

# CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



February 2026

## A word from Andrew

We are currently in the season of Epiphany, a series of epiphany moments, where suddenly we get it, the truth is revealed – perhaps it's a realization of something, and we say to ourselves, 'Why didn't I see that before?' – perhaps it's more a revelation, something we could otherwise have had no way of knowing, but someone or something revealed it to us. Perhaps it happens in an encounter with God, a special spiritual moment...

Revelations from God are something we should be seeking throughout the year, not just in that part of the Church's year called 'Epiphany'. Words from God are our food - 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' Matthew 4:4. 'Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked... but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night' Psalm 1:1 - 2. As we allow God space and meditate on his word, those epiphany moments come as he speaks to us and we experience his attention given to us.

## Financial Giving

Over the coming months we will be receiving letters asking us to consider our financial giving to the church. A church is very much a family, and we are all called to give generously into the family purse so there is 'more than enough to do all the work' (Exodus 36:7. That quotation comes from a story where Moses had to order the people to stop giving because they had more than enough)! We are hugely grateful for all that you give, and it is very helpful if you can give by monthly standing order and if you are a taxpayer to gift aid what you give. Our costs are always increasing and each of our three churches needs more than enough...!

## Lee Abbey

We have our weekend away planned for 3 – 5 July 2026 and we can take 115 people. At present the list is oversubscribed and we have a waiting list. If there are people on the list, who for whatever reason now know they can't come, please let Dawn know. As to covering the cost, we are doing this by donations and please keep them coming...!

With Every Blessing,  
*Andrew*

## **Saying Goodbye to Harvey**

It will be very sad to say goodbye to Harvey as he moves on in February. He has been a member of St. Katharine's as he grew up, moving into his current role first as a part time post and then full time. The affection and esteem in which he is held by the children and youth is tangible. Through Outdoor Church and activities on other Sundays in the Coach House he has built up our Sunday provision for children and youth, to the extent that we are increasingly attracting young families to join the church. He has managed to establish a Holiday Club in the October half-terms and a very popular Light Party as a Halloween alternative. As to the young people, he has been able to re-establish SKY as a youth venue that is trusted and enjoyed in the village and its surroundings. Taking the young people away to the SPREE camp every year is a big undertaking but has been hugely beneficial in terms of building relationships both with and between our youngsters.

Alongside all this Harvey has been a leading member of the worship group, and we will miss his voice, his guitar and his pioneering of new songs.

Harvey is moving to Bristol to be the Youth Pastor at Bristol Central church and we wish him well and will be praying for him as he takes this big step forward. Harvey, hear this big thank you from us all - we're going to miss you...!

## **Saying Goodbye to Judy and Kevin**

We also expect to be saying goodbye to Judy and Kevin in February. They have felt God calling them to Wales and Judy is going to transfer her curacy to a new parish. All this has been agreed in principle for some time but they have been waiting for the conveyancing to be finalised. Judy started her curacy with us last June when she was ordained deacon and she was with us before that on placement whilst she did her studies at Sarum College. Judy and Kevin have become very much a part of us and we will miss their enthusiasm and commitment. This is a big step for them both as they leave Trowbridge and the area and friends they have known for decades, not to mention the men's and women's sheds which they founded. But when the Lord calls you, you have to go (or you get swallowed by a Whale...! And in this case they will be swallowed by Wales...). We confidently expect that God has great things for them both in this next setting and please hold them in your prayers. Thank you Judy and Kevin.

*Andrew*

## News from St. Mary's

We are grateful to everyone who supports our monthly Saturday coffee mornings. Unfortunately, our January Coffee Morning was very cold due to the heating not working and we were very thankful that people stayed. Thank you to those who made the cakes and provided the raffle prizes. A very welcome total of £108 was raised for the church. The next Coffee Morning on Saturday 7 February will include a Cake and Produce Sale for Sudan and we look forward to welcoming as many that are able to come.

We have our regular Call in for Coffee on Friday mornings from 08.45 – 10.30 during term time and this provides excellent contact with some of the families in the village. It is great to welcome families to the Saturday coffee morning and good to have some younger members of the community who are keen to help with the raffle draw.

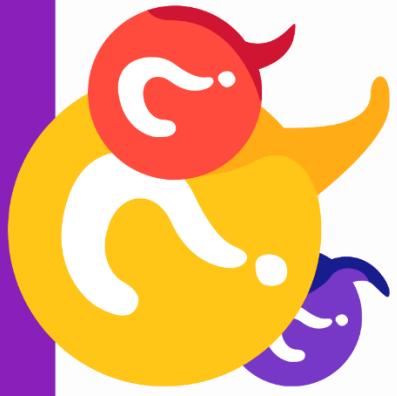
Christopher has recently had a fall and has had hospital visits so unfortunately you will probably miss his creative and newsworthy article. We are praying that you will make a speedy recovery to good health, Christopher.

Our next Quiz will be in support of St. Mary's Church and we look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 28 February. Please see poster for details.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy year.

Annette Stone





# THE QUIZ

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026  
AT 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](mailto:ANNETTESTONE7A@GMAIL.COM)

PROCEEDS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Pray for  
St. Mary's

Tuesday at 13:45  
17 Feb & 17 Mar  
St. Mary's Church



## St. Katharine's Coffee Morning January 2026

Our first coffee morning of 2026 and the rain kindly stopped falling. The usual round of January coughs and sneezes kept some of our regulars away but the church was filled with a lovely mix of villagers and church folks, and the air buzzed with the sound of happy chatting. Good to have the Holt Crafters back with us too who are kindly knitting or sewing items for Link to Hope the charity we support annually in their shoebox appeal.

Lynnette had been very busy baking an assortment of goodies and making marmalade and chutney for her Sudan fundraising stall. Please see below for an update on how the weekend went.

With the raffle, sales table, cake stall and refreshments £206.89 was raised for St. Katharine's. Thank you all.

Over the last couple of years, the team have grown very fond of our regulars and were very touched to receive an invitation to a 40th birthday celebration in May. It's so good to be able to come alongside them when life isn't going too well, and when they celebrate. It's a real privilege.

The next coffee morning is on the 21 February and we look forward to seeing you then.

*St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team*

## Fund raising for Sudan at St. Katharine's Church

I am delighted to announce the sum of £225 was raised at my sales table over the weekend 17 / 18 January, a huge thank you to all who helped raise this amount for Sudan. I shall be building on this at St. Mary's Church Coffee morning on Saturday 7 February so please come along and support Sudan, they need all we can do to help.

*Many thanks, Lynnette Baston*

**Please send content for the March issue of Church Life Matters  
via email to Dawn by Friday 13 February.**

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2026  
10:00 UNTIL NOON

# Coffee Morning



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



# OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY  
19:45 ONWARDS  
HOT DRINKS SERVED  
EVERYONE WELCOME

# Pray for St. K's



*Monday 2 Feb & 2 Mar  
St. Katharine's Church*

*@ 19:30*

# ASH WEDNESDAY



**18 February | 7:30pm  
St Katharine's Church, Holt**

# 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 2026

February 3rd	Revd Ron & Mrs Creddie Hart, former Rector of Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine
March 3rd	Canon Andrew Evans, Rector of Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine
April 7th	Jean Freeborn, Trustee for multiple Ministries & Churches

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*

## 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".  
Donations towards the weekend away at Lee Abbey should be referenced "Weekend".

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

## Services February 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
8 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Parish Communion  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday next before Lent	10:30 Café Church  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
18 <sup>th</sup>	ASH WEDNESDAY Lent begins	19:30 Benefice Holy Communion		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Morning Worship  16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion

Church Office - The Coach House 386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ  
 E: [united.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:united.benefice@outlook.com) W: [faithinourvillage.org](http://faithinourvillage.org)

Follow us @faithinourvillage    YouTube

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

Andrew Evans	01225 782289	goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com
Rector (Day off Friday)		
Ruth Mecredy	01225 783197	rmecredy@gmail.com
Assistant Priest		
Judy Wright (until sometime in Feb)		rev.judewright@outlook.com
Curate		
Anthony Matthew	01225 782082	anthony55matthewfcn@gmail.com
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)		
Rachel Firth	01380 871464	rachel.firth@btconnect.com
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)		
Marilyn Stubbs	01225 753118	marilynstubbs@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)		
Harvey Bennett (until 8 Feb)		ChildrenAndYouth
Children's and Youth Worker		@stkatharinesholt.org
Jenny Davis	01225 866479	gardenview36@gmail.com
Retired Priest		
Elizabeth Bennett	01225 783119	revelizabeth1@gmail.com
Retired Priest		
Jacque Bennetts	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Parish Safeguarding Representative		
Ben Jarvis		benjaminjarvis@hotmail.co.uk
Director of Music		
Dawn Farmer	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com
Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)		