

# Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 101

50<sup>th</sup>

July 2026

St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill, St David's, Lordswood,  
and St William's, Walderslade



## **Ordination and the Surprise of Grace — Open to Wonder**

July is often a month of transition. Schools begin to break up for the summer, holidays are planned, routines change, and many of us find ourselves reflecting on the year so far. For me, this July carries a particularly special significance, as it marks my ordination to the priesthood.

Ordination is a strange and wonderful thing. People often imagine it as a moment when someone suddenly feels completely certain, holy, or transformed overnight. The reality is rather different. It is deeply joyful, humbling, and yes, sometimes daunting. It is not about becoming perfect; it is about saying “yes” to God again and again, even without knowing exactly where that yes will lead.

As I have prepared for ordination, one thing has struck me repeatedly: God is full of surprises.

Throughout the Bible, God seems to delight in working through unexpected people and unexpected moments. Moses



Ann's without an 'e' (Credit: Rev. Elaine Cranmer)

was surprised by God speaking through a burning bush. Mary was surprised by the angel's message that would change her life forever. The disciples were surprised that the risen Jesus met them not in power and glory, but while walking along a road or sharing breakfast on a beach. Again and again, God appears where people least expect.

I wonder how often we miss those surprises because we assume we already know how God works. We expect the dramatic, the obvious, or the extraordinary, when perhaps God is quietly present in the ordinary moments

**LOVE    ACT    SUSTAIN**

*'turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'*

of life: a conversation over tea, an unexpected kindness, a moment of peace after anxiety, a chance encounter, or the courage to take a new step.

One of the privileges of ministry is hearing the many ways people encounter God unexpectedly. Sometimes it happens in church during worship or prayer. Sometimes it happens completely outside church walls: while gardening, walking the dog, sitting beside a hospital bed, or watching the sea. God is not confined to certain places or certain people. God continues to surprise us.

Ordination itself has been full of surprises for me. I expected to feel mainly nervous, but alongside the nerves has come a profound sense of gratitude for the people who have encouraged me, prayed for me, challenged me, and journeyed alongside me. Priesthood is never something done alone. It is lived within the life of the Church and the community we share together.

At its heart, priesthood is not about status or having all the answers. It is about pointing towards God's presence in the world and helping others recognise that they are loved by God beyond

measure. Perhaps that invitation is not only for priests. Perhaps all of us are called to live with a greater openness to surprise.

What might happen if we approached each day asking not simply, "What do I need to do today?" but also, "Where might God meet me today?" What if we expected grace to appear in unexpected places? What if we allowed ourselves to be interrupted by wonder?

The Christian faith is, after all, built on surprise. The surprise that death does not have the final word. The surprise that love is stronger than fear. The surprise that ordinary people can be called to extraordinary acts of compassion, courage, and hope.

As this summer unfolds, my prayer is that all of us might remain open to being surprised by God, not necessarily in dramatic ways, but perhaps in the gentle reminders that we are never alone, never forgotten, and always held within God's love. 'God is with us'.

*Rev. Ann Ruby*  
**Team Curate**

## Worship in July 2026

### Wednesday 1 July

10am **Midweek Holy Communion** in the Chapel at St William's

### Sunday 5 July (Trinity 5)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

## Sunday 12 July (Trinity 6)

10am **Holy Communion** at St David's, Lordswood

## Sunday 19 July (Trinity 7)

10am *Craft Vibes* at St David's, Lordswood

10am **Morning Worship** at St William's, Walderslade

## Sunday 26 July (Trinity 8)

10am **Holy Communion** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Strawberries from the Team Rector's garden



## On the Social side

The **Strawberry Tea** is back this summer at St Alban's on **Sunday 5 July** from 2 - 4pm. *Scones, Cakes and lots of Strawberries! All proceeds to the Parish of Holy Trinity South Chatham (cash only).*

**Coffee & Cake** is held at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. *Hot drinks, cold drinks, lots of cake and good company!* Next date: **10 July**.

**Holy Communion & Coffee Morning** at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next date: **15 July** (*worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am*).

**Tea at Three** at St William's on the third Monday of each month at 3pm. *Afternoon tea served with a smile!* Next date: **20 July**.

**Cornerstone Coffeeshop** at St William's in Walderslade Village is open most days throughout the week *serving a range of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes and other bakes*; **Monday - Friday** 10am - 2pm and **Saturdays** from 9am.

**Coffee with the Team Rector** — Rev. David is happy to catch-up over coffee with anyone in the Parish at a mutually convenient time whether at home or out in the community. *Just drop him a line (see contact details below).*

## People of the Parish

*This month Ann Bengier interviews Dr Julian Spinks.*

**AGE** 66

**CHILDREN:** Rowena, Verity and Harriet

**What is your role in the church?**

I am on the CEC and Buildings Sub-Committee. I greet people and read lessons.

**Where are you from?** Sutton Coldfield.

My parents were both teachers who met during the war when my mother was evacuated. My father was in the Army in WWII.

**What did you want to be as a child?**

A doctor.

**What was your career?** I became a GP because hospital was like a treadmill. I am chairman of the Medway Practices Alliance which runs practices and am now semi-retired. I also speak on medical matters on KMTV.

**Could you share any childhood memories with us?** We went away every year in our caravan. Every other year we stayed in England and on the other year we toured Europe. Before you could enter European campsites, you had to pay up front so my sister and I used to get out of the car, go through the barrier and go through the campsite, inspecting the toilets etc. Then we would return to our parents and report back whether we thought it was a good site before we paid any money.



A palace in Seoul

**Do you have favourite food?** Japanese and Korean food. Japanese is mainly fish – even puffer fish – and side dishes. Koreans cook octopus tentacles.

**What do you watch on TV?** Japanese and Korean programmes with subtitles although I do speak some Japanese.

**What music do you like?** My mother taught music so I was brought up on classical music. I have a catholic taste in music. I go to the proms and last year I went to several Rock Concerts. Verity and I are going to a Rock Concert in October.

**What are your hobbies?** I play a bit of golf and am learning to play bass guitar.

**What is your favourite holiday**

**destination?** I have two: Italy and Japan. I can speak Italian. I went to Japan this year and would love to go back.

**What is your church background?**

At Medical School I attended a Church of England church. When I moved here I went to St Alban's.

My favourite **Bible Readings** are from the Gospels.

**What do you draw from spiritually?**

God's still, small voice of calm.

**Have you ever had a profound spiritual experience?**

I used to get verses of Scripture come to me when life was difficult. They were often verses I had never seen and I knew God was speaking to me.

## In our prayers

We remember before God:

- the great gift of creation; the earth, the universe, and the beautiful diversity we see all around us
- countries affected by poverty, conflict and environmental disaster
- our shared global history and politics, praying for God's Kingdom of justice and peace
- His Majesty King Charles III and the UK Government
- our local communities, especially as the summer holidays begin and people travel by land, air and sea
- the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit and Rev. Dr Bonni-Belle Pickard and family as she sits down from ministry
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- the sick in body, mind and spirit
- for couples preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism, confirmation and ordination
- the families of Peter Foord, Jean Goode, Bryan Tolhurst and all those who have lost loved ones recently.

## Dates: July 2026

**Midweek Holy Communion** in the Chapel at St William's on Wednesday 1 July at 10am

**Cornerstone Management Committee** in the Cornerstone Coffee Shop at St William's Wednesday 1 July at 7.30pm

**Trinity Prayers** in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm



(Credit: Rev. Elaine Cranmer)

**Midweek Communion** at Woodlands Court on Monday 6 July at 6.30pm

**Pastoral Group** an open meeting for Pastoral Friends, 'Welcomers' and those involved in hosting our social events at St Alban's on Tuesday 7 July at 10am

**Deanery Synod** on Tuesday 7 July at 7.30pm *location to be confirmed*

**Bible awareness for faith and life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century** — a course hosted by Walderslade Baptist Church (ME5 9HP) on Wednesday 1 July from 7.20pm to 9pm. *See leaflets for details.*

**Woodlands Study Group** (Residents only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 13 & 27 July at 11am

**Bible Study Group** (for everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 13 & 27 July at 2.30pm

**Wardens Plus** at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 20 July at 9.30am

**Deanery Chapter** at TBC on Tuesday 21 June at 8am

**CEC** in the Cornerstone Coffee Shop at St William's on Wednesday 22 July at 7.30pm

**Funeral Service for Rev. Bryan Tolhurst RIP** at St William's on Thursday 23 July at 1pm



Creator God,  
you made us all in your image;  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Trinity 7 - 19 July

*1 Samuel 8.1, 14-18*  
*Psalms 72.1-4, 12-14, 18-19*  
*Acts 17.1-7 &*  
*John 6.14.20*

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as  
mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen.**

### Trinity 8 - 26 July

*1 Samuel 9.1-3, 15-18 — 10.1*  
*Psalms 22.23-31*  
*1 Corinthians 4.8-13 &*  
*Luke 19.11-27*

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us  
from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Reading & Praying

### Trinity 5 - 5 July

*1 Samuel 2.12-17, 22-25*  
*Psalms 49.1-2, 5-9, 16-17*  
*1 Timothy 6.6-16 &*  
*Luke 16.10-13*

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Trinity 6 - 12 July

*1 Samuel 4.2, 5-11, 19-22*  
*Psalms 77.1-12, 19-20,*  
*Romans 5.1-5 &*  
*John 14.25-31*

## Keeping in contact

More information about the Parish is available via weekly emails which you can sign-up to receive from our website, [achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham](http://achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham), or by using the QR code below. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Team Rector:** Rev. David Kichenside      01634 862265      [david.kichenside@gmail.com](mailto:david.kichenside@gmail.com)  
(Rest Day: Saturday)

**Team Curate:** Rev. Ann Ruby      07565 402121      [reverendann@hotmail.com](mailto:reverendann@hotmail.com)  
(Parish Days: Wednesdays and Sundays)

**Church Warden**      Sylvia Wigglesworth      01634 683789

**Pro-Warden & Gift Aid Officer**      Pauline Bowdery      01634 669215

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**      Mark Salter      07719 183940

**Prayer Co-ordinator**      Mary Horwell      01634 308552  
[maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Church Bookings**      Jean Small      01634 315106

[www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham)

@southchatham on Facebook and @htscuk on Instagram



### HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

One church of St Alban, St David and St William serving Blue Bell Hill, Lords Wood and Walderslade.  
A partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1135416

