



CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

AUGUST 2025



A word from Andrew

Jesus taught the people about the Kingdom of God and performed miracles to show them what the Kingdom was like. So just from that, we know the Kingdom is a great kingdom and it has a great King whose name is Jesus.

Philippians 2 tells us of Jesus' exultation after he had humbled himself as God's Son in becoming a man and dying on a cross. At verses 9-11 it tells us, 'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'.

This scripture tells us that a day will come when everyone recognises Jesus as Lord. How much better in this life to choose him as our Lord/King. When we become Christians, we come into this Kingdom and make Jesus our King. At least that's what is meant to happen, but do we follow Jesus in the sense that we hear him speak and are obedient to what he asks of us? That's why Jesus posed this question at Luke 6:46, **"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"** Jesus recognised that it was easy for us his followers to call him 'Lord', 'King' or 'Christ' but actually carry on their lives without reference to him. The society we live in is said to be the most hedonistic that has ever existed. We are encouraged to pursue our own pleasure, achieve our own goals, live our best life, believe we can achieve any dream... Jesus' question perhaps challenges us more than other generations. Given the leaning of our society, we may think that if we become Christians, we have salvation now, but we can still live our lives our way (perhaps with a little Christianity tacked on the side). Jesus warns us in the same passage that if we do this we are building on sand rather than rock and what we build will not survive when the storm comes.

Jesus warns us and at Luke 9, he tells us:

²⁴ "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

However counter-cultural and challenging it may be, I think we need to start asking Jesus what he wants us to do and being obedient to what he asks. Please note that is not the same as thinking that we know the sort of thing Jesus would ask of us and doing it (which is fine for moral compass questions but not for direction of travel). It is a very different thing to ask Jesus what his agenda is for our day, as opposed to pursuing our own agenda and asking Jesus to tag along with us!

With every blessing,
Andrew



Got Questions?



**Alpha Course starts
Weds 24 Sep @ 7:30pm
The Tollgate Inn, Holt**

**The Alpha Course offers the chance to
explore the Christian faith in an informal,
friendly environment.**

**Book your free place now by emailing Dawn:
united.benefice@outlook.com**

News from All Saints – Great Chalfield

The Quiet Garden – a time for personal reflection

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 2025

August

No quiet garden in August

September 2nd

Triss Horwood, Pastor ministering nationally and internationally

October 7th

Canon David Driscoll, semi-retired Minister

November 4th

Bishop John Inge, retired Bishop of Worcester.

Co-created a Quiet Garden at the Bishop's House



The Quiet Garden at Great Chalfield provides a welcoming space in which we can leave our normal lives behind for a while. Here we can pray, rest in God's presence, hear from Him and have an encounter with Jesus in this beautiful place.

Although the Quiet Garden is a Christian organisation, we welcome everyone. A donation to cover our expenses is greatly appreciated. Hot drinks will be available and served on the day, though you may still bring your own, plus please bring your lunch.

A full program for the next year is available in all the churches.

Anthony Matthew

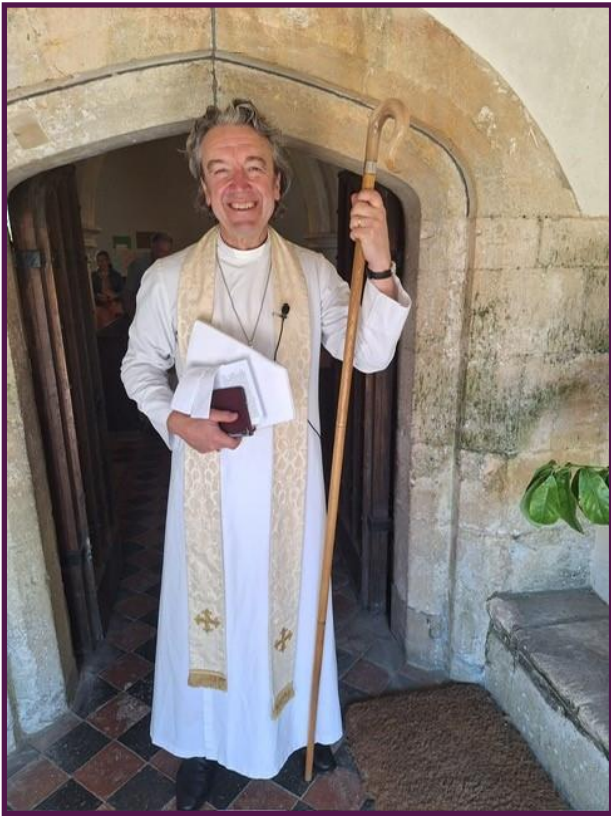
News from St. Mary's

It has been a busy time for us these past few weeks. We had our regular monthly coffee morning on 5 July, which, thanks to our regular group of attenders, raised £119. The following day it was our patronal festival, for which our team of flower ladies had decorated the church in blue and white. Then it was a full floral change for the following weekend when came our big 820th anniversary celebrations over the 12 & 13 July.

When this was first conceived some months ago, we had little idea as to what might happen, what the response might be. Was the move to run the event jointly with, and parallel to the Parish Council a wise one? Even as the weekend began there was still a great deal of uncertainty. At a time when many were on holiday and on what happened to be the hottest day of the year, when the elderly were advised not to venture out, would anyone come?

On the Saturday there were exhibitions both in the church and the village hall, featuring different aspects of their past and present. In the former, much was made of the monastic link that originally brought about the creation of the parish. The latter featured a bit of everything from a fascinating group of automata, to memories of the village in time of war. On the church's table what proved of most interest was the Cradle Roll, with its record of the baptisms in the church. The spokesman for the Parish Council when asked how many visitors there had been in the hall, could only reply, "lots"! In the church, the figure was given as 55.





On the Sunday more than 60 came to the service led by the Bishop of Ramsbury. This was followed by a bring and share lunch in the village hall, where church members were joined by a number of non-worshipping villagers. This was a good opportunity to meet new people.

Was the weekend a success? Everybody seems to agree that it was; from the lady who stopped me in the aisle at Sainsbury's on the Monday to the Chairman of the Parish Council. What do we do now? 820 years seemed a strange number of years to celebrate; why do we not repeat it in five years' time... and every five years thereafter?

It is difficult to give a list of all those who should be thanked, both within the regular church congregation and outside, for what they did to make the weekend a success, as so many were involved, so thank you to all... including those who came to see what the church is about.

Anglican and Methodist church schools, as well as having OFSTED inspections also have something called a SIAMS, which looks at the ethical vision of the school and how well it is being achieved. Because of our close links with the school, we were all very interested in what the report might say. Amongst the comments are: "Visits to the church and interactions with the clergy team enhance pupils' understanding of Christianity." "The relationship between the school and parish church is strong and mutually supportive." And "The Open the Book team 'treasures' its relationship with the school." The report is full of praise, and we give thanks for playing a small part in this.

We can feel proud that we help to strengthen the bonds between the church, the school and the community as a whole.

Christopher Fielden

820 Years Celebrations – 12 & 13 July 2025

Just to add to Christopher's article, thank you to everyone who came and visited the two exhibitions in the Village Hall and St. Mary's Church. We were pleased to see so many people and I hope it brought back memories. We had 55 people visit the church and we had many good conversations with people who have recently moved into the village and people who were brought up in Broughton Gifford but have now moved away.

Thank you to all the many helpers, especially Tony Cooper, Rob Cumming, Christopher Fielden and in the church Janet and Peter Cameron-Watson and all the flower arranging team who put so much effort and imagination into all the displays. Thank you to everyone who served refreshments in both the Village Hall and the church and to everyone who supplied items for the displays. We especially thank Charlotte, The Bell, St. Mary's School, The Bowls Club, W.I., Julia, Mike, Charles and everyone who let us borrow their wedding photos for the display in the church. Please accept my apologies if I have inadvertently forgotten to mention anyone. It was a very interesting and informative day despite the high, sweltering temperatures which probably prevented some people from coming.



On the Sunday we had a wonderful service led by the Bishop of Ramsbury who gave a very inspiring sermon *. Afterwards around 50 of us had a lunch in the Village Hall and thank you to everyone who brought the delicious sweet and savoury dishes. Thanks also to those who helped to wash up and clear away at the end.

*Annette Stone
On behalf of St. Mary's Church*

* The Bishop of Ramsbury's sermon can be listened to from our website www.faithinourvillage.org or using this link to our Spotify account <https://spotifycreators-web.app.link/e/WI7zhP2IZUb>

Advance notice for September . . .

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON

Coffee Morning



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON

Coffee Morning



Pray for **St. Mary's**

Tuesday's at 13:45
19 August & 16 September
St. Mary's Church



Trowbridge Street Pastors

How would you like to have fun with Jesus? Are you being called to help people in need? Would you like to find a different way to talk to people who wouldn't normally go near a church? Then maybe becoming a Street Pastor is exactly what you need to do.



I'll be honest – it is a calling and it is a commitment, including undertaking extensive training, having an interview and a DBS check. We need people who really feel called to go out on the streets of Trowbridge late at night, talking to strangers, listening to them and helping them. You may feel nervous or unsure about it, but do give it a try and see if you perceive that call and, truth be told, we really need you!

There has been a Street Pastors Initiative operating in Trowbridge since 2009, but our numbers have gone down, especially since Covid. Currently we have 9 active Street Pastors and have had to reduce our patrols to every fortnight, on a Saturday night. However, each Street Pastor would, generally, only go out on patrol once a month.

Our Chair, David Goldstone, always says that we have fun with Jesus out on patrol; and that is true. I have seen potentially confrontational situations turn into something completely different, even ending in laughter. We certainly each know that we absolutely could not do this without Jesus being with us, or without the Holy Spirit within us. *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.* Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV UK.

One of the great privileges of being a Street Pastor is that we are on the front line between the world and God's Kingdom and we meet people on *their* patch. We can have really good conversations about why we do what we do, for no pay, which is so counter cultural that people are really taken aback. We have the opportunity to show people God's love, in action, which is truly wonderful.

So, if you would like to know more then please contact the Coordinator, Julia Wade, on 01380 870137 or email trowbridge@streetpastors.org.uk If you would like to hear a short talk about our work in your church, then ask your leader to book us. You are welcome to come out as an observer to see for yourself what we do, without any obligation to take it further.

Supper Evening July 2025

Bob Hartman was the guest speaker at our July invitation supper, and it was very different to previous suppers. Audience participation, chicken noises, ebullient presentation and with a full church it was a packed evening in more ways than one.

Between telling Bible stories in his inimitable way, Bob wove his story of how through an atheist grandfather coming to faith, watching horror programmes on TV with his grandmother on a Saturday evening and then revelling in her Bible stories in Sunday School next morning, he came to love Jesus and the Bible, and storytelling.



His enthusiasm for storytelling was blatant - and all those sat listening to him, (around 75 in total of guests and their 'inviters') couldn't help but see and experience what he is so good at. The majority also engaged with the actions and noises for the stories he told.

A hot summer's evening and a fantastic cold spread put on by the amazing catering team rounded everything off beautifully. These are great evenings to invite people along to. There is always a warm welcome and a buzz of chatter with good interaction over the tables.

The next invitation supper is on Saturday 27 September, and it will be Becky and Dave Waterman telling their journey of faith with Jesus, and working with Mission Aviation Fellowship - MAF. It's never too early to start inviting.

Terri Dauncey

Please send content for the September issue of Church Life Matters via email to Dawn by Friday 22 August.



St Katharine's Church, Holt

SUPPER EVENING



SAT 27 SEPT

18:15 ARRIVAL

DAVE & BECKY WATERMAN

Dave and Becky left the familiarity of life in the UK to move to Uganda in 2017, serving overseas with Mission Aviation Fellowship. In 2021, they crossed from East Africa to West, continuing their missionary work in Liberia. Now back in the UK and working with MAF from its head office in Ashford, Dave and Becky's story highlights the absolute faithfulness of God in the mountaintop highs, and the valley lows of life. Come along to hear their story.

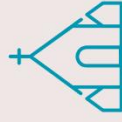
To help with numbers for catering please email
united.benefice@outlook.com

by Tuesday 23 September 2025 if you would like to attend.

ALL WELCOME

Café Church

3 & 17 AUGUST | 10:30AM
INFORMAL GATHERING
WORSHIP, COFFEE & FOOD



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT



THE 10:30 OUTDOORS

CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE.
WORSHIP. BIBLE STORY.
ACTIVITIES. COOKING ON THE FIRE.

TIME TOGETHER IN GOD'S CREATION
ST KATHARINE'S CHURCHYARD
10 & 24 AUGUST 2025



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



OPEN WORSHIP

**ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2025
19:45 ONWARDS**

**HOT DRINKS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Pray for
St.K'S**



***Tuesday 5 August @ 19:30
Monday 1 September @ 19:30
St. Katharine's Church***

Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church

The coffee morning for tots raised £287.48 to help facilitate and equip this important ministry within the church. We had Katy, a Mum to one of the Tots, with her hand painted gifts from ear-rings to a toddler's chair, and Katie, a different one, who had sewn beautiful items she had made to raise money specifically for Tots. Some mums came along to support the work. Holt crafters were sewing together the beautiful squares which will make up the village green Christmas tree this year.



Many thanks to our bakers whose cakes and biscuits nourish the chatting, and those from church who come and mingle with our visitors and make them feel welcome. It would be lovely to see you, too, next time.

The August coffee morning is NOT on the 3rd Saturday but a week later to link in with the Holt Scarecrow Trail so on Saturday 23 August. All proceeds will go to the annual Holt Scarecrow Trail which this year will include funds going to Dorothy House as well as local village organisations.



Please note that the September coffee morning will be on the 13th.

The St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team

Coffee Morning

SUPPORTING



**Dorothy
House**
HOSPICE CARE



**ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 23 AUGUST 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON**



Link to Hope annual shoebox appeal – 17 AUGUST 2025



It is that time of year again when we launch the Link to Hope shoebox appeal. This year it shall be at Café Church on 17 August. If you are perhaps unfamiliar about the shoebox appeal there are a number of people in the Benefice including Lynnette, Dawn and Marilyn who will happily talk to you about this as one of their passion projects!

Why not come and hear all about it on the 17th and get an empty shoebox and leaflet at the same time. You can make a box for either a family or an elderly person. There will be some items to help get you started, first come first served basis, and here is a picture from last year to give you an idea.



If the thought of filling your own shoebox and gathering the items is a little overwhelming but you like the idea of the appeal how about joining forces within your homegroup, ladies group, Tiny Tots, SKY, etc. and doing a shoebox between you?

We encourage you to please take part and let us share with others less fortunate than ourselves. Your support will be so welcome across the four countries of Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria.



I wonder how many boxes we can do this year. Your completed shoebox needs to be returned on or by Sunday 26 October please, thank you.

Dawn Farmer & Marilyn Stubbs

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

Services August 2025

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
3 rd		10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
10 th		10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
17 th		10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
24 th		10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
31 st			10:00 Benefice Service Morning Worship	

Church Office - The Coach House 386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ
E: united.benefice@outlook.com W: faithinourvillage.org

Follow us @faithinourvillage    YouTube

Donations

To set up a standing order or make a donation to any of the three churches in the Benefice please find all the information below:

St Katharine's PCC of Holt	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

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

Andrew Evans Rector (Day off Friday)	01225 782289	goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com
Ruth Mecredy Assistant Priest	01225 783197	rmecredy@gmail.com
Judy Wright Curate		rev.judewright@outlook.com
Anthony Matthew Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 782082	anthony55matthewfcn@gmail.com
Rachel Firth Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01380 871464	rachel.firth@btconnect.com
Marilyn Stubbs Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 753118	marilynistubbs@yahoo.co.uk
Harvey Bennett Children's and Youth Worker		ChildrenAndYouth@stkatharinesholt.org
Ann Fielden Retired Priest	01225 782509	fieldenann@gmail.com
Jenny Davis Retired Priest	01225 866479	gardenview36@gmail.com
Elizabeth Bennett Retired Priest	01225 783119	revelizabeth1@gmail.com
Jacque Bennetts Parish Safeguarding Representative	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Ben Jarvis Director of Music		benjaminjarvis@hotmail.co.uk
Dawn Farmer Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com