**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 288**

If you receive this by email then you know I have safely returned from doing three fifteen mile walks along the coast of Brittany and have not been drowned by all the rain!

**OUR SERVICE ON SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025 – ST MATTHEW/TRINITY 14**

The service today will be a **Sung Eucharist** starting at **11.15 a.m.** with **Rev David Burton** as the celebrant. Do stay for refreshments and chat after the service.

**LOOKING FORWARDS – REV ANDY**

This week saw a group of nineteen people complete the eight-week Bible Course. It has been a wonderful journey to go on, from Genesis through to Revelation. Each week we have stepped back in time and asked ourselves “What did this mean back then?” before coming back to the present day and considering “What does this mean for us today?”. New insights have been gained and new friendships have grown. What is most exciting is the appetite of many to go further, to go deeper and to put their growing faith into practice. This hunger has not been born out of ritual and religion, but out of relationships viz a relationship with each other, with the Bible and with the one who speaks to us through it.

 By contrast, in this week’s Gospel we meet a group of Pharisees who were sticklersfor ritual. In their view only those who practiced various rites were clean enough, good enough, to keep company with. On the Bible Course a diverse group of people from a range of backgrounds and faith positions all welcomed each other, listened to one another and learned from each other. There were no pre-requisites, just a shared desire to journey together.

 Jesus responded to the judgement he saw in the Pharisees by suggesting they reflect on the words of Hosea, a prophet whose teaching they respected, who spoke of God’s preference for mercy, and not sacrifice. Instead of putting religious rituals of sacrifice ahead of the hand of welcome, Jesus suggests such sacrifices should flow in response to God’s love and welcome which is offered unconditionally to all. The Pharisees didn’t earn God’s love via their religious ways. Without a loving relationship with God all the ritual in the world would not help them. Today the same is true for us as well. If our hearts are not open to love and mercy our religious ways our worth very little. If we ever find ourselves more concerned for rites and not the one they point to, then we should heed Hosea’s words. God cares more for our love for him than the things we do in his name.

If you would like to hear more about The Bible Course, or the thoughts about what those who have just completed it are having about what to do next, then please let me know. Together we can go further, go deeper and put our faith into practice. What does that mean for you today?

**ROTA FOR SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Sidesmen:-** Lorna Grinter and Veonica Tatnall

**Reader:-** Philippa Deem

**Coffee:-** Veronica Tatnall and Lorna Grinter

**Flowers:-** Alison Toogood

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 21st September 2025**

**Collect:-** Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings:-**

Proverbs Chapter 3, vv 13 – 18

2nd Corinthians Chapter 4, vv 1 – 6

Matthew Chapter 9, vv 9 – 13

**PRAYER LIST**

The Rev Caroline Luff (Rachel Yates’ godmother)

Chris Monckton

Elizabeth Miles

Eunice Durrance

Ian Sansom

Mike Toogood

Pam Wilkie

Paul

Stephen Daley

Susan Dobson

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

**YEARS MIND FOR SEPTEMBER**

24th Alfred Cope

**BIRTHDAY LIST FOR SEPTEMBER**

There are no known birthdays this week.

**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**

The next service at **All Saints’ Church** will be our **Harvest Festival Sung Eucharist** on **Sunday 28th September** starting at **11.15 a.m.** The celebrant will be **Rev Andy** and there will be a lunch served afterwards in the Lang Room to which everyone is invited.

**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.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**The Welly Hopper Patient Transport Scheme**We have a great need to find a volunteer to take phone calls from patients needing to get a Welly Hopper volunteer driver to take them to their appointment at their Doctor’s Surgery at Wellington Medical Centre or at Wellington Cottage Hospital. This helper is needed for one morning a week (or more if wished). Mobile phone and computer provided.

 To enable us to continue the Welly Hopper Scheme, which is SO helpful to so many patients, we would be very grateful for assistance. PLEASE CONTACT ERICA ADAMS, CHAIRMAN of Welly Hopper if you can help, tel. O182**3 669022 or Email.** **erica.adams131@gmail.com****.**

**From Rev Andrew Norris**

Please see the attached notice.

**FUN CORNER**

Last weekend there was a huge 250th celebration in Bath re Jane Austen. People came from all over the world and there were dances, balls, costumes everywhere. A local Pizza Parlour decided to get in on the act and their menu included the following items:-

Mr Darcey’ Delight – mozzarella cheese, tomato and olives on a pizza base

Pride and Pepperoni – tomato sauce, pepperoni and mozzarella cheese on a pizza base and

Sense and Salami – same as the previous but substitutes salami for pepperoni

ITV’s local news programme described the entire event as “Austentatious”.

