

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



March 2026

A word from Andrew

John Wimber often used to say that we all need three conversions: to be converted to Christ, converted to his church and converted to his cause.

The first conversion is a conversion to Christ. That's a personal thing. I hang onto Christ because he is my only hope. Many people in our nation are hanging onto their belief that their life is good enough for God to accept them; they're not hanging onto Jesus and maybe they don't know him very well. The bible tells us that there's no such thing as 'good enough'. Only Jesus was good enough and none of the rest of us are. Under the old covenant (that's thinking about how things were for God's people before Jesus arrived), God was saying essentially: 'If you keep my laws, I will bless you', whereas under the new covenant, he says: 'You can't keep my laws, therefore I offer you salvation as a free gift through Jesus.' When we receive that salvation, it is a free gift that we cannot earn. It's given to us; we call that 'grace'. It may be a free gift, but it costs us everything because we commit totally to Jesus to receive it. That's where the other conversions come in...

The second conversion is to his church. We can think that going to a service on a Sunday is our conversion to church, but that's only part of it. We become part of a 'body of Christ' in a place. Yes, we meet together for prayer and worship and discipling, without which we will not grow (out of the window with the notion that you don't have to be part of a church to be a Christian), but we work together to see his Kingdom come. This leads us to the final conversion...

The third conversion is to his cause. The psalmist says in Psalm 74:12, 'Rise up, O God, and defend your cause' because in the words of that same psalm there are people mocking and reviling his cause. We see that today. We too are to defend God's cause. May God's name be glorified! May his Kingdom come! Ultimately, there is nothing that can stop God's cause, but it is also true that we have a role in promoting and defending God's cause. Just like the early disciples we are called to fearlessly share the good news to those around us and to heal the sick.

The more people we have in our churches who have gone through these three conversions, the more effective we will be in Kingdom terms. How many conversions have you had? The first conversion is essential and leads to the other two.

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 2026

March 3rd

Canon Andrew Evans, Rector of Broughton Gifford,
Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine

April 7th

Jean Freeborn, Trustee for multiple Ministries &
Churches

May 5th

Revd Richard Hovey, spiritual accompanier



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 is available in all the churches.

Anthony Matthew

Mothering Sunday

15 MARCH | 10:00

MATINS

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
GREAT CHALFIELD



PALM SUNDAY

29 MARCH 2026 | 10:00



ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
GREAT CHALFIELD

'HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' - JOHN 12:13

News from St. Mary's

A survey by YouGov, commissioned by the Bible Society, suggests that overall church attendance at the past Christmas was slightly up. Whilst I am not sure that we can claim this for St. Mary's, I think that we did hold our own, with all our services being well attended, with the slight exception of the Christmas Day communion service. What was notable was that there were many faces that we did not recognize. Were these recruited because of the Beer & Carols evening in the Fox & Hounds or are there now more secondary homes in the village? This was discussed at the recent PCC meeting with a view to seeing whether we can improve the offer for the 2026 Christmas season.

Two things we are also having to face up to this year are an increase in our Parish Share of about two thousand pounds and a quinquennial inspection. Whilst we are confident that the fabric of our church is in good condition, we can never be sure what the architect might find.

Inclement weather at our February Coffee Morning meant that there were fewer people there than we expected, but, nevertheless, it was a success. It was held in conjunction with Lynnette's stall of jams, chutneys and cakes to raise money for Sudan. The decision was taken to add to this the takings from our own cake offerings, largely baked by Sarah, so Lynnette was able to add £131 to what she had already raised in St. Katharine's. We kept the £70 we had raised on the raffle. We will also benefit from any money that we raise from our Quiz in the Village Hall on the last Saturday in February.

The Benefice Maundy Thursday Service will be held in St. Mary's at 7.30pm on 2 April, with the following day at 2pm the one-hour Good Friday Devotion. There will be the usual Easter Sunday vigil at 6am and this will be followed by the traditional breakfast at 19 The Street.

Finally, I am pleased to say that I am upright again after my spate of falls. Thank you to all those who have generously offered me their support.

Christopher Fielden

Coffee Morning

ST MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 7 MARCH
10:00 UNTIL NOON



Pray for
St. Mary's

Tuesday at 13:45
17 March & 21 April
St. Mary's Church

Mothering Sunday

15 MARCH | 10:00

PARISH COMMUNION

ST MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD



PALM SUNDAY

29 MARCH 2026 | 10:00



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

'HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' - JOHN 12:13



New home group starting

We have a new home group starting up during the day that might suit you. It is open to anyone across the Benefice and will be on a Tuesday at 12 noon – 14:00 in Melksham.

If you are interested in joining this group or any other across the Benefice please let Dawn know and she will pass a message onto me.

*Julia Griffith
Home Group Coordinator*

Fund raising for Sudan



An update on Sudan fund raising. I am delighted to announce that my recent cake and produce fund raising endeavours realised the amazing sum of £366.

Thank you to all who contributed at St. Mary's Broughton Gifford and St. Katharine's Holt.

Well done everyone.

*Many thanks,
Lynnette Baston*

Meet Tom & Sandra Bullock



We're delighted to be joining St Katharine's as Youth and Children's Workers in March, following on from Harvey's fantastic work.

Tom has worked with youth and children in Churches before and currently splits his work time between running a small business and supporting people in police custody as an "Appropriate Adult". Sandra also has a background in working with children having worked as a Children's Nanny for many years and obtained a degree in Early Years Education with Norland College.

We are both passionate about helping children, youth and families to connect with one another, with Church, and most importantly – with Jesus.

Along with our three children, we are really looking forward to meeting everyone at St K's and the wider community and feel excited to discover what God has in store!

Tom & Sandra Bullock

Invitation Supper evening 24 January

It is always such a privilege to welcome visitors to our invitation suppers. We can guarantee a warm welcome, excellent food, opportunity to meet new people and a short talk from invited guests to tell about their journey of faith.

John and Sharon Firth from Melksham came to share their story with us this time, covering their moves from U.K. to U.S. and then back again with clear direction from the Lord. We all have different stories to share with one another, and the lovely thing is to hear snatches of swapped stories at the end of the evening amongst the guests. Sometimes we need to have our stories heard by another, and it might help them along on theirs.

Around 50 of us sat down for the meal. The atmosphere is superb with the buzz of conversation and the clatter of cutlery; queues for second helpings and remembering to leave just enough room for dessert (or two!). A big shout out to our wonderful teams that are behind the scenes ... the catering committee, those who cook for us, front of house, sound desk, and the setters-up and setters-down, making the church ready for the next day's service.

If you haven't been to one of our suppers why not give us a try? Remember they are an outreach opportunity and we would ask that you bring a guest who isn't a part of the church. The next supper will be 27 June... watch out for notices appearing in CLM and via email.

Terri Dauncey

Donations

To set up a standing order or make a donation 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 "Lee Abbey".

Burns Lunch

I would just like to take a moment to thank everyone who came along to the Burns Supper Lunch on 25 January 2026 at St Katharine's Church.

I was really blown away by the turnout, and really do hope that everyone had a good time with great friends!

The event had a dual purpose, as a social event to celebrate Burns and all things Scottish, and as a fundraiser for MND Association and MND Scotland. Judging by the fact that we ran out of haggis, neeps and tatties, I feel it is safe to say that the food went down a storm...and the dancing after seemed to be a success as well!

We raised £700 for the charities, which is just incredible. I really can't thank everyone enough for their generosity, it is incredibly touching.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with catering, sound and set up on the day, it really was a team effort!

A special thanks to Sam and Richmond for their performances!

Here's to next year...

Laura Ellis



I recently read in Melksham News that we can take candles (new and part used) to Melksham Town Hall open 10:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday. They are taken to Swindon and then processed and sent on to Ukraine to be used for lighting, heating and cooking. Please help this worthy cause; if we all do something it will be of great help to those without power in freezing temperatures.

To find out more about the project head to this website for details:

[Candles For Ukraine | The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership \(SHAP\)](#)

*Thank you,
Lynnette Baston on behalf of St. Katharine's ECO group*

Churchyard Work Party



We arrived at the churchyard on a sunny Valentine's Day morning to find that Mark and Helen Newbury were just finishing cutting out two trees - a cherry and a hazel - that were crowding out the Guelder Rose tree near the lane - with the help of some very useful tools.

We then set to planting 250 small bluebell plants, which have been given in memory of Angela Kent, in an area under the trees near the lane. The bluebells we planted were (of course) the native English variety rather than the more common Spanish variety. We hope that a few of them may produce flowers this spring and that they will produce a lovely carpet of blue in the spring for many years to come.



Terri, Julia, Val, Alvin, David and Jane

Pray for
St. ICKS

Monday 2 March

Wednesday 1 April

St. Katharine's Church

@ 19:30



REVIVAL

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY

8 & 15 MARCH | 18:00

Mothering Sunday

15 MARCH | 10:30

CAFÉ CHURCH

ST KATHARINE'S, HOLT



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 19 MARCH
19:45 ONWARDS

HOT DRINKS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME

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

Coffee Morning



PALM SUNDAY

29 MARCH 2026 | 10:30



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH

'HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' - JOHN 12:13

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

Services March 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
1 st	2 nd Sunday of Lent	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
8 th	3 rd Sunday of Lent	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
15 th	4 th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
22 nd	5 th Sunday of Lent	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
29 th	Palm Sunday	10:30 Morning Worship	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion

Church Office - The Coach House 386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ
E: united.benefice@outlook.com W: faithinourvillage.org

Follow us @faithinour village    YouTube

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

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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
Tom & Sandra Bullock Children and Youth Workers		ChildrenAndYouth @stkatharinesholt.org
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
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**Please send content for the April issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 13 March.**