**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 287**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT WEEK’S NEWSLETTER WILL NOT COME OUT UNTIL SATURDAY.**

**OUR SERVICE ON SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025 – 13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

This will be our **Sung Eucharist** starting at **11.15 a.m.** The celebrant will be **Rev Stephen Bowen.** There will be refreshments and chat after the service so please stay if you can.

**LOOKING FORWARDS – REV ANDY**

This Sunday, churches across the world will celebrate the festival of Holy Cross. The cross has become the universal symbol for Christianity. The early church used a different symbol, a fish, and whilst this has made a comeback in recent years it is the cross which many people still recognise as the hallmark of the Christian faith.

 I had the privilege a few years ago of visiting the Holy Land. Pilgrims have travelled there for centuries, probably from the fourth century, to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. One highlight for me was to go to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the first building of which was dedicated on 14th September in the year 335.

 Tradition holds that whilst Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine was over-seeing excavations in Jerusalem, a cross was found, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. To this day, it is possible to see a fragment of the cross for yourself.

 Whether you visit a holy site or not and whether you trust in the relic’s authenticity or not, are for me not what truly matters. It is the undisputed historical accounts that a man called Jesus, a labourer from Nazareth, died on a cross. A person who spent a short period of time preferentially teaching and ministering to the poor, the sick, the outcast and the persecuted, was executed by those with power. But as the Bible reminds us, Jesus did not come into the world to condemn us, but in order that we might be saved through him.

 The cross is holy not because of the one who hung on it, but because of what their death accomplished. The instrument of death that was used to end a life, unwittingly achieved quite the opposite. The cross of Christ is our door to life, and life lived to the full. When we reach the point in life where we are willing to sacrifice everything for the one who gave us that life in the first place, genuine life truly begins.

 This week we are invited to bring to the foot of the cross all that we know holds us back in life. We are called to lay it down, to hand it over, physically perhaps or through prayer if not. Jesus shows us that by placing everything into the hands of the God who loves us unconditionally, not fighting for our wants, but letting go instead, leads to a version of life where death has no hold and where instead, we all flourish.

**ROTA FOR SUNDAY 14/9/2025**

**Sidesmen:-** Jacquie Hockaday and Ann Fry

**Reader:-** John Evans

**Coffee:-** Ann Fry and Jacquie Hockaday

**Flowers:-** Jacquie Hockaday

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025 – 13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Collect:-** Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings:-**

Numbers Chapter 21, vv 4 – 9

Philippians Chapter 2, vv 6 – 11

John Chapter 3, vv 13 – 17

**PRAYER LIST**

Holy Cross Church, Sampford Arundel and all those who live, work and worship there as 14/9/2025 is Holy Cross Day

The Rev Caroline Luff (Rachel Yates’ godmother)

The people of Pakistan who have endured epic floods and the subsequent loss of human life, homes, animals and stored grain.

Elizabeth Miles

Eunice Durrance

Ian Sansom

Mike Toogood

Pam Wilkie

Paul

Stephen Daley

Susan Dobson

**YEARS MIND FOR SEPTEMBER**

14th Ernest James Westcott

15th Rosalind (Ros) Snow

18th Ida Mary Goff

19th Robin Fielding

19th Rev Prebendary Neville Kent

**BIRTHDAY LIST FOR AUGUST**

18th Paul Sayer

We hope you have the most enjoyable birthday doing what you want to do to celebrate.

**OUTREACH GROUPS**

**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.

**Knit, Sew and Natter**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 2nd October 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, 11th October 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**

This will be a **Sung Eucharist** starting at **11.15 a.m.** on **Sunday 21st September 2025.** The celebrant will be our Priest-in-charge **Rev Andy Beaumont.** There will be refreshments after the service.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**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 13th – 14th**

**Christmas tree festival**

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

**December 14th 3 p.m.**

**Carol service amongst the trees**

The service will consist of the usual mixture of readings, poetry and carols and it will be followed by mince pies and mulled apple juice.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Global Day of Prayer**

Approximately 15 people from various churches attended this event to read and pray for an hour before lighting a candle and departing. We thank Rev Andrew Norris for arranging the various host churches.

**From Rev Colin Randall via Rev Andy**

I was the Team Rector of Wellington from 2000 to 2012. I'm celebrating the 50th anniversary of my ordination on Sunday 28 September, and wondered if you might be good enough to pass the information around? There will doubtless be some people who will remember me, and they might like to know, for their prayers if nothing else! However, if anyone felt like coming, I will be presiding and preaching at the Parish Eucharist at 10 am that day, at St Peter's Budleigh Salterton, The Lawn, EX9 6LT, and everybody is most welcome. I do hope that you are enjoying the parishes - some wonderful people when I was there, and a surfeit of glorious buildings!! With thanks and best wishes Colin

**From Rev Andrew Norris**

The “Home Service” is a weekly programme which brings Christian worship into your front room which 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:

*We join the congregation of St John's parish church, Wellington where the Revd. Colin Simpson leads a service on the theme of "Reconciliation". We also hear part 2 of Hilary Allen's series on "Aspects of God's Love" manifested through forgiveness.*

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**

