**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 284**

The **Treasure Hunt** will take place today at **3.00 p.m.** and it will be followed by tea and cake. You can come along and help make up a team in a car or you can do the walking route. Either way you will have fun and get fed and watered afterwards! Prices have been pitched to appeal to everyone at just **£1-00 for each walker or £5-00 per car.**

**OUR SERVICE ON SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST 2024 – TRINITY 10/ST BARTHOLOMEW’S DAY**

This will be a **Sung Eucharist** starting at **11.15 a.m.** The celebrant will be the vicar **Rev Andy Barton.** Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**LOOKING FORWARDS – REV ANDY**

What do you most want in the whole world? Last Sunday I had the privilege of two children, one six and the other eight, approach me during Communion, both seeking God’s blessing. I asked them what they most wanted in the whole world, what mattered to them most. Risky business you might think, asking a child such a question. However, their answers were awesome, and together we prayed for God’s blessing upon them.

 How about you, what do you most want in the whole world? For where your treasure is there your heart is also. Our priorities are naturally drawn to what we value most in life. In this Sunday’s Gospel reading we see different sets of priorities at play. For one person it was freedom from that which held them back. For Jesus it was the opportunity to bless them with this freedom. However, for the religious types it was indignation that the freedom was given in a way that rocked the established order. Disrupting the status quo is often unpopular for those who find comfort in it; but switch your perspective to those who find the status quo a burden and you can see how such disruption can be freeing.

 There are many aspects of the Good News visible in this Sunday’s readings. We see God’s faithfulness to people, even those we might think do not deserve it. We see people’s joy when that faithfulness brings them benefits. We are reminded that God’s will always win the day, burning away all that is not of the Kingdom.

 However, for me, the standout message is a call to ask ourselves honestly, what are our priorities, individually as disciples and collectively as church. What are we counting as treasure, and what are we ignoring as unimportant? The promise shared by the prophet Isaiah this week is that when we satisfy the needs of the afflicted, God will satisfy our needs. When we pursue our own affairs or serve our own interests, we can expect to be as parched and dry as a garden without water.

 Next Sunday is a “fifth Sunday in the month”. As such the status quo is disrupted and the invitation is for everyone to gather at St. Peter’s Church in Greenham for a united benefice service of Holy Communion at 9.30am. Please come, and if you can’t come, then please pray. In this present season where I am encouraging us to listen to each other, let’s prioritise meeting together rather than the status quo.

 Please join the conversation as we seek God’s priorities for us in the West Tone Benefice. Where do you see that people are under the yoke, hungering to be fed or afflicted by needs? Please speak up and share your thoughts in whatever way you find easiest, by email, by phone, by letter or online at westtone.org.uk/conversation

Then we can have hope of rejoicing at all the wonderful things that God is going to do.

**ROTA FOR SUNDAY 24/8/2025**

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

**Reader:-** Sioned Barton

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

**Flowers:-**  Ann Fry

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 24/8/2025**

**Collect:-** 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

**Readings:-**

Isaiah Ch 58, vv 9b – end

Hebrews Ch 12, vv 18 – end

Luke Ch 13, vv 10 - 17

**PRAYER LIST**

Bathealton and the people who worship at St Bartholomew’s today

Cynthia Sansom

Elizabeth Miles

Eunice Durrance

Ian Sansom

Mike Toogood

Pam Wilkie

Paul

Stephen Daley

Susan Dobson

**YEARS MIND FOR AUGUST**

24th Basil William Chaplin

24th Dudley Nathan Sanders

29th Teresa Waygood

30th Effie Marjorie Rollings

30th Rev Martin Beaumont

**BIRTHDAY LIST FOR AUGUST**

28TH Annie Leigh-Browne

30TH Melodie Lane

Congratulations to both of you on adding an extra year to your age! We hope you enjoy celebrating this event in some style!

**OUTREACH GROUPS**

**Recycled Teenagers**

The next meeting, which will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th August 2025. There will be the normal chat as well as a superb tea of sandwiches and cakes to demolish.

**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.

**OUR NEXT SERVICE**

TAKE NOTE THAT NEXT WEEK IS A 5TH SUNDAY SO THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS’ BUT THERE WILL BE A BENEFICE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT GREENHAM CHURCH AT 9.30 A.M.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

The exact dates for these events will be finalised shortly.

**September on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon**

Talk on the building of All Saints’ Church followed by tea and cakes

**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**

**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.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**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: *Programme host, Andrew Norris, leads the act of worship focussing on the ways in which Jesus gives us freedom.  He also re-introduces Hilary Allen, one of the street pastors in Bridgwater who also writes Christian poetry.* If you have prayer or song requests or want others to know about what is happening in your church, contact revandrew@10Radio.org

**Annie Musgrove from St Nicholas Church Kittisford writes:-**

Our **Patronal Festival celebrations** begin on **Saturday 6 December at 6pm** with a choral concert by the **Bute Voices**, an up-and-coming choir from Cardiff comprised of students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. On **Sunday 7 December at 12 noon** there will be a **community singing workshop** at Kittisford House Barn led by Alexander Douglas, a choral director and lecturer in the Music Department at King’s College London. The music prepared in the workshop will be sung in the **Choral Evensong at 3:30 pm** in the church. After the service, everyone is warmly invited to a reception back in the Barn. And — for the children — those who leave a shoe in the church porch may just discover a small surprise waiting for them by the end of the service! See poster attached.

**FUN CORNER**

Knock, knock! Who’s there?

Freezer! Freezer who?

For he’s a jolly good fellow!

Knock, knock! Who’s there?

Cash! Cash who?

No thanks, I prefer peanuts!

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This cat looks exactly how I often feel on a Monday morning!