

**JUNE 2026**



**60P**

# **LIFE**



**SWCD-CHURCHES.ORG.UK**



MAGAZINE EDITOR LIFE

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Articles for the July edition are due by **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Firstly, please note the early mid-week ^^^^^copy date^^^^^^  
for the July Magazine, due to holidays!!! I'm hoping it is not a  
bumper 32-page edition like this one!

Thanks to Polly for the top picture on the back, which scored a  
hole in one for me, it is a cracker! Her article is on page 29.

It can't be ARD not to like the motorbike one, and it was  
appreciated by our friends in Mfuwe, Page 6 shows their  
appreciation for the gift.

Do join us for the 11am service at the Parish Church on Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> at 11am, and afterwards explore the wildlife and habitat in  
the churchyard, (see page 13), an example of this makes up the  
third picture on the back.

On the Saturday of the Spring bank holiday, Julie Sinclair  
(Mission Churchwarden), hosted a half day of prayer at the  
Parish Church, from which the front cover shows the prayer tree.  
Hopefully she will include an article in the July magazine!

Our congratulations this month go to Bev Perry and her bell  
ringing team for their talents leading to a win for the Street,  
Walton and Compton Dundon Bell Ringers. Photos and article  
feature on page 15.

Just a final plea for an early arrival of articles for the July  
magazine, (I have already received one)! Roger.

# Rector's Letter

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs chapter 9 verse 10

Dear Friends,

What is wisdom? Wisdom is perhaps something that is not easy to define but may be recognised in someone's behaviour, words or actions. Sometimes we might think 'he/ she is a wise person'.

I believe that wisdom is much needed in our world where so often we witness people acting on impulse, making snap decisions and not stepping back to truly reflect on a particular situation or to delve straight into the detail rather than seeing the bigger picture.

Is wisdom knowledge? Maybe? But knowledge alone is insufficient – it is surely how that knowledge is used and applied.

Sometimes people pray for wisdom asking God to guide them in a particular situation. Wisdom comes from God. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that “the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1. 25). I think this brings it into sharp focus – how can we ever become wise?

Some people believe that wisdom comes with age and indeed there are some wise older people, but at the same time, there are incredibly wise younger people and older people who are seemingly foolish. In other words, to grow in wisdom is not related to growing older.

The book of Proverbs has much to say on wisdom and the quote at the top of my letter suggests that wisdom begins to come when we focus on the source of wisdom, who is God.

We should still pray for wisdom for those who lead us, who carry great responsibility and have the ability to exercise huge power. Pray also for wisdom for yourself.

With my love and prayers, Ana.

## **Will we get a new curate?**

I have been asked by a number of people if we will 'get another curate' following Rachel's departure. The short answer is 'I don't know'. I believe we are a good training benefice, and I would love the opportunity to train another curate in the future, however, there is a process as to how this happens.

Over the coming months, conversations will begin between myself, the Diocese and potential curates who may be a good match for us to discern whether Street, Walton and Compton Dundon will 'fit the bill'.

We cannot know the outcome of those conversations until they happen but, even if we do get another curate, this won't be until the Summer of 2027 at the earliest. Finally, it's worth reminding ourselves that curates come in a training capacity and aren't simply 'an extra pair of hands.' Training a curate involves a significant investment of time and energy for both myself and others.

Please pray for the process.

Ana Lawrence

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## **Walton Cream tea.**

Thank you so much to everyone that came along in May to eat and drink with us and support our efforts to raise money in such a comfortable, relaxed way. Thank you to those who set out the church, laid tables and baked delicious scones and cakes. Not forgetting all that washing up and putting the church back in order for the Sunday service. £267 was raised for the refurbishment fund.

Sandra Gristock. Holy Trinity. Walton.

## THANK YOU FROM TEARFUND

Street parish has been supporting tier fund as part of their charitable giving, focusing for the last few years on a project in Nigeria. Tearfund have recently sent their thanks with a report on project progress, which you can read below

In this area of Plateau State, Nigeria people have been facing a long-standing struggle with the lack of access to clean, safe drinking water.

For over 80 years, people in these communities have relied on unprotected shallow wells that dry out during the dry season and receive little water during the rainy season. This water, an essential for life, was not safe as it carried bacteria and pathogens that made people sick. Typhoid fever became a widespread problem. For some families, this illness didn't just bring suffering—it brought loss. between 2020 - 2025, an average of four typhoid cases were recorded monthly among children, teens and adults. Many in the community hesitated to seek treatment until it was too late. Others simply lacked the means to report the cases, because there was no money to take their sick to the hospital.

The issue of clean water, a basic necessity, remained a dream whispered to the community at meetings, churches and mosque gatherings. Local government made promises during campaign seasons, and yet the wells have stayed brown, shallow, and dirty. The cycle of illness and despair continued. Most people have to walk half a kilometre from their home to get water.

Thankfully, Tearfund has been able to step in and help, thanks to amazing support like yours. So what's happened in the last 6 months?

Tearfund has rehabilitated 35 boreholes and hand pumps in 35 communities. This has exceeded our target of 25 which is fantastic. This single act has transformed daily life for 10,428 people. No longer do families need to walk long distances to

collect unclean water. Now they have, clean, reliable water within reach.

With the understanding that lasting change requires knowledge as well as infrastructure, Tearfund has trained a new group of 35 hygiene promoters in each community. These local people have begun to educate households about sanitation, handwashing, safe water storage, and waste disposal. The message has spread quickly, and so far with great results. Already, the difference is visible and measurable. In one such community weeks have passed with either just one reported case of typhoid or, more often, none at all. We have also seen a decrease in water related illnesses in pregnant mothers.

Hafsat (a local lady) told us about the situation in her village and how having clean water has not only changed her health but also her business. She is a local food vendor and can now cook meals and make drinks with clean water for her customers.

Alongside this, 525 people have been trained in savings groups and have formed 35 groups. These groups are made up of about 15-20 people who meet weekly to save together and take out small loans. They have been provided with the materials they need to successfully run the group such as calculators, pens, notebooks and a cash box and are doing well. These loans have allowed people to buy things like clothing and household goods. They have also been using the loans to buy fertilizers, seeds and livestock to help them farm their land. This has helped them hugely to grow food and sell the excess for an income. Others have used the loans to improve their small businesses selling local snacks, crafts and handmade goods. Others have used them to pay for schooling for their children or pay for emergency medical bills - something so many had struggled with before. They have also been saving a social fund to take care of the welfare of the members. This is an invaluable safety net for people without access to outside support.

Thank you so much for your generosity. We look forward to sharing what's happened in the rest of the year. Kevin Lawrence

# MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM MFUWE

All of our churches have agreed to support our partner parish in Mfuwe Zambia and this year we sent money for them to purchase a motorbike. A WhatsApp of thanks has been received from the parish priest father Philip Mwanza, which is shared below

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the entire parish here in Mfuwe, I write to express our heartfelt gratitude for the financial support you so generously sent to us. We are deeply thankful for your kindness, love, and continued partnership in God's work.

We are pleased to share with you that, through your support, we have successfully purchased a motorbike. This has already begun to make a great difference in our ministry. As you may know, pastoral work in our area often involves traveling long distances to reach different communities. The motorbike will greatly ease pastoral mobility, enabling us to visit more members, reach remote areas, and effectively carry out the ministry of God.

Your generosity is not only a blessing to our parish but also a powerful testimony of Christian unity and shared mission across nations. We truly feel encouraged knowing that we are not alone in this work but supported by brothers and sisters who care deeply for the growth of God's kingdom. May the Lord richly bless you, your families, and your parish for your kindness and faithfulness.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as we also remember you in ours.

Yours faithfully in Christ, Fr. Phillip.

Kevin Lawrence



## **Benefice Women's Breakfast**

**Date** – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Time** – 9.30am

**Place** – Holy Trinity Church, Walton

This is an invitation to all the Women in the Benefice to come along to the breakfast, plus any friends or family you would like to bring along with you.

We have a lovely time together as we enjoy a buffet style breakfast that usually consists of fruit, yoghurt, cereal, bread rolls, meats, cheeses and croissants. There will also be tea, coffee and fruit juice. We chat together over our breakfast and then listen to a short thought for the day or a testimony. Glynys Ruddle (Mission Church) has kindly offered to share her testimony with us at this next breakfast.

We look forward to seeing as many of you that can come along and join us. Please let us know beforehand of any special dietary issues or allergies so that we can cater for you. Please contact either Pat King (St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon) on 07891 260471 or Linda Clark (Mission Church) on 07964 094964 with regard to this or with any other queries.

There is no need to book a place, just turn up.  
There is a suggested voluntary donation of £5.00.  
Linda Clark and Pat King

# My Faith Journey

I was born in 1939 whilst my parents were farming on the Brendon Hills. I had three older brothers and two older sisters so family life was busy and lively.

Unfortunately, not long after my birth my father had a farming accident which resulted in him losing the fingers on one hand, this meant moving from the farm, we eventually made our home at Alcombe near Minehead.

My mother was a committed Christian and lived it out in a quiet, patient way. It was her who taught me to pray and took me to the local Methodist Chapel, that led into Sunday School and Youth Club where the teachers and leaders encouraged us to learn more of Jesus and the Bible. On reflection I have much to thank Mum and those folk in giving me a good induction to my Christian life.

I enjoyed school although not academia, enjoyed practical subjects and sport and had many friends but at this time I started to drift away from Church life.

On leaving school I took an apprenticeship in Radio and T.V maintenance and also began further education, evening classes and day release.

I met Margaret my wife in 1958. Margaret attended and was involved in the children's work at the Methodist Chapel at Porlock so that drew me back into going to Church on a Sunday.

We married in 1963, living at Minehead, life was busy with our son Stephen born in 1965, employment and ongoing study so Church going was infrequent .

A change of employment came in 1967, after exams and interview I joined the Civil Service as a Home Office Wireless Technician installing and maintaining wireless equipment for the Emergency Services. This led to a move to the H O Wireless Depot at Shapwick.

A new job, no local Methodist Chapel and no car led to another time of drifting away from Church.

A promotion meant another move so after five years and another baby, our daughter Rachel we moved to Oxford where I managed a team providing technical support for the emergency services wireless communications in the Thames Valley area.

It was here we began attending the Eynsham Baptist Church in the village where we lived. We were made most welcome and felt this was the place to be. The Pastor there was on fire for the Lord and soon had us involved. We have fond memories of our time there.

In 1976 another job move took me back to the H.O Wireless Depot at Shapwick to join the management team.

So, we moved back to Somerset settling in Street. Again, this was a busy time and we did not right away settle into going to a Church and drifted in our faith.

Our daughter Rachel was invited to the holiday Bible club at the Street Baptist Church and started going to the Sunday School, we would go along to "special" services and occasionally other times.

It was during that time our son had a health scare which caused much worry and concern, this changed our outlook on life and drew us back into our faith and for the need of the Lord in our lives.

After much prayer and reflection both myself and Margaret realised we had only been ticking the boxes with our faith and needed to ask for forgiveness and make a full commitment to the Lord, this we did and were baptised.

During my time at Street Baptist Church, I was encouraged to join the door-to-door outreach team spreading the good news of the Gospel to those in Street and surrounding area. After a nervous start God gave me the courage to carry out this work over many years. I still pray daily for opportunities to share the good news.

Looking back, I can see how the Lord has always been in my life but only His grace and mercy has given me a personal relationship with Him and pray that He will continue to give me opportunities to tell others the good news of the Gospel.

Michael Long    Mission Church

## **Coffee, chat and Snacks**

The Summer sessions of Coffee, Snack and Chat have begun following the last Winter Warm Space and Easter break.

We meet on Saturdays at the Mission Church at 10.30 - 12.00 so if you are free just pop in and join us, you would be most welcome.

As with all activities we need volunteers to help. If you feel you could help with making drinks, chatting or washing up we'd love to hear from you. Michael Long Mission Church.

## Rachel's licensing in South Petherton

Sister Rachel Pengelly, our former curate is due to be licensed to her new role as incumbent of South Petherton with the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm.

It would be lovely if a good number of us could go along to support Rachel for this very special service. We did explore booking a coach for the evening, but the costs were prohibitive; as an alternative, can I encourage people to car share where possible. Whilst parking around South Petherton includes a small public car park and fairly limited parking on adjacent streets, we are able to park in the Rectory where there is plenty of space. If you would like to attend the service but don't have transport or are unable to make your own way there, please have a word with one of our church wardens who will gladly be able to assist.

In the meantime, please keep Rachel and the family in your prayers as they move house and settle into a new place and ministry.

Ana Lawrence

### Memories of Rachel's Ordination in Wells Cathedral in June 2023



## Valuing the Gift of Nature

*Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.* Luke 12:27

I make no excuse for returning to the theme of Nature this month. As anyone who has been out walking with me will know I'm always pointing out something - a bird, plant or insect. We are blessed to have been gifted with so many wonderful things and live in or close to the countryside. Even in an urban environment there is much to amaze us. Whilst I know my joy is not shared by all, I love to see the plants growing along the roadsides, pavements and on walls. They take advantage of the smallest of spaces. I rejoice in the variety of leaf and flower shapes and colours. Even in a small built up area like Street traffic contributes to air pollution and heat is trapped by the buildings, roads and pavements. Plants play a vital role in counteracting these effects and help to create a healthy environment. Plants, including those on roadsides, absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, and help to mitigate the harmful effects of pollution. One plant which has caught my attention is one that is easily overlooked, Pellitory-of-the-wall. I see it now in many places. It can be found growing out of cracks in walls and pavements. Further afield it appears around old ruins, castles and cliffs. Clusters of tiny green flowers

with yellow stamens, easily missed unless you look carefully, appear from June to October. Although not the most exciting plant it has its place ... as it is a food-plant for the caterpillars of the Red Admiral butterfly. Look out for it as you walk around Street, Walton and Compton Dundon. June is also the month to look for orchids on Street Hill.

## **How you can get involved**

Please join us at either or both of the events we have planned for **Churches Count on Nature** week in June:

### **1. Sunday 7th June 12 (until about 1.30pm) at Holy Trinity, Street**

Join us for a walk around the parish churchyard for an informal survey of what is growing there and to see what we are doing to provide a habitat for wildlife. Refreshments including cake provided.

### **2. Thursday 11th June Holy Trinity, Walton after Coffee Morning**

Come and see the variety of wild flowers in the Churchyard and help us to compile a list.

You don't have to be an expert to join either of these events as there will be ways of helping with identification of what we find.

Susan Ripley, Street Parish

SWCD Eco Church Group

## God's Creation

God has made a beautiful garden,  
With the help of Les and Joe,  
With shears & mower, spades & fork,  
And of course a hoe!!

God has made a beautiful garden,  
Of every colour under the sun,  
Green, blue and white-  
He's only just begun.

The Creator shows His hand of love,  
To give us all such pleasure,  
He says to look and to enjoy,  
His creation at your leisure.

He makes the veggies for our food,  
Healthy greens for our table,  
Tomatoes and salads too,  
All to keep us stable.

How can we doubt His love for us,  
With beauty far and wide?  
Put out your hand and feel Him there,  
He's always by your side.

A poem from the book, Wonderful Love,  
A collection of poems by Jenny Hall

# BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## Glaston Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition – Method

The annual Striking Competition was held at St Matthew’s Church, Wookey, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. A band representing Street, Walton and Compton Dundon Benefice took part and won.

A striking competition is a bell-ringing contest where teams are judged on the rhythmic accuracy and precision of their performance, known as ‘striking’. Teams ring a set piece of method ringing which is usually judged by an experienced ringer from outside the district to determine the best-sounding, most consistent team.



Warner, Leslie Perry, Penelope Hooper and won a closely fought home a magnificent



Congratulations to Gill Dennis, Alison Beverly Perry, Louis Marsh who contest to take trophy.

Holy Trinity Church, Walton

Presents

# **The Jammy Biscuit & Cake Competition**



**In memory of Liz  
Selway the "Queen of  
the Jammy Biscuit"  
and other baked  
delights**

**To be held at Holy Trinity Church, Walton  
Saturday 18 July 2026,**

**open to the public: 2:00 – 3:30pm – entry  
free**

**Craft Stalls & Refreshments**

**For the Church's Restoration & Reordering  
Fund**

# The Jammy Biscuit & Cake Competition

On 18 July 2026 Walton Church will be holding an “open to all” baking competition. The competition is being held in memory of Liz Selway who regularly used to bake her famed Jammy Biscuits for the Church and, dear to Liz’s heart, to raise funds for the Restoration and Reordering of Holy Trinity Church, Walton.

There will be five classes – Jammy Biscuits, Victoria Sponge, Fruit Cake, Fruit Scones and Savoury Scones. In addition to certificates awarded to those judged 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each class there will be prizes for the Best Jammy Biscuit, the entry judged “Best in Show”, and a points prize for the person who has accumulated most points through their entries. Liz’s daughter Judith Fewings and Val Stones (Great British Bake-Off contestant) will be our judges.

The Competition’s Schedule, Rules and further details together with the entry forms will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 in paper form in our Churches and electronically on the SWCD Churches website (follow the links under “News” and then “What’s On”). The deadline for return of the entry forms will be 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026. The Entry Fees will be payable on the day of the show when competitors bring their entries to the Church.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July the Church will be open to the public from 2:00pm for viewing of the competition entries. There will be refreshments available, hopefully a couple of craft stalls and prize giving will take place at 3:15pm.

Any questions? Please email - [waltonbake2026@gmail.com](mailto:waltonbake2026@gmail.com)

Jeff Brewer (Holy Trinity, Walton)

# **The Bishop's Letter.**

## **Transforming our communities through the love of Christ**

In the early days of the Ukraine war, the Diocese of Hereford, where I was then serving, was approached by Herefordshire Council. They had been so impressed by the work of church members during the pandemic, who stepped up to support their communities in practical ways, that they asked if the diocese could take on organising homes for Ukrainians fleeing the war. Yes, of course, we said. And so began an ongoing partnership, where hundreds of Ukrainian guests have found homes in the Welsh Marches, and hundreds of tonnes of aid has gone across to Ukraine.

That's just what we do as the church, isn't it? We see a need in our communities and, motivated by Christ's love and teaching, we try to meet it. And we do it out of love, not seeking any reward. We are volunteers.

The word 'volunteer' comes from words meaning, 'of a person's free will.' Volunteers serve willingly. Freely. Out of love. So many in across our diocese serve our communities willingly, freely, out of love. We are deeply grateful. There are Foodbanks, lunch clubs, debt counselling services, mental health first aiders, bereavement cafes, after-school clubs, and youth drop-ins. That barely scratches the surface. All of this is done in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came and gave himself for us willingly; freely; out of love. And it's transformational.

One of the areas of our common diocesan life which I'll be involved with is our work around Transforming Communities. There will be a lot more to be said in the coming months, but for now, I simply want to thank all our volunteers who serve willingly, freely, and out of love and say how much I'm looking forward to celebrating what we have, and building on it together, transforming our communities through the love of Christ.

**By Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton**

## Celebrating our volunteers



DIOCESE OF  
**Bath & Wells**

Living and telling the story of Jesus

Where would we be without our volunteers? The first week in June is National Volunteers Week, which is described as ‘a UK-wide celebration recognising the contribution of volunteers’. There may be a ‘week’ or a ‘day’ to celebrate a whole host of different things, but one in which we can say a big ‘thank you’ to all those that enable the Church of England to be all that it is in our Diocese of Bath and Wells is one not to ignore.

So, if you are one of those volunteers, thank you!

As well as the many people in our churches who provide such valuable support, we also have a host of volunteers that help our diocese function, serving on a range of committees and groups.

The Finance Group is one of those groups that ensures the diocese meets its legal obligations and enables it to function effectively. Long serving member Mal Lee, says, “Being part of the Finance Group is a great privilege and is really interesting.

“The Group is part of the governance framework by which our diocese is directed. Bath and Wells is very much a people organisation, and the Finance Group recognises the importance of the work undertaken by individuals and benefices that form such an essential part of our diocese.”

There are at least 21 formal diocesan committees, not to mention more informal groups supporting different areas of activity, such as our Year of Prayer and lay ministries development. Some volunteers are members of clergy, but the majority are lay. If you want to know more about our different committees and consider whether you could join one of them, go to our diocesan website: [bathandwells.org.uk/how-our-diocese-works](http://bathandwells.org.uk/how-our-diocese-works).

## **Rectors' remarks from APCM**

Taken from my remarks at the recent Annual Parish Church Meetings. If you missed them, all the reports are still available to download from our website.

I have written a 'reflective' report on the life, ministry and witness of our wider benefice which you can find on pages 5 – 6 of the agenda, minutes and reports document under 'Rector's Annual Report 2025'.

That report looks back over the past year as an overview at what has happened, both the good and encouraging as well as the more challenging aspects of our church life.

As a benefice, we are primarily here to share the Gospel in our respective communities in whatever way is contextually appropriate, as part of our vision to be a church family that worships God, loves our communities and grows in faith. Our 3 parishes look and feel quite different, so anything we do should reflect this diversity.

There is much to be thankful for and much for which we can say 'thank you' to God.

Being Rector of 3 parishes has its own challenges as I can never be in 4 churches at once much as I might wish to be. However, I am rector to you all and rector of all 4 churches even if I happen to live closer to some than others. I am surrounded by a great team both lay and ordained and between us, the ministry is very much shared and collaborative.

It's a great privilege to lead our churches. This year will mark the departure of our curate, Sister Rachel Pengelly. Over the past 3

years, Rachel has become very much one of us, a sister in Christ. She has thrown herself into the life and ministry of our parishes and it's been great to see so many come alongside and support Rachel in her ministry.

I will miss Rachel greatly, as well as growing into the confident ordained minister she is today, she has been a wonderful colleague, confidante and friend.

I know many of you have been blessed by Rachel's ministry.

I have been asked by a number of people 'will we have another curate' – the short answer is 'I don't know', and whilst there are no guarantees, any curate joining us is a discernment process between myself, the candidate and the diocesan vocations team. The earliest we could realistically expect another curate would be the Summer of 2027. Watch this space and please do pray.

Some news from our individual parishes which this year focusses a bit more on bricks and mortar.

At Walton, we are in the midst of a major reordering project which is exciting and quite daunting at the same time.

We have a good team who are ensuring that the project moves forward and are working with a diocesan approved architect

At Compton Dundon it is a great joy to have the bells up and ringing and over the past year, this major project has reached its conclusion with just a few tweaks and snags to resolve in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, on the reordering front, we are in the midst of a legal process and these things never run too fast, patience is required as we await decisions. God-willing, we can move towards grant applications so that work can begin in due course.

At Street, this year marks 35 years since the rebuild of the former tin church into what we now know as the Mission Church. As a PCC, we recognise that the building itself has become 'tired' which is inevitable over 3 decades and we are looking to do some refurbishment work over the coming months and years in order to update our facilities and make it more usable for the coming years. The new chairs in this building are just the start and there are other things afoot. Finance wise, this will cost, and in addition to applying to trusts for grant funding, we will be looking at other ways of raising funds.

I apologise for mentioning finances but I need to let you know that as a diocese and as parishes we are under greater financial pressure than we had been in previous years.

I can't conclude these comments without offering public thanks, again this is in the report in more detail, but can I here extend my thanks to our Parish Safeguarding Officers, Sonia, our benefice administrator, our wardens, our Treasurers and the PCC. A huge 'thank you' to all those who lead and preach at our Sunday and Midweek Services: licenced Readers, Lay Worship Assistants, intercessors, welcomers, and readers. I want to also thank my clergy colleagues, Sister Rachel Pengelly & Rev'd David Hatrey for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together.

Ana Lawrence

## **Thanks to those elected at APCMs**

At the end of April, we held our 3 APCMs (Annual Parochial Church Meetings) in each of our 3 parishes.

I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to all those who stood for roles of responsibility: Church warden, PCC member, Deanery Synod member or electoral roll officer.

For full details, please see names below.

Our 3 PCCs meet four times a year. As trustees of our respective parishes, in a nutshell we meet to discuss and make decisions on matters of governance in relation to Church of England guidelines. PCC agendas include mission, finance, safeguarding, projects, policies and other matters. If you have something you wish to be raised at our PCCs, please have a word with your PCC secretary.

There are currently 2 vacancies for deanery synod reps, one at Street and one at Compton Dundon, if you would be interested in being on Synod, please have a word with Ana or with your PCC secretary.

### PCC Membership

Street: Rev'd Ana Lawrence, Rev'd David Hatrey, Kevin Lawrence, Elaine Howard, Julie Sinclair, Tim Hindle, Sonia Beaty, Caroline Fulton, Susan Ripley, Michael Long, Linda Clark, Andrew Savage (PCC sec), Roger Harmsworth, Martin Kennard.

Walton: Rev'd Ana Lawrence, Rev'd David Hatrey, Andy Savage, Sandra Gristock, Hilda Grint, Sonia Beaty, Pauline Hatrey (PCC sec), Vanessa Adams, Gill Attwell, Edgar Frampton, Jo Pain.

Compton Dundon: Rev'd Ana Lawrence, Pat King, Susie Robertson (PCC sec), Paul Atkins, Julie Gordon, Richard Field.

Please pray for our PCCs, thank you.

Ana Lawrence

## Exploring Faith Group

Tuesday evening sees a small group who have attended the Alpha and the Bible Course now continuing to meet together at the Mission Church under the title of Exploring Faith.

At present we are looking at the Gospel of Mark. Learning together the teaching that Jesus gave to his disciples and passed on through Mark.

A warm bond has been forged between those who attend as we explore God's word. Discussion flows freely and deep questions on faith are attempted to be answered. We would welcome any other folk who want to join us.

Richard Houlden (Mission Church)

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## Walton Garage sale.

This will be 10.00-2.00. on Saturday 27 June

We look forward to people booking a slot in their driveways for this popular event. There is plenty of room in church or in the churchyard if the weather is good.

Light lunches, cake and tea or coffee will be available at the church where you can pick up a map to show you where the other sellers are located.

This is an opportunity to sell bric-a-brac, clothes, crafts or other items. Contact Andy on 07563372107 / [12stringandy@gmail.com](mailto:12stringandy@gmail.com)

or Sandra 07435567903 / [mrssgristock@gmail.com](mailto:mrssgristock@gmail.com)

Sandra Gristock. Holy Trinity. Walton.

An invitation to  
Connections@theMission

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June

2-30pm

Mission Church, Street

Jackie Houlden (Mission Church Street)

will be sharing 'A Zambian Experience' with us

There will be refreshments (Pam and the Team)

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'A family led by God to a mission hospital in  
Zambia'



## **Keep praying**

2026 has been designated, in the Diocese, as a year a special focus on prayer. You may already have seen diocesan prayer resources in our churches and been involved in our half day of prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

My encouragement is to keep on praying, either by yourself or with others. Can I particularly mention our two weekly prayer meetings, each for 30 minutes from 8.45am on Mondays in the Mission Church and currently at 9.30am in St Andrew's Compton Dundon. These are open to all from across the benefice.

Let us pray.

Ana Lawrence

## **Summer sermon series**

Starting on the last Sunday of June through to the end of August, on Sunday mornings our preaching will be based on Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

The Corinthian church was certainly not without its issues and problems, and this letter contains some challenging teaching as well as some encouragements which we can seek to apply to the church in Street, Walton and Compton Dundon.

Each week can 'stand on its own' but together they build a picture of a church worshipping, loving and growing together.

Ana Lawrence

## Youth Hub & Youth Alpha

Monday evenings at the Mission Church are always full of life with *Youth Hub* and *Youth Alpha* on alternate Mondays. At the hub, the young people enjoy pizza and games, led by Hannah & Tim Hindle and Jackie & Richard Houlden, with extra support from Ana and Kevin. Table tennis skills are tested to the max and the adults have been practising their '3D Four in a Row' skills! Numbers of attendees fluctuate, and we love seeing those who come along. This is a wonderful and important chance to get to know the precious young people from our church community, ending with the 'Five Minute God-Slot' - to talk about faith.

The alternate Monday *Youth Alpha* sessions are going well, and we are now over half way through the course. After an icebreaker, we eat a delicious meal prepared by Steph Hall, and Glynys Ruddle comes along for the cleaning up! Dave Hall and Polly Axford-Checkley are also on the team. One of our usual conversation starters, which is great fun, is *Bible Would-You-Rather*. Would you rather spend a night in a lion's den or be thrown into a furnace (assuming God will save you)? Led by video sessions, we have discussed topics like: 'Christianity is not a club - it's a relationship with God', and 'why did Jesus die?' - the topics get deeper as we go through the course. Polly recently led the 5-minute God Slot at the Hub as a continuation of the Alpha discussions. The group is around seven young people, five of whom are regulars.

Polly Checkly (Mission Church).

## **Walk and afternoon tea**

Jackie and Richard Houlden invite all in the Benefice to meet at their home at Little Orchard, Church Street, Barton St. David TA11 6BU at **2pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

Those who are fairly fit and able, will do a fairly short walk from their home around the village through fields and back through lanes, arriving back to Little Orchard to join those who had preferred to simply sit and natter, for a light afternoon tea in the garden or in the house depending on choice and weather.

We will still meet at Little Orchard if poor weather and enjoy a time of fellowship and tea. Folk are welcome to bring a food contribution for a light tea.

Jackie Houlden (Mission Church).

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## **Rectory Pudding party**

As part of our Summer social activities, we will be hosting this year's Rectory Pudding Party on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August from 3 – 5pm in the Rectory Garden. The idea is you bring a dessert (shop bought or home-made) or a drink to share. We are hoping for some live musical entertainment from one or two church musicians during the afternoon and we look forward to welcoming church family from across our churches and of course are praying for fine weather. In the event of rain, we will move into the Mission Church.

Ana & Kevin Lawrence

## **Millfield Confirmation**

On Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, we will be welcoming students from Millfield School in Street to the Parish Church for a Confirmation Service. Bishop Michael will be confirming the students and if you would like to attend the service, please simply turn up.

I would like to thank Sister Rachel for preparing the confirmands for this special service.

Ana Lawrence

## **Celebrate@6 Dave Bookless**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6pm in the Mission Church, we will be welcoming Reverend Dr Dave Bookless who is head of theology for the Christian environmental charity 'A Rocha'. As a national and international speaker, we are very fortunate that Dave is able to join us and even if this is not a service you usually attend, please do join us. Celebrate@6 is a monthly informal service with sung worship led by our band and also includes prayer and teaching. An invitation to come along is extended to all, particularly to Christians from other churches in the wider area.

Ana Lawrence

## **Deanery Synod**

At our Summer Synod meeting which will be held in Shapwick Church on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm, we will welcome Reverend Dr Dave Bookless, head of theology at A Rocha. Dave will bring a short presentation around the theology of stewardship and climate change and this will be followed by discussion in groups. The meeting is open to all and refreshments will be served from 6.45pm. Parking is available in adjacent streets to the Church.

Ana Lawrence

## Christ-Like-Ness

‘... WE SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS ... THAT WE MAY ALSO SHARE IN HIS GLORY.’ Romans 8:17 NIV

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God’s number one goal for you isn’t comfort, it’s Christ-like-ness! And to reach it you’ll have to undergo some of the same experiences that Jesus went through – like being misunderstood by your family, ridiculed by church members, rejected by the world, and disappointed by the people who say they love you. The Bible says we’ve been called to ‘share in His sufferings ... that we may also share in His glory.’ So how do we do this? In three ways:

1. *Stay focused on God’s plan, not your pain.* ‘... Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith’ (Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT). Corrie ten Boom said, ‘If you look within, you’ll feel depressed, if you look without, you’ll be distressed, but if you look to Christ, you’ll be at rest.’
2. *Don’t give in to short-term thinking.* Look at Jesus, ‘Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross’ (v.2 NLT). Keep your eye on the finish line. You don’t get the trophy until the race is over, so make up your mind to ‘stay the course’ and finish strong.
3. *Start praying the right way.* When you understand that God’s objective is to make you more like Christ, you’ll start praying fewer ‘comfort me’ prayers and more ‘conform me’ ones. Instead of asking, ‘Why me, Lord?’ you’ll ask, ‘What do You want me to learn Lord?’

James writes, ‘Let the process go on until ... you have become men [and women] of mature character ...’ (James 1:4 PHPS). That’s how you become more Christ-like.

*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](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)*

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