

Parish Magazine Article, June 2016

St Andrews Beer Festival – Saturday 17 September 2016

We now have a logo for the Festival, and the Red Squirrel Brewery in Hemel will be providing the racking and cooling for us. There will be 16 Beers, and the final selection will be made by our team in September. In addition, there will be Ciders and English Wines to try, and we are grateful for the advice and support we have had from CAMRA.

Tickets will go on sale in early July, and there will be 200 at £5 each, which will include a souvenir Glass with logo, Tasting Notes and one pint (or two halves, or three one-thirds). Tickets will be available at the gate, and we will assess the price (and what you get for the price) when we get a clearer idea of demand. There will be genuine Cornish Pasties for sale, and also our special St Andrews Ploughmans with a range of interesting UK cheeses.

We will need a number of volunteers to act as stewards: not just to make sure the Churchyard is used carefully, but also to talk to visitors, discuss and explain the displays in the church, and generally act as a Welcome Team. Your reward will be a St Andrews blue polo shirt with the logo on! The war memorial and ashes area will be protected with chrome post and blue VIP rope barriers, and we will review if we need these in other areas.

For lunchtime and the first part of the afternoon we will have a team looking after children in the play area behind the hall, and we will have some live music in the churchyard, weather permitting. The beer tent, and the ciders and wine stalls will all be in the churchyard, with pergolas and chairs and tables for those who want to sit outside. However, we hope most people will come inside the church, look at the displays, and feel welcome to chat and enjoy the atmosphere of the church building.

This event is about changing perceptions of what the church is about, and we would value your prayers, not just for the organisation (and the weather!) but for the conversations that will take place, both at the event, and with those who ask you why on earth a Church is running a Beer Festival. Pilgrims, Activists and Artists: and if you want to get hold of Philip Yancey's book *Vanishing Grace* that explains his thinking, let me know.

Jim Thornton