

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



April 2026

A word from Andrew

Jesus shows us what the Father is like

“No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.”

John 1:18

One of the greatest gifts of the incarnation is the truth that Jesus came to show us exactly what the Father is like. People throughout history have invented ideas about God that do not match Scripture. Some imagine Him as distant, cold, and impossible to please. Others picture Him as a mist or a vague spiritual force with no personality. Some people want to paint him as an angry ruler waiting to destroy. None of this is found in the Word of God. At the same time, others go to the opposite extreme and paint God as someone who never confronts sin, never calls for repentance, and simply approves of whatever the human heart wants. They use the word love, but what they mean is a God who agrees with every desire, even when those desires lead to darkness and despair. These ideas are not loving and not true. They are simply human inventions. God is who the Scriptures reveal Him to be, and we see that revelation clearly in Jesus.

Everything Jesus said and everything He did was a perfect expression of the Father's heart. If you want to know how God feels about you, look at Jesus. If you want to know how God responds to weakness or fear, look at Jesus. If you want to know how God deals with sin, brokenness, or pain, look at Jesus. He is firm about sin because sin destroys the ones He loves, yet He is overflowing with mercy because His desire is always to restore, never to crush. Jesus shows us a Father who bends down to lift, a Father who warns because He loves, a Father who forgives because He wants us whole. In Jesus, we see that God is neither harsh nor soft. He is holy, righteous, gentle, and firm, and His heart is always for our good.

Jesus coming to earth and dying for us means we no longer have to guess what God is like. We do not have to build pictures of Him based on feelings, fears, or cultural ideas. The Father has been made known in the person of His Son. Jesus is God with us, just as the prophecy promised. He came so that no one would misunderstand the heart of the One who created us. He came so that we would know that the God who rules the universe also heals, restores, embraces, and calls us home.

Let this truth settle deeply inside you today. The Father loves you, and Jesus came to reveal this. His heart toward you is full of mercy, strength, and everlasting love. If you were the only person in creation, Jesus would have died on a cross for you.



Prayer Walking

Some of us were part of the three days of prayer and fasting entitled 'Turn the Battle' - praying for the soul of our nation. This is turning into ten days of prayer walking, entitled 'Strike the Ground' 7 – 16 April. The nationwide grouping of churches behind this are promising us resources for this on the website turnthebattle.uk and I'd like us to prayer walk our village streets. You don't have to be confined to those dates - start now! It would be good to hear from those who have started prayer walking.

I am hoping that we can move this into some door knocking and invitations to some events which we will arrange as the year progresses.

St Katharine's Stewardship Campaign

Thank you for your generous response to the current stewardship campaign. Your gifts are helping to fund the monthly costs for ministry and mission.

We had a target to increase our monthly giving at the start of this campaign, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that we are currently well over half the way there with other responses indicated, but yet to firm up. One-off gifts have also helped us to build up a reserve that can fund any shortfall for a while.

It is good to give to the Lord's work. Thank you for being part of this.

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

April 7th

Jean Freeborn, Trustee for multiple Ministries & Churches

May 5th

Revd Richard Hovey, spiritual accompanier

June 2nd

Revd Jenny Nelson FRSA, Rector of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood & Wingfield



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

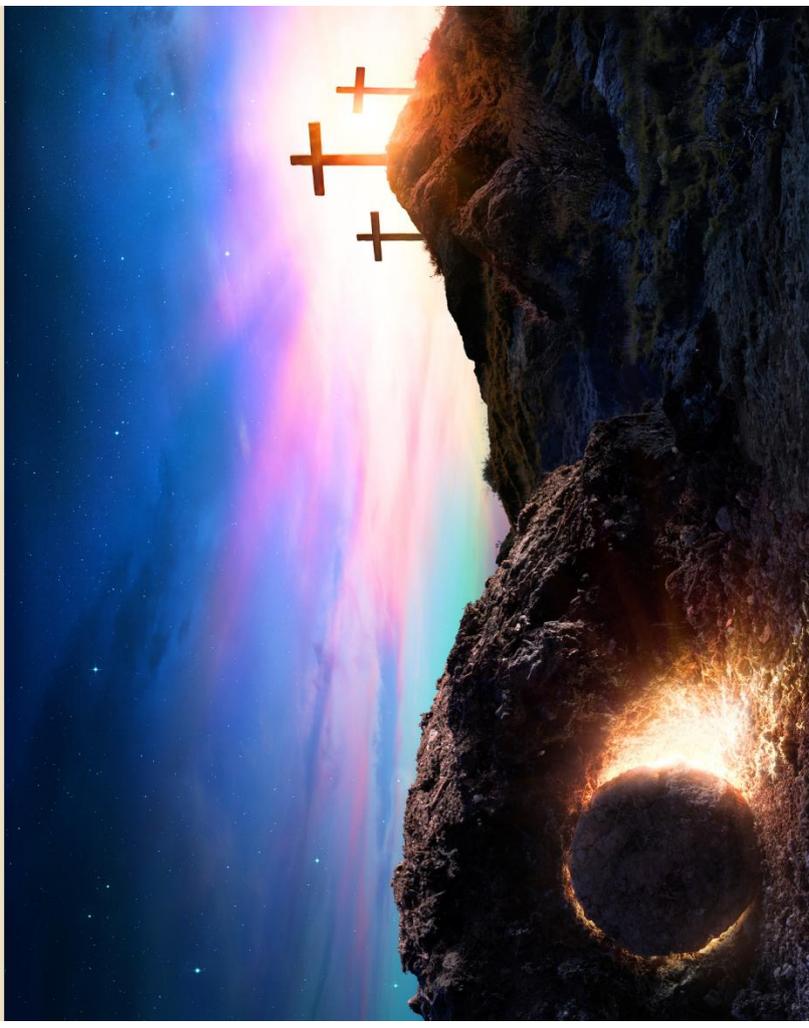
GOOD FRIDAY

3 APRIL | 10:00



MATINS SERVICE
ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, GREAT CHALFIELD

EASTER SUNDAY



5 APRIL AT 10:00
ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
HOLY COMMUNION

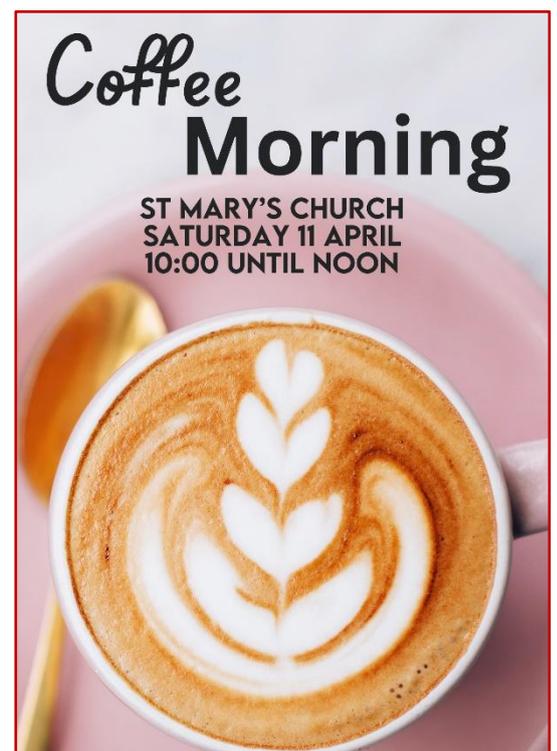
News from St. Mary's

It is sad in many ways that what were in their time church events have been taken over by the big world of commerce. Thus, what was specifically Mothering Sunday has, in the eyes of the general public, become Mother's Day and Easter is a time for chocolate eggs, rather than a Christian celebration – though I was tempted by one bag of eggs offering a trip to Easter Island as a prize. For some opaque reason this has long been on my bucket list.

Church life depends on the three fs – faith, fabric and finance and the three strands are woven together. As far as faith is concerned, Easter is the summit of the Christian year when we celebrate the martyrdom and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here at St. Mary's, our particular celebration includes a period of reflection on the afternoon of Good Friday and a dawn vigil on Easter Sunday, followed by breakfast together. Full details of these are given elsewhere in this Church Life Matters.

The fabric of the church building will come to the fore later this year when we have our quinquennial inspection. On the surface we would seem to have no potential major problems, but one never knows what may be found on closer inspection. The change in governmental support for work on listed buildings such as ours could well mean a serious call upon our financial resources. Our one recent worry, the oil boiler, seems to have been resolved. It appears that there may have been faults at the time of installation! We have also changed our electricity supplier, which has led to considerable savings.

As for finance, we have recently benefited from a particularly fruitful ten days at three events, all involving the local community at large, rather than just our small congregation. Firstly, we had one of our occasional quizzes in the Village Hall and this raised £357. Over 50 villagers enjoyed a relaxed evening with a substantial ploughman's supper and more than one person said to me what a pity it was that the next such event was as far away as the end of November.



Numbers at our monthly Coffee Morning at the beginning of March were reduced, but nevertheless the useful sum of £114 was raised.

Finally, our turn came up as the beneficiary of the Monday evening quiz at The Fox. Here we fielded a team strengthened by four members of the Smart family and we emerged as winners. We also were winners in that the evening raised £200 for us. We owe thanks to those that organised the quiz and to Neil, the landlord. Special thanks to the Smarts who provided the backbone for both quiz events.

Whilst our numbers might be small, we are still thriving!

Christopher Fielden

Just to add to Christopher's article that we are very grateful for all the help at our Quiz Evening, especially to Christopher, Ann, Sarah, Ian and Cally who organise the quiz. We express our special thanks to Arthur and Lynnette who work hard in the kitchen to prepare the supper and clear away afterwards. Thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes.

Many thanks to everyone who support our Saturday Coffee Mornings, for the donations of raffle prizes and Sarah who makes the delicious cakes. It is a good time to come and have a chat and cuppa. Everyone is welcome and we have toys to keep the children occupied.

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".

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY



“THIS IS MY BODY...
THIS IS MY BLOOD...
GIVEN FOR YOU”

LUKE 22:14-20

2 APRIL 2026 | 19:30
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

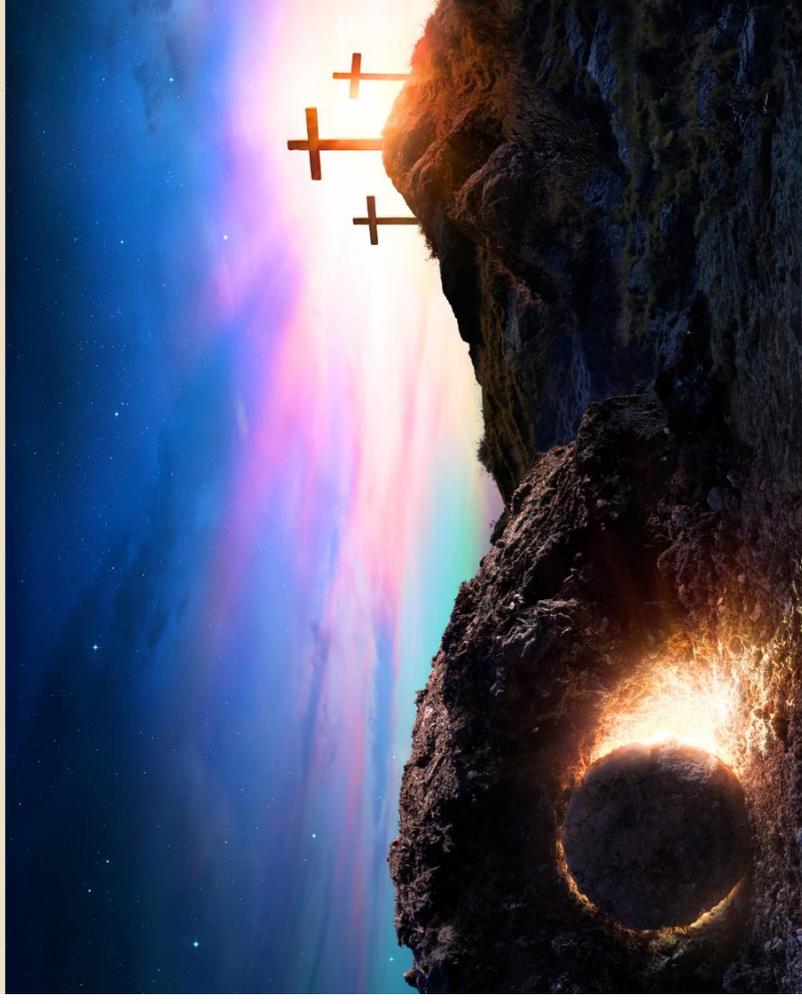
GOOD FRIDAY

3 APRIL | 14:00



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

EASTER SUNDAY



5 APRIL AT 10:00
ST MARY'S CHURCH
FAMILY COMMUNION & EASTER EGG HUNT



EASTER SUNDAY

5 APRIL | 6AM VIGIL
ST MARY'S CHURCH, BROUGHTON GIFFORD
WITH BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW

St. Katharine's Church Coffee Morning February 2026

Our last coffee morning buzzed with Holt Crafters gathering for their photo call with an enormous cheque celebrating the amount raised for Dorothy House over the Christmas period. Also, representatives from the Parish Council handing out Holt Neighbourhood Plan forms. It was lovely to welcome those who had not been to our coffee mornings before.

Our usual faithful people came and the refreshment team were constantly busy providing the teas and coffees, and the cake stall completely sold out after just over an hour!

Here are some reasons why you should come to our coffee mornings...

- It's a great friendly atmosphere and...
- ...you can be sure of a warm welcome
- You won't be glared at because someone else wants your table!
- Fantastic selection of cakes available to buy, saving you money compared to if you met at a cafe
- You can come with your friends, or meet new ones
- We, the team, are lovely!!!! (tee hee)



Coffee Morning dates for the rest of this year at St. Katharine's Church:

- 18 April
- 23 May ***
- 20 June
- 18 July
- 29 August ***
- 12 September ***
- 17 October
- 21 November
- 12 December ***

• *please note some different dates to the normal 3rd Saturday for various reasons for four months*

Terri Dauncey on behalf of the Coffee Morning Team

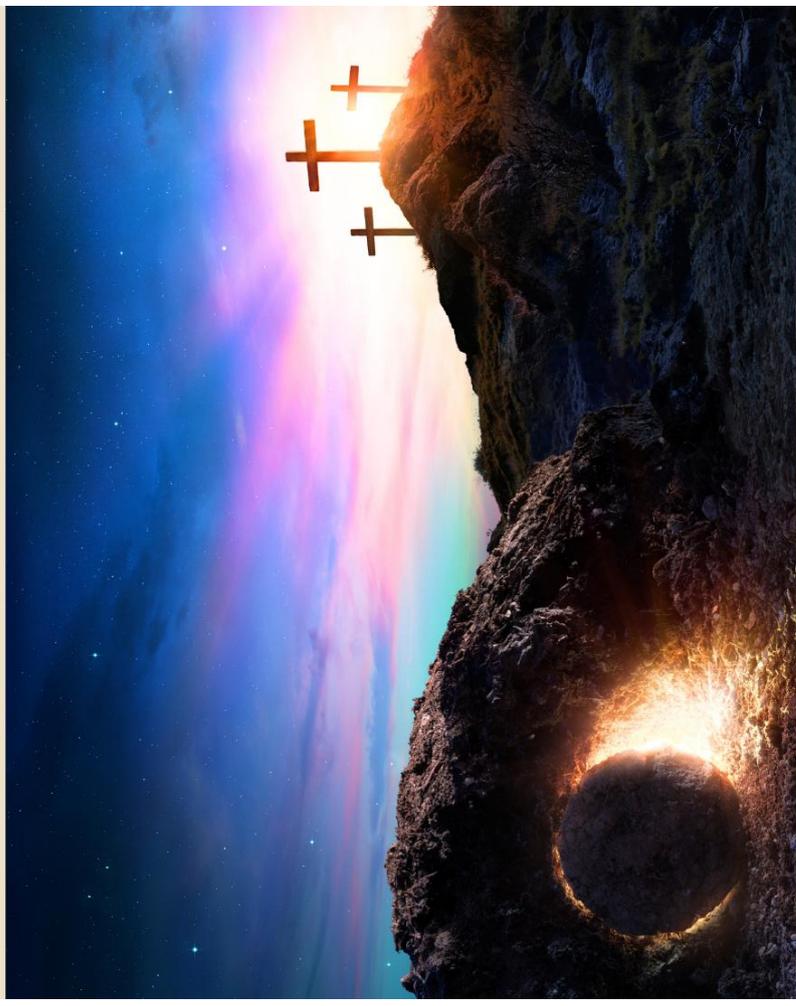
GOOD FRIDAY

3 APRIL | 10:30



SERVICE ON HAM GREEN
REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS
ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

EASTER SUNDAY



5 APRIL AT 10:30
ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH
FAMILY COMMUNION & EASTER EGG HUNT

Holt Crafters Charity Achievements Rewarded

Holt Crafters started in 2024 with a project to involve all ages in the village to learn how to knit or crochet poppies to make a twenty three foot cascade to flow from St Katharine's church tower. 240 villagers ranging from 4 years to 92 got creating and not only did they complete the cascade but due to their enthusiasm for the project, hundreds more poppies popped up all around the village.

The crafters have continued making poppies and this November there will be 10,000 to admire. The display has raised £4,242.61 for the Royal British Legion and £1,000 for Help For Heroes.

The Royal British Legion have awarded Holt a certificate and 'THE COLONEL TEMPEST CUP' for the highest increase in poppy collections over the last three years.

The crafters were then amazed to hear that Brian Mathew MP was so impressed with the charity work in Holt, he tabled an early day motion in parliament congratulating the group for their creative charity work.

The photograph shows Arthur Baston (holding the cup) who was the RBL representative and Helen Gray (holding the certificate) whose idea it was for the poppy cascade, with some of the villagers involved in the displays.



In 2025 the crafters continued creating and decided to make a 16ft crocheted and knitted Christmas tree to take pride of place on Ham Green in Holt to raise funds for Dorothy House Hospice. In fact they got carried away again and made two trees the second 8 foot one was displayed in The Wild Herb cafe in Holt and they raised an amazing £7,568.50 as shown on the cheque, with a grand turning on of the tree lights with mulled wine and mince pies and craft stalls selling hand made in Holt hats, scarves and gloves and guest appearance from Jon Monie from The Theatre Royal Bath's pantomime.



2026 will again see the crafters trees on display for the whole of December and 10,000 poppies at St Katharine's church, Ham Green and around the village again raising funds for charity.

A BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENT for the village of Holt and its wonderful community.

Helen Gray

Something For EVERYONE

3:00pm

SATURDAY
APRIL 25th

St Katharine's Church, Holt, BA14 6PZ

A concert featuring Professional Trumpeter

MIKE DANIELS



AND
The Voices of
WEST WILTS
goodafternoon
CHOIR™

with tea and cake



Tickets £10

(under 16s FREE)

from : gac.ticketlight.co.uk
or call 0844 8889991



Email: gac@grenvillemusic.co.uk | 01761 472468

www.goodafternoonchoir.org

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

Services April 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
2 nd	Maundy Thursday		19:30 Holy Communion	
3 rd	Good Friday	10:30 Service on Ham Green	14:00 Good Friday Service	10:00 Matins
5 th	Easter Day	10:30 Family Communion & Easter egg hunt	06:00 Easter Vigil followed by breakfast 10:00 Family Communion & Easter egg hunt	10:00 Holy Communion
12 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
19 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
26 th	4 th Sunday of Easter	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 W: faithinourvillage.org

Follow us @faithinourvillage



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	(until 29 March)	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
Dawn Farmer Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com

**Please send content for the May issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 17 April.**