

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



December 2025

A word from Andrew

This edition of CLM is brimming with opportunities for you to engage in our Advent and Christmas activities and the opportunities are there for you to draw others in through your invitations....! 'I am going to X event. It's going to be great. Would you like to come with me? I can give you a lift if that helps'.

There's a distinct change in our society in terms of openness to an invitation to church. So, why not test if that is true - and please don't give up if the first person says 'no'!!

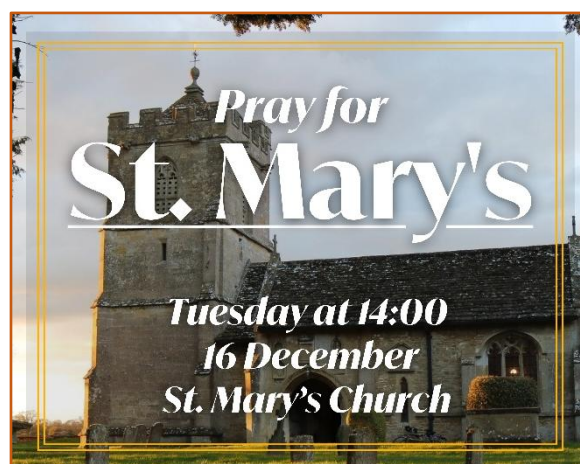
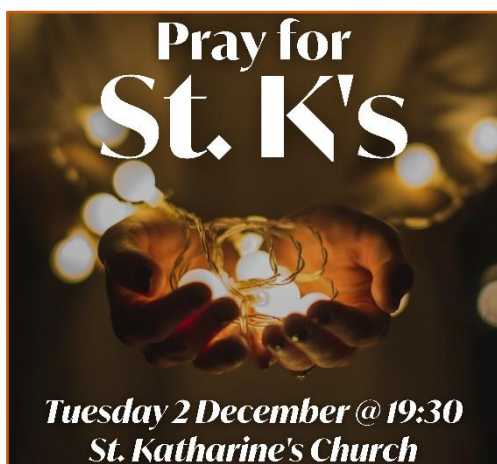
We have just finished our Discipling Journey on Monday nights. Here's one person's feedback:

'I've loved it. It has brought my faith alive again and been such an encouragement. I've described it to others as an Alpha Course for people who are already Christians! I think the format works well, good balance of teaching and time for discussion with useful handouts to refer back to. I think people have come with a real openness, I know I have. I've found the early sessions on prayer and Bible reading particularly useful, but they've all been good. I'm really going to miss it when it comes to an end next week but am so pleased I did it and am excited to see where God leads me next.'

I am thinking of running the course again in the New Year, perhaps on Tuesday nights. Expressions of interest to Dawn or myself please.

It is really a privilege to be the Rector of our three village churches. May I take this opportunity of wishing you each a joyful celebration of King Jesus' birthday and a Happy New Year when it comes.

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 - 2026

December 2nd

January 2026

February 3rd

Sharon Firth, Group Facilitator, Trainer & retired Pastor

No quiet garden

Revd Ron & Mrs Creddie Hart, former Rector of
Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine



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

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
GREAT CHALFIELD

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER AT 6PM



Christmas Day

Holy Communion



All Saints Church
Great Chalfield
10:00

News from St. Mary's

Remembrance Sunday is one occasion in the year when we can expect the church to be full, and this year was no exception, though the number of those in the congregation who actually remember the Second World War is now few. We are lucky to have the village Scout Troop, with its affiliated organisations. They, and their proud parents, swell the numbers. The Scouts read the lessons and lead the prayers. Their banners give a certain pomp to the procession up The Street to the War Memorial. We were fortunate that the weather was kind to us.

There was also a considerable crowd waiting for us at the Memorial. It seems a pity that they hold off coming to the church service. Somehow we must seek to show that they will be welcome be they believers or not.

The boiler in the church seems to be in a skittish mood. We were warned to come muffled up to church. In the event, the radiator by the entrance attracted its regular cluster of bottom warmers.

Charity giving plays an important part in our day to day life and a number of organisations have gained from special events we have organised for them. Such a one is Medecins sans Frontieres, to whom our end of November Quiz was dedicated. They are doing sterling work in Gaza and elsewhere. I am writing this before that Quiz and our PCC meeting at which we decide how any monies put to one side for charities should be spent. In this time of austerity, the demands are great and some difficult decisions will have to be made.

I see in the churchyard an unsightly cage has been put around one of our box tombs which had developed a significant lean. Fortunately, we are not financially responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard, as a number our gravestones are following the same path.

Whilst the Christmas season started in the shops and on television some time ago, for us at St. Mary's the launch is the school Christingle service on the afternoon of Monday 1 December. This is followed by carols in the Fox and Hounds on the evening of Tuesday 9 December. Do come and support us.

Christopher Fielden

**Please send content for the January issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Wednesday 17 December.**

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to everyone who supports the Saturday Coffee Mornings. It's a good time to have a chat, cuppa and homemade cakes. Plus, a very good raffle. Thank you to everyone who helps with baking and donating raffle prizes. The November Coffee Morning raised £128 and we look forward to seeing you again on Saturday 6 December and 3 January.



Remembrance Parade Service 9 November

In addition to Christopher's thanks for the Service of Remembrance in the Church and at the War Memorial. We were delighted that the collection for the Poppy Appeal amounted to a generous £333.

Annette Stone

BEER & CAROLS

TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 8PM

THE FOX AND HOUNDS
BROUGHTON GIFFORD



CAROL SERVICE

FOLLOWED BY FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 6PM



Crib Service

CHRISTMAS EVE, 3PM



ST MARYS CHURCH,
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

JOY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Crib Service at St. Mary's Church

Come and enjoy the retelling of the story of Mary and Joseph, and the birth of the baby Jesus. I wonder what Ruth has got planned. Come along and find out at 15:00 on Christmas Eve. We'd like to encourage any children and young people to come as any nativity character or animal.

★ Midnight Mass



Christmas Eve at 22:45
St Mary's Church,
Broughton Gifford

Christmas Day

Family Communion



St. Mary's Church
Broughton Gifford
10:00

Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church

Church is not just for Sundays As SKY was not meeting the week of the November coffee morning, we had the luxury of setting up on Thursday and Friday rather than arriving at the crack of dawn to set up on Saturday morning.

We welcomed friends old and new and it is always a joy to catch up with each other's news, to have fellowship together and sometimes to have the opportunity to pray for someone. This is church at its best and some visitors commented on the warmth of the welcome and the vibrancy of the place.

Seasonal items for the Christmas Hampers were collected for The Hub in Bradford on Avon to bless those with little this Christmas. In total nine bags were taken to The Hub. The Calne Christian bookshop was also selling cards and gifts, and this will be in church over the next few weeks.

Katy Sanchez, one of the mums who comes to Tiny Tots, brought her hand painted gifts to entice some into buying Christmas presents without the stress of hitting the shops. Katy has donated a couple of prizes for the Christmas raffle in December.

We thank Jayne, Kath and Yvonne for their generosity in baking the most delicious cakes and scones.



The generosity of our guests never fails to delight us; in total £301.22 was raised from donations for refreshments, the raffle and the cake stall. But more important were the conversations and the witness to our neighbours.

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 13 December which will coincide with the CribFest. There will also be a very special Christmas hamper raffle. Do come if you are able, we look forward to seeing you.

St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team

CRIBFEST

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

**SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER
COFFEE MORNING
10:00 – NOON**

**SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER
NATIVITY SERVICE
10:30**

CRIBFEST OPEN 10:00 – 15:00 BOTH DAYS



**A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS NATIVITY!
NATIVITY SETS, PHOTO BOOTH AND NATIVITY DRESS UP**

JOY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

ALL WELCOME

Café church

7 DECEMBER | 10:30AM

WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT

Children's NATIVITY with communion



14th December, 10.30am
St. Katharine's Church



Café Church

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER | 10:30
WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD
COLLECTING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT

Christmas at St. K's

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

SUNDAY | **21st** | DECEMBER

18.00

READINGS, SONGS, CAROLS
AND FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS



Ham Green Christmas Nativity Wednesday 24 December 5pm

A retelling of the Christmas story with a real life donkey and carols for all the family. So, looking forward to this annual Ham Green Christmas Nativity on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

Please do dress for the weather including for children if they would like to dress up as their favourite nativity character.

Don't forget to bring a torch or charged up phone to light up your song sheets!

Christmas Day

Family Communion



St. Katharine's Church, Holt
10:30

Holt Crafters update from Helen Gray



After a very wet week we took down the beautiful Poppy Cascade from St Katharine's Church tower and collected thousands of wet poppies from around the village and we are now drying it all ready to store them all away for eleven months until they come out again. Once again St K's looked spectacular and glowed at night thanks to Paul from Light Fantastik in Melksham.

However, poppies are not the only creative project in 2025 for Holt Crafters. Throws have been made for Dorothy House patients and for the local home in Holt and two Christmas trees, one 8 foot one for The Wild Herb Cafe and a 15 foot tree for Ham Green.

Both these trees have bar codes to donate to Dorothy House Hospice the charity Holt Crafters have raised money for this year.

We now have to finish drying the poppies that are drying in two barns and hope that the tree on the green doesn't get quite so wet.

We have spent many happy hours at St K's coffee mornings and a huge thank you for all the help and support we have been given and for all the beautiful granny squares that have been made for the throws and the trees, by the way...Ruth you are very talented.

Here's to a peaceful and happy 2026 and to everyone ...keep crafting!





Benefice Holy Communion Service

**Sunday 28 Dec
All Saints Church
Great Chalfield
10:00**

Got Questions?



**Alpha Course starts
Weds 21 Jan 2026
@ 7:30pm
The Tollgate Inn, Holt**

**The Alpha Course offers the chance to
explore the Christian faith in an informal,
friendly environment.**

**Book your free place now by emailing Dawn:
united.benefice@outlook.com**

A quote from a recent Alpha course attendee:

“If you are looking for a way to explore the Christian faith, ask the questions you’ve had about it and hear from those whose life has been changed through it, then Alpha at the Tollgate is for you!

It is a welcoming and safe environment to ask questions, discuss themes and get to know Christianity better. Alpha is a fabulous course, there is no pressure, no question too small or silly, and the team could not be more supportive of your journey.

I always really looked forward to my evenings at the Tollgate, getting to know who Jesus is and what faith could mean to me in this modern world, but also getting to know my group and make some truly amazing friends.

Ten weeks will seem all too short a time”!!

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

Services December 2025

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
7 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
14 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent	10:30 Nativity & Communion CribFest 10:00 – 15:00	18:00 Carol Service	10:00 Holy Communion
21 st	4 th Sunday of Advent	10:30 Café Church Christingle 18:00 St. K's Christmas	10:00 Holy Communion	18:00 Carols by Candlelight
24 th	Wednesday Christmas Eve	17:00 The Ham Green Nativity with Donkey	15:00 Crib Service 22:45 Midnight Mass	
25 th	Thursday Christmas Day	10:30 Family Communion	10:00 Family Communion	10:00 Holy Communion
28 th	1 st Sunday of Christmas			10:00 Benefice Service of Holy Communion

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

E: united.benefice@outlook.com

W: faithinourvillage.org

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	anthony55matthewfcn@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

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"