

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2025



A word from Andrew

Let's Take the Next Steps in Our Coach House Project...

We had our last pray for St K in the Coach House and the prayer was for the development of the Coach House. Here are some of the things we felt the Lord was saying about it:

- That the Lord has already made provision for this project and prayer and fasting will release it.
- Matthew 6:33 'But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well'.
- That God was going to multiply our resources as in the feeding of the 5000 with the idea that the multiplication came during the disciple's hands-on distribution.
- The idea that everything is in place and it's all about to speed up.
- We also had Psalm 127:1, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'. This is not something we can accomplish ourselves. We need to pray it into being.

For myself, I am convinced that St Katharine's is being held back from further growth because we need the Coach House developed and the facilities it will provide, and we also need a car park.

I would like to call St Katharine's folks (and anyone else in the Benefice who would like to join in) to fast and pray on Tuesday 4 November. The church will be open for prayer from 2pm until 6pm and the day will conclude with our 'Pray for St K' at 7.30pm. This will also be a gift day, where we invite everyone to give a gift for the development of the Coach House (gift-aided if possible) so that we can take our giving up to the level that will attract potential grants. As many of you know we have £150,000 towards a total of £600,000 including VAT.

With Every Blessing,
Andrew

P.S. Thank you to those who have responded to last month's article and started to give monthly directly to the church's bank account.

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

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

January 2026

No Quiet Garden



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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9 NOVEMBER

10:00

**ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
GREAT CHALFIELD**

HOLY COMMUNION

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



News from St. Mary's

We had a busy start to the month of October. On Friday 3rd, it was the school Harvest Service and we had over a hundred people in the church. The Service itself was inspiring, with the children celebrating creation and its fruits, though I must admit when I saw on the screen that the next song was going to be Combine Harvester a fear that Adge Cutler and the Wurzels were making a guest appearance! In fact, the guests were Kay and Maurice from Melksham Foodbank, who explained their work and their needs.

On the Saturday, we had a double-header, with a Coffee Morning, followed, in the evening, by our Harvest Supper. There were some newcomers at the former and more children than we have ever seen in the past. We pride ourselves to arrange things so that each of them wins something in the raffle. This problem was solved by one of them winning a large tin of sweets, which they dutifully shared around.

There were about fifty of us at the supper and we were pleased to welcome some members of the community who are not members of our congregation, faces from other parts of the benefice and, once again, Kay and Maurice.

For a change the evening started with a rousing rendering of the first verse and chorus of a harvest hymn and finished with Ann reading A.A. Milne's "Hush, hush, whisper who dares, Christopher Robin is saying his prayers." In between there was a choice of three hot dishes at supper, followed by a veritable cornucopia of delicious dessert. Whilst the washing-up took place, there was a challenging numerical quiz.

Entertainment included the normal range of poems from our regular readers and two vocal entertainers from Demi Williams with a song learnt at her primary school and a selection from Richmond, whom we had dragged out of retirement, not knowing that his c.v. included a role as a professional entertainer!

I am always amazed as to how everybody gets together to clear up afterwards and how quickly it happens. Thanks to them and to everybody who contributed to what was deemed to be a very successful evening. This includes all those who came. You are too many to mention.

During all this we seem to have been fundraising for several outside organisations. The Coffee Morning raised £121 for the Fairtrade Foundation, the Harvest celebrations, £320 for Melksham Foodbank, and the Riders &

Striders £401 for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Thank you to all those generous donors.

Three dates for your diary:

Sunday 9 November is Remembrance Sunday with the service in church, followed by the parade up to the War Memorial

Saturday 22 November a Quiz in support of Medecins Sans Frontieres

Monday 1 December is the Christingle service at 14:00

Christopher Fielden

In addition to Christopher's article, I would like to thank Janet and all the flower arrangers who made the church look so splendid for the Harvest Service on 28 September. Regarding the Harvest Supper, we are grateful to Sarah and Christopher who produced such splendid meat and vegetarian dishes for the first course. Thanks to everyone who brought the delicious desserts and to all who helped in the kitchen and clearing away at the end. A special thank you to all the entertainers which made for a brilliant evening.

Annette Stone

Donations

To set up a standing order or donate to any of the three churches in the Benefice please find all the information below:

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

Donations towards the Coach House should be referenced "Coach House"

Please send content for the December issue of Church Life Matters via email to Dawn by Friday 21 November.

(The deadline for the January issue will be Wednesday 17 December)

REMEMBRANCE PARADE SERVICE

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

**09:45
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**10:45
WAR MEMORIAL,
BROUGHTON GIFFORD**



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON**

Coffee Morning



Pray for
St. Mary's

Tuesday's at 14:00
18 November & 16 December
St. Mary's Church



THE QUIZ

**SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025
7:30PM**

**BROUGHTON GIFFORD VILLAGE HALL
£7 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE
PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
(PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINK AND GLASS)**

**BOOK YOUR TEAM WITH ANNETTE
01225 782610 OR
ANNETTESTONE7A@GMAIL.COM**

**PROCEEDS TO
MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES**



**The
Children's
Society**

Let's come together to celebrate!

**St Mary's Church, Broughton Gifford
Monday 1 December, 2pm**



Invitational Benefice Supper with Dave & Becky Waterman

Saturday 27 September saw our fourth invitation supper of the year, this time with the wonderful Dave and Becky Waterman from Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF). For some of us it was the first time we had met the couple since we had joined St Katharine's, as Dave and Becky had been overseas for a number of years. Between them they told the story of how God had brought them together, the way the call to mission had beckoned them, and how they felt led to be sent out abroad with all the scary logistics that entailed. The one thing that was the constant for them was the presence of the Lord as they had to rely on Him totally.

After serving abroad, and their return to the UK towards the end of last year, once again they were flung into what would for many be scary circumstances - where they might live? What they should be doing? It was so encouraging and inspiring to hear how God time and time again provided and led them.

About fifty of us enjoyed the inspiring talk, and the fantastic food and hospitality of the team who put the evening together. As yet there is no confirmed speaker for our first supper in 2026. Meanwhile, exercise those 'inviting muscles' by seeing who you could invite to our special services in the lead up to Christmas.



Terri Dauncey

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9 NOVEMBER

10:00

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

10:45

**WAR MEMORIAL,
HAM GREEN, HOLT**

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



Pray for St. K's



***Tuesday 4 November
Tuesday 2 December
St. Katharine's Church
@ 19:30***

JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



OPEN WORSHIP

**ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER
19:45 ONWARDS**

**HOT DRINKS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME**

Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church

I did ask Dawn, that because we had a re-use, recycle and repurpose for this last coffee morning, whether I could just re-use last year's write up for the same theme? Anyway, it didn't work, but I thought it was worth a try!

Numbers were down but that doesn't matter as over the years we've built up some relationship with our regulars and the chats have a quality about them now, and occasionally the opportunity to pray with folks. This is definitely a ministry to be involved in that gives such satisfaction.

The generosity of our guests never fails to delight us. £253.92 was raised; and so was our faith as we prayed for good conversations before we opened the doors. Thank you, Lord, once again for answered prayer and a fabulous morning.

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 CribFest

The St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team

CribFest

We wanted to let you know in plenty of time about this year's Nativity Festival which we are renaming CribFest, happening at St. Katharine's on the 13 & 14 December...

As well as the usual collection of beautiful and very different nativity sets from around the world, we will this year have nativity dress up, more promotion of our beautiful nativity photo booth and are including it in the advertising of the church nativity on the Sunday morning.



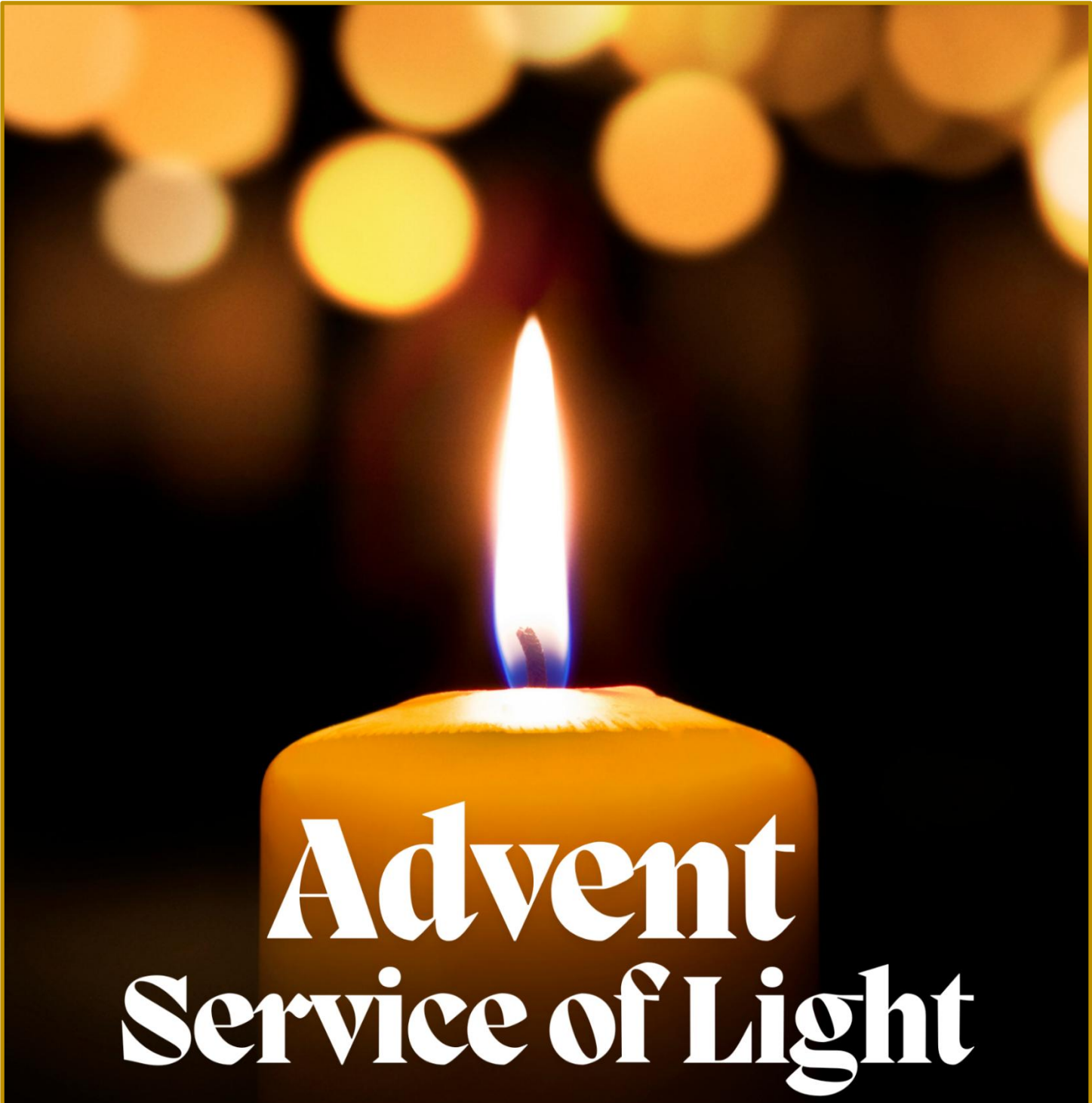
We are encouraging members of the village, especially the school, to join in not only by visiting but by making, drawing or even baking a nativity set to put on display at the weekend. It can be made out of anything they like and any size!

We would love our Church family to get creative too so get your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with! We will gather the sets just before the weekend in December and would love to hear from you if you plan to produce a set!

We will also be looking for people to help man the Church and serve refreshments so if you can help for an hour or so we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please speak to Jane Scheuber, Catherine Ayers or email the church office to let us know you are joining in the fun or with any queries on united.benefice@outlook.com

Thank you!



Advent Service of Light

**SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 18:00
ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH**

CANDLELIT SERVICE

**DRAMATIC PRESENTATION FROM
DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

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

Services November 2025

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
2 nd		10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Patronal Evensong with guest choir
9 th		10:00 Remembrance Service at URC 10:45 War Memorial on Ham Green 18:00 Revival Meeting	09:45 Remembrance Parade Service 10:45 War Memorial	10:00 Remembrance Holy Communion
16 th		10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
23 rd	Christ the King	10:30 Outdoor Church Patronal 10:30 Morning Worship Patronal 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
30 th		18:00 Benefice Advent Service of Light		

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

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

Follow us @faithinourvillage



YouTube

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

Andrew Evans Rector (Day off Friday)	01225 782289	goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com
Ruth Mecredy Assistant Priest	01225 783197	rmecredy@gmail.com
Judy Wright Curate		rev.judewright@outlook.com
Anthony Matthew Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 782082	anthony55matthewfcu@gmail.com
Rachel Firth Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01380 871464	rachel.firth@btconnect.com
Marilyn Stubbs Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 753118	marilynistubbs@yahoo.co.uk
Harvey Bennett Children's and Youth Worker		ChildrenAndYouth @stkatharinesholt.org
Jenny Davis Retired Priest	01225 866479	gardenview36@gmail.com
Elizabeth Bennett Retired Priest	01225 783119	revelizabeth1@gmail.com
Jacque Bennetts Parish Safeguarding Representative	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Ben Jarvis Director of Music		benjaminjarvis@hotmail.co.uk
Dawn Farmer Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com