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60p



LIFE



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MAGAZINE EDITOR LIFE

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Articles for the November edition are due by Sunday 19th October

It is always a joy and pleasure to prepare Street Parish Church for a Baptism, and with the parents consent I share the happy moment with you on the front cover, with Sister Rachel.

On the back you will see a Wedding picture, details of which are revealed inside by Pat.

Why are the congregation of Walton sitting on the pavement? Jeff Brewer explains on page 5. (Congratulations to that 'very special lady')!

I have included some Harvest pictures on the cover, all taken at St Andrews last year. Inside there are several articles relating to Harvest, and two on Christmas!!

Down at Street Parish Church the churchyard is looking green again after the very dry summer, and the weeds or Eco-friendly plants have been thriving, so we are hoping to have another working party there in November to control them, (more details in the next edition of Life).

This month there is no 'My Faith Journey'. This is a good (mostly monthly) article that tells how they found Jesus and became a Christian. If you have not yet written 'My Faith Journey', why not have a word with Pam or myself, and we will tell you how to go about it. Thank you to all those who contribute to Life magazine, please keep the articles coming in. Roger.

Curate's Letter.

“For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.” – **Deuteronomy 16:15**

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.

Written by Rev'd Henry Alford in 1844 this timeless hymn still rings as a true testament to God's faithfulness to us at Harvest time. This Harvest has been very early due to the dry weather we have experienced this summer. Farmers use the weather forecast still today to harvest the fields in good time. Just as Alford's Hymn says. 'All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.' Farming relied on favourable weather for crops to grow and to be brought in, in good time before the storms set in from the Atlantic. Those directional weather patterns have changed little during Autumn since weather recording began.

This Autumn there is an abundance of berries in the hedgerows. Beautiful colours of reds and oranges for us to enjoy. The migratory birds who rely on the berries will have a plenitude this year. According to the local farmers, the more berries the colder the winter. We will have to wait and see!

The seasons of life often remind us of the importance of gratitude and appreciation for the blessings we receive. Harvest symbolises not just the physical gathering of crops but also the spiritual gathering of God's goodness in our lives. It's a time to reflect on what we've sown throughout the year, both in our

actions and attitudes, and how we can express our gratitude towards God and others around us. By recognising the harvest in our lives, we cultivate a heart of thankfulness, which opens the door to receive even more blessings. As we read through the Bible verse, let us meditate on the essence of thanksgiving, whether it is for the food on our table, the relationships that enrich our lives, or the everyday miracles that often go unnoticed. We must also remember those in our communities without enough food to eat. The Trussell Trust has said that food bank usage has increased by over 60% in the Southwest alone. We will be supporting The Salvation Army Foodbank in Street again this year, so please, if you can give a donation of food please do generously. As we are blessed, let us also bless others. Thank you.

Sr. Rachel.

Harvest gifts supporting our foodbank

Through the work of the Cox's charity, which I chair, and through our pastoral ministry, I regularly come across local families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. Whatever the individual reasons and circumstances, it's a real blessing that we have a food bank run by our friends at the Salvation Army, who can offer emergency or ongoing support for those who may struggle with the cost of basic foodstuffs or other household items such as toiletries.

At each of our harvest festival services in early October we will be making a special collection of non-perishable items to be donated to the foodbank, but we also have boxes in each of our churches to receive ongoing donations throughout the year.

Please consider supporting the work of the food bank both at harvest and beyond.

Ana Lawrence

‘Amazing Grace’, get your tickets now



‘Amazing Grace’, get your tickets now

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, are now available via this link

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/AGStreet>, or contact the church office if you cannot book online

Ana Lawrence

Bikers at Walton

Sunday 24 August not only was the birthday of a very special lady it was also the annual motorcycle ride out organised locally by RITS (Riders in the Sky) in memory of local man Lee Baker and in aid of the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. Lee tragically died in a motorcycle accident some years ago.

The photo shows Walton Church members enjoying the sunshine, chat and coffee after their morning service while they waited for the 418 motorcycles to roar by - horns beeping, riders waving, engines rev-ing and rubber burning.

The Walton Church family and Community raised a magnificent and most welcome £157 for this worthy cause.

Jeff Brewer (Walton)



At a recent Church Warden's Meeting we discussed the possibility of making new Banners to hang in our Benefice Churches. We are just putting out feelers - at present - to see if anyone is willing to start a crafting group, or join a crafting group, to design, and sew, some new banners. We felt it would be great to make this a joint mission: i.e. to include people from all our four Churches.

Pat (Compton Dundon Church)

Sandra (Walton Church)

Please let us know if you are interested

Julie (Mission Church)

(Benefice Wardens)

The Next Men's Breakfast Is



Saturday October 25th

All **men** from the benefice are invited to a Saturday morning breakfast at the Mission church on October 25th 8.45am -10am. An opportunity to come and start the day by joining with others for food, chat and company.

Please do let us know that you wish to come so that we can arrange for the catering. There is a suggested donation to cover the cost of breakfast (£3). To sign up or for more information contact Tim Hindle (Mission church) tim_hindle62@hotmail.com or 07976 615844

Global Lunch



On Sunday 12th October, you are invited to join us for a Global Lunch to celebrate harvest, an opportunity to



enjoy food from around the world, sampling favourite dishes prepared by church members.

Open to all in the benefice, we will gather in the Mission Church from 12 noon onwards to eat together.

If you would like to come along, please sign the list in each of our churches.

Come and celebrate with us! Ana Lawrence

African Lunch


 **when?** Tuesday 21st October

 **where?** Lime close

community room. BA16 0JH

 **what time** 12.30pm to 2pm



 **what's the buzz?** Annie Makoni (see picture above) will be giving an update on her work with street kids in Zimbabwe.

. Annie works in Harare, Zimbabwe, helping kids living on the streets, homeless and helpless, caught up with drugs, going nowhere with no prospects. She and her church provide hot meals, clothes, training, and - most importantly - the good news that Jesus loves them and died for them and that they matter. She has been supported by Walton Church for a number of years now.

who's invited? You are! Please come along and enjoy the company and find out more. Free tea, coffee and cakes.

Craft goods for sale made by the boys in Zimbabwe.

Hosted by Shirley Davies (Aster resident / Mission Church)

Co-ordinated by Sonia Beaty (Church Office) and Bernard Sinclair (07773 552 657)

Celebrating Harvest Festival

This month we celebrate Harvest in our churches, so it is a good time to think carefully about our own food and drink, to seriously consider whether we are following the LOAF Principles of: Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded produce. As stewards of God's earth, responsible for the flourishing of the whole world, we should aim to live sustainably with both wild and cultivated nature. Jesus celebrated communal meals with his followers. There is special praise of God in sharing and consuming sustainably produced produce.

Locally Produced

Buying, growing, preparing, and consuming local food, is the best, most holistic way to serve God and neighbour. Local food eliminates the damage of air and lorry food miles and supports the local economy. How do we do this? Buy the vegetables and fruit that thrive locally. Buy from local growers, make use of farm shops and veggie boxes. If possible, grow some of your own and share surplus with friends and neighbours, helping them to stay local; or freeze for later use.

Organically Grown

Buy organic when you can. Organic growing works with and not against nature. Organic growers nourish, cultivate, protect, and encourage the natural qualities of the soil. Buy from farm shops, or local wholefood shops. Investigate 'veggie boxes'; enjoy seasonal organic food delivered regularly. There are several local schemes, ask around to find out about them. Some supermarkets sell organic fresh and processed food. When sourcing supermarket organics, remember the Local principle. Better to buy British produce than airfreight organics from distant countries.

Our fellow creatures are interdependent with us, vulnerable to human actions. We owe them special care, vigilance and attention. Some people who use the LOAF principles are vegetarian or vegan. Those who are not try to eat local, humanely reared and culled meat and fish. Fish farming requires surveillance. Industrial scale fishing can destroy marine life and habitats. Some fish farms pollute the sea, use small fish as food, and contaminate wild fish stocks. Local fish merchants often know the sources and ethics of their suppliers. Some supermarkets sell organically farmed meat and fish.

Fairly Traded

Following the proximity principle, trying to be organic, and animal friendly, is already partly fairly trading. There will always be food that cannot be produced, in quantity, in northwestern Europe, including bananas, citrus and other fruits, cocoa, olives, tea, and coffee. Here too the LOAF principles apply. Look for fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and bananas, available in wholefood shops and some supermarkets. Some countries need income to purchase essential non-food commodities and we can make use of foods only they can supply. Source sustainably grown imported food, and with justly paid workers. Processing should be done by the exporting people, and be paid for by importers.

Think LOAF - Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fair Trade

Susan Ripley (Street Parish)

SWCD Eco Church Group

This article is based on one by Edward Echlin published in 2004

Bishops Letter



Bishop Alastair Redfern

Honorary Assistant Bishop

For or against: slavery and salvation

Much of our world operates around the challenge to be 'for' or 'against'. And generally, it is easier to be against things than for them! Look at the tendencies of the media, politics and religious disputes.

On October 18, Anti-Slavery Day, people across the UK will recommit themselves to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, one of the great evils of our time. Like William Wilberforce and what we now call historic slavery, we need to fight against the oppression and exploitation of our sisters and brothers today. Abolition is the proper aim of being anti or against.

And the challenge is growing with:

- More vulnerable people susceptible to false promises
- Increasingly flexible working arrangements which gives space for criminal agencies to provide goods and services based on exploitation and slave labour
- Police and prevention resources being ever overstretched
- And our own insatiable appetite for cheap products

There is much we need to learn to oppose and abolish.

But, in facing these almost overwhelming challenges we must not neglect what is primary for our Christian witness, the call to notice, reach out, rescue and restore. The call to love, to be for those who are hidden, neglected, hurting and ignored.

In Anti-Slavery Week, give time to thinking how you or your church or home group could better learn how to contribute to the fight against modern slavery. [The Clewer Initiative](#) has some amazing resources to help us open our eyes and assist the authorities and reach out towards victims.

But, alongside these prayers and practices, consider how you could go the extra mile in the way of the Good Samaritan. Going beyond the indifference of the priest and the Levite, too busy to stop, notice, reach out, rescue; rather how can we better contribute to establishing systems like the partnership between the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper– systems to provide care and the basis of restoring proper health and opportunities to those whose cries represent the voice of Jesus for those willing to listen.

Be against modern slavery this October, but more, be for those who need our friendship and our partnership.

Bishop Alastair Redfern

Honorary Assistant Bishop

Visit clewer.org.uk for Modern Slavery resources to help you reflect on how you can contribute to the fight against modern slavery.

‘A Very Special Time With Jenny’

At our September ‘Connections’ meeting, Tony Hall (Mission Church Street) gave a wonderful talk about how he and his wife, Jenny, spent the last two years of Jenny’s life together. He talked about their love for each other and their love for God. Tony finished the talk by reading the last poem in Jenny’s book.

Pam Harmsworth (Mission Church Street)

Trust in the Lord

(based on Proverbs 3:5)

Are you wandering in the wilderness,
And feel you’ve lost your way?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
He’ll guide you day by day.

Do you feel your mind is quite confused?
You don’t know what to say or do?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
Because he cares for you.

Are you concerned about your loved ones,
Or what the future holds?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And see it all unfold.

Do not turn to the right or left,
But keep on straight ahead.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
By His hand you’ll be led.

So, if your mind is troubled,
You don’t know where to go or what to do.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And He will see you through.

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

Connections@theMission

Thursday 16th October

2-30pm till 4pm

You are invited to

The Mission Church Street
Our Curate, Rachel Pengelly,
Will be giving a talk called
'My Faith and Musicals'

There will be Refreshments

Walton Fun Day

Huge thanks go to Patrick, Jane and Andy who manned the church stall with me at Walton Fun Day. It was a lovely day even through the 3 sharp showers. We hope it was successful for Walton Trust as it was such a good day culminating with live music and amazing fireworks. Well done to all the hard workers. Sandra.

Walton Church Quiz Evening

We are holding a quiz evening on 24th October in the church. Teams of up to 6 at £5 a head. As always you don't need to be in a team to come along. We can make up teams on the evening. There will be refreshments during the interval but you are welcome to bring along drinks or snacks if you wish. Sandra.

GLITTER AND GLOW

Friday 31st October

Mission Church Street

6-7pm for Primary School ages

(parent or carer to stay)

Crafts, games, apple bobbing, hot dogs,
optional fancy dress

7.30pm-9pm for 11-18yr olds

Cake decorating competition, games,
activities





This year's Messy Harvest will be on October 21st at Walton Church. Messy church is a wonderful way of engaging primary aged children into the Gospel through worship, crafts and activities. This year we will be looking at the story of Ruth and Naomi and how God was faithful to them. We learn about gleaning and how the poor were cared for. We will be looking at sharing and how kindness changes us. Would you like to know more? Would you like to join the team- subject to safer recruiting. Please do contact me on. sisterrachel@hotmail.com. Rachel.

Congratulations Sarah and Chris! Compton Dundon

On Saturday, September 6th it was lovely to celebrate the marriage of village couple Sarah and Chris at St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon, led by Sister Rachel.

This was a wedding with a difference! The bride, Sarah, arrived at the church in a white lorry and Chris in a blue lorry, both part of Chris's fleet of lorries in his haulage company. The married couple left the church together in the blue lorry, carefully negotiating the steep, narrow slope downhill from the church.

The back cover shows them later in the day, at the evening celebration. Pat.

Congratulations

To Steve and Pat king (Compton Dundon) On celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

Also, to Imi and Tabby Lowndes-Northcott (Mission Church) as they start their university courses this autumn.

