

Church Life Matters



October 2020

**United Benefice of Broughton Gifford,
Great Chalfield & Holt St. Katharine**

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A word from Andrew.....

Go Small and Step out

I've recorded this message on a video and Lucy has distributed it. It was a talk first given at the St Katharine's APCM.

Here's the essence of the idea from the talk:

"...we must hold onto the truth that God's arm is not shortened by the virus or by the restrictions currently imposed as a consequence of it. He has plans for us to operate under these conditions. As in a SWOT analysis, the things that we see as threats can also give us opportunities. If we are open to the Holy Spirit, maybe He has plans for us to grow both in numbers and in depth of faith at a faster rate than we were pre-Covid.

This will happen if we hear God's prompt to go small and step out. 'Go small' is what we can do. We can't do 'big' at present. But we can have conversations with individuals. **We can** invite them to inquire into the Christian faith through online Alpha – and if we have lots of candidates, many of you are capable of leading one of these. **We can** share our online content. When you watch a good testimony or talk. Share it with someone you think might appreciate it. See what response you get. **We can** each disciple people perhaps in ones or twos using our online discipleship course. You meet with someone to discuss one of the sessions you've both watched, you discuss it, and help them to implement it in their lives. You take it at their pace. So, that's 'go small'.

'Go small and step out'. 'Step out' is about breaking new ground and now is the time for it. How about recording an aspect of your testimony, we'll put it online, and then share it with some of the people you know? Tell them. 'This is something I did for church. I thought you might be interested to watch it.' See what comes back? Who could you invite to Alpha? Who could you start to disciple? Don't just say, 'I don't know anybody'. Ask God to show you who he wants you to invite to Alpha or to disciple. Give him time to answer and he will! Let's invite some folks in to the environment to do stuff with us.

'Go small and step out' is a very different way of operating, but it fulfils Jesus command to us to 'Go and make disciples'. It's empowering you to be the church, and it's something we can do in the current climate."

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When I applied for the job of Rector of this Benefice, I used this quotation:

‘The congregation is not here to help me do my job; I am here to help the congregation be the church’

That’s what I said I came here to do, and I am asking each of you individually whether you are now feel equipped to be the church? It’s just the same message as in Jesus’ day. The church is about being disciples who make more disciples. Be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do and step out to the people he suggests to you, and be open to the opportunities he presents to you. This is very exciting work to be a part of.

With every blessing!

Andrew

RED CARPET SUNDAY & HARVEST SERVICE

It was so lovely to see so many of you joining us for this special Service on Sunday 27 September. It was a joyous occasion in more ways than one as we walked to the front door on the red carpet, with every lady receiving a red rose, and celebrated not only the Harvest but also Katie’s Ordination from the previous day and her debut sermon all of which was received with much applause.

The amazing Harvest floral/fruit arrangement created by Fiona Drysdale and Sue Osman was much admired by all. Thank you ladies!

Also, grateful thanks to everybody for the bountiful supply of food donated to the Melksham Food Bank.



The Quiet Garden *will be running in October*

Do you need ?

Time to reflect,
Space to be alone,
Somewhere to pray,
Someone to listen,
Or a quiet place?

We offer

Peace and stillness,
Solitude, a beautiful garden,
Someone to talk to, if you wish
Shelter from the elements in the
medieval parish church



Invited Speakers 2020

October 6th Ali Green
November 3rd Local speaker
December 1st Canon Roger Morgan

- Canon Roger Morgan is the Director of the Mathetes Trust
- Ali Green is a spiritual accompanier, priest and author

The primary vision of the Trust is to initiate and resource a network of local opportunities for prayer, silence, reflection and appreciation of beauty; for learning about Christian life, spirituality, and for experiencing creativity and healing in the context of God’s love.

Although the Quiet Garden is a Christian organisation, we welcome everyone. There is no charge; however, a donation to cover our expenses is greatly appreciated. Please bring your own drinks and food as we cannot serve any in the current situation.

**Please book in with Anthony Matthew (01225) 782082 or
email: anthonymatthewfcn@gmail.com**

News from St Mary's, Broughton Gifford

It is good to be back in church for services, though with social distancing and work having started on the interior of the church, the space that is left to us is severely limited. Our congregation has held up surprisingly well and whilst we have to say, rather than sing, the hymns, we did have music at the beginning and end of the service.



The works so far is largely in the north-west corner of the church, where the font will be. This will mean that people will be able to see the font from the pews, rather than having to turn round and crowd at the back of the church. It also means that we have two Victorian pine pews seeking a welcoming home!

We could not have asked for a better day for Ride & Stride. It was sunny with a cooling breeze. This year we reverted to the northern circuit, taking in the churches at Shaw, Atworth, Great Chalfield, St Katharine's and St. Mary's; a total of about twelve miles. Angela also made a diversion to Whaddon. In all we were sponsored to the tune of £485, which will be split between Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and St. Mary's. Many thanks to you all for being so generous in these difficult times. Our prayers were with Katie last weekend as she was ordained Deacon.

Last weekend was also our Harvest Festival; with the produce, canned and fresh, going to the ever-thankful Melksham Food Bank, and with the school also having a series of class Harvest Festivals, a bountiful crop was gratefully received.

Katie's Ordination

Thank you for all your prayers and kind wishes for my ordination last Saturday. Although it felt very strange being such a small number in such a vast cathedral, there was an intimacy about the service that perhaps wouldn't have been there had things been different, and it was wonderful to know that so many people were present online. At the point that the Bishop laid his hands on me to pray, I felt the Holy Spirit flow through my whole body and I found myself grinning uncontrollably! But for me, the added blessing in all of this, is that I get to serve my curacy with all of you!

Katie



Remembering A Loved One

We would love to invite anyone from the whole Benefice to our Remembering a Loved One Service again this year. It will take place on Sunday 25th October at 6pm in St Katharine's Church Holt, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. Sadly, we will not be able to provide our usual tea beforehand, and we will have to be creative in how we light candles in honour of those we would like to be remembered. Because we don't want to exceed numbers we can safely manage in the church, it would be helpful if you could contact Lucy at our Benefice Office either by phone or email to let her know that you would like to come, giving also the name of the person you would like us to honour. We can then compile a list centrally and read out their names in the service.

There may be people you know personally who have died as a result of Covid-19, alongside other bereavements, so this is a particularly pertinent year for a service like this. Please also think of others you know who have been bereaved who don't normally attend church in case they, too, might like to come.

Email: united.benfica@outlook.com

REMEMBRANCE 1960's

In this the 99th Year of the British Legion things are rather different. This picture taken outside St. Katharine's in the mid 60's (I think) shows how many people, myself included with my Dad Jack Baston with standards, came to the Remembrance Service, this year the poppies are being sold in the Holt Super Store, The Ham Tree and a children's box with a selection of poppy related items in Holt Primary School. We hope for your continued support in these unusual times.

On Behalf of the Royal British Legion ...**Arthur Baston, the Hon. Poppy appeal organiser for Holt**



News from India and Kadugli

We are delighted to receive news from our brothers and sisters in India, sharing the wonderful news of the recent purchase of a motorbike for one of their pastors.



In spite of incredibly difficult circumstances faced by the Covid pandemic, the pastors are continuing to reach many people and have sent us photos of the joyful times of baptism they have had recently. The finances that you so kindly sent for the first appeal, and which helped to provide the food parcels and deliveries, are now bearing fruit for the kingdom in the form of conversions and baptisms.

In Kadugli, there is a desire to help all the children return to school and the aim is to have enough funds to pay the teachers so that the Peace Primary school can open again. Once it is open and fee-paying children return, this will also be a help.

Did You Ever.....!

Coming out of St. Mary's Church after Harvest recently we looked up at the beautiful blue sky and noticed the amazingly detailed guttering. Have a look yourself when you are next there, they don't make 'em like that anymore.

Arthur and Lynnette



St Mary's Gutter

Ride and Stride September 2020

The annual Ride and Stride event took place in September when I was happy to open St. Katharine's Church for partakers. This year was much quieter than in the past with only three actual cyclists calling in to have their sponsor sheets signed. We had two ladies from Devizes who were visiting churches by car, Christopher and Angela from Broughton Gifford were valiantly walking their route, and several other folk called in during the day commenting how good it was to have the church open. All in all it was a pleasant day and some very interesting conversations arose maybe you could take part next year?

Lynnette Baston



We have just completed our first Alpha online course which has gone really well. There was some concern initially about how it would work online, but in fact it works brilliantly and it is so easy to do. Covid-19 has forced Alpha to go online in most contexts around the world, but this has actually made it possible to reach even more people with the good news of Jesus than the many thousands who were already doing Alpha previously. Praise God!

Alpha online is a very relaxed, simple and non-threatening way to explore the basics of the Christian faith, ask questions and discuss issues that affect and concern us all. From the comfort of our own living rooms we watch the excellent and stimulating videos and chat about them afterwards. No-one is made to say or do anything they don't want to do, and all questions and comments are encouraged.

The guests who have just completed the course all enjoyed it and felt that that they grew in their faith and understanding as a result of doing it. We "meet" online using Zoom for a little over an hour each week and there is a special session midway through the course on a weekend when we consider the person and role of the Holy Spirit. The sessions are always good fun and we look forward to it eagerly each week.

We are about to start a new course (dates to be confirmed) so if you are not sure about aspects of Christianity why not sign up? The more the merrier! Ask a friend, neighbour or a family member. Better still, come along with them to the first session to help them settle into it. Just say "come and see", or words to that effect. This is such a brilliant way to learn about and meet Jesus for those who haven't yet. We encourage people just to come along and try it for the first week or two, and if they don't feel it is right for them at this time then fine – no-one is going to chase after them! There's nothing to lose and potentially everything to gain.

If you or your friend are interested to come along, or just to find out more, please get in touch with one of us or speak to Lucy in the church office. Alpha is so good! We can't recommend it highly enough.

Ian and Rachel Firth (01380 871464)

OCTOBER 2020
Services in Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt

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Date	Sunday	Holt	Broughton Gifford	Great Chalfield
4th October	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	10:30 St Katharine Together	10:00 Parish Communion	1800 Choral Evensong
11th October	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Parish Communion	10:00 Family Service	10:00 Holy Communion
18th October	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Morning Worship	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
25th October	Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Morning Worship 18:00 Remembering A Loved One	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
The Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 8th November on Ham Green - details to follow				

Our online services will be continuing and you can find them on our YouTube channel

Faith in our village

Website: www.faithinourvillage.org

Facebook: Faith in our Village

Email: united.benefice@outlook.com

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The Coach House, 386a Ham Green, Holt, BA14 6PZ

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Andrew Evans, Rector of Benefice 01225 782289 or

goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com (day off Friday)

Ruth Mecredy, Assistant Priest 01225 783197 or mecredy@googlemail.com

Helen Begley, Pioneer Minister 01225 783543 or begleyhelen4@gmail.com

Ann Fielden, Retired Priest 01225 782509 or fieldenann@gmail.com

Jenny Davis, Retired Priest 01225 866479 or post@jadavis.plus.com

Katie Jackson, Curate 07306 023713 or katiejacks139@gmail.com

Anthony Matthew, Licensed Lay Minister 01225 782082 or

anthonymatthewfcn@gmail.com

Rachel Firth, Licensed Lay Minister 01380 871464 or

rachel.firth@btconnect.com

Lucy Waterman, Parish Safeguarding Representative 01225 782717 or

united.benefice@outlook.com

Ben Jarvis, Director of Music

benjaminjarvis@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you to those who have requested bank details to set up standing orders. The information needed is below:

St Katharine's PCC Sort code: 30 98 75 A/C: 01525597

Broughton Gifford PCC Sort code: 40 44 33 A/C: 51168657

PCC of Great Chalfield: Sort code: 30 98 75 A/C: 02075099

Please send content for the November edition of CLM via email by Monday 26th October



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