

The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

www.standrewschurchguernsey.org



Newsletter for Trinity 4, 28 June 2026

The Rector writes ... for the last time



I will retire as Dean of Guernsey and Rector of St Andrews on 31 July 2026. Judy and I will leave Guernsey and return to England following my retirement. Although the date on which my retirement will take effect is 31 July, I will be concluding my public ministry in Guernsey with a service at St Andrew's church at 10 am on Sunday 28 June.

Ministry in Guernsey for nearly eleven years has been a huge privilege. In addition to my main role as Dean of Guernsey, I am pleased that I have also been Rector of St Andrew - although very conscious that I have not always been able to devote as much time to

the parish as I would have liked. St Andrew's church, and especially her people, will hold a special place in my heart.

I am grateful to all those who, over the years, have invited me to baptise their children or officiate at their marriages or blessings of their marriages. It has been a special joy to officiate at baptisms of children of parents who have been married at St Andrew's church. It has also been a privilege to officiate at the funerals of many people over the years I have served here.

I am pleased that we have prepared for the development of St Andrew's church, following the eventual sale of the Rectory, and the release of funds that the parish has agreed can be used both for the conversion of the Barn into a Rectory and for the long-overdue improvement of access into the church, and the provision of facilities at the church which will replace those lost by the conversion of the Barn. Sadly, we have not been able to undertake this work before my departure, but I will watch the development of the church and the Barn with interest from afar.

St Andrew's church has been well served by its officers, churchwardens, musicians and treasurers, flower arrangers, cleaners and many more - and by the members of the Parochial Church Property Management Board for the parish. I have much appreciate the relationship with parish constables and members of the parish douzaine over the years.

However, as I said after the 10 am service last Sunday, the future of St Andrew's church is very precarious unless we have sufficient people who are willing and able to serve as 'managing officers', to satisfy the requirements of Guernsey's charity laws and ensure the good governance of St Andrew's church. I have written in more detail about this on the next page.

The Rector's departure

Sunday 28 June is the 45th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. It is the day when I will 'take leave' and say farewell to the parish of St Andrew, after nearly eleven years as Rector. I hope that people from the parish will be able to come to the 10 am service – after which some forty people will gather for lunch at Les Cotils.



On the first two Sundays of July, Judy and I will be going to Sark and Alderney to say farewell to people in those islands. Then we might get on with some packing ...

Some practical consequence

From Sunday 5 July onwards, there will continue to be a service at 10.00 am every Sunday at St Andrew's church.

However, I regret that it will not be possible for colleagues in the Deanery of Guernsey to cover the 8 am service as well. With three vacancies (Castel, St Andrew and St Sampson), and three further vacancies (St Saviour and Torteval, when Mark Charmley leaves Guernsey in August; and St Martin, when Daniel Foot moves to a group of parishes in Dorset later in July), there is only so much that the remaining clergy can do.

The Revd Canon Jon Honour will be acting Dean following my retirement. He will endeavour to ensure the continuing provision of retired clergy and others who will offer ministry at St Andrew's church. Canon Honour will be working with church officers to consider the future provision of ministry at St Andrew's church - and the other churches in Guernsey which are currently without rectors. However, final decisions are not likely to be made until the arrival of the new Dean, in the autumn of 2026.

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The Rectory garage is almost cleared of items belonging to the church, which we can no longer retain and store. Many of the large tables have gone to St Saviour's church. We are left with two snooker/billiards tables, and some small folding car tables. Free to a good home!

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The future of St Andrew's church: some serious concerns about our governance

As I prepare to lay down my responsibilities as Rector, I have to be frank about my concerns for the future governance of St Andrew's church. However committed we are to worship (and the congregation numbers compare well with some of the churches in Guernsey), unless the governance and management of the church is secure, you may have to face some very difficult and unpalatable decisions in the not-too-distant future about whether St Andrew's church can continue to operate in accordance with Guernsey's charity law.

Jeremy Witham has kindly offered to be a churchwarden. Welcome as this news is, it is not enough to secure the future of St Andrew's church.

Guernsey's charity law requires us to have *at least* three 'managing officials' – and in practice, this means having at least four, to secure against any absences or illness. With my departure and Sharon's decision that she cannot continue as churchwarden for personal and family reasons, we are left with three managing officials: Jeremy Witham, Ray Watts and June Le Pelley (our treasurer). We urgently need at least one person (and ideally two) to volunteer to be a 'managing official' and member of the Church Management Committee.

To leave no room for doubt: without a team of at least four managing officials, St Andrew's church will be in breach of the law and will not be able to continue to operate.

Ideally, we need somebody else to be a churchwarden, so that we can guarantee sufficient attendance at the Parochial Church Property Management Board – as this body, vital for the management and maintenance of the church building, cannot function without a churchwarden (especially in the absence of a Rector).



To remind you: the main tasks and priorities for the churchwardens are:

- representing St Andrew’s church in discussions with the Deanery of Guernsey about the future provision of ministry;
- ensuring the good governance of the church as a charity through the Church Management Committee (which meets five or six times each year); and
- attending the quarterly meetings of the Parochial Church Property Management Board (which is the forum for the parish constables and the church to work together on the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard).

Alongside this, please think about whether there are small, but vital, tasks which you might be able to take on. By sharing the load, we will all be able to contribute to the flourishing of St Andrew’s church, which I believe is part of God’s plan for this community.

Particular small, but vital, tasks for which we need volunteers include:

- Acting as editor of the church’s page on ‘A Church Near You’ – which is our website. It’s very easy to do this
- Ordering supplies of candles and altar bread
- Taking responsibility for (a) ensuring that St Andrew’s church satisfies the requirements for notifying the Guernsey Registry of changes to the church’s officers and dealing with the annual update; and (b) the annual return to the Office of Data Protection Registrar. These tasks will take no more than one hour each year

This week

Sunday 28 June	Trinity 4	
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Holy Communion, with farewell to the Rector
Monday 29 June	2.30 pm	Church Management Committee (Rectory)
Thursday 2 July	There will not be a choir practice	
Sunday 5 July	Trinity 5	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion

Holy Communion, and laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Wednesday at 10.30 am at the **Monnaie Chapel**. The Monnaie Chapel is a remarkable place – accessed off the Rue du Monnaie (halfway up the road, on the left, when approaching from Les Poidevins).

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The rota for July has been circulated (thank you, Janet Iles). There are a few printed copies in church. The rota is also available on the church website.

Prayers for the week

A prayer for the week:

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus

you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.



Please pray

- for those who have been suffering in the high temperatures of recent days;
- for those who will continue to manage the governance of St Andrew's church, and for visiting clergy who will take services, following the Rector's retirement;
- for those killed and injured in the earthquake in Venezuela;
- for peace and the hope of a better future for the people of Ukraine, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan and other troubled places in the world.

We pray

- in the **Guernsey churches prayer cycle**, for the parish church of St Andrew, and for the Monnaie chapel;
- for all who live in the **parish of St Andrew** and for our church community, and for our constables and douzeniers;
- for those for whom our prayers have been requested:
 - Dennis Parton, Mike O'Hara, and David Harvey;
 - church members: Cathy Belcher, and Audrey Gollop;
 - friends and family: Emma, Jean Walsh, Stina Holmes, Elisa, Pauline, George Maiden, Georgina, David, Fletch O'Hara, and Chris and Diane Lesbirel.

Finally ...

This will be the last edition of the weekly newsletter which I have prepared. I started producing the newsletter in this format during the pandemic. I am pleased that this has been a useful way of communication – and appreciate the comments that some readers have been kind enough to make.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Tim

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Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Hymns and liturgy at 1000

Gloria 2 Tune: 218, Maccabaeus
Creed 1 Said
Sanctus etc Sung to the usual setting

1	103	O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness	Tune: Was Lebet
2	738	Not far beyond the seas	Tune: Cornwall
3	440	Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness	Tune: Schmucke dich
4	715	Lord for the years	Tune: Lord of the years



Readings

Old Testament reading: the book Genesis chapter 22 verses 1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

Gospel: Matthew 10 verses 40-end

Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.