



## NOTICE SHEET FOR ST MARY'S TOLLESBURY AND SALCOTT

31<sup>st</sup> August @ 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
blackwaterbenefice7@gmail.com

### Info for the notice sheet please send to blackwaterbenefice7@gmail.com

Welcome to those visiting! Do please make yourself known to the sidespersons and ministers:  
**ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAIN: REV. ANDREW VINCE 07952144613,**

**01621 868415**

[andrew.vince15@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.vince15@gmail.com)

**Revd Sarah Clare 07762840905, 01621 868819**

[sarahclare9@gmail.com](mailto:sarahclare9@gmail.com)

**BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR Rosie Pollock 07908776750**

[office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com)

(Please contact Rosie if you wish to book, a wedding, baptism etc. She is available on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Messages left at other times during the week will be responded to at regular intervals)

#### CHURCHWARDEN:

**Tollesbury:**

**Denise Davidson:**

**07875549735 email: [denise.davidson066@gmail.com](mailto:denise.davidson066@gmail.com)**

**Salcott:**

**Jeremy Heigham:**

**01621869723 email: [photofaxessex@aol.com](mailto:photofaxessex@aol.com)**

#### CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS:

**Tollesbury:**

**Clive Notley:**

**07767636613 email: [clivenot@aol.com](mailto:clivenot@aol.com)**

**Salcott:**

**Brian Hodgson**

#### PARISH NURSE:

**Jo Lacey**

**07368498908**

**email: [nurse@blackwaterparishnursing.org.uk](mailto:nurse@blackwaterparishnursing.org.uk)**

#### SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to Safeguarding children and young people and vulnerable adults within this Benefice.

The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice of safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England's website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>, or on the Safeguarding pages of the Chelmsford Diocese: <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding>.

**Details of your Parish Safeguarding Representative can be found on the noticeboard in your church.**

#### ADDITIONAL SERVICE

##### ST MARY'S TOLLESBURY

**Morning prayer on 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August 9.15 in the Church Tower**

##### DAILY OPENING TIME FOR CHURCHES

**St. Mary's Salcott – 7am – 5pm**

**St. Mary's Tollesbury – 10am – 3pm**

**Prayers for the sick: Ron Jones,**

**Years Mind:**

**31<sup>st</sup> Aug – 6<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Elizabeth Clover, Sophie Winter-Frankis, Gerald Dunn, Geoffrey Payne, Henry Westlake, Anne Shakespeare, Gevenia Frost, Hannah Parmenter.

**7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Helen Clarke, Maria Madden, Lydia Read, Vera Spedding, Arthur Cook, Ewan Chambers, Pauline McKie, Betty Dibley, Robert South, John Lord, Eileen Ennos, Ruby Braddy, Dora Grant, Elizabeth Barbrook, John McKie, William Barratt, Louise Gooch, William Whybrow, Ellen Rowney.

#### SUNDAY WEEK FIVE - 31st August –

**11th Sunday after Trinity – Green**

**Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

**Luke 14:1-7, 7-14.**

**10,00am Tolleshunt Major Benefice Service  
Rev Christine Eaton Presiding,  
Rev Andrew Preaching**

#### SUNDAY WEEK ONE - 7th September –

**12th Sunday after Trinity – Green**

**Jeremiah 18:1-11, Philemon 1-21**

**Luke 14:25-33**

**9.30am Tollesbury Holy Communion –  
Rev Sarah Clare  
11.30am Salcott Holy Communion –  
Archdeacon Ruth**

**ADVANCED NOTICE**  
**The Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St. Mary's Tollesbury will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September starting at 9 am.**



**PHILP SMITH – REFLECTIONS**

THE other day, while waiting for a bus at a Park and Ride in Chelmsford, I got into casual conversation with a man from Halstead.

Somehow the subject of Church arose. It turned out he was a staunch and practising Roman Catholic who had many concerns about his Church of today, and especially where the path that it trod would lead to in the future.

Essentially this related to falling congregation numbers, the difficulty of recruiting Priests and the uneconomic use of buildings.

Now where have I heard that story before? But I suppose there is some consolation in knowing that we are not alone.

During the course of the conversation he told me about a friend who lived in another part of the country who is a Baptist. Apparently there are three Baptist Churches in the area, and each averages just a handful of people at Sunday Services.

Why did they not combine into one Church, he asked, thereby saving money and easing the Minister problem while at the same time creating a stronger congregation and thus a stronger Church.

This man was passionately irate, in a gentle sort of way, because, he said, those problems are diverting attention away from the main two purposes of the Church with a capital C. These are to promote our own love of God and to try to help others to find God.

You could see where this man was coming from, and it would be very easy to say he is right. But it is such a fine line we tread. Those two purposes certainly do head our priorities. However the question arises of how best, in the present circumstances, we should go about achieving them.

Neither closing churches nor reducing the number of Services within them, seem to me generally to be the right answer; in exceptional circumstances there may be little choice, but overall, the fewer churches and the fewer services, the lower the attendance figures will be. And as those numbers decline there will inevitably follow an even greater decline in the number of Priests seeking positions in rural areas.

We just cannot afford such a downward spiral to go on for too long. As with Global Warming there will be a tipping point beyond which it may not be possible to retrieve what is lost.

Church buildings and the religious activities that go on within them provide a visible sign that Christians are alive and well and continue to go about their business. While such exists there is always hope for the future; once they are lost they cannot be replaced.

At the same time we do have to face financial realities and in the end accept that we need to cut our coats according to the value of our cloth.

While the General Synod continues to try to find ways of investing in local churches (among other things), we obviously remain for the moment between a rock and a hard place.

In these circumstances, it seems to me, the Lay leadership of Services – already a major factor – should be given increasing encouragement. Making it easy for volunteers to be involved, providing easily accessible training and offering support and care to the welfare of those involved, are all essential for the Church of today.

That way we can keep our Churches open and in use particularly on Sundays when no Priest is available. So good for keeping us all in touch with God, but also so good for our image in that those around us are kept aware of our presence, our commitment and our activity.

But there is also a potential further benefit. There is always a possibility that participating in Lay Leadership may lead to appropriate people moving on to Ministerial training. It's happened twice in Little Totham, and what a good thing that has been.

God helps those who help themselves, as the saying goes.