



St. Andrew's Church, Waterloo Street, Hove

The Church By The Sea

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

Dear Friends,
We hope you had an enjoyable festive season.

I am sorry to start this new year with sad news. As many of you know Michael Robins died earlier this month. Mike was the first Custodian of St Andrews and his early efforts were pivotal in keeping this lovely space open. In accordance with his wishes Mike's funeral was held in St Andrews on 21 January and Meg Stone, and other friends of Mike, helped organise a lovely Service to see Mike on his way from a place he loved very much. Fr Robert officiated. We have marked Mike's memory with a special brass pew plaque.

This March sees the 20th anniversary of the CCT being vested with the responsibility for the care of St Andrews so on the 2nd March we will be marking this event which saved our fine "Church by the Sea" for the community. There will be various other events in the Church throughout the year, including the Fringe Festival. I suggest that you keep a watch on the website www.visitstandrews.org.uk. We continue to encourage productions using St Andrews to offer concessionary prices to the Friends of St Andrews, so look out for those as well.

The TV programme 'Who do you think you are?' has encouraged increased interest in family and community history. There are various initiatives recording the history of those commemorated in the church's memorials and war memorials and we have now formed our own history team to take various initiatives forward. If you are interested please contact Michael Shankland, Averil Older or Adam Tubero who are taking this idea forward.

As some of you may know our Piano Fundraising Team has been looking at ways to purchase a quality piano which will allow us to encourage more recitals and concerts. These efforts have borne fruit and a combination of fundraising along with grants from The Pebble Trust and The Hedgecock Bequest mean that we will soon have the piano. I have just heard that our late neighbour and supporter Nora Tunney generously bequeathed £1000 to St Andrews in her Will.

St Andrews continues to thrive due to the efforts of Friends and volunteers.. The financial pressures on the CCT will place more demands upon us. But I am sure the team is up to the task.

Thank you for your continuing support

Gerry McCrudden MBE



FRINGE FESTIVAL VENUE

Standby for an exciting program of events at St. Andrew's as part the Fringe Festival 2011.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Keep an eye on our web site and Facebook page for details of these and other news and events.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

As a Friend of St. Andrew's you are entitled to a discount at many events at the Church.

OBITUARY



do it all on his own, and skillfully used the local press and radio to promote the concerts that he had started to organise. All I could do was to help with the technical side at concerts, but Mike had plans for bigger things. In 2005 in conjunction with the CCT he founded the Friends of St Andrews.

The committee had contacts who brought in more events and Mike continued to use his PR skills to promote them, always enlisting the support of the current Mayor.

Interest grew from local residents, schools, musicians and the Fringe Festival.

The rest, as they say is history, but Mike's important place in it, and his outgoing character, will never be forgotten.

Arnie Spence

Michael Anthony Robins, local Town Historian and Tour Guide passed away peacefully in his sleep Monday, January 10th, 2011 at the Martlett's Hospice.

His funeral was held at St. Andrews Church, Waterloo Street, Hove Friday, January 21st at 11.45 AM

"Come in! Look around!" said a friendly enthusiastic voice, about ten years ago, as I stuck my head around the door of a rather severe looking building that I had never seen open before.

That was the first time I encountered Mike and the secret jewel that is St Andrews. I had to go back again for another look. The love that Mike had for the place was contagious and it wasn't long before I found myself wanting to help in his scheme to get St Andrews on the map. The unheated church never dampened his enthusiasm and even though you could see your breath in front of your face with the cold, he was keen to tell me of his plans to promote the church to the community. He realised he couldn't



Mike Robins 1946 - 2011

~

Founder of the Friends of St. Andrew's Church

~

R.I.P.



£1000 Bequest to FOSAC

Nora Tunney was a colourful character resident in Waterloo Street next door to St Andrew's and was often seen in her wheelchair and one of her Ascot hats talking to passers by. There was always a bowl of water outside her front door for dogs and a cheery hello for the residents.

She loved St Andrew's and the Chorus and has left £1000 in her will to The Friends of St Andrew's, for which we are very grateful. There is a memorial brass plaque in front of the disabled bay at the rear of the nave.

HISTORY

Memorial Plaque to Thomas Dickinson

The following is a very short extract from a talk given by Michael Shankland tracing the stories behind the memorials in St Andrew's.

"In loving memory of Thomas Malcolm Dickinson Captain 16th cavalry Indian Army. Attached 1st Grenadier Guards, wounded at Festubert 1915.

Brought down in air combat taken prisoners on the Western Front 1917

Evacuated 6000 prisoners, being himself last to leave fatal camp of Parchim 1918

Died under operation due to his wounds in Egypt 4th January 1921 Aged 27."

Thomas's War Service records show that he lived at 25 Brunswick Terrace but, looking at the baptism records for St. Andrews, I couldn't find a record of the Dickinson family. He was in the Indian Army and a professional soldier before the war, was wounded on the Western Front on 16th May 1915, but passed fit for Light Duty in August 1915.

He then spent some time at Aldershot in reserve during 1915, where he had an operation to remove a small piece of shell from his throat then was passed fit for general service in October 1915.

After a spell back with the army where he was involved in the siege at Kut-Al-Amara, he joined The Royal Flying Corps. On the 4th June

1917, Thomas was back on the Western Front flying a mission at Paschendale. His plane crashed and he was taken prisoner but was released at the end of the war.

On his return to Britain he informed the War Office and wrote a report of his capture of which the following is an extract.

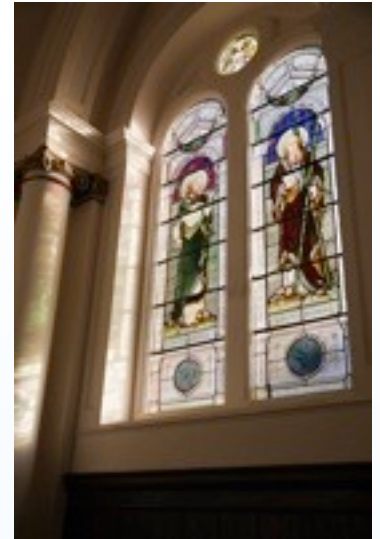
30th June 1919.

"While on an offensive Patrol in Ypres area I attacked a German machine . In the encounter one of my guns jammed. I was wounded in both my legs and my engine put out of action by machine gun bullets. I endeavoured to glide to reach our lines and then partially lost consciousness till about 500 feet off the ground.

I stalled my machine at about 30 feet from the ground and completely crashed it but it did not take fire."

Thomas spent some time recuperating in London hospital after returning to Britain but after further service, died of his wounds in Egypt.

If you are interested in these stories or have more information about Thomas Dickinson, or any of the other people memorialised at St Andrew's, please contact Michael Shankland.



*Interested in joining the St. Andrew's history group?
Please
e-mail Michael Shankland
infernus9@aol.com*

If you'd like to see the memorials for yourself the Church is open every Sunday from 2-4pm and on the first and third Saturday of the month from 2-4pm.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS

The Church & the Pub

St Andrew's and The Iron Duke Hotel share a great deal of history. Even today the church relies heavily on the goodwill of the pub for toilet facilities and as keyholders. The pub, in turn, benefits from the people that pop in for a drink after attending functions in the church.

My partner and I were landlords of the Iron Duke pub, opposite St Andrews Church, in the late 1980's and stayed there for nearly four years.

During this very busy period I used to see a lady opening the iron gates of the church, presumably to clean, and locking the gates again when she had finished.

I was mildly curious but carried on working hard to ensure we turned the pub into a successful business.

I also began to see groups of schoolchildren standing outside our pub, with a teacher, all reading

leaflets and moving on after about 10 mins.

One day I went out to speak to them and the teacher kindly gave me his papers on the history of Brunswick Town.

This awakened my interest in the area and consequently led me to become more and more interested in the history of Brighton & Hove.

I am now an avid collector of our city's memorabilia and also give guided tours whenever I can.

Whilst at our pub, we watched the last wedding at St Andrews before the church closed.

I was very sad to read in the Argus, a few years later, that a 'rave' had taken place there and lots of the artifacts had been destroyed.

How pleased I was to learn that the Churches Conservation Trust had eventually taken over the care of the building and a beautiful restoration had taken place.

This led me to join the Friends group and eventually to become a committee member.

Due to the ongoing hard work and dedication of our volunteers, together with the ongoing support of the CCT, our much-loved church has now become a popular venue for all sorts of community events, and with numerous bookings taken throughout this year and beyond, we are able to ensure that the future of St Andrews is assured.

Averil Older



Averil Older is a former Councillor and a member of the management committee of The Friends of St Andrew's Church.

WHAT'S ON

March

2nd Wed
Music for Churches Concert
(20th Anniversary of CCT Vesting)

5th Sat 11am – Spring Clean of Church

12/13th Sat/Sun

Brighton Theatre Group – Ragtime

April

2nd Sat am
Actually Making Music

28th Thurs
BHAGMC show

29th Fri
BHAGMC show

May

15th Sun
Brighton Early Music festival

20th Fri
We Bop

21st Sat am
Coastline Harmony Concert

21st Sat pm
Evening Recital “Her leaves be green” with Katharine Hawnt

June

17th/19th
CCT Tea party

July

23rd Sat
Archaeology Day

August

11th Thurs TBC
BHAGMC Pride Show

12th Fri TBC
BHAGMC Pride Show

September

10/11 Sat/Sun TBC
National Heritage Day

Music for Churches

Bunty le Jule
Strung songs, frayed harmony
toys-bop trio

Trio tekke
Cypriot trio play exhilarating
Rempetike music with
a contemporary flare

Puppeterazzi
Phyotherapy at its best

Sylvia Saunders
solo piano of the day

Wednesday 2nd March
St. Andrews Church
Waterloo st, Hove
7.30pm £5

A night of live music, film archives, giant puppets, performance and other surprises including Faye Houston (not Whitney)

Marking the 20th Anniversary of the vesting of St Andrews with the CCT

November

30th Wed – St Andrew’s Day

December

1st Thurs
World Aids Day

8th/9th/10th Thurs/Fri/Sat
The St. Andrew’s Singers present
My Fair Lady – Benefit in aid of
FOSAC & CCT

22nd/23rd Thur/Fri
BHAGMC ‘twas The Night Before
Christmas

*Visit the web site new
information on our events
www.visitstandrews.org.uk*

In addition to being open every Sunday from 2–4pm the Church is now open on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month 2–4pm. If you could spare the occasional couple of hours we would like to extend the opening to every Saturday. Please email Andy Mills if you are able to help.

andrewlesliem@hotmail.co.uk



*St. Andrew’s Church Spring Clean
5th March 2011 at 11am
We’d be very pleased to see you
even if you can only spare an
hour!*

Nothing too strenuous and often people pop in to play the piano or practice their singing and the atmosphere is usually very congenial. Tea and biscuits will be supplied in abundance. If it has arrived you might be amongst the first to get a glimpse of the new piano. If you have some spare time please come down from 11.00 AM and grab a duster. We look forward to seeing you there.

FRIENDS NEW & OLD

The Friends of St Andrew’s Church supports the work of the Churches Conservation Trust and work in partnership with them to:

- Increase awareness of the church and its history;
- Encourage greater use of the church for community events.

Headed by an enthusiastic committee, the Friends have raised a substantial sum of money to install heating, which has enabled the church to be used year-round, and successfully raised funds to restore the clock and chimes. The Friends help to fund these projects partly from membership subscriptions and donations, but also by arranging fund-raising events and applying for grants.

In addition the Friends provide a pool of volunteers to care for the church, ensuring that it is open to visitors every Sunday afternoon.

St. Andrew’s is a popular community venue and so the Friends also provide stewards for concerts and other events.

If you are not currently a member but would like to help support the work of FOSAC, or even become involved in helping to keep St Andrew’s open then please fill in the attached form.

Membership is £10 a year or Life Membership is £150. Members are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and receive a regular newsletter keeping them informed about forthcoming events. Friends are also offered discounted tickets to many events at the Church.

Even if you are unable to provide physical assistance you can still give valuable support simply by belonging.

Chairman and Events Secretary
Gerry Mccurrudden, MBE *
gerrymccurrudden@hotmail.com

Secretary – Jaqui Maschera
Jf.maschera@btinternet.com

Treasurer – David Beard
treasurer.fosac@live.co.uk

Members’ Events – Yvonne Ovey
yellow_dog@sky.com

Lighting & Technical – Arnie Spence *
arniespence@hotmail.com

Caretaker – Adam Tubero *
tuberok@aol.com

Jaqui Maschera / Victoria Sheridan (Piano Fund)
standrewspiano@aol.com

Membership Secretary – Phil Palmer
phil.palmer@me.com

The Iron Duke (Food & Drink)
info@irondukebrighton.co.uk

Web Site/Newsletter Editor/Photographer
Matt Jones matt@oneforthewall.co.uk

Correspondence address: The Secretary, Friends of St Andrew’s Church, **42 Great College Street, Kemp Town, Brighton, BN2 1HL**

*denotes keyholder

Please feel free to pass this form on to a friend or to give membership as a gift

I wish to apply for membership of the Friends of St Andrew’s Church and enclose my subscription of £..... Annual membership minimum donation £10/Life membership £150

Date Home Phone.....

Title..... Mobile Phone.....

First Name.....

Family Name.....

Address..... E-mail Address

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Please post this application to:

The Membership Secretary, The Friends of St Andrew’s Church,
1, York Mansions West, York Avenue, Hove, BN3 1PS