



CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

OCTOBER 2025



A word from Andrew

We prosper when we respond to the generous heart of God.

There can be a temptation to think of prosperity only in terms of money, and 'prosperity' can have negative connotations for some. But in God's economy, prosperity is a sign of the breaking in of God's presence and God's kingdom. All around us creation prospers, in the annual harvest, but also in the renewing of what is broken or damaged. Notice how quickly weeds appear when you think you have cleared the ground. Creation prospers. We prosper when we respond to the generous heart of God, receive of God's generosity and overflow in sharing it, like a healthy river, or with the energy the disciples had for their missional activity. Those who are close to the heart of God cannot but be generous because God is all generous. We respond to the generosity of God when our service, whatever that might be, is freely offered for the benefit of others and the glory of God. We respond to the generosity of God when we give financially with a thankful and generous heart.

We are a Benefice of three churches, and you all belong to one of them. Each church needs the financial contributions of all the members to thrive as the body of Christ in each community. I would like you to take a moment to consider what you are currently giving and to think about increasing that amount. As we all know, costs are always increasing! It is helpful if you can give monthly by standing order, rather than making an offering just when you attend a service. It is helpful if what you give, can be Gift-Aided so we can recoup the tax you have paid on it from the government. God is very generous to us and our response in financial giving is an expression of thankfulness and a taking a part in funding the Lord's work through our church. The Bank account details for each church are below and on the website:

<https://www.faithinourvillage.org/donate>

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

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

With Every Blessing,
Andrew

News from All Saints – Great Chalfield

The Quiet Garden – a time for personal reflection

Do you need ?

Time to reflect,
Space to be alone,
Somewhere to pray,
Someone to listen,
Or a quiet place?

We offer

Peace and stillness,
Solitude, a beautiful garden,
Someone to talk to, if you wish,
Shelter from the elements in the
medieval parish church.

Invited Speakers 2025

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

December 2nd

Sharon Firth, Group Facilitator, Trainer & retired Pastor



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,
GREAT CHALFIELD**

COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



News from St. Mary's

Saturday 13 September proved to be an ideal day for Riding and Striding; the sun shone and there was a gentle breeze. Despite this, the day seemed very much quieter than usual. Our team of welcomers sat in church throughout the day but had very few visitors to welcome. It is not clear whether this is due to less participants than is the norm, or that our church does not fall into a regular circuit. As for our two participants, the older one managed three circuits of The Common and then his knees began to buckle, so he thought it safer to walk home: an estimated total of three and a half miles. As for the younger one, at the time of writing, he has not yet reported back, so he is still probably out there clocking up the miles. So far, they have been sponsored to the tune of something over £300, but the money is still coming in and it is not too late to join the sponsors; half the money raised will come to St. Mary's. Our thanks are due to all these sponsors and to the patient team of welcomers in the church.

Rather strangely, for culinary reasons, this year our harvest Service and our Harvest Supper have become detached from each other in the church diary, with the service on 28 September and the supper on 4 October. By the time you read this, the first will be with us, but there might still be time to join us at the second. The supper we consider this to be not just for the church, but for the whole community, all are welcome. As well as the hot supper, there is a full evening of entertainment. Any proceeds on the evening will be donated to Melksham Food Bank. Please see poster for details about how to book.



Our September Coffee Morning welcomed some different faces, and we raised £121, largely thanks to Sarah's wonderful selection of baked offerings and a well-stocked raffle. Thank you to all who come and to the team.

Christopher Fielden

Coffee Morning

ST MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON

SUPPORTING



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION



Pray for St. Mary's

Tuesday's at 13:45
21 October & 18 November
St. Mary's Church

Pray for St. IKS



Wednesday 1 October @ 19:30
Tuesday 4 November @ 19:30
St. Katharine's Church

CUPPA & CATCH UP

TINY TOTS HOLT

St Katharine's Church
Thursday 2nd October
9:00-10:30

**DROP IN AFTER
DROP OFF!**



ALL WELCOME

Café church HARVEST

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



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER
19:45 ONWARDS

HOT DRINKS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME

Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church



Christmas came early to coffee morning with a sneaky peek at the top section of the Holt village woolly Christmas tree, carefully transported to the church on the top of Helen's car. It looks fabulous 'in person', the textures and colours zing and when assembled with the lower two sections will be a stunning addition to Ham Green this December. It feels a real privilege to be a monthly meeting place of the Holt Crafters and see the progress of the fruits of their labours.

Numbers were down, September often sees numbers drop a bit as folks take the opportunity to get away after children are back to school and grandparent holiday duties are over. Much laughter, chatter, coffee and tea quaffing, and baked goods munching went on regardless. There were opportunities for the team to have some good conversations with our guests which isn't possible on the weeks when things are busy. The atmosphere is always special as we open the session beforehand with a time of prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to be with us and bless the time we spend together. It feels an anointed time. A few early drop-in Ride and Striders had their forms signed and pedalled off into the Wiltshire wilds to stop off at more churches.

£259.45 was raised, this time for St. K's, but the money isn't the important thing, it's the people and the connections made and enjoyed. We ended with a rousing 🎵 'Happy Birthday' to Ruth Mecredy, who I assume was 21 again.

Next month we revert to our usual 3rd Saturday in the month 18 October for a reuse, recycle and re-purpose theme. Hope you can make it.

Dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

- **15 November** when we shall be collecting items for The Hub and Katy will have her amazing craft stall so in time for some Christmas shopping
- **13 December** which will coincide with the Nativity Crib Festival

The St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team

Coffee Morning

REUSE - RECYCLE - REPURPOSE

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON



JOIN US FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY MORNING
BRING UNWANTED CLOTHES, ENJOY SOMETHING NEW!

REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE

26 OCTOBER AT 15:00

ST KATHARINE'S
CHURCH, HOLT

LIGHT A CANDLE
GIVE THANKS
REFLECT



REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE

We warmly invite you to join us for our Remembering a Loved One service. We provide a welcome space to come together in a gentle, reflective service with thoughtful liturgy and music. It is a wonderful opportunity to honour and remember, those we have loved and lost; people who have been deeply significant in our individual life stories.

We provide a lovely tea at the end of the service to which you are also warmly invited. Please do invite friends you know who have been bereaved if you think they might find the service helpful too.

We encourage people to send names of those they wish to remember to Dawn via email: united.benefice@outlook.com by 22 October so we can read them out during the service whilst we light a candle in memory of them. Sometimes it's someone way back in your life story; it can be anyone you have loved the memory of whom you continue to cherish.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Rachel Firth
Licensed Lay Minister

Dawn Farmer
Lay Worship Leader

Rev. Judy Wright
Curate



THE KING HOLIDAY CLUB

Bible Stories. Games. Activities. Crafts.

St. Katharine's Church, Holt
29-31 October, 9-12noon
Primary School Ages

*NO
CHARGE

To Sign up, or for more Information, Contact:
childrenandyouth@stkatharinesholt.org





St. Katharine's

Light Party!

31 OCTOBER

4-6pm

**St. Katharine's, Holt
Children and Families**

DRESS CODE:

Bright Colours!

*Come to St. Katharine's Church on Friday 31 October
for an evening of games, activities, hotdogs and more!*

*An event for children and families to hang out, and
have all round family fun!*

**all children must be accompanied by an adult*

*To Book Your Free Place, Please Email:
ChildrenAndYouth@stkatharinesholt.org*

Eco Church



The Bible Reading Fellowship Ministries has produced a small book called 'Dreaming of a Green Christmas', which has lots of ideas to help you maybe get back to basics, in a way, and not be sucked in by all the hype and wasted money that most of us get so frustrated about every year (even if we vowed the previous year that 'next year it will be different').

There are simple tips such as, don't use foil gift wrap as that can't be recycled, maybe use fabric and ribbon. And helpful suggestions for meaningful gifts - use a Secret Santa app for a large family and decide on a price limit so grown-ups get a present of greater value instead of cheap presents that will mean less. Club together and buy an 'experience' type gift. We probably all have too much 'stuff' and making memories is very special.

Think of those who won't be joining people for Christmas, or are really struggling, and buy an extra few items when leading up to Christmas and pop them in the donations box for the local foodbank. **** At the November Coffee Morning on the 15th at St. Katharine's Church we shall be collecting items for The Hub in Bradford on Avon for their annual Christmas hampers ****

The suggestions made in the book aren't rocket science, they can just help us expand our thinking or change our ways to be sustainable and take more care of our wonderful planet.

If we take time from trying to impress, we can make time to spend time with the One who we are celebrating.

Book available from <https://www.brf.org.uk/> @ £6.99.

Terri Dauncey

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

Services October 2025

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
5 th		10:30 Café Church Harvest	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Choral Evensong with Guest Choir Harvest
12 th		10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
19 th		10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
26 th		10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 15:00 Remembering a Loved One	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion

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

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

Follow us @faithinourvillage    YouTube

**Please send content for the November issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 17 October.**

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

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