



FOST news

Friends of St Thomas' Church Northlew

Art & photography exhibition

FOST is organising an art and photography exhibition on 17th/18th May to raise funds for church repairs and the North Devon Hospice. Work will be on display in the church and Church Room and you'll have the chance to purchase originals.

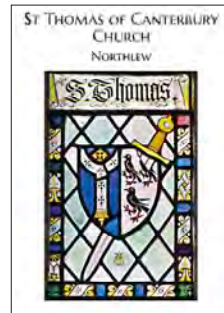
We are keen to promote local talent so if you enjoy creating art or taking photographs why not enter some of your work and sell it for a small commission at the same time as supporting two good causes?



For more details and an entry pack contact Jackie Ellis (jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com) or Val Welsh (valofgreen@gmail.com).

The closing date for submitting entry forms and fees is **Monday 14th April**, with exhibits delivered to us in the week before the exhibition.

New visitor guide



Visitors can find out more about the church and its history by buying our new visitor guide for just £3. Copies are on the Welcome table.

FOST AGM on 26 March

Members and visitors are welcome to join us for the FOST AGM which starts at 19:00 on Wednesday 26 March in the Church Room - for about half an hour. You'll get the chance to hear about FOST activities, fund raising plans and to ask any questions.

Supporting FOST

FOST news is an occasional newsletter with information about our church building and fund raising events. If you would prefer an electronic copy, just let us have your email address.

You can support the Friends' work by taking part in fund raising events but if you would like to get more actively involved and/or become a member, please contact Jackie Ellis jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com 01837 658750 .

Secure donations can be made using our QR code - and you can Gift Aid your contribution at the same time.



FOST is a Registered Charity
No 1070123

FOST finds



Becket's arms are depicted on the south stained glass window, but where is this version?

Coming up

Sundays 2/9*/16/23 March
09:30 Morning Prayer
*Communion service

Wednesday 26 March
19:00 FOST AGM Church Room

Sunday 30 March
10:00 Mothering Sunday service

Wednesday 2 April
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
19:00 Church Room

Sundays 6/13*/20 /27 April
09:30 Morning Prayer
*Communion service

Monday 14 April
Closing date for exhibition entry forms

Wednesday 23 April
Dragon Pie Supper Church Room

FOST facts

In the late 1600s an Act of Parliament was introduced to help support the ailing wool industry. All corpses (except plague victims and the destitute) had to be buried in woollen shrouds and an affidavit sworn for the records. Offenders risked a £5 fine.

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Spotlight on...

In the chancel, against the east wall with its Epiphany window, *the altar* represents the presence of Christ during worship.



A new communion table from Harry Hems' workshop in Exeter was installed in 1885 during major renovations. Quatrefoils carved into the wood echo those on the bench ends. The four overlapping circles may represent the four gospels or a stylised crucifix. The marble altar step was donated by parishioners in 1900.

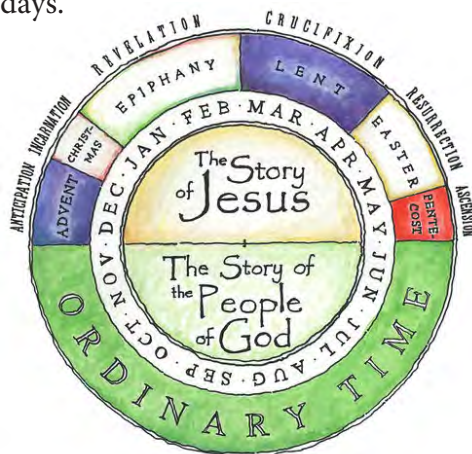


From old French, *quatre* = four and *foil* = leaf

The Liturgical colours

The Church of England's year starts at Advent and is divided into liturgical seasons, grouped around important Christian festivals. Each season has its own colour – purple, green, gold (or white) and red – used for the altar cloths, clergy robes and hangings. The colour reflects the mood of the season so in Advent purple, a colour of royalty, welcomes the coming of a king. Purple is used again in Lent because it also symbolises suffering and pain.

At Christmas and Easter the colour is changed to white or gold (as on the left), bright optimistic colours for festivals, times for joy and celebration. Between the festivals, in Ordinary time, green cloths symbolise all living things, renewal and promise of new life. And finally, red is the colour of fire to celebrate Pentecost and Saints' days.



Embroidered altar cloths

The stunning designs on our altar cloths are worth a closer look.



The Chi Rho design is on the Rutleigh cloth - the Greek name of Christ, Chi-rho-iota, or 'XPI'



The green cloth used in Ordinary time has IHS (Jesus Hominum Salvator) in the centre of a cross while the red one features a lily



The reredos

A reredos is an ornamental structure placed behind the altar to enhance the beauty and spiritual atmosphere of the sanctuary. The name is derived from the Anglo-Norman *arere* meaning behind and *dos* meaning back. Our elaborate stone reredos was installed in 1895 in memory of Jacquetta Harriet Woollcombe of Morth Grange who had gifted the Epiphany window.



At the top of the cross is carved INRI, short for IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDAEORVM - Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews