

St. Andrew's Church, Redruth

This pamphlet offers a brief summary of the history and features of St. Andrew's Church, Redruth, as a building. It cannot capture every feature of the building, or the spirit and diversity of the people - clerical and lay- who have made this a vibrant and treasured Christian community serving God and our Cornish hometown, but it may remind us of the church's past as we benefit from its present and build for its future.

St. Andrew's in the 1930s. What's missing?

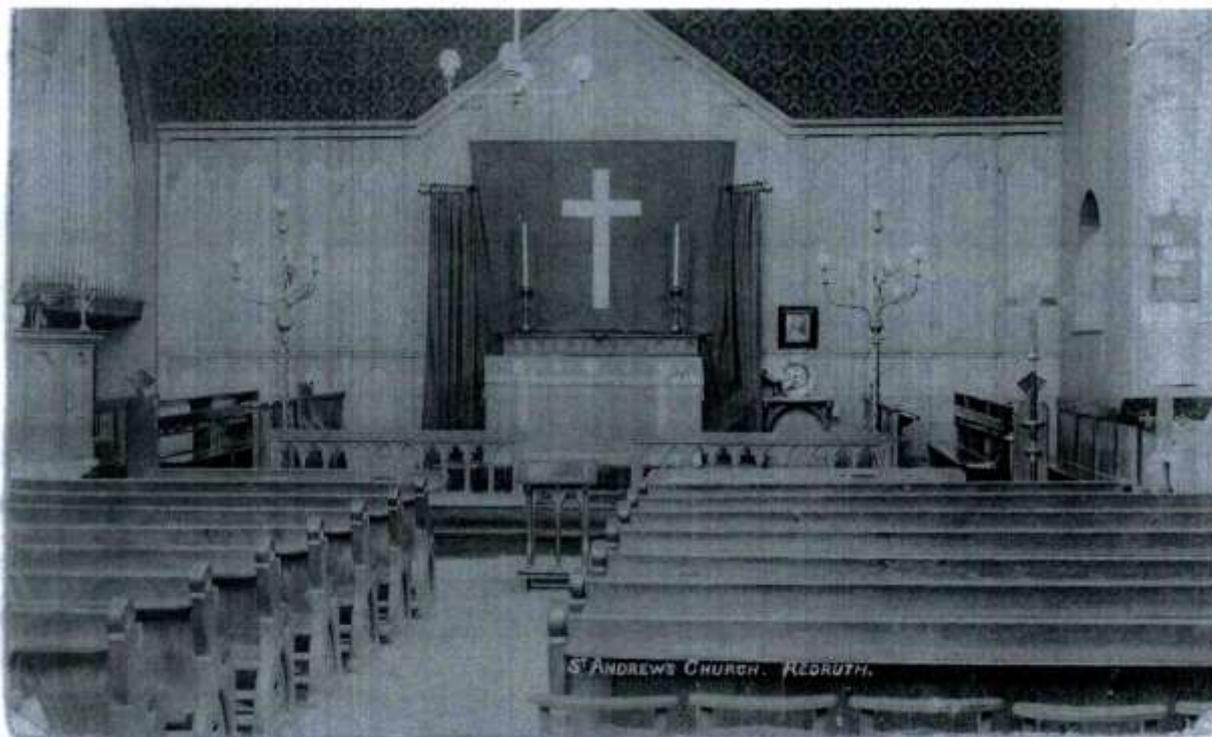
History

St. Andrew's Church was consecrated on 26 November 1884. Its foundation stone had been laid the year before, after a campaign to build a new place of worship, led by Revd. James William Lane, Rector of Redruth 1878- 1910. The church was founded, as a circular of 1880 put it, "for those who go 'nowhere in particular', and for those who go 'nowhere at all' ". The majority of Redruth's population lived some distance away from the existing parish

church of St. Euny, which had been consecrated centuries before mining transformed the fortune, size, and shape of the town.

At a public meeting in the Lamb and Flag tavern in 1880, the Bishop of Truro, E.W. Benson, announced that Lord Clinton had donated suitable land for a new church and a Building Committee set to work. The donated land was once the site of Treruffe (or Treve) Manor and was surrounded by, then new, streets named after the some of the families whose fortunes had been increased by local industry, including Clinton and Basset. These families' donations helped to build the new church but fundraising efforts by devoted church supporters raised funds from many more parishioners both rich and poor.

The church, named for St Andrew, considered to be the first missionary because he brought his brother to Jesus, was to be a place of worship but also of fellowship for all ages. The original plan included not only the Gothic-revival church but also a crypt for Sunday School, adult Bible classes, and other meetings and events. Practical touches included a 'large boiler for soup in winter'.



The original altar before the church was extended.

The 1884 church was the Western part of St. Andrew's today, nearest to Clinton Road, ending before the present Sanctuary. Fundraising continued to complete and enhance the church, still encouraged by E. W. Benson, now Archbishop of Canterbury. Efforts included an intriguing three-day 'Alpine Village Bazaar' in the Druid's Hall with luncheons, teas, and music, opened by General Sir Redvers Buller and Lord Robartes. Fundraising continued as the century drew to a close but competing demands on the people of Redruth proved challenging: Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was to be celebrated, the congregation were encouraged to support the completion of Truro Cathedral, and a memorial for Archbishop Benson who had died in 1896. Then the First World War and economic and social upheavals of the 1920s and 1930s took their toll. In wartime- and peacetime- hardship the church continued to support its parishioners but new building had to wait.

In 1932 a 'Way of Renewal' weekend launched a Redruth Parochial Mission, which combined evangelising and promoting the Building Fund. Finally, in April 1937 the foundation stone of the Eastern portion of the church was laid by Commander Sir Edward Nicholl, one-time parish choir boy and a principal donor. The completed church, substantially the one we see today, was consecrated by Dr J. W. Hunkin, Bishop of Truro, on 22 September 1938.

Architecture

It is easy to see, outside and in, where the original, Gothic-revival church ended and the newer, simplified Eastern section begins. Although they blend well, each section has distinctive features. The older part, designed by James Hicks, of Redruth, and John Seddon, has an exterior of granite pillars rising from the crypt foundations to the eaves, creating four nave bays, built of local stone- Carn Marth Elvan, which has a reddish tinge, and Tregoning Hill Stone. Inside a marble effect was created using stone from local mines set in panels and courses and the dressings were local granite and Wild Duck, or Pencoys, Elvan. The windows in the nave were designed to record the life of Christ, with glass by Clayton and

Bell, of international repute. The north-west entrance's bell cote once held the Treleigh Mine Bell but it was removed in 1938.

The newer, eastern section, designed by R. F. Wheatley of Truro, consists of three additional bays to the nave, a chancel, the north transept which houses the organ, a bell tower, and a spire, removed after being damaged by lightning in 1965. It also includes the Lady Chapel and Sacristy, below which were a new kitchen and heating chamber. The use of Carn Marth stone blended with the earlier external walls but the regular pattern contrasts with their style.



ST ANDREWS EXTENSION 1937

Notable Features

St. Andrew's is blessed with many beautiful artefacts, many of which commemorate individuals or groups who have contributed to the life of the church and the community. This pamphlet can only list a few, so do take some time to walk around the church and discover others.

High Altar: The altar is made of Ham Hill Stone and Delabole Slate. The carved reredos was the work of Miss V. A. Pinwell, known as the Grinling Gibbons of the South West and one of many women whose artistry and craft adorns our church. At the sides of the rood are statuettes of St. Andrew, St. Euny, St. Christopher, and St. Ninian. These saints are also represented in the coats of arms: the cross of St. Andrew, Celtic cross head for St. Euny, ford for St. Christopher, and three curlews for St. Ninian. Other coats of arms represent the Province of Canterbury, Dioceses of Exeter and Truro, and the County of Cornwall. It is worth noting that the Agnus Dei at the bottom reflects the Redruth tin smelting mark, the 'Lamb and Flag'. The glorious window dates from the completion of the Eastern section and, like so much in St. Andrew's, combines Christian and Cornish imagery.

Font: This dates from an earlier part of the building and is made of Caen stone and marble with a design of fish, a traditional Christian symbol. Its wooden cover with the cross of St. Andrew was a later addition, in 1927, to commemorate Vera Chapman who led the Girl's Friendly Society in the parish.

Windows: Many of the stained-glass windows, some by renowned makers including Cole, Clayton and Bell, commemorate parishioners. It is worth studying each in turn, both to admire the artistry and to note those commemorated. Try looking for the surprising range of animals or the expressions of the figures.

Two from the same era are especially poignant. Above the main entrance a depiction of the wedding at Cana, given by his parents, honours Guy Grenfell Williams, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who died aged 20 at the Battle of Ypres in 1916. Nearby is a window depicting St. Bartholomew, commemorating the

life and sacrifice of another young man. Helston-born Thomas Johnson Hill, was Assistant Priest at St. Andrew's and left in 1917 to serve as an army chaplain. He returned in 1919 with a silver-gilt chalice he had used in Flanders, which is still in use today, but drowned off the coast at Hayle that same year, trying to save a swimmer. In his 1983 recollections of boyhood in the church, Everett Pengelly recalled: 'Tom Hill would get through an early morning Mass in ten minutes flat, with much genuflecting and beating of his breast'. The memorial to the energetic young chaplain was funded by 'his many friends'.

Among the more recent windows, the St. Cecelia reflects the church's celebration of the gift and joy of music.

Lady Chapel: this serene space includes a reredos frame by local craftsman H. J. Paul and a triptych, consisting of a 'Madonna and Child' painting brought back from Florence in 1929 by retired mining consultant Maurice Gregory, with side-panels painted by Morse-Brown. The altar had been used in the main church before the High Altar was built.

Organ: originally a small harmonium and 'string band' accompanied services until an organ, made by Fleetwood of Camborne, was placed in the chamber on the then north-east corner. This was rebuilt and moved to the new north transept in 1938, then re-modeled once more in 1956. Its grand 'Re-Opening' concert on Easter Eve, 1957, featured a recital by F. G. Ormond, Truro Cathedral Organist. Tickets cost one shilling.

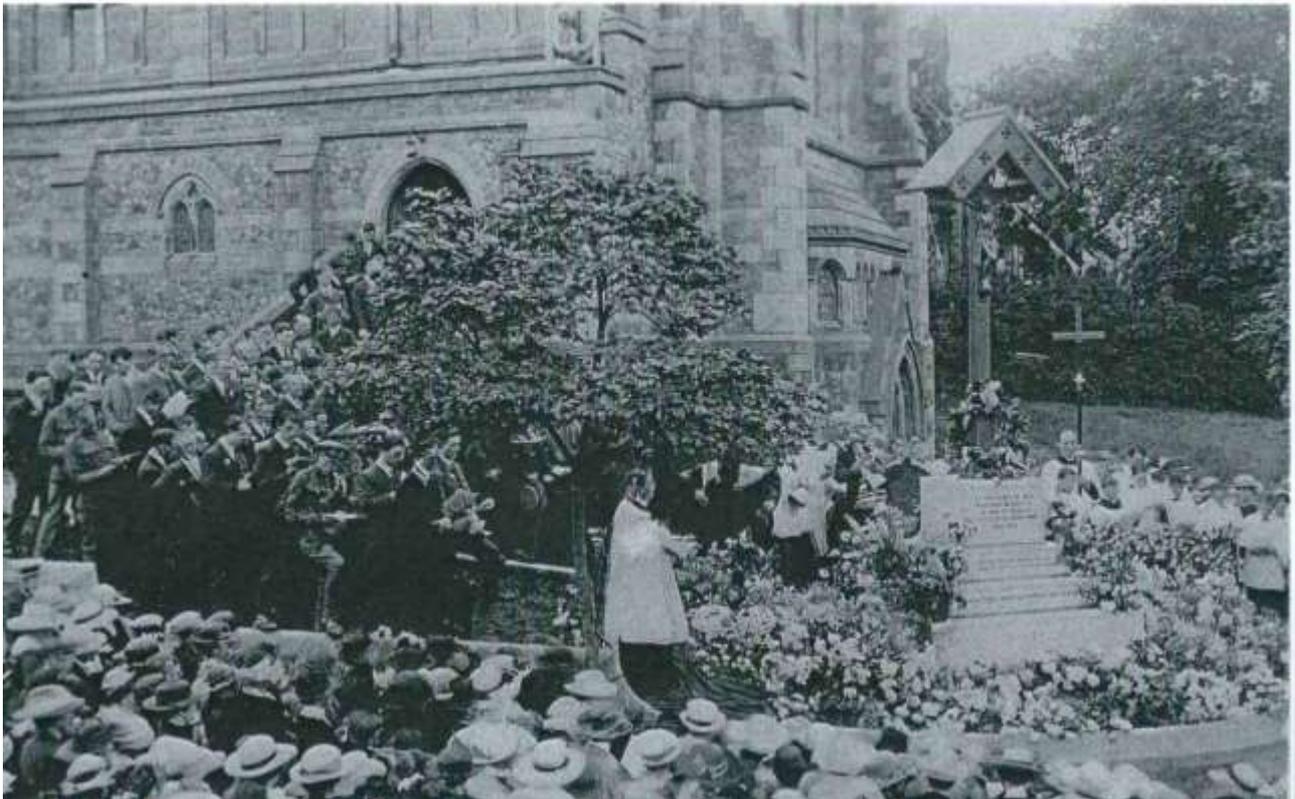
Pulpit: made of oak on a Caen stone and serpentine base, featuring the four evangelists, and a memorial to Dr R.S. Hudson, founder member of the church and tireless worker for public health in Redruth.

Lectern: donated in 1884 by Mr. Andrew, one-time mayor of Exeter, who had attended church and Sunday School in Redruth as a child.

Sacristy Crucifix: this bears a figure of Christ from the Basilica Church of Notre-Dame-de-Berbiere, Albert, France. It was blown off

the church during bombardment in 1917 and found undamaged in the rubble, although the cross had been destroyed. It was given to a British officer by the local townspeople in gratitude for his sharing rations and other kindnesses. He brought it to his home in Redruth and it was donated to the church in 1919.

Sanctuary Chair: this Jacobean chair was donated in memory of Revd. J.W Lane, Rector from 1878 to 1910, and prime mover in the creation of St. Andrew's, Redruth.



Dedication of Great War memorial, 17 July 1919.

Rectors/Vicars

These are the named clerics with responsibility for St. Andrew's, Redruth. There have been many others, clergy and laity, who have served and sustained successive congregations and community.

Revd. J.W Lane, 1878-1910.

Revd. H.W Sedgwick, 1910-1926.

Revd. Canon W.R Ladd Canney, 1926-1957.

Revd. John Ruscoe, 1957-1970.

Revd. Canon J. W. Wingfield, 1970-1973.

Revd. Canon H. E. Hosking, 1974-1984.

Revd. Graeme Elmore, 1984-1986.

Revd. Canon Michael Simcock, 1986-1989.

Company of Mission Priests, led by Revd. Keith Mitchell, 1990-1992.

Revd. Roger Bush, 1993-2003.

Revd. Simon Cade, 2005-14.

Revd. Shirley Harrison, 2011- present.

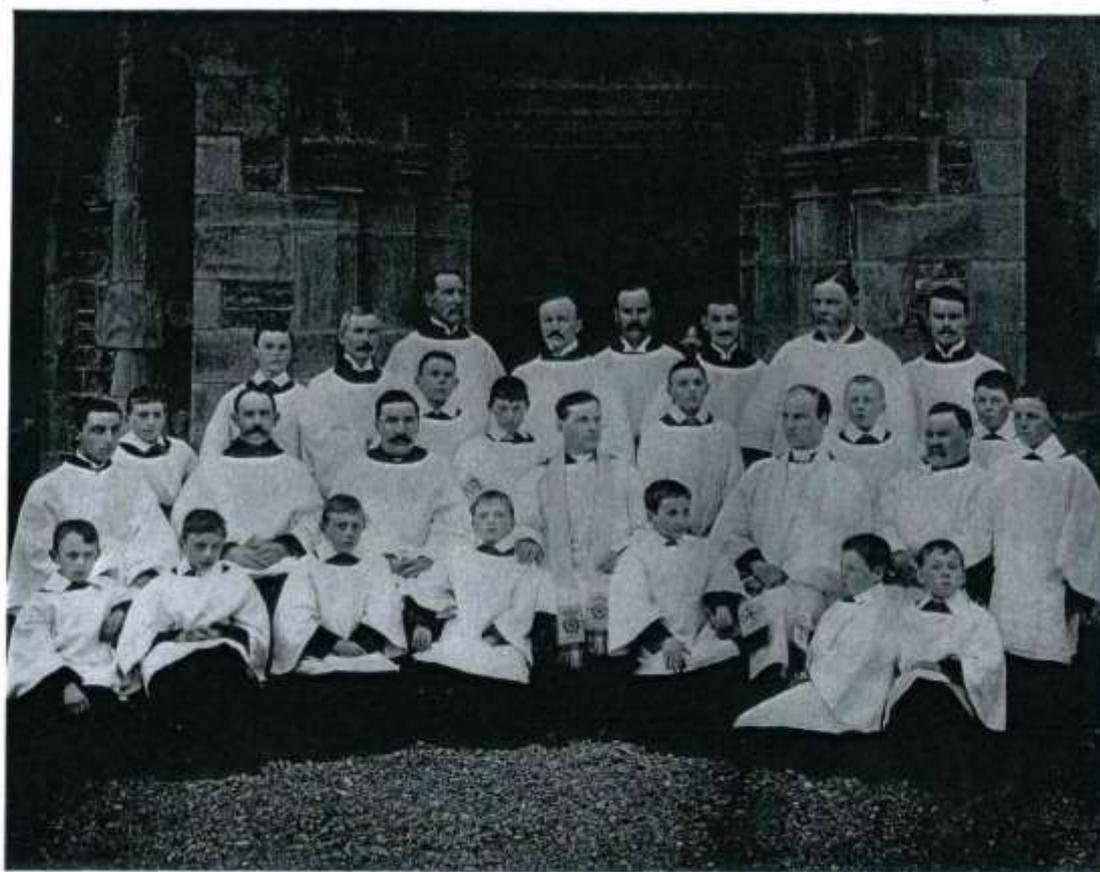
Revd. Caspar Bush (Rector), 2015- present.

Interesting Facts

- St. Andrew's has a strong tradition of building fellowship through the arts. Dramatic productions by adults and children, choral and organ recitals and concerts, have always been a feature of the life of the church, and the modern Arts Festival extends this to include visual arts and creative writing.
- In the 1880s hand bells were often rung at weddings, when players flanked the steps up to the North-West door. They were also rung at Christmas and, sometimes, at gravesides.
- In 1889, the gates at the Clinton Road entrance had to be opened to help a huge crowd, estimated at many thousands listening to four-times Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, who spoke from a platform on the site of the current public library.

- In 1895 an Anglican Football Club started with its headquarters in the crypt schoolroom.
- Sisters of the Community of the Epiphany, in Truro, played an active part in the early life of St. Andrew's, in pastoral and teaching roles, supporting individual parishioners and groups, including the Mothers' Union and the Girls' Friendly Society.
- In the First World War photographs of members of the congregation in the armed forces were kept in the church for remembrance, and prayers for them and for peace across the world were offered each mid-day.

ST ANDREWS
CHURCH
CHOIR
REDRUTH
1897



- During the Second World War, because of the blackout, Evensong was held in the afternoon in winter and small altar candles offered the only light for Holy Communion. The crypt was an air-raid precautions station and warden post. On May 9, 1945, Victory in Europe Day, the church held a service of thanksgiving for peace, with floodlights illuminating the church interior into the night.
- The Great War memorial crucifix outside the church, dedicated on 17 July, 1919, was the first to be erected in Cornwall. Those who fell in the Second World War are commemorated on plaques on the wooden panelling in the Sanctuary.



- The St. Andrew's branch of the Church of England Men's Society flourished from before 1898 until the Second World War. The photograph here includes many well-known men of the parish, but who is the unidentified woman in the front row? If you know her, please get in touch!

Sources for these brief notes include primary documents and records, Frank Michell's account of the church's history and architecture, *The Centenary of St. Andrew's Church, Redruth* (Redruth, 1982) and Michael Tangye's studies of Redruth history. Photographs are reproduced, with kind permission, from the collection of Paddy Bradley. Thanks go to Kim Cooper, Principal Librarian of the Cornish Studies Library, and Ralph Robins and Kathy Williams of St. Andrew's, and Ralph Robins, for support in researching and producing the pamphlet. Please let us know of any corrections or suggestions. Thank you for reading.

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