join our Project mailing list via the office or get in touch with Philip.

About Selena Scott

Selena Scott is a young visual artist, born and raised in Girton, Cambridge. A graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL (2022), Selena has exhibited in Cambridge, London and Cornwall. She has also worked as a curator and researcher for exhibitions on Black history at both the Museum of Cambridge and Fitzwilliam Museum. Selena is a founding member of Cambridge Black Creatives and author of the **Cambridge Black History Colouring Book**.

THE
EQUIANO
FAMILY
PROJECT
AT ST ANDREW'S,
CHESTERTON
CAMBRIDGE



The Friends of St Andrew's



The Friends' Lunchtime Concerts

12:30 pm
St Andrew's Church

10th October: Song and Instrumental
Recital by **Sarah Lamont and others**

24th October: Piano and Cello Recital by
Marion Caldwell and Jon Fistein



Admission free, with a retiring collection for
The Friends of St Andrew's

The Friends' Lunchtime Concerts

12:30 pm
St Andrew's Church

7th November: Song Recital by **Students
of Ute Le Petit-Clare**

14th November: Music Students from **St
John's College School**

21st November: Piano and Cello Recital by
Catherine Wilmers and Jill Morton



Admission free, with a retiring collection for
The Friends of St Andrew's



St Andrew's Day Weekend

**Saturday 29
&
Sunday 30 November**

Saturday 1 – 4pm: Our traditional Advent fayre of crafts, gifts and plenty of tea and cake. Everyone welcome.

4:30 pm: A concert with students from Chesterton Community College in St Andrew's Church

7 – 10 pm: St Andrew's Hall 20th Anniversary Ceilidh
Tickets £10 (£5 for under 18s)

Sunday in St Andrew's Church:

10 am: A family-friendly service

5:30 pm: Choral Evensong marking Andrewtide and the beginning of Advent



St Andrew's Hall 20th Anniversary Ceilidh

**Saturday 29 November
7 – 10 pm**

Tickets £10 (£5 for under 18s)

with donations for cheese and wine on the night

Payment by cash or card
will be taken on the door

To reserve your place,
email Rachel
rachel@standrews-hall.co.uk

**This event launches the
fundraising drive for our
decarbonisation and access
project at St Andrew's Hall**





CONCERT

*A joyous celebration of songs from
around the world*

Chorale au Choeur du Larv from Charente Maritime

16.30 St Andrew's Church
Chesterton Cambridge
Entrance free but retiring collection
for Medcins Sans Frontiers

**SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER
2025**



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OPEN FOR
PRAYER & VISITING
Monday-Sunday:
9am - 4pm



St Andrew's Church,
Chesterton



St Andrew's,
Chesterton



@standrewschesterton

The Chesterton Chimes is released once every two months. The next edition will be for October and November 2025: if you have church news or messages that you would like to include, send them to Pip Tofaris by 16 November (email pip_rodgers20@hotmail.com).

Thought for the Month

WRITTEN BY PHILIP LOCKLEY

I wonder when in the summer you became aware of “the Flag thing”. Perhaps you were driving some distance and noticed an unusual number of St George’s flags fluttering from lampposts at repeated points of the journey. Perhaps you left the country on holiday, then returned to find Union Jacks flying where they hadn’t been before.

This sudden proliferation of flags in everyday surroundings – with no correlation with any international sports event – has drawn lots of media and political comment. Some see it as harmless patriotism; others connect such displays to emboldened far right voices online and threatening demonstrations near hotels hosting asylum seekers.

When I first noticed the flags, I must admit my train of thought took a more comic direction: I imagined the factory in China where all such polyester flags originate these days and pictured them laughing at the profits made from this inexplicable flood of orders from England. The St George’s cross will mean nothing to textile workers in Zhejiang: it is just colour and material. But to those who shin up lampposts or drape it from bridges, it’s surely saying something – it’s invested with meaning.

By the end of the summer, and especially after the Unite the Kingdom rally in London, I won’t be alone in sensing the flags are saying something more sinister. The flags seem to mean a definition of this country I don’t recognise.

They’ve been appropriated – along with the idea of this being ‘a Christian country’ – to speak for motivations and drives rooted in fear and threat, excluding foreigners and any one different from the majority.

In which Bible are such ideas found? Which story or saying of Jesus can justify such an application of the adjective ‘Christian’?

The answer is none. But I suspect we will only be confident of that if we read the Bible for ourselves in an open-hearted community, and seek to encounter the real Jesus shared in the Gospels and witnessed through the Holy Spirit. If we don’t, then ‘Christian’ becomes a word made to mean whatever the unchristian want it to. And a flag with a cross on it becomes a symbol that’s ominous and excluding, not uniting and freeing.

It’s easy to take for granted that flags of countries have a cross on them. We may not even associate the St George’s cross with the original cross of Christ. But it remains the cross – and so Christians must invest this symbol with right meaning. The cross means Jesus, the victim of violence, the man who lived for others, the one who preached a Kingdom where there are no outsiders to God’s love. And the cross means God’s life-giving answer to such violence and confirmation of that Kingdom: the resurrection of Jesus. All this means the cross ought never to be ominous and excluding; its purpose is uniting and freeing.

Contact

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Due to variable working patterns and external meetings, the office is staffed at irregular times throughout the week. To avoid a wasted journey, if you wish to meet with Rachel in person, please call the office or email in advance to arrange.

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