

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

www.htboa.org

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The Rector's usual weekly day off is a Friday

16 AUGUST 2026



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome to our Service today and welcome if you are reading this at home

11.15am - Morning Prayer

HYMNS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

372a - O Jesus, I have promised

467 - Tell out my soul

120 - Father, hear the prayer we offer

76 - Christ is made the sure foundation

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

PSALM 67. 1 - 7

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56.1, 6 - 8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15. (10 - 20), 21 - 28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them,
'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the
mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out
of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples
approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the
Pharisees took offence when they heard what you

said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly
Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them
alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one
blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.'
But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.'
Then he said, 'Are you also still without
understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes
into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out
into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth
proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.
For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder,
adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.
These are what defile a person, but to eat with
unwashed hands does not defile.'

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of
Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from
that region came out and started shouting, 'Have
mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is
tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her
at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying,
'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'
He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of
the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before
him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not
fair to take the children's food and throw it to the
dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat
the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then
Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her
daughter was healed instantly.

MESSAGE FROM JENNY –

Wild Alleluia!

In this week's bulletin, I'm looking ahead to our All
Creatures Great and Small service on Sunday 23rd
August.

Many of us will remember the much-loved television
series of the same name, with its stories of James
Herriot, the Yorkshire countryside, the personalities,
the animals, and the care given to both humans and
creatures. It seems a lovely starting point for
thinking about our place together in God's Creation.

At the heart of our service will be Genesis 1, the
great opening story of Creation. Again and again we
hear God look upon what has been made and
declare it 'good'. Light, sea, sky, earth, plants, birds,
fish and animals, each has its place in the
extraordinary richness and diversity of creation.
And, finally, humanity is made not apart from
creation, but as part of it.

I have often been drawn to the idea of the 'spiritual
democracy of all God's creatures' (Matthew Riley) in
the sense that creation is not simply ours to 'use',
but a wonderful community of life in which we all
have our place. I've written quite a few essays over

the years exploring environmental theology, but sometimes it is the ordinary, everyday encounters with animals that teach us most.

Recently, at a lovely Trio Paradis concert, I found myself telling someone new to the community that my cat, Hope, is very helpful in making me sit down! Those little moments of enforced stillness punctuate my day and give it a rhythm: a reminder, perhaps, that we are creatures too, and that sometimes we need to stop, notice and simply be still.

As Terry Pratchett once wonderfully put it: "In ancient times, cats were worshipped as gods: they have not forgotten this." There is certainly something of a wild alleluia about that!

The Bible teems with animals: deer, dogs, doves, donkeys, eagles and so many more. Birds have long been associated with divine messengers, and birdsong is perhaps one of the most universal languages we know. I once studied with a composer who would rise at dawn simply to listen to and notate birdsong.

And in the book of Job we hear: "Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you." Perhaps that is part of what Genesis 1 invites us to do: to look again at the creatures with whom we share this world, to notice their beauty and particularity, and to wonder at the God who called them all into being and saw that they were good.

So, come and join us on Sunday 23 August as we celebrate All Creatures Great and Small. Bring your pets if you can, or bring a photograph of a much-loved animal companion. Whether furry, feathered, four-legged, or something a little more unusual, all creatures have their place in our celebration!

Come and explore with us what our fellow creatures might have to teach us about God, Creation, wonder, and perhaps even about ourselves. All are warmly welcome. We'd love to see you, your pets and your creatures!

Yours, Jenny

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION -

If you would like to be baptised and confirmed as an adult please could you get in touch directly with Jenny, who welcomes your enquiry and preparation towards what would be a special service – all welcome.

WESTWOOD SUMMER SHOW -

Monday 31st August, 2.30 - 4.30pm. Flower and Vegetable Show and church fete. Do go along for an afternoon of fun ... stalls, produce, flowers, live music, teas, ice creams, silent auction, raffle and plenty more ...



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF HOLY TRINITY'S HENRY WILLIS ORGAN -

Saturday 29th August –

5.00pm Summer Organ Concert - Timothy Parsons
Director of Music, Wells Cathedral

Saturday 12th September –
5.00pm Hymns and Pimm's - more info to follow but not to be missed

Thursday 24th September –

12.00pm Lunch hour Organ Concert - Marcus Sealy, former Sub Organist at Bath Abbey

Monday 28th September –

7.00pm Autumn Concert, Salisbury Cathedral Choir

Sunday 4th October –

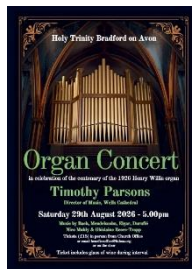
2.00pm 'Come and Sing Evensong' - directed by Simon Lole

Tickets are now available for our Summer Organ Concert with Timothy Parsons.

This will be a memorable and unmissable occasion at Holy Trinity of the very finest organ music and playing by Tim. Tickets are £15 and this includes a glass of wine or a soft drink during the interval.

So, unlike David Halls' event, this begins at 5.00pm with a 20-minute interval. Tickets

now available from Annie in the church office (10am - noon every morning, except Thursdays), or by email (beneficeoffice@htboa.org) or on the door.



HOLY COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS -

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION –

The next Holy Communion will be on Wednesday 2nd September at Holy Trinity, 10am. Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you at the Community Café.

NOTICES

NOTICES FOR WEEKLY BULLETINS – please send all messages for the bulletin by Wednesday 12pm to Annie on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

COPYING, PRINTING, POSTERS – please send to Annie on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

BIRTHDAYS - Happy Birthday, prayers and blessings to all those with birthdays in this season.

THIS WEEK @ HT

MORNING PRAYER – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays @ 8.30am.

SAXON CLUB - *Saxon Club takes a break in August, restarting on Tuesday 8th September @ 2.30pm*

COMMUNITY CAFÉ – Wednesdays from 10am - 12noon - weekly community café – coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided on a donation basis.

FORGET ME NOT CAFÉ - Thursday 20th August, 11am - 12.30pm

SAVE THE CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 22nd August, 10am - 12.30pm

FUTURE EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE

TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT - Thursday 3rd September, 10.45am. This month's theme is - Tango!

CREATIVE MAKERS MARKET - Saturday, 5th September - 10am - 3pm

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for all who are sick, remembering especially: David Chalmers, Betty & Doug Hancock.

Pray for the recently departed and all who mourn them, especially:

Please *always* let Revd Jenny know of any pastoral need, including prayer.

FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

- Our Benefice-affiliated schools: Westwood and Iford Primary School, St Laurence, Fitzmaurice Primary, The Mead School, all parents, pupils, teachers and staff.
- Those getting married in our Benefice churches this month.
- Those affected by the devastating earthquake in Columbia.
- The people of Sudan, especially Kadugli and all suffering conflict & displacement.
- The Justice System.
- The elderly, lonely & depressed.
- The safety of our children & young people during school & university holidays.

We continue to work together in our shared commitment to Safeguarding:
'The Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield takes its responsibilities



surrounding the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults who may be at risk, very seriously. We work in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury to ensure that we work in accordance with best practices at all times.'

SAFEGUARDING - If you have any Safeguarding concerns please speak to the clergy or our Safeguarding Adviser for the Benefice: **Andrea Unwin** 07553161654

Email: safeguarding@htboa.org

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from: safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org to speak to a caseworker, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 01722 438651 and press option 3

NEXT WEEK – 23 AUGUST – TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

11.15am – All Creatures Great and Small Service with animal blessings

Readings:

Isaiah 51. 1 - 6

Matthew 16. 13 - 20



St Mary the Virgin, Westwood

All Creatures Great and Small Service
with animal blessings

Sunday 23rd August
11.15am



Please bring your animal friends
along - all animals welcome.

