

## Notices and Forthcoming Events

- **Forthcoming dates for your diaries:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October Pet Service at Christchurch; Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Wedmore First School Harvest Service at St Mary's; Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Allerton Dedication Festival Evensong; Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Charity Christmas Card Sale in St Mary's; Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls Services at St Mary's and Allerton; Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Christchurch Patronal Festival; Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November – St Mary's Advent Fayre; Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Advent Carol Service in St Mary's; Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concert in St Mary's with HMS Heron Band and Cheddar Male Choir.

- **Harvest Festivals – St Mary's** 10.30am followed by lunch in church (please contact Heather Hector 712478 or Heather Banwell 712216 for lunch tickets) **Holy Trinity** 5pm followed by ploughmans supper at The Village Hall (contact Sue Painter 712528 for tickets) Both on Sunday **28<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Allerton** Sunday 5 October 10.30 a.m. at Ad Astra Cider Barn followed by refreshments. Donations of non perishable goods will be gratefully received and will be given to the Cheddar Valley Foodbank and Wade House in Highbridge.

- **Regular food bank collections** continue to be taken through the year and food can be dropped off at the blue bin in St Mary's porch, boxes in Allerton and Christchurch, Coombes Dairy in Blackford and outside Pumpkin Delicatessen. Thank you to Jane Scott and others who take the donations over to Cheddar each week.

- **St Mary's Seekers (Sunday School) and creche** begin on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September and will continue monthly usually during Café Church. Anyone who is interested in coming along please speak to Richard or Heather Hector. **Messy Church** is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

- The **Wednesday Home Group** next meets on 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at 7, Bramblefield Drive. Speak to Richard if you would like to join this supportive study group.

- **Wedmore Opera's** production of La Traviata is in St Mary's Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets on sale now from their website and Paper Shop.

- The **Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society** will take place in St Mary's Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October during St Mary's coffee shop. For those unable to attend on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, please bring your box to Sue Burton at Combe Cottage, Combe Batch, by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Checked boxes will be available for collection from Church on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.

- **Christ Church fellowship group** meets at Bagley Baptist Church for coffee, cake and conversation on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 11am. All welcome. (Future dates are 29<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November).

- **Help required** to set up St Mary's for Harvest festival lunch. If you can lend a hand please be in church at 5pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.

- St Mary's has just been given the **Eco Church Bronze Award** which recognises the efforts taken on the journey to becoming carbon neutral. You can find out more about Eco Church at [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk) Huge thanks to Liz Anderson for all her work on this.

**The Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore**  
**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 Matthew the Apostle**

We thank God for all who translate and distribute the scriptures;  
 We pray that we may be open to Christ's calling wherever it may lead us;  
 for the lonely and isolated and shunned in our communities that they may  
 be lifted up and given hope;  
 for local farmers and all who work and steward the land;  
 that new relationships will be fostered as we create a new benefice;  
 for the children and staff of the Lighthouse School Gaza and all facing  
 disaster in that territory;  
 for swift international action to bring aid and peace to Gaza.

The Sick: from our community –Michael (Red) Redman, Claire Clement, John  
 Horne, Jean Winter, Margaret Marinkovic, Philip Stott, Thomas Hole and  
 others for whom we have been asked to pray - Jamie Trotham, Anne  
 Dyer, Ruth Dyer, Alistair Cree, Austin Ludlow, Sue Darley, Alistair Forster,  
 Dean Toby Wright and Elizabeth Nicholls.

RIP Arthur (Jimmy) Pippett (Heath House); Henry Paul (Matthew Paul's  
 father); Reverend Marion Hance (Berrow)

**What's On This Week?**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Matthew the Apostle**

St Mary's	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Preb Richard Neill
Allerton Church	9.00am	Morning Praise	LWA
Holy Trinity	9.00am	Parish Communion	Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	10.30am	Morning Praise	Mary Clark
Christchurch	11.00am	Parish Communion	Revd Tony Connell
St Mary's	6.00pm	Start the Week	Karin Weigold

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Mendip Crematorium	1.30pm	Funeral of Jimmy Pippett
--------------------	--------	--------------------------

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

St Mary's	9.00am	Little Lambs Toddler Group
Holy Trinity	9.15am	Year 5 visit to Holy Trinity
St Mary's	7.30pm	Wedmore Standing Committee

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

St Mary's	9.45am	Midweek Communion
St Mary's	10.30am	St Mary's Walking Group
Bagley Baptist Church	11.00am	Christchurch Fellowship Group
7, Bramblefield Road	7.30pm	Home Group

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

St Mary's	3.00pm	Messy Church
-----------	--------	--------------

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September: Matthew the Apostle**

Allerton Church	9.00am	Parish Communion	Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	10.30am	Harvest Festival, Seekers and Creche	Revd Joy Hawes
Christchurch	11.00am	Morning Praise	Preb Richard Neill
Holy Trinity	5.00pm	Harvest Festival Songs of Praise	Preb Richard Neill

## **COLLECT**

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.

## **OLD TESTAMENT**

### **PROVERBS 3.13-18**

Happy are those who find wisdom,  
and those who get understanding,  
for her income is better than silver,  
and her revenue better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can  
compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and  
honour.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay  
hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called  
happy.

## **PSALM**

### **PSALM 119.65-72**

You have dealt graciously with  
your servant, ♦  
according to your word, O Lord.  
66 O teach me true understanding  
and knowledge, ♦  
for I have trusted in your  
commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went  
astray, ♦  
but now I keep your word.  
68 You are gracious and do  
good; ♦  
O Lord, teach me your statutes.  
69 The proud have smeared me  
with lies, ♦  
but I will keep your  
commandments with my whole  
heart.  
70 Their heart has become gross  
with fat, ♦  
but my delight is in your law.  
71 It is good for me that I have  
been afflicted, ♦  
that I may learn your statutes.  
72 The law of your mouth is dearer  
to me ♦  
than a hoard of gold and silver.

## **EPISTLE**

### **2 CORINTHIANS 4.1-6**

Since it is by God's mercy that we  
are engaged in this ministry, we do  
not lose heart. We have renounced  
the shameful things that one hides;  
we refuse to practise cunning or to  
falsify God's word; but by the open  
statement of the truth we commend  
ourselves to the conscience of  
everyone in the sight of God. And

even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **GOSPEL**

### **MATTHEW 9.9-13**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this,

he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

## **POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in  
tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness  
to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your  
truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of  
your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Readings:  
Amos 6.1a,4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy  
6.6-19; Luke 16.19-end

Daily Readings: Mark 9.38-end; Mark  
10.1-16; Mark 10.17-31; Mark 10.32-  
34; Mark 10.35-45; Mark 10.46-end

Psalm 137