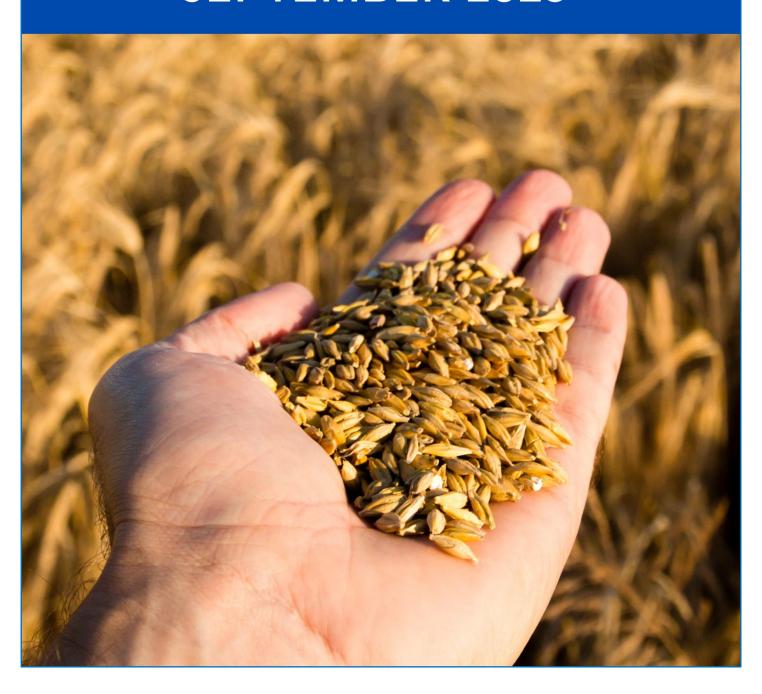
CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2025



A word from Andrew

Am I a disciple of Jesus?

Is that a question you've ever asked yourself? I'm sure you'd make a positive response to the question, 'Am I a Christian?', but how much do you think of your following of Jesus as you being his disciple?

A disciple is a learner who learns from a rabbi or teacher. The aim of a disciple is to become like his rabbi, and eventually to carry on the ministry of that rabbi. That is a challenging call in relation to being a disciple of Jesus - to be with Jesus, become like him and do as he did! And yet, when you think of the life of the first disciples as portrayed in the gospels, this was very much the expectation of Jesus. Soon after he called them, he sent them out in twos to preach the kingdom and do miracles. Amazingly they returned to him, having seen some successes in accomplishing the given task...! Through the gospels, the Book of Acts and the Letters, we can see the disciples grow in relationship with God and develop Christ-like character. Through hearing the Holy Spirit's prompts, and being obedient to him, they moved the church forward, taking new ground, moving in miraculous power and provision. Even after Jesus was no longer physically with them, they were able to continue to grow as disciples. They were able to do this through the Holy Spirit coming upon them. They were 'little Jesuses' and were able to make new disciples for Jesus, just as Jesus had asked them to.

There is a lot of confusion in our country about what it means to be a Christian, but the actual call from Jesus is to follow him and be his disciple.

I have put together a course starting Monday evenings, in which I hope we can each hear that call to be a disciple of Jesus, and to follow him as our rabbi and teacher. It will hopefully lead us into a closer daily walk with Jesus, and his character will rub off on us. We'll need the Holy Spirit to help us, as we learn to hear God's voice and be obedient to what he asks us to do and say - to be with Jesus, become like him and do as he did. I hope you can see the potential for your life and for our three churches.

I've called the course 'Building Faith' and if you want to join, please give your name to Dawn as soon as possible.

Blessings, Andrew

BULDING FAITH

A DISCIPLESHIP COURSE



STARTS MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER @ 19:30 ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

BUILDING FAITH

A Discipleship Course for those who want to be with Jesus, become like Jesus and do the things he did.'

OK, you have faith, but are you living by faith?

The nine session course will begin Monday 15 September. The course dates are: 15/9, 22/9, 29/9, 13/10, 27/10, 3/11, 10/11, 17/11 & 24/11.

This is a practical learning course, and we will be encouraging each other to implement the teaching straight away. They say it takes twenty-one days to embed a new habit if you do it every day and you'll be asked to embed quite a few over the autumn. There will be group work and homework.

This is not a 'discuss the topic and implement the teaching sometime/never course'! It's for those who want to make progress in hearing God speak, being obedient to what he says, receiving God's love and being healed by it, praying in faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit, leading people to faith, being generous with money and time and above all to grow in faith in Jesus and expectancy for what he wants to do here in our country today.

This course would certainly suit those who have done Alpha recently, but it is there for everyone who wants God's agenda in their life. Jesus asks whether when he returns, 'Will he really find faith on the earth?' Luke 18:8.

To sign up, email united.benefice@outlook.com

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 ? | We offer |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Time to reflect, | Peace and stillness, |
| Space to be alone, | Solitude, a beautiful garden, |
| Somewhere to pray, | Someone to talk to, if you wish, |
| Someone to listen, | Shelter from the elements in the |
| Or a quiet place? | medieval parish church. |
| | |

Invited Speakers 2025

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

HARVEST

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER 2025 | 6PM

EVENSONG WITH GUEST CHOIR ALL SAINTS CHURCH,

COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK

GREAT CHALFIELD



News from St. Mary's

Saturday 13 September sees the return of the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride fundraising day. This charity is important to us and, for many years now we have opened the church to give sustenance to participants. For most years, also, we have also sponsored participants from our congregation. Half of any money we raise comes back to the parish.

Once again, I feel that I cannot commit my body to a projected route round the churches, but on that morning, I intend to complete as many laps of The Common as I can. (A lap is approximately a mile.) I will be very happy for others to join me on the day. Unfortunately, Anthony Matthew is previously committed on that day, but he also has promised to lap The Common on a day to be announced. Sponsorship forms for the two of us will be available in the church for you all to sign.

It has frequently been said that "There is no such thing as a free meal." This is not strictly true, as there is one coming up: our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday 4 October. (Whilst the fact that the supper is free is true, but I would point out that donations are welcome and any surplus will go to Melksham Foodbank). As well as a hot supper, there is an evening of varied entertainment, and it is always a most enjoyable evening.

Whilst this is a church event, Harvest is a time for the whole community to celebrate and all are invited. The community is not just our village; it includes the whole benefice ... and stretches further afield. If you, and your friends, can come, please book your place with Annette Stone and all the details are on the poster.

Our monthly coffee mornings in the church have developed into quite a little social club, with the majority of those there, coming from outside the village. Our last one on Saturday 2 August attracted one or two new faces, and we raised £161.



Call in for Coffee and Chat resumes on Friday 5 September from 08:45 – 10:30

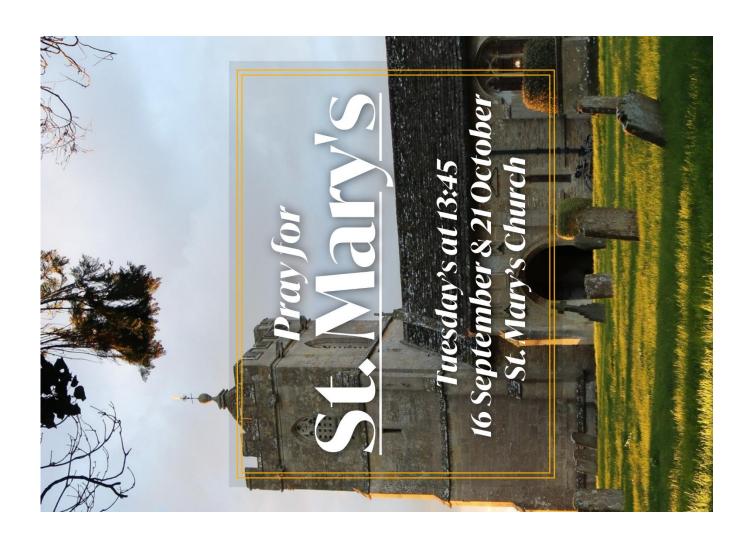


RIDE+STRIDES

for ChurChes

13 SEPTEMBER 2025 ST. MARY'S CHURCH BROUGHTON GIFFORD

OPEN FROM 10:00 - 17:00
TO WELCOME PARTICIPANTS, SIGN
SPONSORSHIP FORMS, PROVIDE
REFRESHMENTS AND A WARM WELCOME





HARVEST

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025 | 10AM

MORNING SERVICE

ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BROUGHTON GIFFORD
COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



Harvest Supper

SAT 4 OCTOBER @ 19:00

BROUGHTON GIFFORD VILLAGE HALL

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE 782241 OR 782610 RSVP BY FRI 26 SEPTEMBER

Hot supper and entertainment Donations welcome on the night Bring your own drink and glass Any dietary requirements, let us know



New Wine Festival 2025 - article from Julia Wade

New Wine is where thousands of Christians meet to enjoy great worship, morning and evening celebrations, interesting and challenging 'breakouts' (seminars), a huge number of children and youth provision, after hours entertainment and fun. All done whilst camping with your Church family at the West of England showground at Shepton Mallet.

This year was very special, being the first time I had been with St Katharine's Church family. We had just the best time!

The teaching was packed full of wonderful nuggets to take with you, e.g., what if the first thought you have in the morning is Jesus and the last thought you have at night is Jesus? I have already found this to be transformational. There was quite a lot of talk about the Quiet Revival, but also how now is the time to lean into God and PRAY (and prepare), as never before. This Revival shouldn't be shaped by what has gone before. God is doing a new thing. Ellie Mumford said Every day is Pentecost! Keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus was a frequent theme. Our joy should be tied to our names being written in the Book of Life, so it doesn't diminish with our circumstances.

The last evening celebration I went to, the talk was by Ness Wilson from Wildfires (another festival). These are my rough notes. It was a very powerful talk, so, here goes:

She talked about there being a slow awakening across all the festivals. This is a most exciting time to be alive. 2 Corinthians 6: 2 For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

It's time to move out of a siege mentality in church. Don't hide how much God is doing. The culture is open and curious. Secularism has failed them. It has wreaked havoc and pain. Jesus, the evangelist, is building his church, as he promised.

As we go home from New Wine (always a stumbling block, I have found in the past, as you have to adjust to normal life) there needs to be three shifts:

1) Private faith into public space - Acts 1: 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The disciples were in a room and then went out onto the streets, where

they saw Jesus ascend to Heaven. What happens [here] at New Wine will affect how we go back to our normal lives. We will carry God's image with us as we go back to our life. On a train the speaker always openly reads her Bible. New boldness! USE JESUS' NAME - DON'T TALK ABOUT CHURCH. TALK ABOUT JESUS.

She said, now is the time to run Alpha. Now is the time to have Bibles to give away. Try running Discovery Bible sessions – they are dead easy to run, she said.

- 2) Reaching to Making Matthew 28: 18-20 The Great Commission. Verse 19 says Go and MAKE disciples of all nations (it doesn't say attenders). In the West we're rusty at this. Chip Ingram defined disciples thus:
 - BIO = <u>B</u>efore God daily (transformation takes place deep in the word, not on the surface);
 <u>In community;</u>
 On mission explore my gifts.

So - WHO am I discipling? HOW am I discipling? Busyness cannot get in the way of discipleship. Think about newly born-again baby Christians - you wouldn't leave an actual newborn baby to look after themselves, so why leave them? They want authenticity – that means proximity, not performance.

3) From a Few to ALL Play - Acts 2: 17-18 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. That means **all of us**. The times are too important for <u>anyone</u> to be on the bench. Old, young, men, women, everyone. They will need parenting on all levels. Do not retire; refire!! Do not coast. This is a crazy love which defies a culture of ease. Do not let your flame subside or die! Do not confuse rest with retreat. Young ones are looking for examples of endurance, not perfection. Lean in and the Holy Spirit will anoint you with fresh oil. People in their 50s and 60s are needed. Begin to open up your home again. Give everything away that the Lord has put into you.

We are all full-time ministers for the Gospel.

Step up and put Jesus on, how you would get ready to go to work.

This isn't the end, this is the SEND!

Establishing a Culture of Prayer

Following an excellent seminar at New Wine this year about prayer, I was so encouraged and motivated by it that I thought I'd share some of the ideas in the hope that it promotes and encourages others in the same way.

Partners and small groups:

In the same way that if you give someone a job they love, they'll do it well, form a partnership or gather a small group of like-minded people who share a common prayer philosophy. This could be praying for a sick friend, the local school or church, government, international issues and suchlike. The common bond will encourage each other to be more frequent and creative. Remember, it was the prayers of two ageing sisters who initiated the Hebridean Revival in the 1940s.

Fact – People who work for an Antislavery charity are so likely to face tangible evil, that they must nominate 100 prayer partners to support them before they can join the team.

Fire:

Encourage prayer warriors who have a fire in their hearts for specific topics. Encourage them to send prayer letters to MPs or to the shareholders of an ecologically harming organisation like a water company or a petrochemical company. Edmund Burke is quoted as saying: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Don't just stand there, pray something!

Marathons:

Develop a prayer strategy that pushes boundaries. Experiment with having a 24-hour prayer marathon once every season or choose a worthy cause and do a 24-hour prayer fast whereby every urge to eat sponsors prayer instead.

Branding:

Generate a language to pray that identifies the objective e.g.: "Women in Worship", "Men for Prayer", "Powered by Prayer", "Pray for St. K" (good one!), "All Hail All Saints"!

Themes:

As well as finding like-minded souls to pray for specific topics, get a group together to pray for sermon and worship themes – possibly a Prophet, Racial Equality, Children.

Step 1 is to ask God what He wants to focus upon. Hold these lightly and follow flavours but try to create rhythms to the prayers.

Geography:

Be led by God to generate prayer walks in the area; listen out for His selection of streets or areas, social (or anti-social) zones. Pray outside the Church, especially for protection of the Church and all its functions, fabric and surrounding area. Pray for the pub, social club, businesses, shopping centres, farms and their workers, the countryside, parks and regions in general

Pause in prayer:

Prayer, like all good communications, is a two-way dialogue. Enter prayer believing that you will hear God speak to you if you give Him a chance. That word or image of someone you sense in prayer is probably God's message to you to follow it up and see what else He wants you to do.

Unity:

Join with other churches in prayer. We may have different ways of worship, but we are all talking to the same God who is Father of our saviour. Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Worship and Scripture:

Wherever worship combines, thematically with prayer, God's Will and Heart are more easily discerned. Choose a few carefully selected worshipful pieces of music to engage with by singing and by listening to, intersperse these with appropriate passages from Scripture then allow silence to prevail and create a chance to hear God speak.

Variety:

Where a group of people are gathered to pray, have half of them pray whilst the other half offers worship then swap for a similar period of time.

60 seconds:

Generate opportunities for 60 seconds worth of avid prayer on a specific topic Select half-a-dozen topical news headlines and pray for them for 1 minute.

3's:

Split into 3's, each with a specific topic to lead the other two.

Prophecy:

Listen to a worshipful piece of music and seek prophetic words.

Fun:

Prayers can be made fun; write a prayer on a piece of paper, make it into a paper aeroplane then fly it to the next person who prays for it refolds it then 'flies' it on to another.

Alternatively, blow up balloons of different colours and bat them about praying for the church if you get a blue one, farmers if you catch a green balloon, the government if you get a black one or similar ideas.

Repentance:

If you wanted to embrace a loved one after you'd been baking, gardening or servicing the car, you would thoroughly wash your hands so you don't transmit the dough, or the soil or the oil and make the other person dirty; so it is with prayer, God will be pleased to be protected from your sin if you repent and offer your apologies for wrong things in your life that will have upset Him before you then ask Him to listen to your appeals.

All Prayers are heard:

God hears all prayers, but He may choose (as is His right) to answer them in a way that we don't understand or even approve of; but He still hears them! Bear in mind that Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life, by God our Father, because he repented and prayed (Isaiah 38). That's a significant incentive for both repentance and prayer.

Pray – it's the engine-room of the Church!

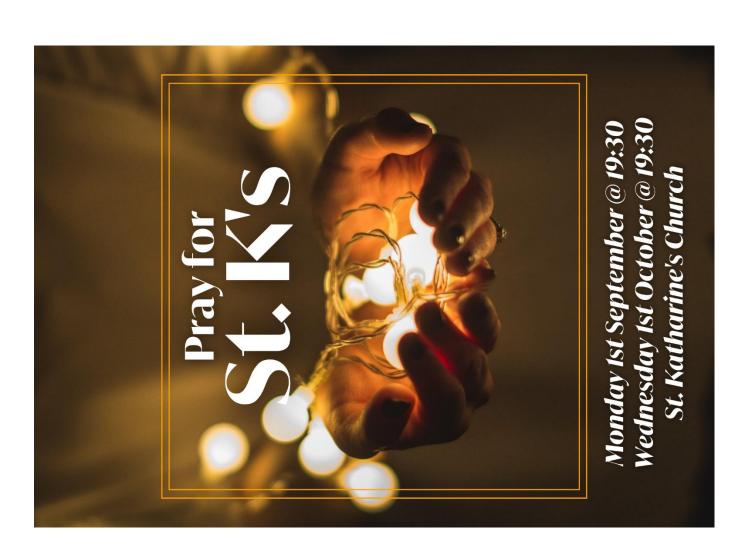
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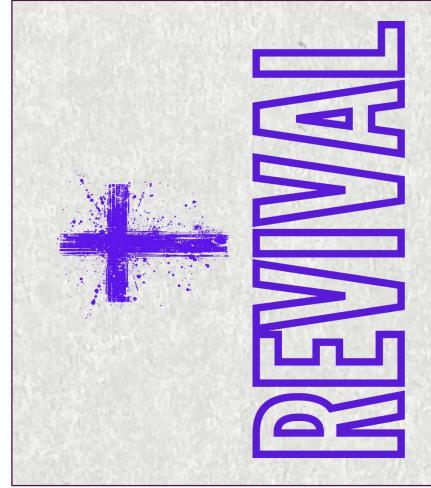
Donations

To set up a standing order or donate 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

Please send content for the October issue of Church Life Matters via email to Dawn by Friday 19 September.





ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY 14 & 21 SEPTEMBER 2025 @ 18:00



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 HARVEST

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER | 10:30
WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD
COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church

The last Bank Holiday of the year and the Holt Scarecrow Trail. We delayed coffee morning a week to coincide with the trail and offer refreshment in the morning to those wandering round the village. All our takings (£332.51) will be given to Dorothy House and the other local village charities 50 / 50 through

the Holt Scarecrow Trail fundraising.

It was lovely to welcome several families doing the trail; one family does a tour of all the scarecrow trails around, and this one today was their twelfth this year!! Being August, a few of our regulars were away, and the crafty folk were engaged around the village with organising the trail. However, we did have a visit from a couple of superheroes, and Barbie and Ken!!



* Holt Tiny Tots Scarecrows

The coffee morning in September will be on the 13th, the second Saturday rather than our usual third Saturday, so we can be open to refresh those taking part in the annual Ride and Stride. Hope to see you there.





The St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team



SEPTEMBER

Friday 5th + 19th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

OCTOBER

Friday 3rd + 17th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

NOVEMBER

Friday 7th + 21st

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

DECEMBER

Friday 5th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

Friday 12th - SKY Christmas Party!

6:30-8:30 PM



llow us! @st.katharines.youth

St. Katharine's Church, Holt

Oth Opetacular

with the

Philomel Singers

Guests:

Chippenham Male Voice Choir and

Christopher Hawkins (piano)

Saturday, 11 October 2025 at 7.30pm

Concert given in support of



Tickets: £10 (£8 in advance)
Students and children £4 (£2 in advance)

from the Ticket Secretary on **07977 576647** or online at

www.wegottickets.com/ThePhilomelSingers

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

Services September 2025

| Date | Sunday | Holt St. Katharine's | Broughton Gifford St. Mary's | Great Chalfield All Saints |
|------------------|--------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 th | | 10:30 Café Church | 10:00 Parish Communion | 18:00 Evensong |
| 14 th | | 10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting | 10:00 Morning Worship | 10:00 Holy Communion |
| 21 st | | 10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting | 10:00 Parish Communion | 10:00 Matins |
| 28 th | | 10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship with Dave & Becky Waterman 16:00 Evensong | 10:00 Morning Service Harvest | 10:00 Holy Communion |

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

E: united.benefice@outlook.com W: faithinourvillage.org







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

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

01225 782717

Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)

Dawn Farmer

united.benefice@outlook.com