Parish News

Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023





In this bumper double issue...

- Holy Trinity's Street Market & Wingfield's Fête
- Welcome Clive! HT's new treasurer
- Revd Sarah on Lectio Divina

Plus all the news from around the Benefice...

www.htboa.org

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Times of Services		
Holy Trinity	(Check Bulletins and notices or Church website)	
Sundays	8am Eucharist (Traditional language) (last Sunday of the month)	
,	9.30am Sung Eucharist (coffee afterwards)	
	2nd Sundays 9.30am 'In the Round' (coffee afterwards)	
	<i>1st Sundays</i> 6pm Evensong	
Weekday Eucharist	10am 1st Wednesday of the month only	
Daily	Morning Prayer at 8.30am most days	
	(please check Sunday Bulletin)	
mainly music	10.30am, Tuesdays (term-time only)	
Choir Practice	6.15pm, Thursdays	
Mothers' Union	2.30pm, usually 3rd Wednesday of every month	
Saxon Club	2.30pm –4pm every Tuesday except August	
Bell Practice	7.30–9pm 2nd and 4th Mondays	
Benefice website	www.htboa.org	
Weekly Bulletin	Notices to Netty not later than Wednesday for the following	
	Sunday please.	

Please see the bulletin or visit www.htboa.org for more details on service times and locations.



Harvest Festival

Benefice Services

Sunday, 1 October

Holy Trinity, BoA BA15 1LW 9.30am

St Mary, Westwood

BA15 2AF **11.15am**

St Mary's, Wingfield BA14 9LW

9.30am

'striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' (*the Fifth Mark of Mission*)





HOLY TRINITY - AUGUST 2023

2 Wednesday 3 Thursday	10am 10.45am	Eucharist Trio Paradis Coffee Concert		
3 Thursday	6pm	Contemplative Hour @ St MaryTory	St Mary, Tory	
5 Saturday	2pm	Marriage of Jonathan Wadland & Lyndsey Anderson		
6 SUNDAY	THE TRANSF	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD		
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist		
	2.30pm	Holy Baptism of Sylvie Elizabeth Callaghan-Smith		
	6pm	No Evensong today		
9 Wednesday	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Service & Tea (Mary		
		Sumner Day)		
13 SUNDAY	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			
	9.30am	`In the Round'		
16 Wednesday	2-4pm	'Brew & Bake' - Childrens Society		
		Afternoon Teas		
17 Thursday	11am-	Forget Me Not Café		
	12.30pm			
20 SUNDAY	THE ELEVEN	TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist		
26 Saturday	1.30pm	Marriage of Edmund Bevan &		
		Jenny Burrowes		
27 SUNDAY	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			
	8am	Holy Communion		
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist		
30 Wednesday	8pm	Compline by Candlelight	Saxon Church	



Bake and Brew



Holy Trinity Church, BoA Wednesday, 16 August &



Wednesday, 23 August



This August, drop-in for delicious tea and cake in Holy Trinity and raise money for The Children's Society!





HOLY TRINITY - SEPTEMBER 2023

3 SUNDAY	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	
	2.30pm	Marriage of Ricky Montacute &	
		Laura de Courcy	
	6pm	Choral Evensong	
5 Tuesday	10.30-	Mainly Music	
	11.45am		
5 Tuesday	2.30-4pm	Saxon Club resumes	
6 Wednesday	10am	Eucharist	
7 Thursday	10.45am	Trio Paradis Coffee Concert	
	6pm	Contemplative Hour @ St Mary Tory	St Mary, Tory
10 SUNDAY	THE FOUR	TEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	9.30am	`In the Round'	
12 Tuesday	10.30-	Mainly Music	And have charge an
	11.45am		Hymns &
12 Tuesday	2.30-4pm	Saxon Club	PIMMS
16 Saturday	5pm	'Hymns & Pimms'	SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER AT SPM NOLY TRINITY CHURCH
17 SUNDAY	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		now and index of allow our new of all out of human for a weak out of all out of human human for all out of the human for all out of human down all human human and all all more as down human for human statements (see a statement of the human
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Producer - plans of Presses
19 Tuesday	10.30-	Mainly Music	
	11.45am		
19 Tuesday	2.30-4pm	Saxon Club	
20 Wednesday	2.30pm	MU Meeting with Eucharist	
21 Thursday	11am-	Forget Me Not Café	
22 Friday	12.30pm 2pm	PCC Meeting	The Vicarage
23 Saturday	11.30am	Holy Baptism of George &	
- ,	-	Charlotte Mills	
24 SUNDAY	THE SIXTE	ENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	
	2.30pm	Holy Baptism of Iris Patricia Lock	
26 Tuesday	10.30-	Holy Baptism of Iris Patricia Lock Mainly Music	
26 Tuesday	10.30- 11.45am	Mainly Music	
26 Tuesday 27 Wednesday	10.30-		Saxon Church



6 SUNDAY	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD9.30amNO SERVICE AT WINGFIELD TODAY		
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)	Westwood
13 SUNDAY	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Wingfield
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Westwood
20 SUNDAY	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	NO SERVICE AT WINGFIELD TODAY	
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Westwood
27 SUNDAY	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wingfield
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Westwood
28 Monday	2.30-4.30pm	WESTWOOD SUMMER SHOW	



The start of the football season was the cause of universal joy



Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT

Church St, BA15 1LW

Forget-me-not Café

Free refreshments, cake, § good fun and company



WINGFIELD & WESTWOOD - SEPTEMBER 2023

2 Saturday	1pm	Marriage of Rhys Couldrake	Westwood
2 Jatorday	трш	5 ,	Westwood
		& Amy Inglis	Minafald
	3pm	Holy Baptism of Xanthe Indira	Wingfield
		Robinson	
3 SUNDAY THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINI		EENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Wingfield
	11.15am	Morning Prayer	Westwood
10 SUNDAY	DAY THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wingfield
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Westwood
17 SUNDAY	THE FIFTE	ENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	9.30am	Chuppa Sunday	Wingfield
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Westwood
21 Thursday	7.30pm	Westwood PCC Meeting	83 Lower
			Westwood
24 SUNDAY	DAY THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wingfield
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Westwood
27 Wednesday	7pm	Wingfield PCC meeting	Church Farm

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

	Funerals	
Marion Katharine Elsie Johnston	3 July	(Wingfield)

ONLINE: Look out for updates at Holy Trinity's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/htboa or online at: **www.htboa.org**







"Where two or three are gathered in my name..." (Matthew 18.20)

The summer always seems to be a time of gathering together, even before the school holidays start. For we have all the big summer sporting events, and then all the summer community events, of which our Church Fêtes play a very important part. And they mean such a lot to us. Hence the real angst (perhaps especially with hindsight) of absolutely everything being stopped just three years ago, and severely curtailed and sanitised two years ago. We thrive together, we blossom and flourish, and I find that people comment more and more at Fêtes and the Holy Trinity Street Market about just how very special (indeed unique) it is to be able to spend a relaxed and unhurried time in the company of the local community and in a beautiful place – and without a huge financial outlay. There was a year (before Covid) when the Wingfield Fête didn't happen – we were 'lying fallow'. And there was an outcry (not least as nobody had read the preliminary information)!

The idea of community and togetherness is at the very heart of our life as a parish church. We are there to love and serve and relate to (quite apart from baptise, marry and bury) everyone who lives in the parish. That is what the traditional 'establishment' of the church is all about, and it is a great privilege. You will read articles in this issue about the Wingfield Village Fête and the Holy Trinity Street Market, and also a News item



about Holy Trinity's involvement in the Town Council's 'South West in Bloom' entry (and our churchyard 'rewilding' areas are now well known and respected amongst the community). And I am constantly being told how much people love using Holy Trinity for their events, and it is perfectly apparent how much they feel at home there. That goes for weddings too, as the bride or groom is somehow drawn to be married in the church where they grew up. So if we are to take the words of Jesus, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" seriously, then it is surely indeed the case that he is there among them on all these occasions? It is not as if we have to do anything about it, to tick any holy box - he is there. And that is exciting!

And all of this feeds into the thoughts and feelings constantly whirring around my head in the light of my impending retirement at the beginning of next year. In fact it is highlighted by the community aspect as the word gets out, for I am constantly being asked about it. It staggers me just how many people I have come to know in the 13 years that I have been here, from all corners of our own communities – quite apart from, of course, our church congregations (past and present). It is always that togetherness, those connections, which matter. And it will be hard to have to make the break. I am reminded of that wonderful African concept of 'Ubuntu'. It expresses the idea that human beings are bound together in a shared responsibility for each other. Archbishop Desmond Tutu defined it like this: "I am me because you are you. I can never be free while you are enslaved. I can never be rich while you are poor. We two are connected." Profound words indeed.

And so if there are to be some 'fallow' times ahead where the practicalities of church life are perhaps not quite firing on all cylinders, that's OK... because the togetherness will always be there, and that sense of Ubuntu, and the reminder that, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them".

Enjoy the Westwood Summer Show and have a wonderful summer! With my love and prayers and every blessing

oan



HOLY TRINITY HARVEST FESTIVAL, PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE! (Sunday, 1 October at 9.30am) Please do stay on afterwards armed with coffee and something to eat to give thanks and to reflect together with PCC members about future plans and ideas.

SUDAN CONFLICT CONTINUES TO RAGE

hurch leaders in Africa have called for a "stop to a repetition of genocide in Darfur and other war crimes and crimes against humanity".

They have called on the Sudanese people to "remain vigilant against being instrumentalised for conflict and division", and urged the international community to exert diplomatic pressure and reignite the peace process. Salisbury's Canon Ian Woodward has observed: "If there were as many agreements to allow humanitarian aid into Sudan as there have been broken ceasefires, many lives would have been saved and people fed". And the medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is now considering stopping its vital work in part of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, after a series of incidents in which its workers have been aggressively assaulted, beaten and whipped.

Fierce fighting continues to be reported between the army and the RSF in Sudan's capital. And eyewitnesses in Khartoum said the army carried out the "heaviest" airstrikes so far against RSF positions in several areas towards the end of July.

PLACEMENT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

he Revd Lydia Cook (until recently in North Dorset) reflects on her recent visit as part of the Melanesian Mission's Placement Programme.

"If I ever needed a reminder that ours is a relational faith, then the two weeks I spent in the Solomon Islands was a good one. The main focus of my visit was to spend time with the Melanesian Sisters. Their new chapel was due to be dedicated two weeks later. There is real power and impact in



personal greeting, in time spent listening and being alongside... In many ways Melanesia is a conflicting place. The islands are physically beautiful, but there is plastic pollution everywhere, fly tipping, and dirty rivers. The people are hospitable, generous and welcoming, and yet there are systemic issues of domestic abuse and alcoholism. Overall, I came away with a sense of "pressure cooker-ness"... Hearing the Nunc Dimittis being belted out in wonderful Melanesian harmonies by a school choir of over 100 young people is an experience that will stay with me for a long time."

TO COMMIT OR NOT TO COMMIT?

B oth the number of weddings and other forms of legal partnership are continuing to drop. The percentage of opposite-sex weddings in England and Wales held in a religious setting fell from 18.7% in 2019 to 15% in 2020. This was in part due to the pandemic, but the declining rate followed an established trend: in 2016, 24% of weddings



were held in a place of worship whereas in 2005, the figure was 35%.

Overall, the number of marriages of opposite -sex couples has been falling since 1970, despite the population having grown by 20%. Back then, 40% of all weddings were conducted by priests in the Church of England or the Church in Wales: a slightly larger proportion than those who were married in civil ceremonies. And intriguingly, the latest 2021 figures show that less than half the adult population (46.9%) were either married, in a civil partnership, or separated, as compared with 58.4% in 1991. In fact the proportion of adults who have never married or been in a civil partnership has increased every decade, from 26.3% in 1991 to 37.9% in 2021.

CELEBRATION OF THREE DECADES AS PRIESTS

oanna and Sarah celebrated 20 and 10 years respectively of their ordination as priest in the Dioceses of Exeter and Southwark on 2 July! It was really good to be able to do so together at a Benefice Eucharist, as they had done in 2022



to celebrate their ordination as deacon. This year they reversed roles so that Sarah preached and Joanna celebrated.

Sarah commented on the enormous number of combined years of priesthood there must have been in the church building that day! They are really grateful for all the cards and good wishes they received. What a privilege.

Far Left Sarah smiling at her licensing at Holy Trinity in April 2021 **Left:** Joanna (+ grand-daughter) after celebrating her first Eucharist

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

oly Trinity was privileged to host a Reception on 25 July for the two (very friendly) judges of this competition along with many of the volunteers and different groups involved.

The contest is not just about prize blooms at all, but about the commitment, love and care of the community as a whole. And the area stretches from Swindon to Land's End via Weymouth! There are various different cups available, and Bradford on Avon's entry was for the Preece Cup – with our main rivals being Glastonbury.

The Town Council organised the whole event (and the lunch at Holy Trinity) and so Chris Hogg, their Green Spaces Officer has had a particular responsibility and was showing the judges round.

The Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) now has their own planter, and a particularly impressive group was one which had just completed a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Wellbeing Course and was now wanting to help Chris with projects in BoA.



Top: Judges & Councillors looking at the Bug Palace **Middle:** Chris Hogg addresses the volunteers **Bottom:** The Dementia Action Alliance planter

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

You can contact the editorial team on: *ht.parishnews@gmail.com* The **October 2023** issue copy deadline is **Friday, 15 September 2023**.

Mothers' Union Update

ill Wright shares the latest news from the Mothers' Union after an exciting July. In July the Mothers' Union group heard a talk by Jane Jones on Climate Change. She chose to concentrate on how this global phenomenon is impacting on the UK and to learn how we can take steps as a community in Bradford on Avon and as an individual to limit its impact.

She drew attention to the raised temperatures we experienced last summer and to the increase in severe weather causing storms, flooding and local land slippage in Middle Rank. Climate change is also affecting agriculture - we expect a complete range of vegetables all year round in our supermarkets (using up air miles to deliver them). Crops are intensively farmed and sprayed with chemicals and weed killers. Your plants are flowering earlier causing a dearth of entries in the Flower and Produce Show!

Local efforts are made in Bradford on Avon with solar panels on St Margaret's Hall, a community fridge to tackle food waste, and a recently installed (and rather lovely) living wall that traps fuel emissions and sound. At the station a group are cultivating a green area and our schools have projects promoting green activities.

We were encouraged to make small changes in our behaviour at home, such as turning down heating 1*C, not leaving appliances on standby, using LED lights and reducing waste - waste of water and food - and recycling plastics and clothes.

Within Mothers' Union Jane drew attention to a project in Madagascar which is part of a policy worldwide to build resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction. She finished by reminding us that the environment is God's gift to us all and we have a responsibility to act to protect it.

Our summer lunch was is in keeping with Jane's very timely and practical suggestions and the meal Hartley Farm was served with local produce and had one shared menu to reduce waste.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On Wednesday, 9 August we are meeting for a service and tea to celebrate Mary Sumner, our founder's birthday. And on Wednesday, 20 September we are having Holy Communion together followed by a talk by Muriel Freeborn. This is at 2.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. *Jill Wright*

STREET MARKET 2023

his is to say thank you to you and everyone who helped make the Holy Trinity Street Market on Saturday, 1 July, such a fantastic success.

The sun shone, huge crowds, even a small amount of light drizzle at the right time to cause maximum sales of teas and cake inside. At a meeting early in the year we hoped for a target of £3000 but then we agreed that we ought to be a bit more daring so we went for £4000. Joanna sent out an e mail late on Saturday, we were just £5.70 short. Late sales of plants soon sorted that.

Apart from a decent piece of fundraising it was a really good event, hard work but lots of fun for all of us and something enjoyable for all the visitors. Another great event in the wonderful Holy Trinity Church. All the best and thanks again. John Potter and Judith Holland







Above & Left: Stalls were outside and inside Holy Trinity. Graham & Elaine & team on the plant stall **Right:** Joanna and Sarah sample the teas, John takes raffle ticket selling to new levels and Vernon & Judith embrace bric-a-brac











Wingfield Fête

ingfield Village Fête 2023 provided another opportunity for all the village and many beyond to get together again in Church Lane and Church Farm in aid of St Mary's Church and the Mead School Parents' Association.

A lovely sunny day brought out record numbers to a traffic free Church Lane with the atmosphere filled with the smoke and whistles of four steam engines ferrying children and parents, and the sound of the Trowbridge Youth Band.

A brisk trade was enjoyed by all the stalls - Silent Auction, Cake

Stall, Tombola, Raffle, Hoopla, White Elephant and Dog Show all refreshed by tea and cakes and the ever-popular Beer and Pimms stall. Then there was plenty more fun in the school grounds, and a brilliant historical display and right-up-to-date Village Art Exhibition in the church. And it all finished with the tug of war and the art competition prizes and raffle prize giving.

A summer's day outing was greatly enjoyed by all resulting in record contributions for the church and the school.

David Robinson





The Flower Show and Church Fête have joined together for a fantastic afternoon's entertainment. You'll find refreshments, stalls, live music and, of course, the flower and vegetable show exhibits! August Bank Holiday Monday Westwood Manor grounds 2.30pm - 4.30pm

£2.50 Adults, accompanied children FREE!

Memorials: Francis Smith

f you've ever walked into Holy Trinity, you will have noticed the many memorials hanging on the walls. On the south nave wall is a memorial to Lieutenant General Francis Smith of the 11th Regiment of Foot. But who was the man behind the memorial?

Francis Smith was born in 1723 and was a younger son of the clothier Matthew Smith who lived in the first part of the 18th century in Kingston Road. Matthew Smith's signature appears in the list of those who approved of an organ to be built [by Edward Orpen] in 1729, and in 1734/5 Smith contributed 2/6d towards gilding the front of the organ. Either this Matthew Smith, or a younger Matthew Smith went bankrupt, which is not surprising given the vagaries of the cloth trade. In 1725 another Francis Smith (perhaps an uncle) endowed the charity school set up in the Saxon Church with £250; the interest to be used for teaching ten children.

Wikipedia describes Smith's American military career when Smith led the British forces in the Battle of Lexington, the opening battle of the American revolution. The account has an error in crediting Smith to the 10th Foot. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Francis_Smith_(British_Army _officer). The entry includes a portrait of Smith in his red coat (opposite) which was probably made of cloth woven in nearby Warminster, a town that did well out of the various wars towards the end of the 18th century. When peace was declared the Wansey family was left with a great deal of surplus cloth, and the unfortunate Wansey women had to endure scarlet dresses and furnishings for some years.

Rosemary Carr in Storied Urns describes his coat of arms on the monument as: "Arms: Azure, two bars between three pheons, or. Crest: Two arms embowed vested azure, cuff or, holding in the hands proper a pheon". A pheon is an heraldic symbol in the form of an arrow that has two spikes which are serrated along the inner edge, which appeared on all government property. Might this imply Smith held a government post after retiring from the army?

Christopher Vane, Chester Herald at the College of Arms explains that arms belong to lines of descent and not surnames. Smith's arms were originally credited to a Thomas Smith of London, merchant, son of Peter Smith of London, fishmonger at a Visitation of London in 1633/35. The pedigree for this family which was recorded at this visitation does not reveal any connection with Bradford on Avon or Wiltshire. It seems as though the arms on the memorial were just assumed

without lawful authority by the General or his family or perhaps just ascribed to him by those who put up his memorial. This assumption of arms apparently happened frequently, and makes one wonder about other coats of





Above and left: Lieutenant General Francis Smith and his memorial in Holy Trinity Church

memorial that can be seen on the remaining portion of Norman wall on the north side of the nave in Millington's 1840s lithograph of the church. The memorial was

arms on Holy Trinity's memorials.

Smith died in London on 7 November, 1792 and was buried at Bradford several days later, shrouded in wool as the law then required. The author's original assumption was that he returned home in an empty returning wool wagon, but this was probably not so. Coaching companies would supply hearses for long and short journeys. London to Bradford could be done in three days.

Smith's memorial is not in its original position. It may be the

church. The memorial was taken down and stored in the tower with all the other nave and chancel memorials when the nave, porch, north aisle arcade and sacristy were re-built in the early 1860's. They were subsequently re-positioned. Smith's coffin could have been removed along with other remains under the nave and north aisle and re-interred in the churchyard. Alternatively the vault may have been filled in, & the General still lie in peace under Holy Trinity.

HT'S New Treasurer: Welcome Clive!

have recently taken over from Elaine as Parish Treasurer and wanted to let you know a bit more about me!

I grew up in Bath and attended what was then the City of Bath Boys School before reading economics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. After graduating, I moved to London and lived in Wimbledon followed by Richmond where my wife, Barbara, and I lived for 25 years before moving to Chiswick.

It was in Richmond where we raised our family - two sons and one daughter. Our eldest son David is married to Amanda (and we now have our first grandson Luke), and is a priest in his first parish of St George's Waddon and Assistant Priest at Croydon Minster, having had his curacy at St George's Borough and Southwark Cathedral. Amanda works in the legal area of the ECB. Our second son James is married to Charley and they live in Putney - James is a software engineer in the semiconductor industry while Charley markets risk management systems to the insurance industry for a specialist company. Our daughter Charlotte lives in north London near Alexandra Palace and recently joined the Civil service after her first job in a

public relations and is in the Home Office working in the financial crime area.

My career has been completely



in financial services, firstly in banking (20 years), then in regulation (18 years) and now I am a non-executive director on various boards including Chairing Ashmore Group and Chase UK. These keep me fresh but thankfully give me spare time and enabled Barbara and I to move out of London back to an area we know well - we moved to Farleigh Wick last year and love it (our two dogs love the country walks too)!

We have been active church members in Richmond and Chiswick, where I was Treasurer for both parishes and Barbara was a Server. I love early church music particularly Thomas Tallis, William Byrd and Palestrina particularly if performed in a church setting.

Barbara and I are looking forward to our new life in the country and are excited about participating in the Holy Trinity community - we love the town of Bradford on Avon and the beauty of Holy Trinity! *Clive Adamson*

Prayer Paths: Harvest

erses from different parts of the Bible tell us that God provides for us and that we should understand this, and that we should share the food from the earth with everyone.

Genesis 1.29 These verses from the story of creation tell us that

everyone, and that God provides all sorts of resources from the earth for us. Over time, however, human instinct to want to have more than others, and prioritising making money and wealth (as individuals, organisations and countries) over meeting everyone's basic needs,

God will provide food for us from the earth. **Ruth 2.14** Ruth is a widow who travelled with her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi, back to Naomi's home area after both Naomi's and Ruth's husbands had died. In this new place, Ruth is entirely dependent on others for

support. Boaz is a relative of Naomi and offers Ruth food and drink from his own crops, accepting responsibility for her, and later marrying her, which in the culture of the time will ensure she is protected.

Acts 4.32-35 These verses describe the way in which the early Christian communities lived - sharing all things among themselves, having a communal life, and trusting in God.

The Bible verses remind us that God's generosity means that the earth can produce enough to feed



has led to huge inequalities. To some extent, we have also lost that sense of hospitality to others - offering not only food but sharing companionship over a meal. We are challenged to remember God's provision for all and to live in a way that we share food and other

resources more equally and are generous in our hospitality. Perhaps this holiday season we could invite someone to share a meal with us & give thanks together for God's bountiful generosity to us.

Our supermarket shelves bring us food from around the world. Lord Jesus, help us to be grateful for all we eat and drink, and for the goodness it gives us. Help us to share our meals together in friendship, and to be generous with our hospitality.

Revd Sarah Jackson

Lectio Divina: Divine Reading

ectio Divina is divine reading, which might mean reading 'in a godly kind of way', or it might mean something about the reading itself we listen to: listening to 'a godly reading'. Or it may involve both meanings, how we read and what we read.

It is a traditional practice of reading scripture, meditating on it and praying. It is about learning to read prayerfully, with our hearts and minds open to God, as if God is reading the words to us. The idea is that it will promote communion with God and increase our knowledge of God's word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word. Lectio Divina is a kind of active listening - it is a conversation in which our prayer and our lives are the response.

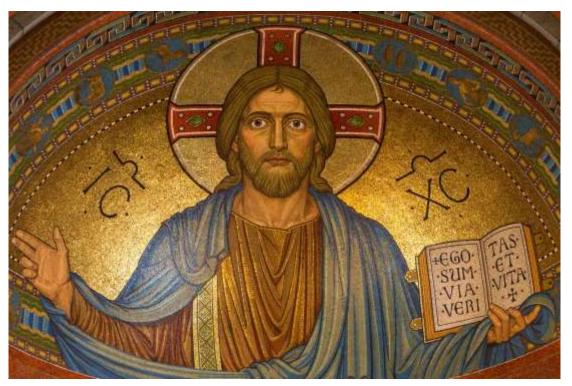
The practice of Lectio goes back, as far as we can tell, to the 3rd century when it became a monastic practice begun by St Benedict himself. Historically, Lectio Divina has been a "community practice" performed by monks in monasteries, and although it can be taken up individually its community element should not be forgotten. If you are able to try it with friends in a prayer group this is good too, or you can try it alone. It became formalised into a four-stage process something like we use today, and this way has been practised for a long time and in many places by people who want to feel closer to God.

What I like about it is that instead of taking a piece of scripture and trying to make meaning out of it theologically or intellectually we have to try and devote ourselves to God and to make time and space in our minds and hearts. It is a special way of relating to God, an awareness of how God is in touch with us at a deep level in our lives, as well as God's presence in the world and in those around us.

Traditionally Lectio Divina has four separate steps:

- 1. Lectio, which means read
- 2. Meditatio, to meditate on the passage or think about it,
- 3. Oratio, which is to pray and
- Contemplatio which is to contemplate, a sort of loving focus on God.

First a passage of Scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God. It has been described as "Feasting on the Word." The four parts are first taking a bite (Lectio), then chewing on it (Meditatio). Next is the



Lectio: Seek in reading and you will find in meditation; knock in prayer and it will be opened to you in contemplation - John of the Cross

opportunity to savour the essence of it (Oratio). Finally, the Word is digested and made a part of the body (Contemplatio). This is an ancient Christian practice.

How To...

Take a passage of scripture and start by reading it a few times. One of the readings set for the day is often best. As you hear or read the passage the first time see what words in it seem to be meaningful to you. Find a word or two that attracts you...

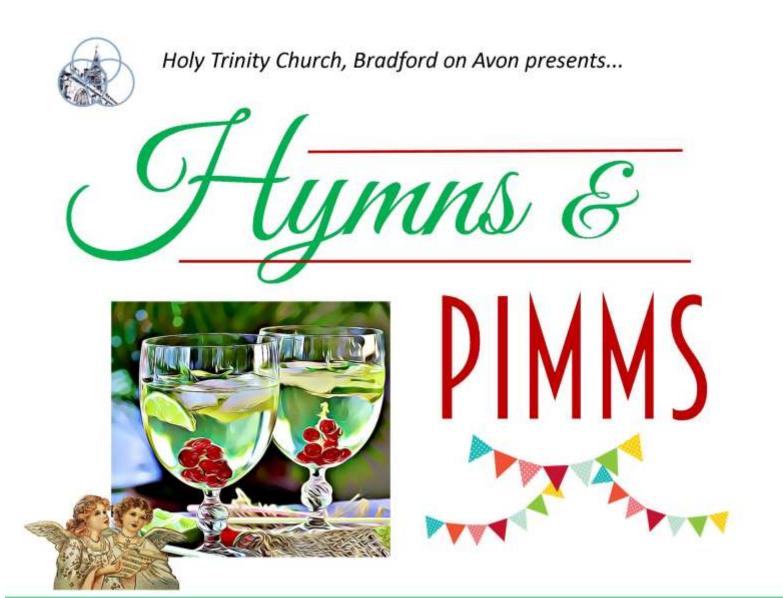
Listen for the Gentle Touch of Christ the Word

As you hear or read the passage the second time see in the silence where the content of this reading touches on your life today. Think what you see and hear in it that is for you... How Christ the Word speaks to me This time as we hear it or read it let us be silent and then with the words in mind say out loud or think about a word or phrase that strikes you..

What Christ the Word invites me to do

As you read the passage a third time think what this word or phrase might mean and what questions it raises... This final prayer may help to complete the exercise:

Loving God, May the word and sacrament of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, and link us together in the bond of your love. Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us. Revd Sarah Jackson



SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER AT 5PM Holy trinity church

Come and enjoy a late summer glass of Pimms (or two) and raise the roof with Martin at the mighty Willis organ and the choir of Holy Trinity as we visit all corners of our hymn book. Non–alcoholic options available.

Tickets £5 on the door and includes a glass of Pimms!

Summer Holiday Reading

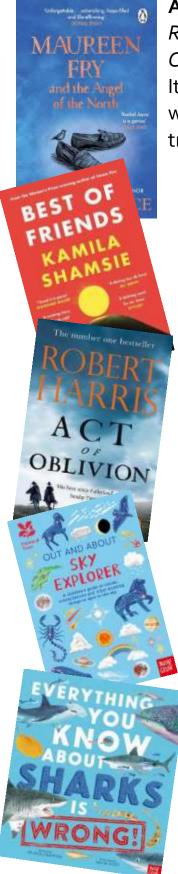
arish News editors popped along to Ex Libris in the Shambles to ask for their top summer reading recommendations. All titles are available in store!

Maureen Fry and the Angel of the North

Rachel Joyce. Penguin £7.99 Maureen sets off on a personal voyage of discovery as she walks across England. With little sense of what she'll find at the end of the road, this is a powerfully written novel full of love and kindness.

BEST OF FRIENDS

Kamila Shamsie. Bloomsbury £8.99 Set in Karachi in 1988 as Pakistan's dictatorship falls two girls are powerless to change the outcome of a snap decision they make at a party. From the international best selling author of the prizewinning 'Home Fire'. An epic novel of childhood friendship and the possibilities of escape.



Act of Oblivion Robert Harris. Cornerstone £9.99 It's 1660 & two of those who were found guilty of high treason for the murder of Charles I escape to America & are pursued there by Richard Naylor, secretary of the Regicide Committee of the Privy Council. A chase like no other!

Out and About Sky Explorer

Elizabeth Jenner. Age 7-11 Nosy Crow Ltd £7.99 From amazing cloud formations to twinkling stars and planets a guide to the wonders of the sky with a quiz at the end.

Everything You Know About Sharks is Wrong!

Nick Crumpton. Age 7-9 Nosy Crow Ltd £14.99. Sharks have the reputation of being cold blooded creatures that enjoy eating humans, but that's really all wrong! This beautifully pro-

duced gift book uncovers the truth about this fascinating species.

Wiltshire Butterflies: June/July 2023

hew! – so that was June, the hottest on record since 1884 and with unending sunshine and parched ground and vegetation. Even the butterflies were seen seeking shade in the heat of the day.

The 'browns' – the Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets all started to emerge towards the end of the month and were reported in huge have been reported, two in May on Salisbury Plain and one at nearby Monkton Farleigh in July.

July is also the month when the large and spectacular woodland species, the Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral and Purple Emperor appear. The Purple Emperor needs to be carefully searched for and was considered a great prize by Victorian butterfly

(uncountable) numbers in early July on many of the grassland sites.

The so-called garden species began to appear in early July in small numbers,



Stunning: A Purple Emperor

collectors. Today it is much sort after by photographers and here in Wiltshire we have populations in several of our larger woodlands. The much smaller Purple Hairstreak seems to have

experienced a very poor season. Its numbers have been the lowest ever this year at a site where I have been monitoring it since 1981.

Spring species that have a second generation in the summer began to appear in early July – so look out for the yellow Brimstone, Small Copper, Speckled Wood and the Common and Holly Blues.

> Mike Fuller Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder 10 July, 2023

attracted to the buddleia flowers and numbers of Red Admiral were astonishing at some sites. The number of Painted Ladies counted strongly suggests there had been an influx from the continent on the southerly winds. Also Small Tortoiseshells and Large and Small Whites were noted in larger numbers than those seen in the spring. The immigrant moth the Humming-bird Hawk has also been widely reported. So far, only three of the immigrant Clouded Yellow

Nature Now: August/September 2023

n early summer Dave and I went hunting in Black Dog Wood, near Dilton Marsh. Our quarry was the White Admiral, a butterfly with distinct white-bands on its black upper wings.

The species has declined significantly since the beginning of the century and is included on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as of high priority. Black Dog Wood has lots of sheltered rides with mature trees with an understorey of flowering bushes – just the sort of habitat these butterflies like. So we were hoping that we might come across one of these pretty uncommon insects, recorded in England only in the south and east of the country.

It has a distinctive flight pattern with several flaps then a longish glide, and prefers still, sunny weather, so we chose such a day and headed for clearings and rides with plenty of brambles for the adults to nectar on, as well as honeysuckle, where the females lay their eggs and the caterpillars feed.

SILK SPINNER

After a diligent search along a couple of rides we had seen several other species of butterfly but, alas, not the one we were searching for. But on one bramble bush where we



Above: A nursery web spider **Right:** The spider with her egg sac

had stopped to enjoy a picnic I c Contraction

Photo © Nick Upton

came across a dense web, with a spider resting immobile on it.

I showed photographer and invertebrate specialist Nick Upton this photo, and asked him what I had found. He wrote back: "Your spider is a female Nursery web spider Pisaura mirabilis on a silk tent she has spun. Somewhere under it there would have been an egg sac she'll have attached to a stem (after carrying it around for some time as the eggs develop, often holding it the sun to speed up development). From this tent a mass of spiderlings soon hatches. She will stay on guard for some time, usually until the spiderlings disperse, though she sometimes dies first." Above is is one of Nick's photos, showing the spider with her egg sac.



Above: Young Dryad's Saddle **Right:** A White Admiral on brambles

Following a stream running through the wood – and still no White Admiral in sight - we came across these young fungi developing on a fallen log. They are a type of bracket fungus (they grow outwards like a shelf from tree trunks and branches and fallen wood) known as Dryad's Saddle *Polyporus squamosus* after the nymphs of Greek mythology who lived in trees - and presumably used these fungi, which rather resemble old-fashioned metal tractor seats as convenient resting places.

They can be found growing in broad-leaved woodlands and are fairly common, growing to about 50cm across, often in tiers. Their underside consists not of gills like a field mushroom but pores (hence they are classified as polypores) that in time produce spore that will spread on the wind to other trees. In their young stage they are said to be edible, but as they mature they become quite tough and are



usually maggot-laden, so I have to say I've not sampled them myself. Having spotted these interesting inhabitants of the wood, we turned down a final ride to head home, promising ourselves we'd return to continue our search. Just then, to our delight, a single White Admiral came past us, making its way along the same track. I started to follow it and was surprised at the speed it was flying with its characterising flap-and-glide movement. So a very successful hunt after all.

BIRD NEWS

Besides identifying my spider photo, Nick also reported news about the Chough nest he had found near Polzeath. The local monitoring group observed that three chicks had fledged, meaning that the parents were the first pair known to have bred north of the River Camel – a significant step





Left: A pair of Chough, Cornwall Above: Swifts use the nest box Nick installed at his home

in the recolonisation of Choughs in Cornwall.

Nick had more news about the pair of Tawny owls he had been watching: "The pair managed to fledge one chick. I'm pretty sure I'd heard two chicks, but only one ever grew to perch at the nest box entrance and I photographed the parents offering it the leg of a Tawny chick, probably a sibling's. Grisly, but Tawnies often help ensure the strongest chick's survival by cannibalising younger ones that aren't developing fast enough.

"I got some clear shots of small mammals being brought in (every 90 mins or so) and swallowed (very fast - down in one). But at dusk the parents often came in every 5-6 minutes, delivering small prey that it took me a while to identify. I eventually got clear enough shots to see they were bringing in Cockchafers (May Bugs) which emerge from the ground at dusk. It's well known that Tawnies feed them to chicks."

Nick has also been busy photographing a pair of Swifts around a nest box on his house that he fitted with a Swift calling device. He said, "They go in for up to an hour and sing their duets in there, and they have been bringing in feathers and straw. They adopted the box very late in their season. Adults arrive and nest immediately in early to mid May, so are likely to be second year birds who may do a little building, familiarising themselves with the nest site. They may then return to breed in May next year, but just possibly they'll go on to nest this year, as Swifts can lay as late as early July and still raise broods.

It's really exciting to have them whizzing around my own home screaming, often with one other bird and up to four others. They do nest in Box village, but as far as I know last bred in Kingsdown about 25 years ago in a neighbour's old stone-tiled roof."

Messy Season

The late summer is a time when fields and gardens can look quite "messy" as flowers fade, seed heads are forming, long stems flop over and bushes that have put on a growth spurt hang across paths. But Vijai, head gardener at Tymawr, Wales, where I often lead groups on retreat, warns against too much tidiness. He says:

"This part of the season is vital for many animal, plant and insect species, ensuring that their habitat is maintained throughout their lifecycle and providing food and shelter for the colder months ahead. However, at this point, we are often used to seeing gardens 'tidied up'. We have grown accustomed to seeing nature looking neat and under our control.

"This has its place too. We will continue to remove some of the more voracious native wildflowers and plants from the kitchen garden to maximise space for produce. We will also carry on cutting paths and walkways through the grounds so that the natural beauty of Tymawr can be explored even when the meadow is waist high! This approach requires less human intervention, as it relies on ecosystems' natural processes which have evolved over millennia. The aim is not the saving of a species but true biodiversity, improving ecosystems' resilience and sustainability in the long term."

Freya The Hunter

Finally, a story of a springer spaniel called Freya trained to hunt. Uniquely, not drugs or humans but an animal protected by British law: the Great Crested Newt. Building developers are required by law to safeguard the amphibians whilst building works take place, a job that our ecological consultancy did regularly under license.

Developers must locate and remove them before construction projects can begin. But these newts also spend a lot of time in underground burrows, where they are very difficult to find. Freya has been trained by a university researcher to detect the animals in their terrestrial phase, and she can smell the animals from 2 metres away. A promising result for the research team, and if this becomes a viable method for newt detection, good news indeed for ecologists, builders and newts too. Ali Green

Thought for the Month: Change

or many there is change ahead. Perhaps a change of classroom for next year; a new colleague and or leaving a place of work - retirement, or moving on to 'pastures new'.

Whether one feels that doors are opening or closing, change can be something we become anxious about. However, whilst we may see change as an 'ending', it is also an opportunity to engage in a time of reflection; it is an opportunity to see things anew. In the words of Pat Schneider in her poem: *Instructions for the Journey*

The self you leave behind is only a skin you have outgrown. Don't grieve for it. Look to the wet, raw, unfinished self, the one you are becoming

She describes change as a tenderly unfolding moment; one that can sometimes be overlooked. She encourages us to look for it, to notice it and to listen for it, just as we would the breaking of a new day.

Christians believe that God has a plan for each person's life. And that this plan includes a hopeful future. In the bible, Christians are promised that God will walk our life's journey with us. Indeed, his presence is always with us, through the changing seasons of our lives. We are never alone.

You look behind and see no sign even of a yesterday that was so intense. Yet in truth, nothing ever disappears, nothing is lost. Everything that happens to us in the world passes into us. This is the art of the soul: to harvest your deeper life from all the seasons of your experience.

John O'Donohue

Letters

THANK YOU



hank you my beloved Church family and the members of the Mothers Union Circle of Prayer for your prayers, thoughts, cards and messages.

They were such a comfort to me and carried me through my heart operation with faith, trust and confidence in my surgeon and his wonderful team at the Harefield Hospital in Uxbridge. I am getting stronger every day and hope to be back singing in the choir again very soon. With my love and thanks.

Suzie Quinn

St Laurence: Reflection

eflection was chosen by our students as the theme for our final assembly this academic year. To me, this is a very broad theme and can mean many things.

When I reflect back on the year here at school, it has been quite incredible what has happened, locally, nationally and internationally but my reflections are full of the memories of students of St Laurence being the amazing people they are - we have seen Sporting triumph, Arts successes, individual as well as team achievement and these of course are widely shared. There are also some students who might be facing daily challenges in coming to school and I always like to recognise their achievements as well. They may not be obvious to everyone but we know they exist. Reflecting on the continued impact of the pandemic, young people are still affected, even now and it is important that we don't forget that.

Reflection infers looking back but this can be true when you look in a mirror and a very wise headteacher (the first I ever worked for, Joe Carvill, a brilliant man whose faith was inspiring) told me that he looked in a mirror every day to ask himself whether he had done his best that day. In doing this,

we might be able to see a way of developing ourselves or the place where we work. No one gets it right all the time, I don't always get it right as Headteacher, but the ability to reflect and consider how to do things differently is hugely important and allows us to look back and in turn, look to the future.

The next six weeks of the future will be a wonderful chance to spend time with friends and family for those of us who work in school. But we also have the A level and GCSE results and we ask that all the students awaiting this important news are prayed for.

Tim Farrer

BUGSY SUCCESS

Over 70 pupils from Years 7-12 took part in a production of 'Bugsy Malone' with four performances to over 800 people – including 260 from local primary schools. This was truly an inclusive, student-led production that involved the whole school community and we are very proud of everyone involved. Feedback from the audience was unanimous – Bugsy was a hit! The only question now is – what's next?!





Bake and Brew

This August, drop-in for delicious tea and cake in Holy Trinity and raise money for The Children's Society!

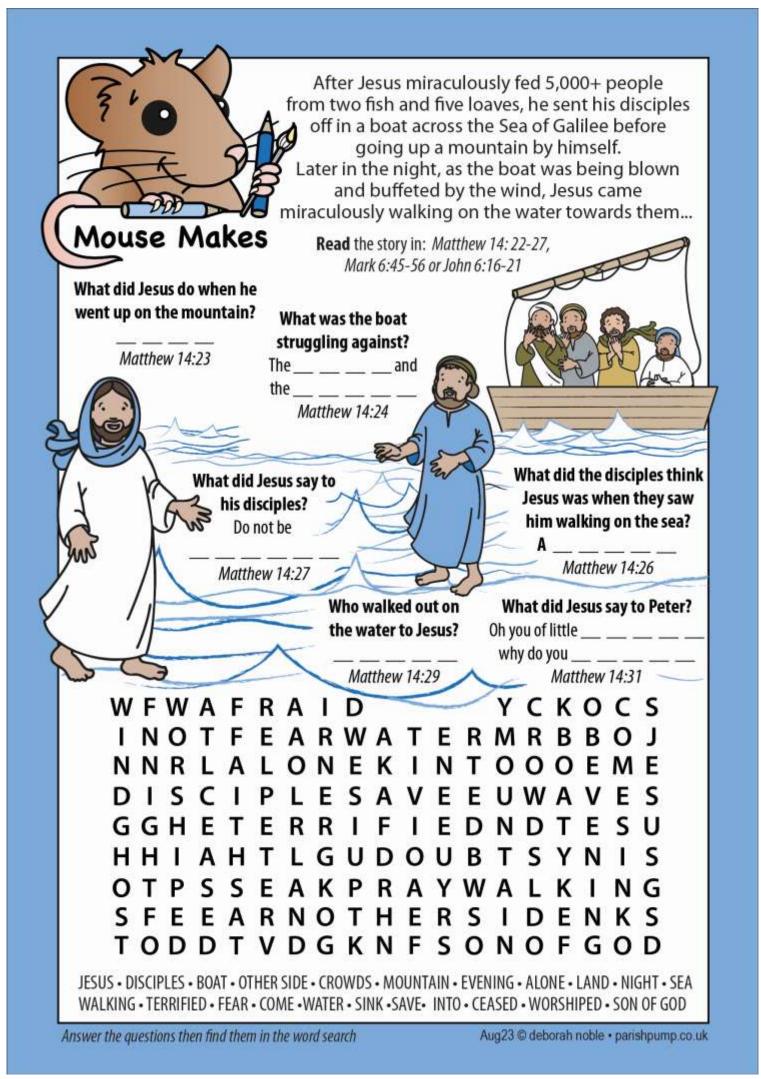
To find out about the work of the Children's Society visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk or scan the QR code below:



Holy Trinity Church, BoA

Wednesday, **16** August & Wednesday, **23** August

2pm - 4pm



Saint for the Season: St Clare

ew sisters when they hear their brother preach a sermon decide to leave home and follow their brother, taking nothing with them. But then few sisters have a brother like St Francis of Assisi.

Clare and Francis' parents were wealthy, but they wished to follow the example of Jesus and have no possessions at all. Born Chiara Offreducio, Clare realised that she wanted to live according to the Gospel rather than marry. Francis arranged for his sister to stay in a house by the church in San Damiano where she was joined by her sister Agnes and others soon followed. Others communities later were founded following its rule – their members became known as 'The Poor Clares'. Clare obtained from Pope Innocent 111 a privilege granting absolute poverty. His successor, Gregory IX tried to endow them with land and buildings but she resisted and in a famous interview with him said, "Holy Father, absolve me from my sins but not from the obligation of following our Lord." His successor tried again but relented just days before her death.

When Assisi was being attacked by the looting soldiers of Frederick II in 1241 she carried out the Blessed Sacrament from her chapel and stood with it in front of the soldiers, who then left the town untouched. Such was her reputation for sanctity that she was made a saint two years after her death. Her infectious example



Poor Clares: Fresco depicting St Clare and her sisters

of devotion to Christ & dedication to her principles, if necessary defying authority to pursue them, is one that each age can make its own.

St Clare's feast day is celebrated on the 11 of August, and she is apparently the patron saint of: eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, TV, bicycle messengers, good weather, needleworkers, and extrasensory perception. *Hugh Wright*

Saint for the Season: St Giles

Il who know Edinburgh with its High Kirk of St Giles, the church of St Giles in the City of London and the street in the centre of Oxford will be familiar with the name of St Giles and indeed 150 churches are dedicated to him, often

in city centres. He is the patron saint of the disabled and those living on the street. They have always been found as a very real community in cities and towns. Many in recent months have needed to use food banks and still do. So who was their patron saint?

If truth be told we know very little for

certain about his life. The centre of devotion to him was at a monastery in the town of Saint-Giles near Arles. He was believed to have lived in the neighbourhood as a hermit and a very colourful legend is all that survives about him. He had a pet hind which was hunted one day by the hounds of the Visigoth King Flavius. An arrow was loosed into the undergrowth and when the king rode into a clearing there was Giles, wounded by the arrow as he protected his pet. The king was persuaded by him to found a monastery nearby and made him its first abbot. His shrine there was popular with pilgrims on their way to Compostella and Jerusalem and with those who lived on the street.



Saint: St Giles' feast day is the 1 of September

But the story has a wider relevance than that. Disability strikes one member of a family and not others, some return from battle maimed for life, others returned unscathed. Of these some manage to put together a settled life, some do not. This has always been the appeal of St Giles.

He was wounded, by a random arrow defending a defenceless animal but his bravery did not leave him on the street. He rose above the misfortune inflicted on him by authority to become a leader himself. This was the secret of his appeal and why churches dedicated to him were a magnet for fellow sufferers inspired by his story. We do not need to look far to see that his story still resonates for many today.

Hugh Wright

For Prayer and Reflection

August 2023

- Those struggling with very high temperatures & wildfires
- Those who've lost their businesses, jobs or homes this year
- The hospitality industry in our communities & all those who will be visiting us
- Our farmers

September 2023

- Thanksgiving for God's glorious creation
- Action on climate change
- The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Martin and music across the benefice



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

Churchwarden: Chris Edwards, chris.edwards1959@gmail.com Tel: 07503 875111

PCC Secretary: Jill Ross, jillbenedictross@gmail.com

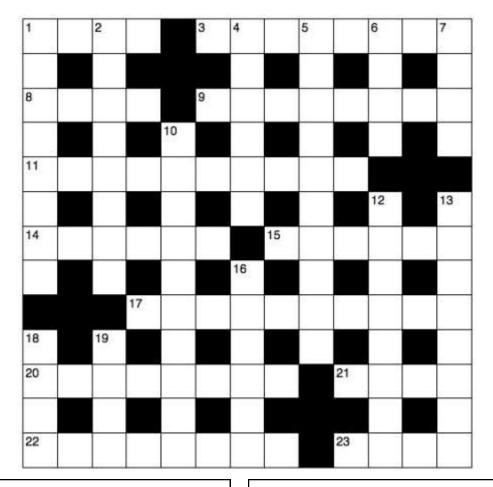


THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, WINGFIELD

Churchwarden: David Robinson david.robinson@paultonsstreet.com

PCC Secretary: Michael Copland-Griffiths mccg@healthcare2k.plus.com





Clues across

1. and 3. Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5) 3. See 1 Across kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8) 8. 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4) **9.** O Simon is (anaq.) (8) 10:3) (2,4) **11.** Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10) 14. How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10) (Luke 22:45) (6) 15. In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4) (8) 17. Glad sin rat (anag.) (10) 20. Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8) 21. Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of image (Daniel 3:20) (8) being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4) 22. 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3) 12:19) (6) 23. Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4) 6:2)(1,3)

Clues down

1. David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)

2. 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his —

4. 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel

5. Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)

6. Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)

7. 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4) **10.** 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through

12. Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12)

13. One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden

16. You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke

18. 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — —, and he was given a crown' (Revelation

19. Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

HOLY TRINITY PCC AND OTHER GROUP MEMBERS

PCC MEMBERS

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Joanna, Judy Bruun, Anne Carter, Joan Finch, Marlene Haffenden, Tony Haffenden, Heather Knight and Sue Lavis.

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, Christian Aid:	Judith Holland		
Deanery Synod:	Zabe Ashworth-James		
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Printed at the Benefice Office, Holy Trinity Church, 11 Church Street, BA15 1LW, Bradford on Avon. Parish News also appears (in colour) on the Holy Trinity website: www.htboa.org.