

# Parish News

**Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity,  
Westwood and Wingfield**

**OCTOBER 2023**



***In this issue...***

- *Hugh Wright highlights Prisons Week*
- *Contemplation with Judith Holland*
- *Autumn Nature Now with Ali Green*

***Plus all the news from around the Benefice...***

**[www.htboa.org](http://www.htboa.org)**

## DIRECTORY FOR HOLY TRINITY

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

Please see the bulletin or visit [www.htboa.org](http://www.htboa.org)  
for more details on service times and locations.



*Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon presents...*

**NEW DATE!**

# *Hymns*



# PIMMS



**SATURDAY, 14 OCTOBER AT 5PM**  
**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BOA**

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!*





# HOLY TRINITY - OCTOBER 2023

## 1 SUNDAY

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

9.30am Sung Eucharist

6pm Evensong

3 Tuesday

10.30- Mainly Music

11.45am

3 Tuesday

2.30-4pm Saxon Club

4 Wednesday

10am Eucharist

5 Thursday

10.45am Trio Paradis Coffee Concert

6 Thursday

6pm *Contemplative Hour @ St Mary Tory*

*St Mary, Tory*

## 8 SUNDAY

### THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am 'In the Round'

10 Tuesday

10.30- Mainly Music

11.45am

10 Tuesday

2.30-4pm Saxon Club

14 Saturday

5pm Hymns & Pimms

## 15 SUNDAY

### THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am Sung Eucharist

12.30pm Holy Baptism of Zach Schillizzi

4pm Cantamus Concert - 'Ocean of Light'

17 Tuesday

10.30- Mainly Music

11.45am

17 Tuesday

2.30-4pm Saxon Club

18 Wednesday

2.30pm Mothers' Union Meeting

19 Thursday

11am- Forget Me Not Café

12.30pm

21 Saturday

9am-2pm Neem Tree Trust Coffee Morning

## 22 SUNDAY

### THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am Sung Eucharist

24 Tuesday

*No Mainly Music (Half Term)*

24 Tuesday

2.30-4pm Saxon Club

## 29 SUNDAY

### THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am Eucharist (Traditional Language)

NO OTHER SERVICES AT HOLY

TRINITY TODAY – BENEFICE SERVICES

AT WINGFIELD & WESTWOOD

31 Tuesday

10.30- Mainly Music

11.45am

31 Tuesday

2.30-4pm Saxon Club



## WINGFIELD & WESTWOOD - OCTOBER 2023

<b>1 SUNDAY</b>	<b>HARVEST</b>		
	9.30am	Harvest Festival Family Service	Wingfield
	11.15am	Harvest Festival Family Service	Westwood
<b>8 SUNDAY</b>	<b>THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Wingfield
	11.15am	Morning Prayer	Westwood
<b>15 SUNDAY</b>	<b>THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	9.30am	Chuppa Sunday	Wingfield
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	Westwood
19 Thursday	7.30pm	<i>PCC Meeting</i>	<i>Westwood</i>
<b>22 SUNDAY</b>	<b>THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Wingfield
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Westwood
	2.30pm	Holy Baptism of Elliana May Jennifer de Boorder	Wingfield
<b>29 SUNDAY</b>	<b>THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	9.30am	BENEFICE SONGS OF PRAISE	Wingfield
	11.15am	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Westwood

## FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

### Holy Baptism

Sylvie Elizabeth Callaghan-Smith	6 August
Xanthe Indira Robinson	3 September (Wingfield)
Iris Patricia Lock	24 September

### Marriages

George Cussins & Cecilia Neill-Edwards	28 July
Jonathan Wadland & Lyndsey Anderson	5 August
Edmund Bevan & Jennifer Burrowes	26 August
Rhys Couldrake & Amy Inglis	2 September (Westwood)
Ricky Montacute & Laura de Courcy	3 September

### Funerals

Rodney Cameron Lees	27 July
Lilian Edna Brown (Thanksgiving Service)	30 August
Gillian Mary Bowden	8 September
Monica Mary Gerrish	20 September (Haycombe Crem)

## *Autumn Days*

It's been a long time since we published the last issue of 'Parish News' and there has been a lot of water under the bridge for us all, not least when you ponder for one moment the many life-changing and affirming 'Occasional Offices', as outlined in 'From the Registers', which we have been privileged to celebrate. Now the days are shortening, the nights are cooling and autumn is upon us. As it happens, our penultimate wedding was held on a hot summer's day, but the couple chose the bright and cheerful old Primary School Assembly and Sunday School song with its catchy tune, 'Autumn Days', and had everyone rocking! It seemed like a good way to approach the month of October, and the start of autumn, in the benefice.

It's always very easy to bemoan the loss of those long and carefree summer days, which are so often populated with holidays and family gatherings, and look ahead with clenched fists to the impending doom and gloom of winter. But, just as I have been reflecting this week at St Laurence School in their Collective Worship on the theme of 'celebration', it's so important that we have a 'glass half-full' spirit of thankfulness and celebration for everything and everyone around us.

"Autumn days when the grass is jewelled  
and the silk inside a chestnut shell...  
Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered,  
and a swallow curving in the sky:  
So I mustn't forget,  
no, I mustn't forget,  
to say a great big thank you,  
I mustn't forget".

That will pervade our Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Services at the very beginning of the month, which always give us the opportunity to be thankful for all our blessings amidst the glorious golden colours of autumn and that "swallow curving in the sky". "Though by early September", the RSPB tells us, "most swallows are preparing to migrate. They flutter about restlessly, and often gather on telegraph wires. Most leave the UK during September, with early broods of youngsters being the first to go. But a

few stragglers may hang around into October". Maybe the habits of the swallows have something to tell us?! We have been trying to get organised and "gather on telegraph wires" at Holy Trinity in preparation for the forthcoming vacancy, especially with our



complete dearth of churchwardens. And so after the Harvest Festival Eucharist, the PCC will take the opportunity to share with the congregation their thoughts and plans for the future. We would love to be able to avoid too much "fluttering about restlessly" and scoop up all those "stragglers" right across the benefice, by planning ahead and responding to questions just as best we can, before my retirement at the end of January 2024. And to that end, Bishop Andrew (of Ramsbury) is coming to talk to all three PCCs in November (so do make sure you fire all your questions to your PCC members). The swallows are off to their wintering grounds in Africa, and I shall be heading south (but not quite that far!) to 'Poldark Country' on the North Cornish coast.

Meanwhile, there are no more marriages booked for 2024, but we shall look forward to celebrating quite a few Baptisms and to the privilege of living life "abundantly", in the sure belief that (to quote Mother Julian of Norwich) "all shall be well".

With my love and prayers and every blessing



**ONLINE:** Look out for updates at Holy Trinity's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/htboa](https://www.facebook.com/htboa) or online at: [www.htboa.org](http://www.htboa.org)

## FREEDOM OF WORSHIP IN CHINA

**A** further crackdown on places of worship came into force in China on 1 September, requiring all 'religious venues' to give 'active support' to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and its policies, through their 'managers', who will be thoroughly vetted by religious-affairs officials, and must publicly 'love the motherland'. What's more, the content of sermons must 'embody socialist core values', and venues will have to engage in 'nationalist and

patriotic education' and will be banned from accepting donations from overseas.

More than 1500 crosses have already been torn down from authorised churches in one Chinese province alone, and this appears set to escalate. And religious venues can no longer be named after churches, denominations, or individuals. Churches have been ordered to remove all signs referring to Jesus, Christ, Emmanuel, and Jehovah.

## WAR IN SUDAN

**T**he brutal war which broke out in April continues unabated as the brother and deputy of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander had his assets frozen in the United States in September, while an RSF commander in West Darfur was hit with a visa ban. Both were sanctioned over human rights abuses, and this inevitably dealt a big blow to any hope that the paramilitary force may have held of acquiring political legitimacy.

The head of Sudan's army, General Burhan, has now declared on a visit to the UN in New York that he is ready in principle to enter negotiations with the commander of the rebel forces (RSF). And not before time, as the UN estimates that the war has left more than five thousand people dead, and more than five million displaced. The general said he was confident of victory, but admitted that he had been forced to relocate his headquarters to Port Sudan because the fighting in the capital Khartoum had made it impossible for government to continue there. There is widespread evidence that civilians in Sudan are dying in indiscriminate air strikes carried out by the general's forces in residential areas, but he denies that civilians were being deliberately targeted.





## NEW FINDS IN EXETER CATHEDRAL DIG

**S**tone tombs, a crypt, and the foundations of the original high altar are among the exciting discoveries of archaeologists investigating the quire of the 900 year old Exeter Cathedral.

The tombs have been identified as those of two former Bishops, the 13<sup>th</sup> century William Brewer and the 12<sup>th</sup> century William Warelwast (a nephew of William the Conqueror). The project is funded by the cathedral's 2020s Development Appeal and the archaeological investigations are now concluded, with work having begun on essential building conservation which will reduce the carbon footprint of the building with an underfloor heating system, whilst laying a new 'Jubilee Floor' tile design using Devon stone, based on the work of Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-78). As it happens, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, consecrated in 1841, was 'restored' in 1875 by the same Sir George Gilbert Scott, which is when the east end was rebuilt.



## CLIMATE CHANGE SHOPPING & STEWARDSHIP

**T**he contents of UK shopping baskets are in jeopardy owing to the detrimental effects of climate change in poorer countries in which many staple foods are produced, warns new research from Christian Aid.

Almost one quarter of the fruit, vegetables, pulses, and meat products used by households in the UK originate from countries vulnerable to the climate crisis, including bananas, grapes, avocados, coffee, and tea. They are calling on wealthy countries, including the UK, to deliver on a pledge to send \$100 billion in climate finance to developing countries to ensure that farmers can adapt to the

changing climate and to help to prevent harvest-destroying extreme weather events.

Meanwhile, most churches in the Anglican Communion are said to be tackling the realities of the climate crisis. But the chair of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network has said that the overwhelming nature of the crisis, and the attendant denial and cynicism, have hugely undermined efforts to act for change. And another member added: 'The science is compelling but, from a spiritual perspective, I think we need to talk about care as an aspect of our spirituality because we have been called to steward creation.'

## SALISBURY CATHEDRAL 'TOPPING OUT'

**T**hursday, 7 September marked a big day for Salisbury Cathedral as the Canon Treasurer, Canon Kenneth Padley, climbed to the top of the scaffold on the East End of the Cathedral to bless the cross that sits high above the Trinity Chapel. The blessing marked a hugely significant milestone in an extraordinary feat of restoration and repair, which began with a survey by the then Clerk of Works way back in 1986 in which he noted that the cathedral stonework was in a dangerous condition and that major work was required...

'Topping Out' is an age-old tradition in the building trade and has been adopted by the Cathedral as a way of marking the end of each phase of restoration. This latest phase has seen around 1,100 stones replaced, the windows cleaned, the wooden frames restored and the lead water goods repaired. It was a huge day for the current Clerk of Works too and his colleague the Glazing Manager: between them they have clocked up over 80 years' experience!

Now the rooftops and parapets will fall back into unvisited calm, as will the amazingly delicate carvings done by the Cathedral masons. Just as today's masons uncovered evidence of their



forebears in the form of oyster shells, eaten for lunch and used to pack spaces between stones, so future masons will discover quirky stone carvings including a ferret, a bird on a nest, a sunflower and the figure of a female mason carved by Carol Pike, who has worked for the Cathedral for 17 years.

Canon Kenneth commented that he felt "incredibly privileged to have been asked to carry out the blessing at the East End. As well as marking the contribution that our stone sponsors have made, and the work done by the team, it is an opportunity to reaffirm the purpose of this building. A grand and glorious tribute to our Lord and a symbol of hope and resilience for the city."

## TROPHY FOR THE BOA BELLRINGERS

**T**he Salisbury Guild six- and eight-bell striking competitions took place on 16 September at Sutton Veny and Warminster. And we came a respectable 2nd in the six-bell competition being beaten by Wimborne Minster (this was out of six bands which rang in that part of the competition).

In the eight-bell competition, there were a total of five bands entered and we won and now hold the shiny, brand-new guild trophy which has happily found a home in the Holy Trinity ringing chamber! Our congratulations to the winning band of Sarah Quintin, Jane Mann, Phil Gaisford, Harriet Feilding, Richard Iles, Tim Hawkings, David Godwin and Ian Mozley.



## BOA FRUIT & VEG SHOW

**O**n Sunday, 3 September the Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce Show was back in its full glory in St Margaret's Hall.

Hotly contested categories included the heaviest tomato and best jam, jelly and marmalade. Congratulations to Holy Trinity members Judith (pictured) and Vernon who walked away with shiny silverware from the event!



**ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

You can contact the editorial team on: [ht.parishnews@gmail.com](mailto:ht.parishnews@gmail.com)  
The **November 2023** issue copy deadline is **Friday, 14 October 2023**.

## *Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council*

**T**here was no Parish News report on the meeting of the PCC held on 26 July, as the meeting was too late for the copy date for the August/September Parish News. However, the full Minutes (now having been agreed by the PCC) are posted on the parish website.

At a meeting held on 22 September, the Parochial Church Council was saddened to learn that Zabe James has resigned as Deanery Synod representative. This means Holy Trinity is not represented on the Synod and recruitment is required.

Matters raised at a meeting held between the PCC and members of the Churchwardens Team (held on 31 August) were reviewed.

The Council discussed further, strategic matters and arrangements for the way ahead during the forthcoming vacancy. The 'portfolios' mentioned in the report of the meeting held on 26 May have been allocated; leaders of these had an opportunity to report on implementing arrangements.

A meeting is to be held on Sunday, 1 October, straight after the Harvest Eucharist, when these arrangements will be fully

explained. It is also hoped to 'harvest' offers of help with a wide range of tasks appertaining to each of the teams. The PCC believes it important to involve as many church members as possible, both in the running of Holy Trinity during the vacancy and during the recruitment of a new Rector.

Bishop Andrew will visit to meet the Parochial Church Council in November and again to meet the congregation on Sunday, 17 December at the 9.30 am Eucharist.

The treasurer reported on the accounts for the year to date. There has been a deficit in four of the past five years; the treasurer presented a strategic plan for addressing the deficit.

The Quinquennial Report was received from the church architect. This indicates that over the next five years, repairs identified in the report, will cost in the region of £185,000.

Health & Safety policy was discussed. Safeguarding training of PCC members is ongoing. The parish Safeguarding Policy was renewed.

**DIARY DATE:** The next meeting of the PCC will be held on 17 November 2023.



# Forget-me-not Café

Free refreshments, cake, & good fun and company



For anyone who would enjoy some good company, and people with memory problems, their families and carers.

Claire Mitchell:  
clairem@alzheimers  
wiltshire.org.uk

Rev'd Joanna Abecassis:  
01225 864444  
joanna.abecassis  
@cantab.net



Holy Trinity  
Bradford on Avon

Dementia Action Alliance  
Bradford on Avon Community Area

## AUGUST 2023

**Thursday, 3 August**

**3 - 4.30pm**

**Dog & Fox**

Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT

**Thursday, 17 August**

**11am - 12.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church**

Church St, BA15 1LW

## SEPTEMBER 2023

**Thursday, 7 Sept**

**3 - 4.30pm**

**Dog & Fox**

Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT

**Thursday, 21 Sept**

**11am - 12.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church**

Church St, BA15 1LW

## OCTOBER 2023

**Thursday, 5 October**

**3 - 4.30pm**

**Dog & Fox**

Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT

**Thursday, 19 October**

**11am - 12.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church**

Church St, BA15 1LW

## *Westwood Summer Show Success*

**T**he sun shone, the village and friends old and new came together and once again a very good and happy time was had by all at the Westwood Summer Show on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The combination of the two village traditions with all the colour, challenge and fun of the Flower & Vegetable Show together with the multitude of stalls and activities of the Church Fête makes for an action-packed afternoon, together of course with lots of time to chat, not least over a delicious tea and cake!

The Flower Show itself is about exhibiting prize blooms and novel

and creative arrangements, but St Mary's Church is always decorated quite magnificently for the occasion, almost having its own in-house Flower Festival. We are incredibly blessed with our very gifted team of flower-arrangers under Jenny's leadership.

And, as if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, Mary has also made for the church this summer some very colourful and cheerful patchwork cushions, using the various fabrics which had been used in the not-too distant past Nativity costumes! The combination certainly graced the Parish Church in a very special way.









## *Restoration of St Mary's Wingfield Banner*

**W**ingfield resident and long-time member of St Mary's congregation Sue Phillips, shares the story of some fantastic repairs to restore a much-loved Church banner and piece of Mothers' Union history..

Our churchwarden David Robinson and I had noticed that the Mothers' Union banner in our church looked a little sorry for itself as stitching was failing and letters falling off, as well as the flowers wilting. It is approximately 100 years old, hence not really surprising! Wingfield no longer has an active MU however, there are several ex-members in the community, therefore we decided to look into repairing it.

After a flash of inspiration, I approached a good friend, Pat Stafford, who is keen on cross-stitching, sewing, etc and is very talented. She agreed to see what she could do. After several months of dedicated needlework Pat returned a beautifully transformed banner to us. She also said; "I didn't realise how delicate and fragile it had become until I came to work on it! I then had to match the embroidery thread colours and work out the type of stitching used when originally sewn. I was very honoured to be asked to work on this beautiful piece of St Mary's history as I imagined the group of ladies from the past who so lovingly created it."

During the time of repair, Pat researched MU banners and she came across an interesting article: "Mothers' Union banners: a neglected British 'folk art'" by Bob Trubshaw. He makes the observation that although the



***Ancient foundation St Mary's Church Wingfield***





banners are rarely mentioned in church guides, when looked at closely, the needle work is of the highest quality and comparable to the workmanship seen in altar frontals and pulpit and lectern falls.

Pat and I were walking buddies during Covid times, and the first time we walked around Westwood the church was closed. In May this year we went back to Westwood, to visit St Mary's. As soon as we entered this delightful church Pat noticed straight away that the resident MU banner was almost identical to the Wingfield one, only differing in the village name. She recognised the style of stitching and work and is convinced that both banners were worked by the same team. This can be seen by the photographs of both banners. What a wonderful link between our two churches. Carrying out the work has given Pat an interest in the history of MU banners to the extent that now whenever she visits a church she



**Above left:** A detail from the MU banner showing the delicate stitching repair around the lilies and gold cross.

**Above right and below:** The beautiful Westwood and Wingfield MU banners



looks to see if there is a resident banner and, if so, a photo is taken to add to her collection.

*Sue Phillips*





**CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR**  
CONDUCTED BY SIMON HARPER  
**CANTAMUS CHAMBER CHOIR**  
CONDUCTED BY MIKE DANIELS  
**ORGAN - STEVEN HOLLAS**

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# OCEAN OF LIGHT

## A CHORAL CELEBRATION

Gorgeous choral music from the combined voices of  
Cantores and Cantamus choirs.

Featuring a fabulous selection of varied chamber works by  
Byrd, Whitacre, Howells, Stanford and Dove.

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**SATURDAY**  
**14 OCTOBER**

**7.30pm - St Matthew's Church**  
**Cheltenham**

**SUNDAY**  
**15 OCTOBER**

**4pm - Holy Trinity Church,**  
**Bradford on Avon**

**Tickets: £15**

[wiltshiremusic.org.uk](http://wiltshiremusic.org.uk) / 01225 860100

Also available on the door



## *Prayer Paths: Reclaiming Hallowe'en*

**I**n the wake of influences from the US and eager retailers, Hallowe'en has become a popular festival in recent years. It seems to have become a time to celebrate evil and mischief. But is this the only way to understand Hallowe'en? Maybe by learning something of the origins of the festival and its relationship to All Saints Day we can reclaim it positively.

Most European Christian festivals have their roots in pre-Christian beliefs; when Germanic tribes began to convert to Christianity a warrior Christ resonated with their beliefs of strong gods and goddesses and the value of heroism. A Saxon saga depicts Christ as warlike, stirring and heroic, triumphing over sin and death.

Threads of paganism are still present in Christianity. Celts celebrated New Year on 1 November with the festival Samhain, 'summer's end', a sacred time when the veil between the worlds of the dead and living was so thin that the dead returned. Some of the rituals and festivities included bringing the animals in for winter and culling the weakest, gathering the last of the harvest, and making a big bonfire of the remains of the feast during which all lights would

be extinguished. Food and drink was set out for the visiting dead, and carved spirit guardians on turnips were set at the door to keep away unfriendly spirits.

Convention was dissolved for the night - young people would dress in disguises, boys and girls swapped clothes and played tricks. Christianity recognised the importance of themes of remembering the dead, family and community that Samhain contained. In 837 Pope Gregory IV moved All Saints Day to the 1 November, providing a focus for people's celebrations.

Around 100 years later in France, All Souls – a day to remember those who had died – was added on 2 November and quickly spread throughout the rest of Europe. Current Hallowe'en traditions may be an attempt to laugh at our fear of death, but it is a reality we cannot avoid. We must grapple with our mortality and what we believe comes after death, for these beliefs shape how we live.

*Loving God,  
at this time of changing of seasons,  
we remember your love in every season.*

*Because you are with us, we do not need to fear.*

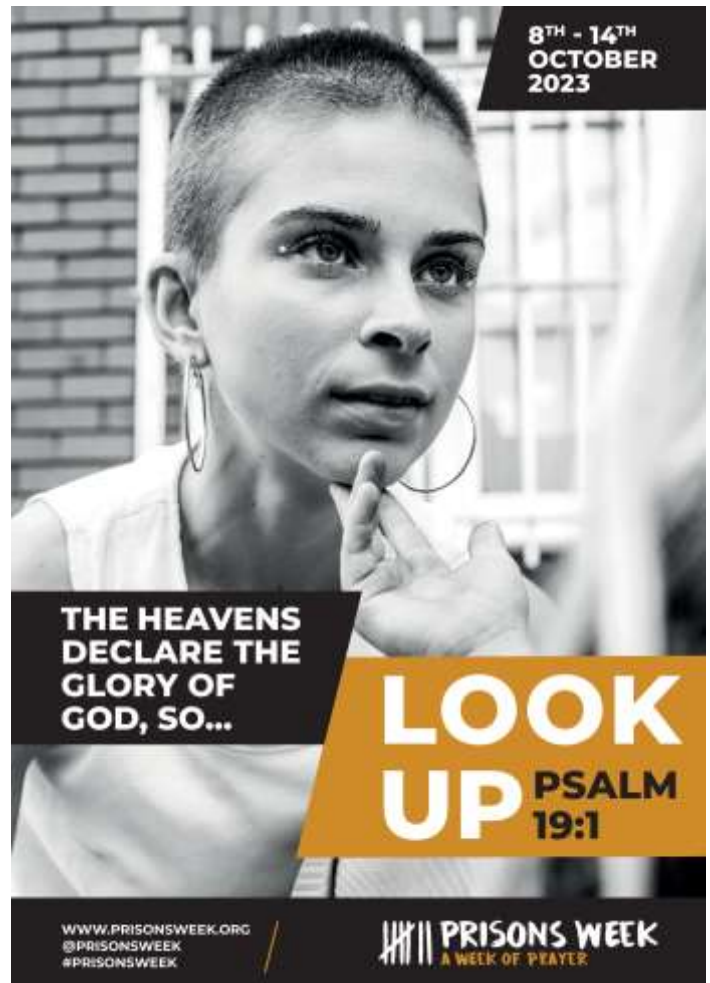
*Revd Sarah Jackson*

## *Prisons Week: A Week of Prayer*

**E**very year in October we are reminded of the Prison Service by its place in the Calendar of Prayer. It is so easy to forget all about those in prisons – literally out of sight, out of mind. So now is the time to be reminded of some of the facts about it.

Since 1993 there has been an 80% increase in the numbers in prison. That means that in the UK we have the highest imprisonment rate in Western Europe. But now there are 10% fewer staff serving in prisons than then. This is partly due to a number of smaller prisons being closed – to save costs, which is sad because smaller prisons were more manageable. Today's 'cost effective' prisons with much larger numbers are harder to run and control is more difficult. This perhaps explains why more than a third of prison officers have been in post for less than three years.

The average sentence is now much longer than 25 years ago – most would say it was shorter. But sadly the service cannot be said to be achieving its objectives. These are: to punish fairly, to keep the community safe, to rehabilitate prisoners so they can safely return to the outside world. The statistics show a different story. In the last year the number of deaths in



prison rose by 9% and the number of suicides there was up by 26%. Self-harm in women's prisons was up by 56%. Most prisons are still on covid style restricted regimes. Some prisoners are only allowed out of their cells for only two hours a day on weekdays. The results of a recent survey make sad reading. 75% of prisons are rated poor or inadequate in at least one of four categories.

Part of the problem is that too many people with mental health or addiction issues are serving sentences for minor offences who should be being cared for not by



prisons but by the health services. In addition many are in prison for non-violent and minor crimes who could be better served by community service or by other forms of punishment. The result is that prisons are not rehabilitating

those serving sentences in them in the way that they should.

Let us use this prisons week to pray for those in prison and for the officers and chaplains that serve in them.

*Hugh Wright*

## HELP TO REBUILD LIVES

**P***risoners and their families need help, if they are to really repair and rebuild their lives. And so it is that Prisons Week has been growing steadily, year by year. It currently has 25 Christian denominations and organisations working together to use "all our skills and gifts to see God's kingdom come and His peace be established in a place of suffering and weeping."*

Prisons Week is supported by the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Free Churches Group, and the Salvation Army. It is also supported by the prison ministry organisations including Prison Fellowship, Prison Advice and Care Trust, and Caring for Prison Leavers. Other supporting organisations include Bible Society, the Mothers Union, and Youth for Christ. The week-long campaign each October aims to provide Christians across the country with information, expertise, resources, and encouragement for this particular, and challenging, area of ministry. For anyone, or any group, who would like to support Prisons ministry, there are several campaign resources available at their website.

Above all, Prisons Week urges individual Christians to pray for prisoners and their families, that their lives might be rebuilt and renewed. Prisons Week describes its aim as "relieving the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment." For more info, please visit:

**[www.prisonsworld.org](http://www.prisonsworld.org)**



***Prison Reform: HMP Pentonville***

## Contemplation

I was recently asked to lead the Quiet Garden at All Saints, Great Chalfield and chose a poem entitled 'The Monk Stood by the Wheelbarrow' by Jane Hirshfield as the basis for contemplation.

The poem begins with the thought-provoking line, "The monk stood beside a wheelbarrow, weeping." It continues, "these tears were fully human, bitter broken, falling onto the wheelbarrow's rusty side. You cannot know what you do in this life, what you have done" and finishes with "I knew I also had a place on this hard earth."

I was introduced to this poem by a friend. It has grown with me as I have returned to it over time. I would like to offer it as a meditation or contemplation exercise. Why not give it a read? (You'll find it online at: <https://punchinthe face poetry.com/2023/07/21/the-monk-stood-beside-a-wheelbarrow-jane-hirshfield>). When looking at any poem think about what tone it strikes in your imagination. Read it once more. Is there a particular line that speaks to you? Read the poem aloud once steadily and a second time slowly. Note another line which holds a particular feeling. Read this aloud then say it out loud many times. Can the feeling and



**Above:** Great Chalfield Church and **Right:** A detail from the 'Parable of the Sower' Window installed in 1999



the images become part of your inner landscape?

There is much to weep about today; we can become overwhelmed and so let us practise deep breathing and allow the imagination to nourish, to sustain. I love the familiar language of the liturgy, the words and cadences of so many hymns, but I also love and feel safe in the imagination.

Taking a new poem and using it to guide our inner feelings is a wonderfully creative way to learn steadiness, stillness and quiet observation. Great Chalfield Church is available on the first Tuesday every month for contemplative purposes.

*Judith Holland*



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## Wiltshire Butterflies: October 2023

**A**ugust was a very unpredictable month weatherwise but in spite of this, some of our butterflies flourished.

Indeed, during the first half of the month, the so-called garden species – the Peacocks, Commas, Red Admirals and Large and Small Whites were reported in good

numbers from many gardens, buddleia being the main attraction for nectar. By contrast the Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell were much

scarcer and went on to remain so during the early autumn. The Holly Blue also did very well following its strong first generation in the spring and was reported from many gardens and urban areas. The other 'blues', the Brown Argus, Common, Silver-studded and Adonis Blue were all plentiful on the grassland sites and in the woodlands the Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary were commonly reported.

The first ten days of September have been excessively hot and dry, at times just too hot for us and the

butterflies and recorders often noticed them seeking out cooler and shadier locations during the heat of the day. As I write, cooler and wetter conditions are forecast and the butterfly season will draw to a close for another year for many species. Red Admirals and Speckled Woods plus the Large

and Small Whites are the species most commonly reported at this time. As usual, there have been a few unexpected surprises – a Large Blue in a Malmesbury



**Surprise survival:** *The Glanville Fritillary*

garden, several miles from the introduced colony in Gloucestershire. It became extinct in Britain in 1979. In the south of the county, the Glanville Fritillary colony near Mere, introduced by an unknown butterfly breeder a few years ago, still survives. Elsewhere this butterfly is restricted to the south coast of the Isle of Wight. Presumably the warmer, drier conditions resulting from climate change suit this continental species.

*'Mike Fuller  
Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder.  
9 September 2023*



## Nature Now: October 2023

**P**hotographer and naturalist Nick Upton tells me he spotted my mention of Freya the newt-hunting Springer spaniel in the last edition of Nature Now. He took the photos that appeared of her in several national newspapers and a variety of magazines recently.

### MORE ABOUT FREYA

Nick says: "It was part of a project to document Great Crested Newt conservation in Somerset back in 2018, showing teams of volunteers renovating old dew ponds on the Mendips to create more breeding space for them, but also getting shots of Freya being trained to hunt for newts. Her owner Nikki Glover was working for Wessex Water and teaching Freya to recognise the scent of Great Crested newts, even if they were hidden in crevices, with the help of expert dog trainer Louise Wilson.

Freya seemed to really enjoy the work, learnt very fast, no newts were harmed during training and Freya has since helped with field surveys for the Water Board, finding newts much quicker than by other methods in areas designated for development, and allowing them to be relocated safely where



Photos © Nick Upton

**Above:** Freya with her owner Nikki and **Left:** A Great Crested newt

necessary." Nick has also documented another scientist, Lucy Bearman-Brown at Hartpury University with another talented Springer, Henry, who has been trained to sniff out hedgehogs, again with training help from Louise Wilson. In other studies, sniffer dogs are used to find bats killed by wind turbines and to search for pine martens during surveys in Scotland.

### HOPE FOR DORMICE...

A few weeks ago, 38 rare hazel dormice were reintroduced into a woodland at the National Trust Calke Abbey estate in Derbyshire, part of the National Forest, in efforts to reverse the declining population in the UK. Their new

*Right: Dormouse youngsters*

home is a large, secluded woodland in an area where these little mammals have been locally extinct.

Once a common inhabitant of woodlands, the hazel dormouse is just 2 inches in body length, with a long tail, and weighs no more than 40 grams. Their diet is of hazelnuts, berries, insects and flower buds. Numbers have dropped dramatically in recent years because of habitat loss and climate change. Over half the population has died out since 2000 and dormice are considered extinct in 17 English counties. These captive bred dormice, it is hoped, will combat the decline. Over the last 30 years more than 1,000 dormice have been reintroduced to 25 different woodlands in 13 counties.

The National Trust has been managing the landscape on the Calke estate to support a range of native wildlife. The woodland has oak, hazel and honeysuckle, which provide lots of secure places for dormice to forage and nest. The mice were raised by the Wildwood Trust, and underwent an eight-week quarantine and full health-checks by expert wildlife vets. They will be monitored over the coming



Photo© Nick Upton

months and years in the hope that they will breed and disperse into nearby woodlands, and so develop into a self-sustaining population. You're very unlikely to spot one of these nocturnal mammals, but you may see signs of its presence such as smoothly nibbled holes in hazelnut shells.

### **...AND FOR WATER VOLES**

And some good news the water vole. This little river-dweller digs up soil and brings nutrient to the surface, which is good for growing plants. The voles then nibble the plants, making room for others to grow. In this way they are an important part of the natural food chain in the areas they inhabit.

Once widespread in England, water voles were nearly exterminated by American mink, first introduced in the 1920's, which escaped or were released from fur



**Left:** Stretches of the river Avon are known to support water voles

**Above:** A Water vole by the river

farms. Water voles have no defence against this voracious predator entering their burrows. A population of eight million dropped to about 132,000, as the species disappeared from 94% of the sites it had occupied.

A few colonies managed to hang on, and where mink have been eliminated, they have begun to thrive again, and a few sites on the Avon, its tributaries and the Kennet and Avon canal now offer them a home. Water voles seem to be getting some help from otters, too. These have been increasing in numbers on the Avon in recent years and they may displace mink when they move into an area.

Last year a number of water voles were released at Ringwood, between Salisbury and Southampton, where the population had been severely depleted by mink. But now that the mink have been controlled, there is a good chance the water voles will breed and spread afield. And this last summer more than 200 captive-bred water voles were released at a secret location close to Haweswater, Cumbria, as part of an attempt to create a thriving population of this endangered species in the Lake District. Conservationists and volunteers provided new homes for the young water voles in temporary soft-release pens, to allow them a few days to



acclimatise, whilst 10 older ones were freed directly into the water.

### ***Ellacombe's Legacy***

At the end of August I was invited to visit St Mary's, Bitton, in South Gloucestershire, a church planning to join the Small Pilgrim Places Network. I was met in the churchyard by the incumbent, Rev Jeremy Andrews, who showed me around.

I was struck by the size of the churchyard and the number and variety of mature trees it holds. Jeremy explained that many of these specimens were planted here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Henry Nicholson Ellacombe, born in Bitton and vicar of St Mary's from 1850 to 1916. I knew the name well. Ellacombe is still very familiar to gardeners and botanists in this region. He was a famous gardener, himself publishing many articles and books on the subject, and was also a celebrated botanist and plant collector.

The young Ellacombe attended Bath grammar school before following his father as vicar in Bitton. In his time at St Mary's he planted the trees I was looking at and also created a renowned



***Procession:*** The churchyard populated by Ellacombe's planting at St Mary's Church, Bitton

vicarage garden. He encouraged other country parsons to take an interest in the cultivation of their own vicarage gardens, and contributed to gardening periodicals and to the publications of Bath Natural History and Field Club. That club was later succeeded by the Bath Natural History Society, which Dave and I belonged to when we lived in Bath, and which still continues today.

It's thought that he had about 3000 varieties of plants in his garden, with many rare, and interesting plants. He exchanged specimens with fellow enthusiasts and bought from the great botanic gardens in Britain and Europe, travelling widely on the continent and in Ireland to collect specimens. Rather than the contemporary formality of massed bedding



**Left:** *Autumn crocus* spotted by Ali  
**Above:** Sue Phillips' impressive visitor

plants in geometric arrangement, Ellacombe preferred to let nature lead; visitors admired his informal arrangement of trees and shrubs. During my visit I passed Bitton vicarage, now a private house. Apart from a few old trees, little of the garden as planted by Ellacombe survives. But the range of attractive, mature trees in the churchyard is a fitting memorial to him and his passion for plants.

#### **AND FINALLY...**

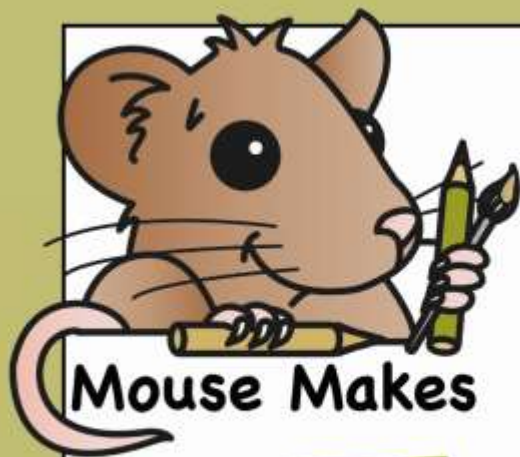
Sue Phillips from Wingfield wrote to say that she had an encounter in Chippenham with this large dragonfly [above], which landed on her arm whilst it was devouring a wasp and stayed there for five minutes. This impressive female Brown Hawker has a wingspan of over 10cm and is fairly common

around our region. Hawkers are the largest and fastest flying dragonflies. They catch their insect-prey mid-air and can hover or fly backwards. They like to hunt along canals or woodland rides.

A local woodland ride is where I spotted this beautiful autumn flower. Meadow Saffron or Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) comes to flower in autumn after the leaves have already died – hence it is also sometimes called Naked Ladies or Naked Jacks. It likes to grow in grassy clearings in woods, and this was the sort of habitat where I found it – among several hundred pale purple blooms on long white stalks peeping above long grass in a wood just a couple of miles north of Bradford on Avon.

*Ali Green*





## Mouse Makes



### CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA

HONEY

OIL

WINE

WATER

FISH

LOCUSTS

QUAIL

LOAVES

FLOUR



What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_



1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:6



What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

and \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five \_\_\_\_\_

and two \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:9



### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
MJWF PO CSFBE  
BMPOF, CVU PO  
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU  
DPNFT GSPN UIF  
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4



### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

SALT



E B R E A D H O N E Y Q J S F  
L O A V E S G Q W A T E R C I  
M Q I W M F R U I T F I S H G  
E U S H A L A A N O L I V E S  
A I I E N O I I E G R A P E S  
T L N A N U N L O C U S T S Y  
M U S T A R D E I H D A T E S  
E V E G E T A B L E S A L T H

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE  
FIGS • DATES  
MUSTARD  
RAISINS • WHEAT  
SALT • GRAIN  
FRUIT • GRAPES  
VEGETABLES



## *St Laurence: Belonging*



**T**here are few experiences in teaching that beat the joy when you see your students opening the results envelopes in August and watching a broad smile grow across their face. For the first time in a number of years, we had a face to face exam results day and once again I was able to share in that joy.

Our students did remarkably well in the summer with results that place us as the top performing, non-selective secondary school in Wiltshire about which we are thrilled. Students, staff and parents have all been thanked for their input to bring about this kind of success.

The new term has seen several other new things aside from students. We have launched a new

website which is hopefully more streamlined and user-friendly.

We have been fortunate enough to have some building work in the school, providing better facilities for everyone and of course we have welcomed a number of new staff into our community.

I did my first collective worship this week and used Paul's writing to Corinthians 'we are all the body of Christ' to try to explain how as a community not only do we each have a role to play but we are all part of a whole and as such, belong. My prayer for the year ahead is that everyone feels that sense of belonging and feels welcomed so that next summer, I get to experience that same joy as I did this summer.

*Tim Farrer, Headteacher*

## *Thought for the Month: Hope*

**A** few years ago, I heard the speaker Chris Moon. Chris became an Army Officer and later worked to clear landmines with the charity HALO Trust. He was held hostage by the Khmer Rouge and whilst held hostage, wrote about hope:

"A dawn haze caresses the tree-covered mountains. The light of the sun glistens like diamonds on damp, distant leaves... What is

important is that whatever they do to me I can still feel hope. I can still see beauty." He survived and has gone on to raise significant sums of money to help disabled people in the developing world and has worked to ban landmines. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." Isaiah 40:31

*Linda Rowley, SDBE School Improvement Consultant. Copyright © 2023 SDBE All rights reserved.*

## *Saint for the Season: Elizabeth Fry*

**E**lizabeth Fry is commemorated in the Church Calendar on 12 October. She was a remarkable woman, born in Earlham in Norfolk and related by birth and marriage to the leading Quaker banking families of her time.

She married Joseph Fry, a London merchant and strict Quaker, at the age of 20. They had eleven children. She became a Quaker Minister in London and also a noted preacher.

She was a pioneer of prison reform. Prisons then were dirty, dark and dangerous, especially for

women. She devoted much of her time to visiting Newgate prison, especially the women there and became known as the angel of

prisons, teaching prisoners to read and sew and gave regularly baby clothes and clean bedding for the sick. Through her family connections she made influential people aware of the awful conditions in prisons and was instrumental in getting prison reform onto the parliamentary

agenda, winning for it the support of Queen Victoria. She extended her ministry to prisons by travelling all over Europe in the cause of prison reform there.

She also established places for the homeless in London where they could get food and a place to sleep, starting first with a nightly shelter in 1820.

*Hugh Wright*



**Saint:** Married at 20 years old, Elizabeth had eleven children



**Procession:** Elizabeth Fry pictured reading to inmates in Newgate Prison c1860

# For Prayer and Reflection

## October 2023

- The months ahead in our benefice
- Bishop Andrew
- Archdeacon Sue
- The people of Morocco and Libya following their devastating earthquake and flood



### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

*Churchwarden:*

Chris Edwards, [chris.edwards1959@gmail.com](mailto:chris.edwards1959@gmail.com)

Tel: 07503 875111

*PCC Secretary:*

Jill Ross, [jillbenedictross@gmail.com](mailto:jillbenedictross@gmail.com)



### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, WINGFIELD

*Churchwarden:*

David Robinson

[david.robinson@paultonsstreet.com](mailto:david.robinson@paultonsstreet.com)

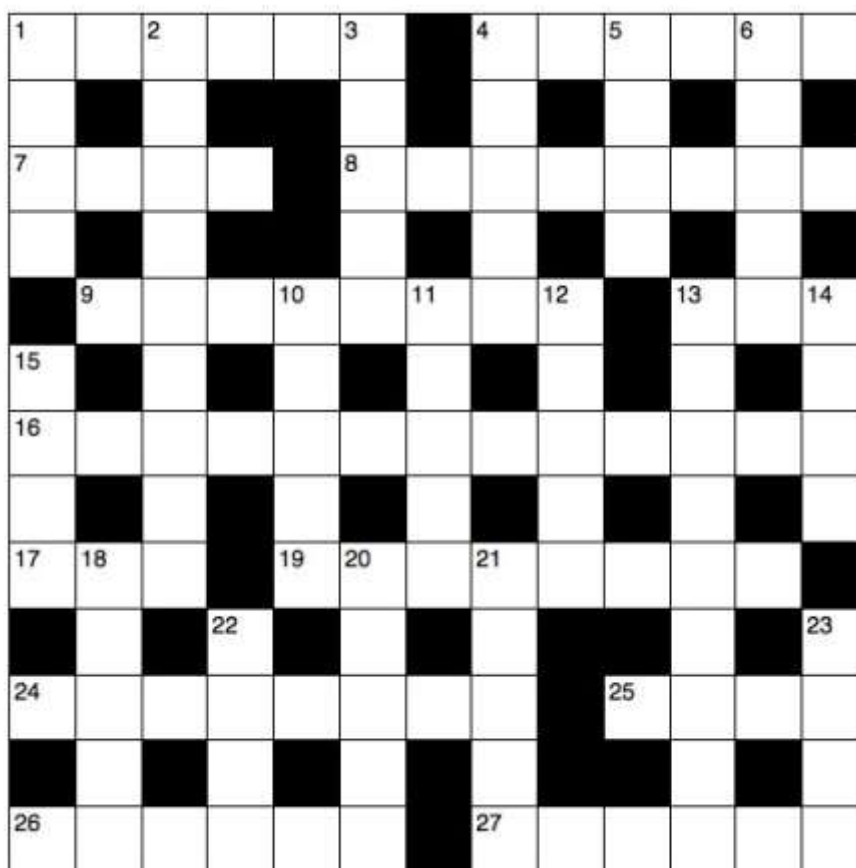
*PCC Secretary:*

Michael Copland-Griffiths

[mccg@healthcare2k.plus.com](mailto:mccg@healthcare2k.plus.com)







### Clues across

- 1** He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)  
**4** 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)  
**7** 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)  
**8** See **19** Across  
**9** It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)  
**13** Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)  
**16** 'He has sent me to bind up the —' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)  
**17** Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)  
**19** and **8** '— a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)  
**24** Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)  
**25** Comes between Luke and Acts (4)  
**26** Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)  
**27** 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a —!' (John 2:16) (6)

### Clues down

- 1** Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

- 2** The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)  
**3** He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)  
**4** 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born —' (John 3:3) (5)  
**5** Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)  
**6** 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)  
**10** Ruses (anag.) (5)  
**11** Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)  
**12** Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)  
**13** This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)  
**14** 'This is my —, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)  
**15** One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)  
**18** Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)  
**20** Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)  
**21** Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)  
**22** Bats (anag.) (4)  
**23** 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

# **HOLY TRINITY PCC AND OTHER GROUP MEMBERS**

## **PCC MEMBERS**

### **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis, Chair

The Revd Sarah Jackson (Associate Priest), Vice Chair

### **ELECTED MEMBERS**

Clive Adamson (Treasurer)

Tony Bruun

Liz Forbes

Mavis Linstrum

Julia Steward (Secretary)

Peter Yarker

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Martin Cooke (Director of Music)

### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Peter Yarker

### **THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

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

## OTHER OFFICERS AND ORGANIZERS

HT PCC Secretary	Julia Steward	julia@jhsteward.com
HT PCC Treasurer	Clive Adamson	clive.adamson@me.com
Benefice Administrator	Netty Hucknall	beneficeoffice@htboa.org
Benefice Comms	Aylene Clack	comms@htboa.org
HT Bookkeeper	Klaus Huber	treasurer@htboa.org
Benefice Eco Church Team	Joanna Abecassis & Judith Holland	
Benefice Safeguarding Rep	Roni Ross	07541 025241 veronicaross@pobroadband.co.uk
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WW Bellringers	Sue Lindsay or Anne Willis	westwood@sdgr.org.uk
HT Coffee on Sunday	Joan Finch	01225 863878
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HT Electoral Roll Officer	Julia Steward	julia@jhsteward.com
HT Flowers	c/o Netty	beneficeoffice@htboa.org
mainly music	Marlene Haffenden	01225 864412 marlene.haffenden@googlemail.com
Mothers' Union	Jill Wright	01225 287786
Mothers' Union Prayer Circle	c/o Chris Hodge	01225 869357
Saxon Club	David Driscoll	01225 865314
Saxon Church and St Mary Tory Trustees:		
Chairman	Christopher Tanfield (all bookings)	01225 308081 ctanfield@talktalk.net
Sidespersons	Churchwardens Team	
HT Stewardship Secretary	Klaus Huber	treasurer@htboa.org
HT Street Market	Aylene Clack	comms@htboa.org

### HT Parish Representatives on other organisations:

Children's Society:	Liz Forbes
Christian Aid:	Judith Holland
Deanery Synod:	Vacancy
BoA Churches Together:	c/o The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis
St Laurence School:	The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis
	Alison Craddock
	(Foundation Governors)

