**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 285**

1) You will need to read the dates of this newsletter very carefully as they will sometimes refer to the current week and on other occasions to the following one.

2) Please note that Rev Andy is on leave this week and will be unavailable. If you have an emergency, please contact the Churchwardens.

**THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST 2025**

There will be **NO SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS’ CHURCH** as it is a 5th Sunday. Instead, there will be a service of **Holy Communion with hymns** starting at **9.30 a.m.** for all the churches in the West Tone Benefice at **St Peter’s Church, Greenham.**

**LOOKING FORWARDS – REV ANDY**

What are you proud of in life? It might be a person, your family, or a member of your community. Perhaps it is an event that you were pleased to see made a difference. You may instead feel proud about a movement for positive change, or a resistance to falling into bad ways. We instinctively know when something or someone is inspiring, encouraging and hopeful. Responding with pride is only natural, and a good thing. But don’t they say that pride comes before a fall? Is pride not something bad to be avoided? We can no doubt think of those times when pride has indeed led to selfishness, vanity, or an excessive regard of self, either in our own lives perhaps, or those of celebrities, politicians, or church leaders.

 So, it seems that pride can be both good and bad, something to enjoy and yet also to avoid. How do we make sense of that? Perhaps if we look at a different value, courage, and see if this helps to unlock the paradox. Courage is a good thing, the opposite of cowardice. It is not the absence of fear, but the ability to deliver, to continue, to do the right thing, despite that fear but take it too far and courage becomes foolhardiness. There are times when the right thing to do is stop, not run into the burning building or towards the enemy’s guns, particularly when leading others who are looking to you for wisdom and not glory seeking.

 Pride is good when it fosters healthy self-respect and encourages positive change and accomplishments. Pride is bad when it is self-centred, leads to arrogance, and makes us unwilling to change or recognise fault. Pride is the most serious of the seven deadly sins because it rejects the sovereignty of God. When we crown ourselves as a king or queen over a situation or a community then we are attempting to dethrone God and this being impossible, it never ends well for us or those we have let down.

 Our readings this Sunday will help us to explore how to stay on the right side of pride and avoid the foolhardiness of going too far the wrong way. Join us at St. Peter’s Greenham for our 9.30am United Benefice Service of Holy Communion as we reflect together and find that which we can be rightly proud about.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST – 11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Collect:-** O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:

mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings:-**

Ecclesiasticus Chapter 10, vv 12 – 18 or Proverbs Chapter 25, 6 – 7

Hebrews Chapter 13, vv 1 – 8 and 15 – 16

Luke Chapter14, vv 7 - 14

**PRAYER LIST**

Cynthia Sansom

Elizabeth Miles

Eunice Durrance

Ian Sansom

Mike Toogood

Pam Wilkie

Paul

Stephen Daley

Susan Dobson

**YEARS MIND FOR SEPTEMBER**

1ST Dorothy Patricia Hancock

2nd Jim Stone

3rd Madeleine Grinter

4th Olive Troake

5th Thomas Jack Goss

5th John Carmichael

5th David Rabson

**BIRTHDAY LIST**

There are no known birthdays this week.

**OUTREACH GROUPS**

**Knit, Sew and Natter**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 4th September 2025 starting at 2.00 p.m. It will be the usual meeting with lots of chat and refreshments.

**Soup ‘n’ a Bite**

The next meeting of this group will be on Saturday, 13th September 2025 at 12.00 noon. The group usually offers a choice of soups, a variety of bread and/or rolls, various cheeses, fresh fruit. tea or coffee. There is also a free raffle.

**Recycled Teenagers**

The next meeting, which will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 23RD September 2025. There will be the normal chat as well as a superb tea of sandwiches and cakes to demolish.

**OUR NEXT SERVICE**

The next service at All Saints’ Church will be a **Sung Eucharist** starting at **11.15 a.m.** on **Sunday 7th September 2025.** The celebrant will be **Rev Stephen Bowen.** There will be refreshments served after the service.

**ROTA FOR SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Sidesmen:-** Angela Setter and Rachel Yates

**Reader:-** Rachel Yates

**Coffee:-** Angela Setter and Rachel Yates

**Flowers:-** Melodie Lane

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**From Rev Andrew Norris**

**GLOBAL WEEK OF PRAYER – See poster attached**

There will be an opportunity for us all to participate in the **Global Week of Prayer.** This is supported by Churches Together in Wellington.

*“Monday 1st September sees the beginning of the Global week of Prayer where people from across the world are being encouraged to pray for the world, their nations and their local communities. In Wellington, Churches Together have decided to make a different church available each day, Monday to Friday at 12 noon, for people to come together for any or all of an hour to pray together, embracing the various traditions we represent.  Please lend your support if you are able.”*

**Sunday, 28th September 2025**

**Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch**

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival with our normal morning Service and this will be followed by a free lunch for everyone in the Lang Room – please note we will put out a basket for donations if you wish to contribute.

**Sunday, 5th October 2025**

**History Talk at 3.00 p.m.**

There will be an illustrated talk on the building of All Saints’ Church at 3.00 p.m. The cost will be £5-00 per person. This will be followed by tea and cakes.

The exact dates for the events below will be finalised shortly.

**October**

Cocktails and Mocktails with the same format as last time.

**November**

**Quiz night with jacket potato and filling supper.**

Same format as before with teams of up to 6 people, bring your own drinks. Start eating fish now to get the brain in tiptop condition. Supply your own drinks.

**December 12th – 14th**

**Christmas tree festival**

This will be a two-day event with the trees staying up until the school has had its two Christmas services in the church.

**NEWS FROM WEST TONE BENEFICE**

**STAWLEY**

**Saturday 7th September 2025 – Flower Show**

This will be held at the Appley Pavilion on Saturday, 7th September 2025, between

2.30 p.m. & 5.00pm. There is usually no admission charge.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Help wanted**

The church gardener has been in hospital and is unable to continue cutting the grass. Is there anyone who would be able to help? If you have a gardener, would they be prepared to do some hours for us? We do pay the going rate for this work. Speak to Tony Setter if you can help.

**The Children’s Society**

The current volunteer would like to give up doing this task having done it for many years. It involves receiving the boxes, emptying them, counting and paying in the money and then returning the boxes to their owners. This only happens once a year. If you feel that you could take this task on, please speak to **Sheila Rabson** after the service and she will put you in touch with the current post holder.

**Rev Andrew Norris writes:-** The “Home Service” is broadcast on 105.3 FM on Wednesdays at 11.00am and repeated Sunday at 10.00 am.  It is also available via the internet at any time on [www.10radio.org](http://www.10radio.org) . This week: *As our schools and colleges look towards the beginning of new term, our act of worship looks at the theme of “Change” and is led by David Rhodes, lay reader in the Vale Churches benefice.  Claire Nelson also shares what took place at an event designed for young people exploring faith during the summer break.*

If you have prayer or song requests or want others to know about what is happening in your church, contact revandrew@10Radio.org

**FUN CORNER**

Today in Starbucks when I placed my order, I gave the name “Spartacus” as a joke. When they called my name I stood up and said “I am Spartacus!” Everyone turned to look at me. Then an old man sitting in the corner stood up and yelled “No, I am Spartacus!”Then oneby one everyone in Spartacus stood up and yelled “No, I am Spartacus!” Today’s going to be a good day!!!

