

HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

# Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 92

August & September 2025

St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill, St David's, Lordswood,  
and St William's, Walderslade



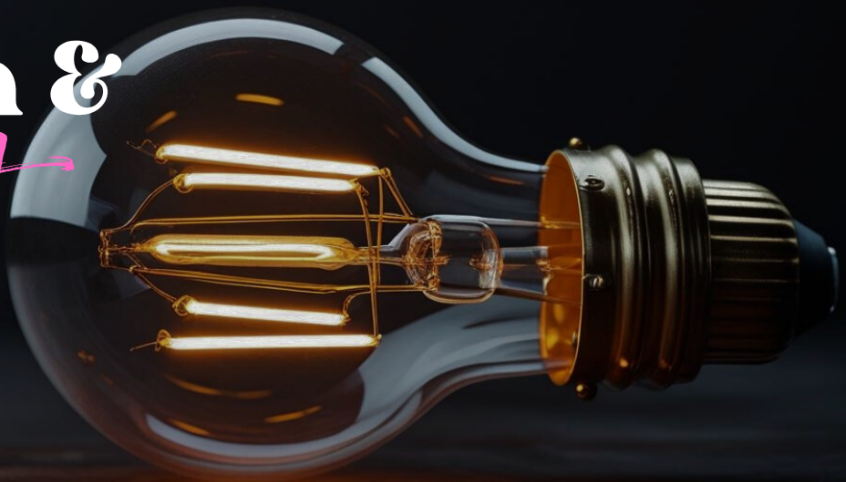
It has been a while since we sat down together, listened and reflected on the life of our Parish to discern God's vision, values and priorities for all who live in this corner of Chatham and Kent. The last such opportunity was in September 2023 when, as some may remember, we met at Walderslade Baptist Church surrounded by balloons!

In the Autumn we are inviting everyone in the Parish to gather again. We are calling the event

*Brunch & Bright Ideas.* This time we will meet at St Alban's on **Saturday 6 September** from 9.30am to 12.30pm with bacon rolls, pastries and fruit somewhere in the middle!

The morning will be led by Rev. Ann, Jeanette Lawrence and myself. We will pray together, listen to God speaking through the Scriptures, listen to one another about our shared-life and experiences, and listen to what God is saying about our community.

**Brunch &**  
*Bright*  
*ideas*



Being part of Holy Trinity South Chatham has been an adventure over recent months as we have launched Family Vibes — All Age Worship, received a wonderful response to the Generous Giving campaign, welcomed a Curate, seen the revival of the Strawberry Tea and met many new people at our services and events. However, as God blesses us and we continue to grow, it is always important to consider how our ways of being together reflect Kingdom values, especially those to do with growing a safe and healthy church culture. In September, while we are enjoying brunch, our bright ideas may lead us down all sorts of paths. It might be the case that God is calling us to do less, rather than more, to take stock of our spiritual and

mental well-being, to focus on our being as opposed to our doing.

All are welcome to come along to *Brunch & Bright Ideas* whether you are a resident of Blue Bell Hill, Lordswood or Walderslade, new to the congregation or have been in the thick of Parish life for years!

\* \* \* \* \*

This is a double edition of the Newsletter this month. Here you will find the dates of services, socials and all parish events for August and September together with prayer pointers and Bible readings. I hope you all have a great Summer (what's left of it) Enjoy!

*Rev. David Kitchenside*  
Team Rector

## Worship in August 2025

### Sunday 3 August (Trinity 7)

10am **Holy Communion** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

### Sunday 10 August (Trinity 8)

10am **Morning Worship** at St David's, Lordswood

### Sunday 17 August (Trinity 9)

10am **Holy Communion** at St William's, Walderslade

## Sunday 17 August

10am **Family Vibes Summer Picnic**  
at St David's, Lordswood

## Sunday 24 August (Trinity 10)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

## Sunday 31 August (Trinity 11)

10am **Holy Communion** at St David's, Lordswood

## Worship in September 2025

### Sunday 7 September (Trinity 12)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

### Sunday 14 September (Holy Cross Day)

10am **Holy Communion** at St David's, Lordswood

### Sunday 21 September (Matthew the Apostle/Trinity 14)

10am **Morning Worship** at St William's, Walderslade

### Sunday 28 September (Harvest Festival)

10am **Holy Communion** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill



## On the Social side

**Coffee & Cake** is held at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. Next dates: **8 August and 12 September**

**Holy Communion & Coffee Morning** at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next dates: **20 August and 17 September** (Worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am)

## On the Social side/continued.

**Tea at Three** at St William's on the third Monday each month at 3pm. Afternoon tea always served with a smile! Next dates: **18 August and 15 September**

### People of Holy Trinity South Chatham

*This month Ann Bengier interviews Caroline Burford.*

**Age:** 68

**Family:** I have two children and three grandchildren.

**Could you please explain your role in the church?**

For many years I helped with the running of the Sunday School and Forest Church at St Alban's. Since covid, I help with social events, do readings and arrange flowers.

**Where are you from?** Chatham.

**What did you want to be as a child?** A teacher.

**Could you share any childhood memories with us?**

Holidays by the sea at Margate.

**What was your day job?** For many years I was the founder and manager of Smilers Pre-school. I am now retired and look after my grandchildren three afternoons a week, which I love!

**What is your favourite food?**

Anything that anyone would like to cook for me! And dark chocolate!

**What do you watch on TV?**

Period and crime dramas.

**What music do you listen to?**

Anything with a good beat – usually radio 2.

**What are your hobbies?** I knit items for the tops of post boxes, flower arranging, baking, reading.

**Do you have a favourite holiday destination?** Cornwall.



One of Caroline's Culinary Creations (Parish Coffee Morning 2019)



**What is your church**

**background?** I was brought up to go to church from the age of five, although it didn't mean very much to me then. There was no Sunday School. I chose to go to a local Evangelist Church in my teens and became a Sunday School teacher there.

**Do you have a favourite hymn?**

*The Servant King.*

**Do you have a favourite Bible**

**reading?** I like reading Proverbs for the good advice.

**What do you draw from spiritually?** Nature.

## In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our broken world, praying for global leaders and international organisations
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- All who travel by land, air and sea during the Summer holidays
- the Methodist Southeast District, the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit and the welcome of Rev. Rocky Chan in September
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- Holy Trinity South Chatham as we look ahead to our Brunch & Bright Ideas vision day in September
- those in hospital and those waiting scans, operations or treatment
- for Shem Topliss and Hannah Kingston, Amanpreet Gill and Roxan Montgomery and all couples preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and their families, especially Harry Granville, Ivy Tripp, Mia Hall and Arabella Bruce.
- the families of all those recently departed.

## Dates: August 2025

**2025 Working Party** at St David's on Saturday 2 August between 9am and 1pm

**Midweek Communion** at Woodlands Court on Monday 4 August at 6.30pm

**Trinity Prayers** in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 7 August at 7.30pm

**Wedding of Shem Topliss and Hannah Kingston** at St Alban's on Friday 15 August at 4.30pm

**Family Vibes — Summer Picnic** at St David's on Sunday 17 August from 10am

**Wardens Plus (TBD)** at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 18 August at 9.30am

**Woodlands Study Group** (Residents Only) at Woodlands Court on Monday 25 (TBD) August at 11am

**Browse 'N Buy Sale** at St David's on Saturday 23 August between 10am and 12 noon

## Dates: September 2025

**Midweek Communion** at Woodlands Court on Monday 1 September at 6.30pm

**Trinity Prayers** in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 4 September at 7.30pm

**Brunch & Bright Ideas** at St Alban's on Saturday 6 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm with brunch served at 11am.

**Welcome Service for Rev. Rocky Chan** at Third Avenue Methodist Church (ME7 4DY) on Sunday 7 September at 1.30pm

**Woodlands Study Group** (Residents Only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 8 & 22 September at 11am

**Bible Study Group** in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 8 & 22 September at 2.30pm

**North Kent Methodist Circuit Meeting** (TBD) on Thursday 11 September at 7.30pm

**Wardens Plus** at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 15 September at 9.30am

**CEC** in the Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's on Wednesday 17 September at 7.30pm

**Wedding of Amanpreet Gill and Roxan Montgomery** at Christ the King, Princes Park on Saturday 27 September



ACNY: Resource Hub

*The disciples said to [Jesus],  
'Where are we to get enough bread  
in the desert to feed so great a  
crowd?' (Matthew 15.33)*

## Thinking like Jesus

According to recent research by the University of Southern California human beings have between 6,000 and 70,000 thoughts per day. Other research suggests that 80% of those thoughts are negative and about 95% are repetitive thoughts from the previous day.

Such research might not fit our local context but it does make you stop and think. Could it be, that the default position for human beings is to be negative rather than positive; pessimistic and cautious? Is that the work of evolutionary biology, I wonder; not a case of survival of the fittest, but survival of the wary?

I wonder if that is what is happening in the passage from Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has compassion on the crowd and suggests... they should be given something to eat (15.32). He doesn't say who should feed them or how they might be fed, Jesus simply cares for their needs. And, that's when we hear the disciples' response: 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' (33)

What an unsurprisingly human reply. Negative! I would have said it, you may have said it. Contemporary Christian thinker Ann Morisy refers to the sentiment behind these sorts of words as a narrative of scarcity. The disciples response is natural in the light of a seemingly impossible demand.

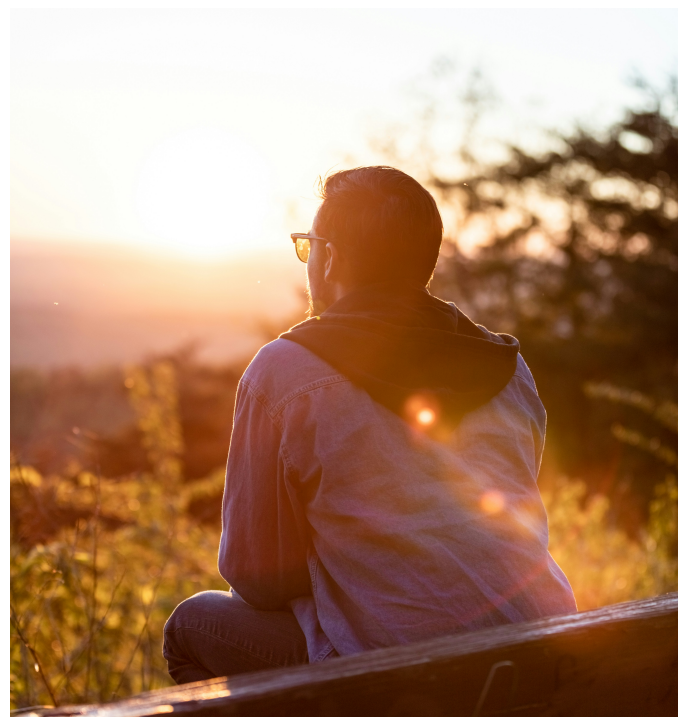
The narrative of scarcity is prevalent in the world, and if we are honest, the church. 'Where are we to get enough: ... money to pay the parish offer? ... volunteers to continue our mission activities or simply keep things going? ... where are going to find enough time to complete all the tasks in our day?

One might say, it is good to be realistic about such things. True.. But it is possible to get trapped by fear and negativity, and forget that in Jesus, there is a different story being played out. Jesus invites to live not according to a narrative of scarcity but a narrative of plenty.

Jesus doesn't think like us. He asks the disciples, 'How many loaves have you?' Jesus is less interested in what the disciples don't have, he is more interested in what they do have.. Likewise for us, Jesus is less interested in what we don't have, and more interested in what we do have.. Next, Jesus takes charge. He orders the crowd to sit, takes the loaves and fish, gives thanks to God for the small supply, breaks the food, and offers it back. A miracle occurs in the distribution. All of them eat, and all of them are filled (15.37). There is even a surplus!

It would take the transforming power of the resurrection for the disciples to really understand what happened that day; the power of a different story; not a narrative of sin, death and scarcity, but a narrative of grace, plenty and resurrection life.

ACNY: Resource Hub





Finally, when on Easter Day they encounter the Risen Christ, the disciples lose their addiction to negative thinking; the worldview that says, 'It can't be done'. They started living according to a different story; a story of hope and endless miraculous possibilities.

Can you imagine what your life would be like if your every thought was informed by the Spirit of Christ? If, instead of living by a narrative of scarcity, you lived according to a narrative of plenty; a narrative of faith? Amen.

Adapted from a sermon delivered by  
Rev. David Kichenside at St Matthew's,  
Borstal on 22 June 2025

## Reading & Praying: August 2025

### Trinity 7 - 3 August

*Hosea 11.1-11, Psalm 107.1-9, 43 or  
Ecclesiastes 1.2, 12-14, 2.18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11  
& Luke 12:13-21*

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as  
mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Trinity 8 - 10 August

*Isaiah 1.1, 10-20,  
Psalm 50.1 - 8.23—end or  
Genesis 15.1-6, Psalm 33.12-21  
Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16  
& Luke 12.32-40*

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us  
from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Trinity 9 - 17 August

*Isaiah 5.1-7, Psalm 80.1-2, 9—end or  
Jeremiah 23.23-29, Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11.29-12.2 & Luke 12.49-56*

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Trinity 10 - 24 August

*Jeremiah 1.4-10, Psalm 71.1-6 or  
Isaiah 58.9b—end, Psalm 103.1-8  
Hebrews 12.18—end & Luke 13.10-17*

Lord of heaven and earth,  
as Jesus taught his disciples to be  
persistent in prayer,  
give us patience and courage never to  
lose hope,  
but always to bring our prayers  
before you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Trinity 11 - 31 August

*Jeremiah 2.4-13, Psalm 81.1, 10—end or  
Ecclesiasticus 10.12-18 or Proverbs 25.6-7  
Psalm 112, Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16  
& Luke 14.1, 7-14*

God of glory,  
the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside all  
that prevents us from seeking  
your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have  
to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## Reading & Praying: September 2025

### Trinity 12 - 7 September

*Jeremiah 18.1-11, Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18 or  
Deuteronomy 30.15-20, Psalm 1,  
Philemon 1-21 & Luke 14.25-33*

God of constant mercy,  
who sent your Son to save us:  
remind us of your goodness,  
increase your grace within us,  
that our thankfulness may grow,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Holy Cross Day 14 September

*Numbers 21.4-9, Psalm 22.23-28,  
Philippians 2.6-11 & John 3.13-17*

Almighty God,  
who in the passion of your blessed Son  
made an instrument of painful death  
to be for us the means of life and peace:  
grant us so to glory in the cross  
of Christ  
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### Matthew the Apostle/Trinity 14 Sunday 21 September

*Proverbs 3.13-18, Psalm 119.65-72  
2 Corinthians 4.1-6 & Matthew 9.9-13*

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew  
the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish  
pursuit of gain and the possessive  
love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your  
Son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Trinity 14 Sunday 21 September

*Jeremiah 8.18-9.1, Psalm 79.1-9 or  
Amos 8.4-7, Psalm 113,  
1 Timothy 2.1-7 & Luke 16.1-13  
2 Corinthians 4.1-6 & Matthew 9.9-13*

Merciful God  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

## Harvest Festival Sunday 18 September

*Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Psalm 100,  
Philippians 4.4-9 or Revelation 14.14-18  
& John 6.25-35*

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons:  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Keeping in contact

More information about the Parish is available via weekly emails which you can sign-up to receive from our website, [achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham](http://achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham), or by using the QR code below. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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(Rest Day: Saturday)

**Team Curate:** Rev. Ann Ruby    07565 402121    [reverendann@hotmail.com](mailto:reverendann@hotmail.com)  
(Parish Days: Wednesdays and Sundays)

**Team Curate:** Rev. Paul Robinson    07306 023483    [revphtsc@btinternet.com](mailto:revphtsc@btinternet.com)

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|--|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Church Wardens</b>                    | Pat Long   | 01634 309180 | Barry Horwell | 01634 308552 |
| <b>Pro-Warden &amp; Gift Aid Officer</b> | Pauline Bowdery  | 01634 669215 |               |              |
| <b>Church Steward</b>                    | Sylvia Wigglesworth  | 01634 683789 |               |              |
| <b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>       | Mark Salter  | 07719 183940 |               |              |
| <b>Prayer Co-ordinator</b>               | Mary Horwell   | 01634 308552 |               |              |
|  | <a href="mailto:maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk">maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk</a> |              |               |              |
| <b>Church Bookings</b>                   |  | 07554 613495 |               |              |

[www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham)

@southchatham on Facebook and @htscuk on Instagram



## HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

One church of St Alban, St David and St William serving Blue Bell Hill, Lords Wood and Walderslade.

A partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1135416

