

AUGUST 2025

60P



LIFE



SWCD-CHURCHES.ORG.UK



MAGAZINE EDITOR LIFE

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Articles for the September edition are due by Sunday17th August

The cover picture once again was taken at Compton Dundon, well there is always a lot going on there, and June was no exception. We went along, so I could tell you that they have some lovely gardens there, however I will leave the details to Gill Williams on page 4. There are however, more pictures on the back. Also on the back are some of the Archdeaconry Church Wardens who attended the 'Visitation' this year, and one of our Mission Church Wardens Julie Sinclair fills us in on page 8.

The Rector is having a break from her usual letter this month and our Curate Rachel gives us an insight into our sermon series. Manna and the Bishop also takes a break in August, therefore the Honorary Assistant Bath and Wells Bishop Christopher Foster who was Bishop of Portsmouth, (retired), honours us this month with a letter on page 10&11.

On page 22 there is some sad news from Walton, followed by something to look forward to in the village and among the church congregation, in September.

The Mission Church Wardens are trying to sort out the parking problems that continue at the Mission Church, on page 17.

Not leaving out the Parish Church, which has recently been host to Crispin School, who have just held a concert there, (no report). The council continue to regularly cut the churchyard grass, despite the dry weather. Roger.

Curates Letter

Friends,

Many of us are looking forward to a well-earned break during August. The young people are preparing to break up for the holidays and there certainly is a countdown to the last day of school in our house! Does God take a holiday? Does the work of the Holy Spirit stop in us because we are resting or on holiday? Absolutely not!

We have recently had Acts 3 v1-10 in our Sermon Series on Apologetics asking us Does Jesus make a difference in our lives?

Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

‘**3** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. **2** Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.’

This passage illustrates the power of a life touched by Jesus. Peter and John were going about their daily routine when they encounter the lame man, and they healed him in the name of Jesus. They were not enroute to do Gods work that day they were heading to pray, but they healed the man at the gate. The healing was immediate, and the man jumped up praising God. Peter then spoke to the amazed crowd proclaiming the Good news of Jesus.

What could you do on holiday? Who could you tell the good news to during your normal routine of your life?

I wish you a peaceful and restful holiday period whether we are home or away and I encourage you all to rest, but still be looking for those opportunities to tell the good news of Jesus and how he touched your life. Sr. Rachel



Children's Groups paused in August



To give our dedicated teams leading our children's and youth work a well-deserved rest, we will be pausing separate children's work during August at the Mission Church morning services as well as 'Little Stars' and our SWCD youth 'Pizza, games and chat' nights.

However, please be assured that children are still very much welcome and there will be separate activities available for them at the back of the Mission Church during services where they may normally go out to their groups.

Ana Lawrence

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Incoming ministries – for 18 – 30s

Following the launch of a Glastonbury and Street group for Incoming Ministries at Easter, the organisers have now run their first successful event for those aged 18 – 30s

Incoming Ministries was set up to offer opportunities for Christians in this age bracket to meet one another and worship together, if you 'qualify', but haven't yet connected with this work please have a word with either myself or sister Rachel who will be pleased to put you in touch with those organising future events

Ana Lawrence



Compton Dundon Open Gardens Event

Following an anxious three days' worth of rain, which proved to be just the thing for the parched gardens of Compton Dundon, we were blessed with sunshine for the Open Gardens Event. The first event, two years ago was organised to raise money for the Bells Project. This time, the proceeds were to be divided equally between St Andrew's and Cancer Research. We are extremely grateful to Jackie Sugden, event organiser extraordinaire and her husband Gavin for masterminding the day's proceedings.

There were nine gardens to visit in total, which included the churchyard. We had the added attraction of the ringing of the bells at 2pm and 4pm. In preparation for the anticipated avalanche of visitors we had baked enough cakes to start our own café, as well as selling books, jam, plants and decoupage candles in the marquee outside. We had a steady stream of visitors during the afternoon, as well as the predicted avalanche around the time of the bellringing. Teas, coffees and cakes were enjoyed by all, who sat either in the church, admiring the architecture, or outside in the churchyard and under the yew tree. The takings from programme sales, as well as refreshments and other sales at St Andrew's, refreshments at the Village Hall and craft items made by Jackie were added up and we received over £900 for the church. We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the afternoon such a great success – the bakers, the makers of jam and crafts, the servers, the washers-up, the movers of chairs, the packers-up and putters-away, as well as everyone who opened their gardens and hosted, also the many people who came to enjoy the afternoon. Special thanks go to Jackie, without whom none of it would have happened. We are so very grateful for your vision and your amazing organisational skills! Gill Williams, (Church Warden).

Save the date! 18th October.

Oddments Theatre Company

We are excited to have booked the Christian theatre company, Oddments, to perform in the Mission Church on the evening of Saturday, 18th October.

This will be the first night of the Yeovil based theatre company's new play 'Amazing Grace,' which they describe as,

"A voyage of discovery as we tell the incredible story of John Newton – the sailor and slave-trader who went on to write the famous hymn 'Amazing Grace.' Watch Newton's journey of faith unfold as he battles the high sea, lost love and his own destructive self and eventually finds himself at the mercy of a compassionate God."

Oddments will bring a professional production, with previous performances at the Mission Church being well received by packed audiences.

Tickets, priced £14, will be on sale shortly and please keep the date free and consider who you might invite to come along. Ana Lawrence

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Payments to church

For anyone writing a cheque to give money to the Mission Church, or the Parish church, please can the cheque be made out to ' the Parochial Church Council of Street' or 'the PCC of Street', as this is what is on the paying in slips, and Lloyds are becoming stricter on the correct labelling of cheques. Thanks very much, Kay Savage.

Good Stewardship in our Churches

Over the last few years our parishes have been encouraged to complete the Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool annually to account for the energy use in each of our churches. We can use the information to compare our annual energy use. Whatever one's views of the climate debate and Net Zero there is no doubt that lower energy use means lower bills. As Christians we should be acting as good stewards, not wasting resources.

So how have we been doing? It is misleading to compare our individual churches with each other as they are very different in size and usage so my comparisons are for each individual building keeping in mind that some variation may be due to the weather conditions which vary slightly year by year.

2024 reports

Compton Dundon's energy use reduced by around a tenth compared with 2022. The impact of their carbon emissions was reduced by 85% by switching to a 'green' tariff.

Installation of solar panels at **Street Mission Church** in 2022 has partly contributed to a reduction in energy use there by about a fifth. However, the main source of CO2 emissions is the use of gas so more of the savings come from careful management of heating controls (thermostats). When the boilers need replacing switching to electricity as a source of heating could mean a more

efficient use of the energy generated by the solar panels as well as greener energy use overall.

You may recall that decisions were made towards the end of 2024 to reduce the heating in **Street Parish Church**, this had an immediate impact to the overall energy use in 2024 and should reduce our energy use (and bills) further this year.

Walton have reduced energy use by about a fifth compared to 2022. Their planned refurbishment should help to improve energy efficiency further.

Net Zero

Whatever one's views, the Church of England has committed itself to a Net Zero Carbon Programme which 'aims to equip, resource and support all parts of the Church to reduce carbon emissions from the energy used in its buildings, schools and through work-related transport by 2030'. A national Report provides a snapshot of the work and impact of the Programme. The report, which shows how many churches across the country are saving money on their energy bills after making changes to their buildings, their heating systems and the management of them, is available to read at: -

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/impact-report-2024_landscape_final_0.pdf

Susan Ripley (Street Parish) SWCD Eco Church Group

The story of Nehemiah and healthy churches, our Autumn sermon series

Speaking truth to power, running building projects, dealing with local opposition and encouraging God's people to worship, pray and serve. These are some of the themes that run through the early chapters of the Old Testament book of Nehemiah which we will be studying as part of our Autumn sermon series across all our churches.

Alongside retelling the story, we will be exploring what this has to say to us as we consider what it means to be a healthy church. The author Robert Warren conducted extensive research amongst churches and used this to suggest seven marks of a healthy church in his book 'Healthy Church Handbook.' We will also be exploring these themes through our studies.

If you would like to read more, please consider getting hold of 'Nehemiah for You' by Eric Mason, available, as they say, in all good bookshops or online.

I look forward to digging deeper into God's word with you this Autumn Ana Lawrence.

The Archdeaconry of Wells Visitation Service at St Cuthbert's in Wells in June 2025.

Every year, the 'Archdeacons' Visitations take place. These are formal church services, during which Churchwardens across each Archdeaconry are admitted. As well as the opportunity Visitations give for Archdeacons to thank churchwardens publicly and personally, and to pray with and for them, it is also when elected churchwardens are formally admitted to the office of churchwarden. This is a legal requirement, and until this happens those elected are not formally churchwardens'.

Julie Sinclair (Mission Church Warden)

Let the bells ring out

With three of our churches now having peals of bells that can be rung, the PCC's have recently agreed a bell ringing policy in order that we can ensure we act as good neighbours to our local communities.

The policy sets out when and how often the bells will be rung and the various responsibilities of the bellringers and the PCC. Visiting teams wanting to ring the bells are asked to book via the church office and any compliments, comments or complaints about bell ringing should similarly be addressed to the office so we can get an idea of what's working well and what is perhaps working less well.

The sound of bells ringing out across our communities is a powerful reminder that the church is still here, still welcoming and still active but bells can also be quite noisy!

If you want to see a full copy of the policy, please have a word with the member of your PCC or your PCC secretary.

Ana Lawrence

New Vicar at Glastonbury

I'm delighted to say that our neighbours at Glastonbury and Meare have now appointed a new Vicar.

The Revd Alice Watson, born in Somerset but currently working in Oxford, will be licenced in September and we look forward to welcoming her (back) to the area and the Deanery.

Ana Lawrence



The Bishop's Letter

Do you use Wikipedia? It's often a very convenient place to look for information when we want to know more about something or about a person. But, perhaps, like me you've discovered its limitations. As you might anticipate from a free online encyclopaedia to which anyone can contribute and is open to anyone to edit it is both impressively collaborative and also sometimes incomplete or less than fully accurate. Nevertheless, it remains for me – and perhaps you? – a go-to source of quick information.

So, I wasn't surprised when I consulted Wikipedia's 'August anniversaries' to find it is less than comprehensive about the Christian calendar this month. St Bartholomew's Day is recorded on 24 August – alongside Ukraine Independence Day which surely also deserves marking. Bartholomew (usually identified as Nathanael, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus) isn't generally well celebrated on his festival day, except in places where he's the patron saint of the parish and church, such as Crewkerne where the annual charter fair remembers their link with St Bart. Even so their fair has been moved into September after the end of the holiday season.

August frequently means reduced activity, and fewer events. If that's an opportunity for catching our breath and taking a break from the challenges of deadlines and expectations, then all well and good. But let's not forget, despite them being omitted from the Wikipedia list, the other red-letter August days in the

calendar. On 15 August we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus, and on the 6 August, we mark the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord. That festival day recalls how Peter, James and John experienced on a mountain top the transformation of Jesus' physical appearance, enabling them to glimpse the glory of his divinity.

Make the most of these three significant festival days in August. As well, don't forget the other significant days this month, such as Ukraine Independence Day (24), VJ day (15) marking the end of World War 2, and – another date missed in the Wikipedia list – the 80th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Saints' days and anniversaries are significant prompts to our prayers. Bishop Christopher Foster



Street



Walton



Compton Dundon



Global Harvest

Alongside our usual harvest celebrations in early October, we will be introducing, this year, a global harvest lunch to be held at the Mission Church on **Sunday 12 October**.

Open to everyone across the benefice this lunch will be an opportunity to sample favourite dishes from around the world, prepared by church members. Please keep this date in your diary and if you have a particular dish that you would like to prepare for this event, please have a word with me.

Ana Lawrence



My Faith Journey

Apparently at the age of 4 or 5, I asked if I could go to a Methodist Sunday School with my neighbour. My parents were not Christian but sympathetic to the morals within the faith. Johnny and I changed Sunday School to the nearer Baptist Sunday School, but he soon stopped attending. I remember wearing my 'Sunday best clothes and a boater hat'!

I was a chatterbox and livewire in the primary class where we were all supposed to sit in little wooden curved back chairs. Mrs Eastbury handed me over to the superintendent of the older Sunday School informing them that they would need to keep me still in my seat and to focus on the story!! That memory stayed but did no detrimental damage – she said it 'in love'!!

I went on to have Miss Britton as my teacher with four other girls. We stayed in her class for several years and in fact were all her bridesmaids, when she became Mrs Holland! Shortly after her wedding, three of that class of five gave our hearts to the Lord and were all baptised. The gift and responsibility that Christian teachers have, stayed with me as I have gone on to lead groups over many years. I have stayed in touch with Ann Holland and her husband and in later years, thanked God for her guiding me to walk closely with God in whatever circumstance. She reminded me recently of how she prayed for 'her girls' and continued as we grew into adulthood.

She realised I had wandered from the Lord when I left home to go to Teachers' Training College in Yorkshire – her prayers continued!

I met Richard in Yorkshire and we married, after a short while I felt the Holy Spirit drawing me back into the fellowship of believers and back in

step with God again. Richard came with me and our first child, Jill to Street Baptist Church. I got involved with children's work while he remained in church. Folk at SBC assured me of their prayers for Richard. I tried 'rushing him' to make a commitment but he had to tell me that it was God - He alone would change his heart God became a central thread in our marriage – Ecclesiastes 4: 9 – 12 and as our family began to grow. I am still a 'child of God' – John 1:12-13, striving daily to become more like Him as I venture through the good and not so good/ the easy and not so easy times in my life.

It has been so apparent that He has been with me in every step – 'I am with you always' and so obviously, when I have reflected, that not only did He know the plans He had for me, but He opened and closed doors and made the right path clear in every aspect of my life.

I praise God that our 3 children came to faith and have Christian husbands/wives. Our prayers continue for their on-going walk with the Lord and that each of their 3 children come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour too.

Jackie Houlden. (Mission Church)

Summer Lunch

On Sunday 17th August from 12.30pm church family from across SWCD Churches are warmly invited to the Rectory Garden to enjoy a 'bring and share' lunch. Please bring a picnic chair (if you have one) food and drink to share, and let's enjoy time together. If it happens to be wet, we will move into the Mission Church.
Ana Lawrence

PARKING AT THE MISSION CHURCH

We are fortunate to have a car park at the Mission Church, well used both by church members for Sunday and midweek services, meetings, church 'business' and events, and by our many community users.

However, the car park is small and can often get full. Occasionally, sadly, other vehicles whose drivers are neither attending events or services, also park there despite the notices requesting them not to.

As things get busier on Sundays and midweek we are looking at ways in which we can ensure the parking is kept available for those for whom it is intended. We want to trial a new system from September.

If you are coming to services, regular events or meetings at the Mission Church or the Rectory there will be no change and there is nothing you need to do. However, if you park at other times, we are asking you to request a 'ticket' to display in your windscreen. In an effort to dissuade those who are parking without permission, we will be requesting cars who should not be there to move, and the 'ticket' is to make sure we don't mistakenly ask people who are there legitimately. We won't recognise everyone's car!

To get your free 'ticket,' please email or ring the church office with your name, telephone number, the church which you regularly attend and your car registration number before September. Your ticket will then be delivered to you via your church.

Finally, a reassurance that church family members are welcome to use the car park at any time. We would ask:

- you are not parking for events, meetings or services, please check with the administrator or caretaker beforehand, in case there is a funeral or other big event where the space will be needed.
- Please display your 'ticket.'
- If you are using the Mission Church car park for personal reasons, perhaps instead of a commercial car park, please consider making a donation to help cover maintenance costs, using the wall safe or card machine in the Mission Church foyer.

Thank you for your understanding.

Tim Hindle & Julie Sinclair, Mission Church wardens

PS We are looking at options for longer term technological solutions and this will be on the September Street PCC agenda.

Celebrate@6 welcomes back Hopestream

Celebrate@6, our monthly evening service of worship, teaching and ministry will be taking a break in August.

We are back in September, on the 21st at 6:00pm in the Mission Church. We will continue to study the book of Romans and welcome local Christian worship band Hopestream, who will be leading our sung worship on the night.

Please do join us if you can.

Ana Lawrence

Ana's day off

Several people have asked me recently and therefore I thought it was worth reminding everyone that my day off from parish ministry is on **Fridays**.

Ana Lawrence

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Congratulations



To Pete Holding who has recently celebrated his 90th birthday, and also to Hannah Hindle,(see below and opposite).

Pete attends both the Mission and Parish churches and Hannah the Mission church.

Save the date!



Hannah Hindle from Mission Church is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a Ceilidh at the Medway Hall in Compton Dundon on the 6th September from 7-11pm. She would love it if anyone from the benefice would like to come along to join the fun. Partners welcome

Thank you, Hannah *See next page.*



HANNAH'S

50th Birthday Party



DANCE TO THE ANTLER
CEILIDH BAND

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY | 6 | 7-11PM

meadway Village Hall,
Compton Dundon,
TA116PQ



Do your family know your wishes?

One of the sadnesses of my ministry is when I hear of long-standing church members who have died with their funeral arrangements containing little or no acknowledgement of the Christian faith which was such an important part of their life.

Whilst there can be good reasons why this happens, it did cause me to reflect on how we communicate our funeral wishes to friends and family. This is never an easy conversation, and it can be tempting to either put it off, assume that those who will be organising our funeral will know our wishes, or imagine that the involvement of the church or a Christian minister will just be assumed.

These days, with so many other options available, we are sometimes finding that families, in the midst of their personal grief, may not always think to involve the church in what is planned, even if they knew that their loved one was a Christian. Can I therefore encourage you, if having a Christian funeral is important to you, to talk to your family about your wishes or better still write them down and perhaps organise a funeral plan?

If you want help with having what may be difficult conversations, please do have a word with a member of the clergy team.

Ana Lawrence

Brothers and Sisters

During my curacy I am required to go on a long placement. Somewhere that is stretching and challenging so that we will grow in my ministry. This September for three weeks, I will be staying in Bristol and working with The Loaves and Fishes project. This is a large, urban food bank that serves the poorest people of the city. The food bank serves hundreds of people a week with much needed food and provision. The projects strap line is 'You feed them.' The words of Jesus in the story of the feeding of the five thousand. I will be staying with The Sisters of the Church at their house in St. Pauls. The project also offers spiritual and pastoral care to those who come to the doors.

I will be visiting the main community house at Gerrard's Cross to see how they 'do' worship and live as a faith community. During my placement I will be meeting and working with people of different races and faiths. This is something that I have had very little experience of as I have always lived in little, rural villages. I will be visiting different churches and places of worship to see what worship looks like and how they reach out into the community.

I would ask that you pray for me during this time of change and pray that this placement will be a fruitful and enjoyable experience. You will all of course be in my prayers also.

I will be leaving on September 7th and returning on Monday the 29th of September.

Sr Rachel.

News of Liz Selway of Walton

It is with great sadness we share the sad news of the death of Elizabeth Selway. Dear Liz has been a wonderful friend to us all and a stalwart member and friend of Walton Church for so long. Her death will leave a huge hole in our church family and we send our love and prayers to Jim, Andrew Judith and their families.

We will be saying goodbye to Liz at her funeral on the 5th August at midday. Sandra Gristock (Walton Church Warden)

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Walton Village Fun Day



Walton Village Hall

Holy Trinity Walton will be having their usual table at the Walton village fun day on the 13th September. This great village annual event takes place in and around Walton Village Hall. We also hope to have a small table with information to show local people our dreams for the church alongside our essential repairs. Come along and visit us as well as supporting this lovely village day.

Always lots to join in with as well as good food.

Sandra Gristock (Holy Trinity, Walton)

**All are Welcome to
Connections@theMission**

Thursday 21st August

2-30pm till 4pm

Mission Church, Street

Jane Tompsett will be leading a discussion on:

What gives you hope and helps you to have resilience
to face the difficulties in life.

Bring a bible verse to share

There will be a cuppa and cake



I Am Always By Your Side

(based on Hebrews 13:5)

If your troubles weigh you down
And you feel you can't survive.
I have promised not to leave you,
I am always by your side.

My presence is a promise,
If you travel far and wide,
Put out your hand and feel me there,
I am always by your side.

I will never leave you or forsake you,
For you I bled and died,
My sacrifice is my promise,
That I'm always by your side.

A poem from the book, Wonderful Love,
A Collection of Poems by Jenny Hall

Read Your Bible

'IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED.' John 8:31 KJV

You cannot be a disciple of Jesus without a regular intake of God's Word. Jesus said, 'If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed.' This word 'continue' means to live each day by its principles. The story's told of a man who came to pick his wife up after church: 'Is the sermon over?' he asked. A church member replied, 'No, it has just begun. Now the rest is up to us!'

The common denominator of every great man and woman of God in history is that they disciplined themselves to spend regular time with the Lord in His Word. What made George Müller so successful? During his lifetime he read through the Bible over 200 times; more than half of those readings on his knees, praying over the Word while studying it. When you know God that well, you'll pray specifically and get specific answers. Most of us who say we believe the Bible from cover to cover have never read it from cover to cover! We are more faithful to the advice columnists and the sports pages of the newspaper than we are to God's Word.

People who are not professing Christians wouldn't dream of leaving their homes in the morning until they've read their horoscope. Imagine what would happen if you committed yourself with equal vigour to reading your Bible before you leave for work, school, or wherever? It would change your life, and impact those around you! So, read your Bible!

From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: ucb@ucb.co.uk

UCB is short for United Christian Broadcasters, who also produce Christian radio and TV programmes available on DAB digital radio, TV and online. Details at ucbmedia.co.uk

