

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



May 2026

A word from Andrew

What of Christ Can We Share?

On Sunday mornings we are currently going through the resurrection appearances of Christ. The people didn't only see Jesus alive after his death by crucifixion. They encountered the risen Lord! For instance, in John 20 when Jesus appears in the locked room where the disciples are hiding, he gives them his peace and breathes his Spirit on them. In Luke 24 when two disciples meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus, their hearts burn within them when Jesus expounds the scriptures which referred to him and they encounter him in the breaking of bread. These, I believe were profound spiritual encounters with Jesus. I hope you have had spiritual encounters with Jesus. He certainly wants us to have them! You would expect one to happen when you come to salvation, and for it to lead to transformation - fundamentally reordering one's priorities and life direction. There are times when we receive a deep inner healing and peace which may lead to a release of bitterness and the ability to forgive. We may have an encounter when we receive a revelation of the love of God which often moves our faith from a 'hobby' to a lived reality. We may receive an empowerment from the Holy Spirit for action as shown by the transformation of the disciples, who became bold in their faith.

There are all sorts of spiritual encounters we can have, and not all are dramatic. Some are (like Paul's), whilst others are quiet and subtle, often felt as a gentle awakening of the soul or a quiet, persistent, internal nudge. Encounters are not always comfortable, but they change us profoundly. An encounter often brings a profound sense of being in the presence of someone who knows you intimately – and it is of course our God who call us on our own journey from death to life.

If you feel you've never had an encounter, ask to receive prayer after a service or ask God to give you one. When we encounter God, we are never the same and we have a testimony we can share with others. The Emmaus Road disciples would have shared their encounter with Jesus, time and time again for the rest of their lives. We can do something similar. And the time has come to share this with others. People don't want dry old religion, but they are interested to hear how we have encountered God and how it has changed us.



Prayer Walking

How's it going? I've done Broughton Gifford and Holt several times. What might you pray as you walk round the villages? Pray a blessing over the members of each household you pass. May they encounter Jesus and be drawn to him. How about blessing the school, the pre-school and the businesses? Have you tried asking God to position his angels around our villages so that the Holy Spirit can come sweeping through bringing revival fire? Do you know the circumstances of some of the people who live in those houses? Could you bring their needs before the Lord and ask him for His help? What would you say if someone asked you what you are doing – you could tell them that you are praying blessing over each household. You could volunteer that information if they passed the time of day with you and wished you well on your walk... 'Well actually, I'm praying as I walk...' God gave us prayer as a tool for us to play our part in his work. Let's all get out there and use it over the next few weeks, and let's see what difference it starts to make.

With Every Blessing,
Andrew

Stepping Into a New Season

But I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ready for harvesting now. John 4:35 (ERV)

On the 2nd of April, after 35 years, I retired from my civil service career. For quite some time, I've had a sense that God had something new for me, but working full time made stepping into that difficult. I loved my job, and I had planned to retire in another two or three years and then focus on kingdom work.

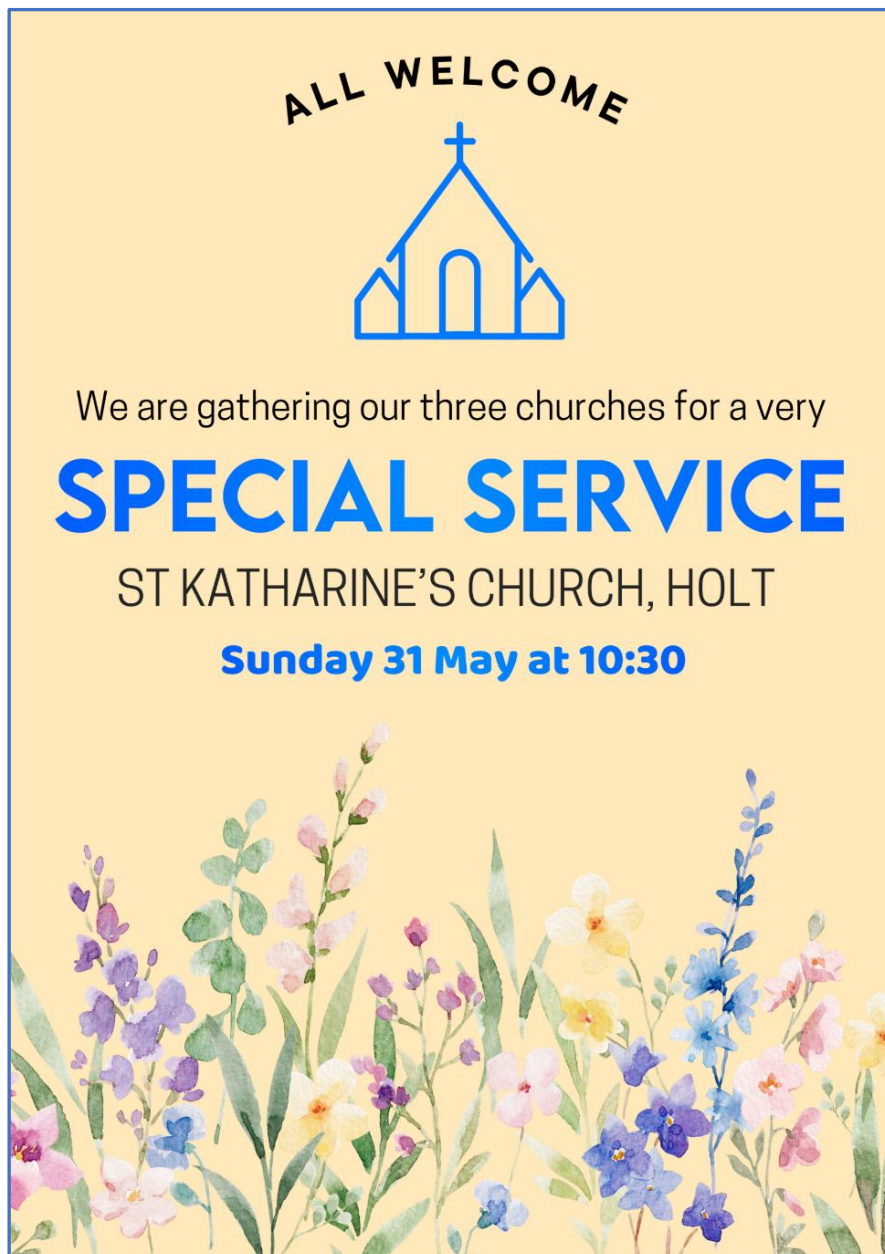
But God has a way of redirecting us. He brings people and situations into our lives that gently (or sometimes not so gently!) nudge us to rethink our plans and look beyond what feels comfortable or familiar.

I've always had a heart for the lost, and in a previous church I was deeply involved in outreach and evangelism. So, after announcing my retirement, Andrew approached me about helping lead our upcoming mission and outreach work. I prayed about it and felt this is the next step God has been preparing me for. It's exciting, a bit scary, and one of those moments where you think, 'Right then, Lord... here we go!'"

I'm now looking to build a team of people who are willing to pray and seek God's direction for how He wants us to reach those who don't yet know Him. We want to cast our nets where He tells us, trusting that He will bring in a great catch.

If you feel you would like to be part of this — whether through prayer or practical help — Andrew or I would love to hear from you.

Caroline Griffin



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

May 5th

Revd Richard Hovey, spiritual accompanier

June 2nd

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

July 7th

Jenny Davis, retired Priest & 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

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE



**THURSDAY 14 MAY AT 19:30
ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
GREAT CHALFIELD**

PENTECOST

24 MAY | 10:00



ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, GREAT CHALFIELD
HOLY COMMUNION

News from St. Mary's

Having the school on our doorstep means that our Easter season lasts longer than usual. In their Easter service they told us the story through readings, songs and hymns. It was a wonderful occasion with our largest congregation of the period. There were a good number of parents, grandparents and carers present. Once again it has shown the preference for an afternoon service.

It was a time for contrasts. We began with a well-attended school service, where daffodils were distributed to those present and we finished with our Easter Sunday Communion, with just two siblings hunting for the hundred or so Easter eggs that were hidden about the church.

The stark bleakness of the bare altar, as we went out into the dark on Maundy Thursday evening, contrasted with the bright sunshine and wonderful flower arrangements of Janet and her team as we rejoiced on the Sunday.

The Good Friday contemplative service by Rachel and her team, took us through the twenty-four hours leading up to the crucifixion, as narrated by Mark, was particularly moving.

The Passiontide hymn by Samuel Crossman, is one of my favourites and we sang it three times over the weekend. In the Ancient and Modern hymn book it has seven verses, but we limited it once to six verses, once to five and once to four. It was not written as a hymn, but rather as a poem of eight verses. Obviously one of these has been considered unsuitable for singing!

Before Easter we had our annual parish meeting, which proved to be uncontroversial. Whilst our financial reserves showed a slight increase over the years, whilst we were able to pay our parish share and maintain our charitable giving, our congregation is in decline. Planned for the near future is a financial appeal and prayer walking around the village.

Christopher Fielden

Thank you to everyone who supported the Saturday Coffee Morning a week later than usual due to Easter. We are very grateful to Sarah who continually produces the delicious cakes and to everyone who donates a raffle prize. We raised £123 for the church which is very welcome and we were pleased to welcome families who greatly helped with the raffle prize distribution.



With special thanks to Christopher and Ann who opened their home again to give us breakfast after the Easter Dawn Vigil held at St. Mary's.

Annette Stone

Prayer meeting dates for St. Mary's @ 13:45 in Church

Tuesday 19 May, Tuesday 16 June & Tuesday 21 July.

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".

PENTECOST

24 MAY | 10:00



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BROUGHTON GIFFORD
MORNING WORSHIP

St. Katharine's Church Coffee Morning – a double issue

March 2026

We had some early bird arrivals for our March coffee morning. Shock, horror ... they were in the building 15 minutes before our opening time of 10:00! It's good to know they are so eager to come along; very encouraging. Then after 10:00 it all went really quiet for a bit. If everyone there had bought just one raffle ticket they would have been guaranteed one of the twenty-one raffle prizes up for grabs. That will never do. I'm not saying we panicked but the team were heard muttering a bit about where everybody was and we hoped it would pick up soon.....

Oh we of little faith! There was a sudden influx of people and tables filled up, the noise level escalated and the place was soon buzzing with chatter and laughter. Our regular raffle caller John was absent, so Arthur substituted marvellously. It's so lovely to see more from the village coming along these days; we love having them there.

Oh, and in case you're wondering - seven dogs also attended (they brought their owners). £233.81 raised so all-in-all a splendid morning.

April 2026

It hardly seems fair that we could raise just short of £250 in two hours whilst having so much fun! Coffee morning was full, bustling and joyful once again. Lovely to see some more St. Katharine's faces - some who haven't made it along for a while, and others who had never been before.

If we run out of cakes on the home baked stall you know it's a good morning, AND... also a first in that we ran out of raffle tickets to sell, yikes!

We sang Happy Birthday to three of our regulars - Sue, Louise and Arthur, gave a rousing cheer when Pete Scheuber zoomed into the church on his scooter, and welcomed two dogs - Danny, and new lad Finlay, who came with his humans Simon and Ann, who moved to Holt just a few weeks ago.

We can also boast that we appeal to all ages from 11 weeks old Bobbie Lark to over 90 year olds. If you fall outside of that age range you are still very welcome 😊!!



PLEASE NOTE our next coffee morning isn't on the third Saturday in May because there is a wedding in the church but will be on 23rd when we will be fundraising for SKY and their Spree weekend away. Please come along and support the youth ministry of the church.

Coffee Morning dates for the rest of this year:

- 23 May (for SKY/Spree)
- 20 June
- 18 July (for Tiny Tots)
- 29 August (for Holt Scarecrow Trail)
- 12 September
- 17 October
- 21 November
- 12 December

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026
10:00 UNTIL NOON

Coffee Morning

ALL PROCEEDS TO
ST. KATHARINE'S YOUTH - SKY

A close-up photograph of a white cup filled with a latte. The coffee has a rich brown color, and the white foam is artfully designed into a heart shape with a leaf-like pattern inside. A wooden spoon is visible in the background.

Terri Dauncey on behalf of the Coffee Morning Team



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR

OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 21 MAY
19:45 ONWARDS

REFRESHMENTS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME

Prayer meeting dates for St. Katharine's @ 19:30 in Church

Tuesday	5 May
Monday	1 June
Wednesday	1 July

PENTECOST

24 MAY | 10:30



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT
MORNING WORSHIP

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

Services May 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
3 rd	5 th Sunday of Easter	10:30 Café Church Spring Creation Celebration	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
10 th	6 th Sunday of Easter Rogation	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
14 th	Thursday			19:30 ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion
17 th	7 th Sunday of Easter	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
24 th	PENTECOST SUNDAY	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
31 st	TRINITY SUNDAY	10:30 Parish Communion		

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

E: united.benefice@outlook.com

W: faithinourvillage.org

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

Andrew Evans Rector (Day off Friday)	01225 782289	goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com
Ruth Mecredy Associate Priest	01225 783197	rmecredy@gmail.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 June issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 15 May.**