

Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 93

October 2025

St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill, St David's, Lordswood,
and St William's, Walderslade



Celebrating the Ordinary in the Changing Seasons

As the month of September concludes, we find ourselves at a turning point in the year. The long days of summer are softening, schools are opening their doors once again, and many of us return from holidays to familiar routines. The change of season is not just a shift in weather; it is a gentle reminder of the rhythm God has woven into creation.



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

In the church calendar, we remain in “Ordinary Time.” The name can sound uninspiring, as if it were a period of waiting until Advent’s candles or Easter’s lilies arrive. Yet, the very ordinariness of this season is a gift. It invites us to discover God in the everyday, in the school run, the workplace, the kitchen table, the autumn walk. Jesus Himself lived most of His life not in dramatic moments of teaching or miracles, but in the ordinary routines of a carpenter in Nazareth. The Son of God sanctified the daily and the unnoticed.

If we allow it, the steady rhythm of the ordinary can deepen our faith. St Paul reminds us, *“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in*

the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17). Every act, from cooking a meal to writing an email, can become an offering when done in love. The months of September and October are not a “waiting room” until the next great festival, but a canvas on which God paints His quiet blessings.

The changing seasons of creation mirror the seasons of our spiritual lives. Just as autumn prepares the earth for rest and renewal, so too do these ordinary weeks prepare our hearts. Ordinary Time is about growth, patience, and perseverance, the quiet virtues

that form us for the moments of celebration to come.

So, as routine settles back in, let us be mindful not to see this time of year as the end of summer’s joy but as the beginning of a fresh opportunity to live faithfully. God is as present in the packed lunch as in the Eucharist, as near in the classroom as in the sanctuary. May we learn to celebrate the presence of Christ in all things, so that no season of life – ordinary or extraordinary – is without His light.

Rev. Ann Ruby
Team Curate

Worship in October 2025

Sunday 5 October (Trinity 16)

10am **Morning Worship** at St David’s, Lordswood

Sunday 12 October (Trinity 17)

10am **Holy Communion** at St William’s, Walderslade

Sunday 19 October (Trinity 18)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban’s, Blue Bell Hill

10am **Family Vibes** at St David’s, Lordswood

Sunday 26 October (Last Sunday after Trinity)

10am **Holy Communion** at St David’s, Lordswood

On the Social side

Coffee & Cake is held at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. Next date: **10 October**

Holy Communion & Coffee Morning

at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next dates: **15 October** (Worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am)

Tea at Three at St William's on the third Monday each month at 3pm. Afternoon tea always served with a smile! Next dates: **20 October**

Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's in Walderslade Village is open most days throughout the week; **Monday - Friday** 10am - 2pm and **Saturdays** from 9am.

People of Holy Trinity South Chatham

This month Ann Benger interviews Carolyn Burch part of our church family alongside her husband and children.

Age: Getting very close to 40!!

Family: I am married to David and have two wonderful girls, Alexandra and Sophia who keep me on my toes. I'm sure you've all heard them in church!! Sadly I lost my Dad to cancer nearly ten years ago but I am incredibly close to my Mum and see her often.

What is your role in the church?

Besides providing the noisy children element to your church experience, I am on the reading rota. I also help

where I can with Family Vibes, but this normally involves chasing Alexandra around!!

What is your church background?

Growing up, I attended the local Baptist church and always loved being part of the youth group. I've had a long-standing interest in religion, which led me to study Religious Studies at A Level, followed by Classics and Philosophy at university. I remember someone once telling me that I couldn't be a Christian if I studied Philosophy—but I've always felt that Philosophy enriches your understanding of life and offers new ways to see the world.

When my cousin asked me to be godmother to her daughter, it felt like a sign—and that moment led me to be christened. I was baptised at St David's in 2011, just a week before my goddaughter's own christening, with her there to witness mine. Later that same year, I was confirmed.

Since then, being part of the parish has meant a great deal to me. I was married at St William's Church, and both of my daughters have been christened in the parish. It's a spiritual home that continues to play an important role in my life.

Where are you from? I am born and bred in Chatham! I did go to university in Scotland but have come back to my roots, to be near my family.

What did you want to be when you were a child? I wanted to be a lot of different things; a paediatrician, a landscape gardener, a famous tennis player, a teacher...

Are there any childhood memories you would like to share?

I have such fond memories of all the days out and holidays I had with my family. One particular highlight was a tour of Scotland, where I enjoyed my first bowl of mussels! We also had some amazing adventures exploring the New Forest.



What is your Day job?

I'm a primary school teacher at a local school, now entering my 15th year in the profession. Alongside my teaching role, I lead Religious Education across our trust and serve on the local SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). RE is a real passion of mine, and I feel fortunate to be able to support other teachers by delivering RE CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and helping to shape high-quality teaching in this area.

Do you have any hobbies?

I really enjoy going to the cinema and try to make it a weekly treat. I also have a passion for visiting historic sites—especially anything Roman, which always fascinates me. I also can't resist a good quiz night! I try to meet up with friends once a month for a bit of friendly competition and fun.

What is your favourite food?

I love a roast but my favourite has to be a Thai meal.

What is your favourite TV programme?

When I'm not being subjected to endless episodes of Bing or Peter Rabbit, I love unwinding with a good, cheesy series—Death in Paradise and Beyond Paradise are favourites of mine. There's something comforting about a classic detective drama—Shetland is a particular standout. Lately, I've also been really enjoying The Great British Sewing Bee, even though I wouldn't have the first clue where to start if I tried it myself!

What is your favourite film?

There are too many to choose from but I do love a good rom com!

**What is your favourite/ music?**

My playlist is a journey from the nostalgic pop of Westlife and Boyzone to the grandeur of classical and cinematic scores. There's something about a great movie score that really moves me, and the themes from Morse and Gladiator are two that I absolutely adore.

Do you have a favourite Bible reading?

I'm especially drawn to Jesus' parables and the meaningful lessons they offer through storytelling.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

*My Jesus, my saviour ; Here I am Lord;
Shine, Jesus, shine!*

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I'm not entirely sure what the future holds, but I imagine I'll still be doing school runs—just to a bigger school this time—and I expect I'll still be working in education in some capacity.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I went to St Andrews University; my first year was Prince William's last year and I saw him a few times around the town. St Andrews will always have a massive place in my heart.

In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our world; praying for countries where important elections are taking place and those involved in seemingly relentless conflict
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- our Government, all Ministers of Parliament and the Judiciary
- the Methodist Southeast District, the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- those in hospital and those waiting scans, operations or treatment
- for all couples recently married and those preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and their families.
- the family of Rose Bryan and all those recently departed.



Dates for the diary

Trinity Prayers in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 2 October at 7.30pm

Midweek Communion at Woodlands Court on Monday 6 October at 6.30pm

Woodlands Study Group (Residents Only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 13 & 27 October at 11am

Bible Study Group in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 13 & 27 October at 2.30pm

Wardens Plus at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 20 October at 9.30am

Pastoral Group at 17 Dornden Gardens on Tuesday 21 October at 10am

CEC in the Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's on Wednesday 22 October at 7.30pm

Reading & Praying: October 2025

Trinity 16 – 5 October

*Lamentations 1.1-6, Psalm 137 [137.1-6]
2 Timothy 1.1-14 & Luke 17.2-10*

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders, that
we may serve you with reverence and
know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Trinity 17 – 12 October

*Jeremiah 29.1, 4-7, Psalm 66.1-11,
2 Timothy 2.8-15 & Luke 17.11-19*

Gracious God,
you call us to fulness of life:
deliver us from our unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Trinity 18 – 19 October

*Jeremiah 31.27-34, Psalm 119.97-104
2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 & Luke 18.1-8*

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,

that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation
which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



'... our Daily Bread...'

Last After Trinity – 26 October

*Joel 2.23—end, Psalm 65 [65.1-7],
2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18 & Luke 18.9-14*

Merciful God
teach us to be faithful
in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keeping in contact

More information about the Parish is available via weekly emails which you can sign-up to receive from our website, achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham, or by using the QR code below. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Team Rector: Rev. David Kichenside 01634 862265 david.kichenside@gmail.com
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Team Curate: Rev. Ann Ruby 07565 402121 reverendann@hotmail.com
(Parish Days: Wednesdays and Sundays)

Church Wardens Pat Long 01634 309180
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Church Steward Sylvia Wigglesworth 01634 683789

Parish Safeguarding Officer Mark Salter 07719 183940

Prayer Co-ordinator Mary Horwell 01634 308552
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Church Bookings Jean Small 01634 315106

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@southchatham on Facebook and @htscuk on Instagram



HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

One church of St Alban, St David and St William serving Blue Bell Hill, Lords Wood and Walderslade.
A partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church

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