

# CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



July 2026

## A word from Andrew

Hudson Taylor, that great 19<sup>th</sup> Century missionary to China, asks us to consider: 'How often do we attempt work for God to the limit of our incompetence, rather than the limit of God's omnipotence?'

That's an interesting statement, and I guess I wonder at the choice of the word 'incompetence' and that maybe it should be 'competence'. Sometimes I think that a lot of what we do as a church is to the level of our competence. As Tozer said: 'God has called us to do the impossible. What a pity we settle for what we can do ourselves.' We have able and gifted people, and we can accomplish much in one sense, but what if some of that is limiting God's work? If God's work, God's Kingdom, the building of God's church can only happen by supernatural means, that renders us 'incompetent', doesn't it?

Jesus said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible' Matthew 19:26, and he said that in response to the disciples' outburst, 'Who then can be saved?' Isn't our role in building the church more about believing and trusting and hoping – having faith for the increase and being God's mouthpiece? Don't we need to be more in prayer, as God asks, and believing that our prayer is effective, that God uses it to change things?

Going back to Hudson Taylor, he is urging us to attempt work to the limit of God's omnipotence. There's obviously humour in that statement, because the word 'limit' doesn't go with the word 'omnipotence'! Hudson is encouraging us to do our work with the power of God, and that requires faith.

Brother Lawrence wrote: "Many things are possible for the person who has hope. Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But everything is possible for the person who practices all three virtues."

It's worth spending time with these words and praying them through. What is he calling out of you? Will you stick to what you know (perhaps what you've always thought was the way to do it?) or are you prepared to learn and grow and step out in faith?

Hudson was famous for the idea of moving God by prayer alone and in his case that meant that he saw huge financial provision for mission to China without asking another human being for a penny. What impossible task is he calling you to?

With Every Blessing,  
*Andrew*

# News from All Saints – Great Chalfield

## Quiet Garden



The 2026 / 2027 programme leaflet will be coming soon to all three churches in the Benefice and do look out for the change in style following a wonderful reboot by Ben Veal and Dawn Farmer.

## 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

July 7<sup>th</sup>

Jenny Davis, retired Priest & spiritual accompanier

August

No Quiet Garden returns on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>

Everyone is welcome on the first Tuesday of the month ten times a year, from 09:30 to 14:30, though you are welcome to stay longer, and please do come and go when you have to.

We look forward to welcoming you for as much of the day as is possible for you.

*Anthony Matthew*

## News from St. Mary's Church

With our regular school services, it is not uncommon now for us to see a full church, but you can also see this with farmers' funerals and village weddings. Sadly, the latter are becoming quite rare. We were particularly happy to welcome the wedding of Emma and Mark, who have recently become regular members of our congregation. The wedding was a wonderful joyful occasion with over 170 guests. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Service sheets are also a welcome addition on many Sundays and we thank Dawn for them. On Pentecost Sunday we ran out of them (just)! Is this a good sign?

At our recent PCC meeting, there was much discussion about the letter going out to seek to strengthen our financial position. By the time you read this, you may well have received yours. Please respond generously.



Our June Saturday Coffee Morning was the usual social success and raised the sum of £116. We were missing a few regulars due to holidays and part of The Street having road works which prevented people from driving through the village. We thank everyone who made cakes and donated raffle prizes. Our next Coffee Morning in July will be a week later on Saturday 11 July due to the Benefice Weekend Away.

The Barn Dance will be on Saturday 18 July at Lenton Farm, Great Chalfield 6 pm – 10 pm and this is jointly organised by the school and church. Tickets are available from the school, Sarah or Annette. Please see the poster with the details and bring your own chairs or blankets.



Don't forget call in for coffee and chat on a Friday morning term time 08:45 – 10:30, we look forward to seeing you.

*Christopher Fielden and Annette Stone*

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

Tuesday 21 July & Tuesday 18 August.

BAR  
LIVE BAND  
BBQ - RAFFLE

LENTON  
FARM,  
GT CHALFIELD  
SN12 8NQ

# BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 18 JULY 6-10PM

£15 ADULT, £5 CHILD  
£36 FAMILY (UP TO 4 CHILDREN)  
TICKETS INCLUDE BBQ

Children's play area and onsite parking. Please bring your own chairs or blankets!

Order your tickets at  
St Mary's School Reception or by  
phoning Sarah Chandler on  
01225 782241 or 07761 747961

St Mary's  
B.C.  
BROUGHTON DISTRICT

All proceeds go to St  
Mary's School & Church

FRIENDS of  
ST MARY'S  
SCHOOL

## St. Katharine's Church Coffee Mornings

May 2026

The start of what turned out to be a really hot Bank Holiday weekend ( the weather obviously didn't get the memo that it was a BH or we'd have had rain) and with only slightly less numbers than usual we raised a smidgeon short of £400 for the work of SKY and their Spree weekend away at the end of June. Hurrah! (**NB:** since the coffee morning more sales of plants have been made so up to £430 for SKY / Spree).

As well as the usual glorious cakes made by Yvonne and Jayne, Yvonne had also grown loads of tomato plants and Sue and Martin brought in lavender in pots...maybe a few other things but I didn't get to see as Jayne and I were busy selling the raffle tickets.



Helen and Hazel were busy sewing on poppies onto mesh for another display area in the village. It was great to see them and others joining. We are so blessed to have the crocheted and knitted poppies now annually in the village. With thanks to the Holt Crafters.

I may be biased, but our coffee mornings are a joyous time together and the team get so excited to be hosting and love the chatter and noise of friendships forming and being grown. It's a great place to be one Saturday morning a month.

And if the Saturday wasn't enough fun, we had the great honour of hosting an afternoon tea party for Sarah, one of our very regular coffee morning attendees on Friday 29th. So, again we saw most of the extended family of Lynnette and Arthur et al who so faithfully use our coffee morning as a gathering place for a family catch-up on a monthly basis. A happy birthday to lovely Sarah on her 40th.

## June 2026

We always get a bit edgy when people arrive early and catch us on the hop and this month we were edgy because we were twiddling our thumbs after 10:00 as barely a few had entered the doors. Just proves that the coffee morning team are never satisfied!

Numbers picked up, pushing 60 (and not forgetting two dogs) towards last orders for the raffle. Arthur stood in for John as our raffle MC. Prizes all won, cakes all sold, David Last won his gold medal for washing up (again,) and then there was no, seeming, rush for folks to leave the building... a quick turnaround of the building ready for the following day and Cafe Church. It was over for another month, and this time we raised £332.49 for church funds.

It's a week such as we've had this past week that makes us SO thankful for our very flexible building. It's hosted Tiny Tots, Ladies group, a day of prayer and fasting for outreach and mission, open worship, Pete Scheuber's wonderfully celebratory thanksgiving service, SKY group, coffee morning and then ready for worship service again.... Don't we have an amazing Lord who has provided so generously for the needs of this congregation of his children!

Our next coffee morning is on 18 July and we will again be raising funds for the incredible work that goes on in Tiny Tots. Please come along, bring a friend, a healthy appetite for coffee and cake and cash! We look forward to seeing you then.

Coffee Morning dates for the rest of this year:

18 July (proceeds for Holt Tiny Tots)

29 August (proceeds for Holt Scarecrow Trail and their chosen charity)

12 September

17 October

21 November (collecting items for The Hub in Bradford on Avon)

12 December

*Terri Dauncey on behalf of the Coffee Morning Team*

## Donations

To set up a standing order or donate to any of the three churches in the Benefice please find all the information below:

<b>St Katharine's PCC of Holt</b>	Sort code: 30 98 75	A/C: 01525597
<b>Broughton Gifford PCC</b>	Sort code: 40 44 33	A/C: 51168657
<b>PCC of Great Chalfield</b>	Sort code: 30 98 75	A/C: 02075099

Donations towards the following and sent to the St. Katharine's account:

- the Coach House should be referenced "Coach House"
- towards the weekend away should be referenced "Lee Abbey"
- for a gift for Ben, Amy and the boys should be referenced "Jarvis"

## Seeking God's Heart – A Benefice Day of Prayer and Fasting

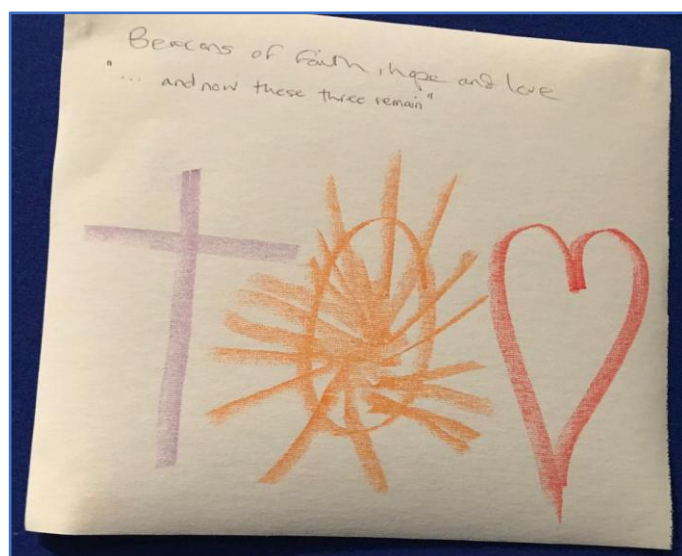
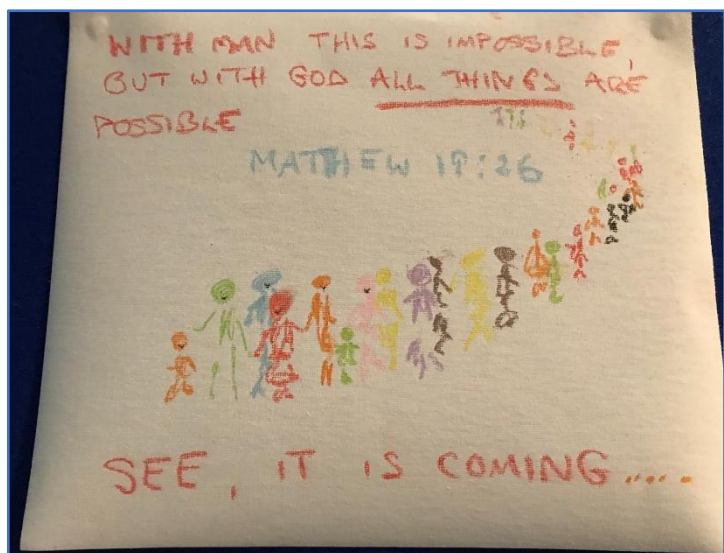
As a church, we sense that we are in a season where God is stirring something new among us — a renewed call to mission, outreach, and sharing His love with those who do not yet know Him.

With that in mind, we set aside Thursday 18 June as a benefice day of prayer and fasting. It was a day for our three churches to come together, to be still, to pray, and to seek God's will for the way ahead.

The church was arranged with six prayer stations, each focusing on a particular theme:

- A prophecy given to Andrew
- The coach house and car park
- Direction for a benefice-wide mission
- Casting our nets
- Serving our community
- Our church's life and family

We also created a space for the artists among us — an area where people could draw or paint what they felt God was showing them.



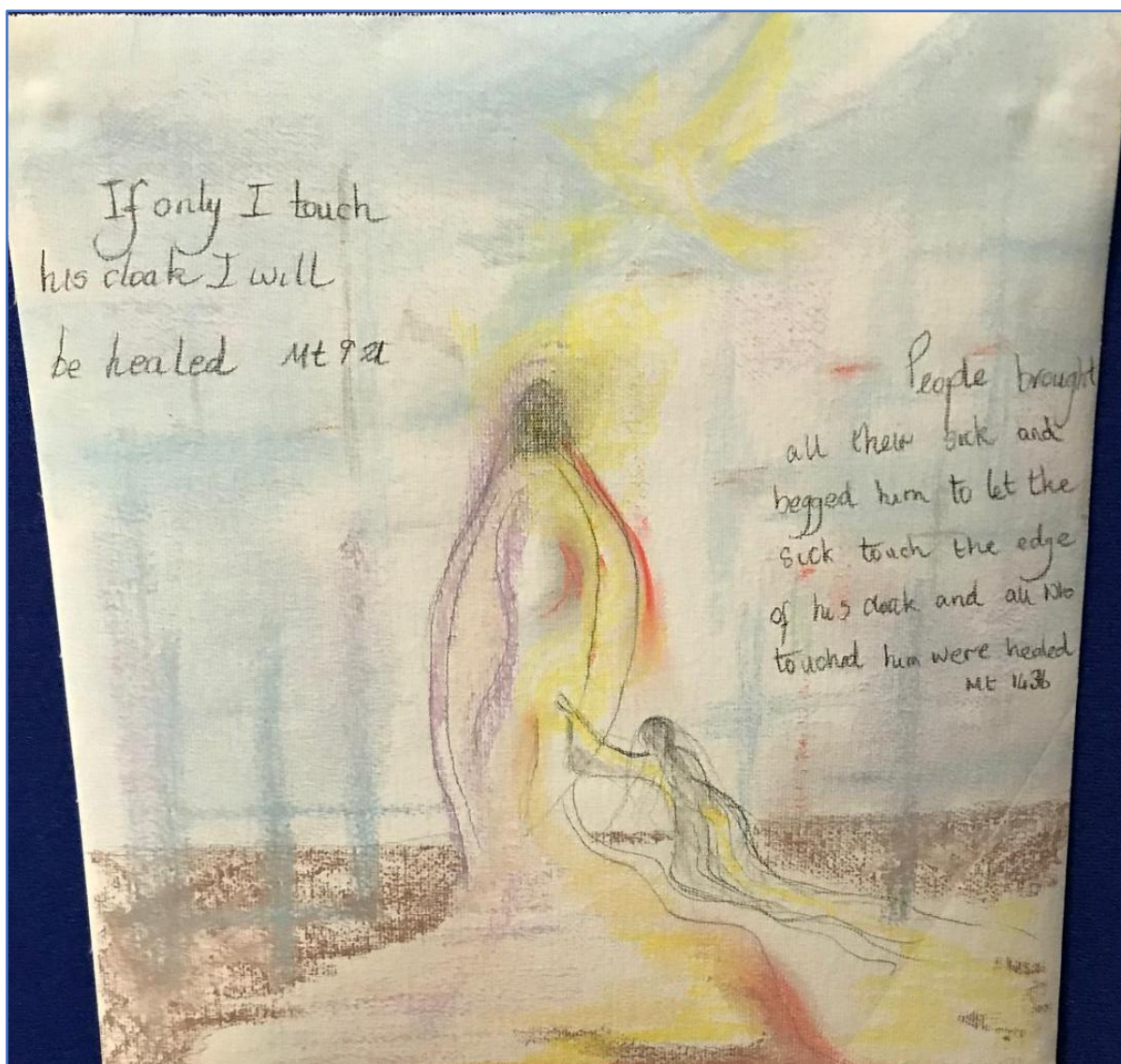
Throughout the day, around thirty people came at different times to pray, reflect, and listen. We were joined in the evening by the St Ks Worship team who provided a time of open worship, which proved to be a fitting close to the day.

Many who attended commented on how precious it was to simply stop and spend unhurried time with Jesus. It truly was a lovely day and a real blessing.

## What happens next?

An amazing number of words, scriptures, and reflections were shared during the day. These have now been typed up and will be prayerfully tested by the ministry team and the Outreach & Evangelism prayer group. Once the main themes have been discerned, we will share them — along with an action plan for the next steps.

If you were unable to join us but prayed at home and feel you received a word, picture, or scripture, please pass it on to me, Andrew, or Dawn so it can be included.



*Thank you, Caroline Griffin*

**Prayer meeting dates for St. Katharine's @ 19:30 in Church**  
Wednesday 1 July & Monday 3 August.



# REVIVAL

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY  
12 & 19 JULY | 18:00

# OUTDOOR CHURCH

TIME TOGETHER IN GOD'S CREATION

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCHYARD, HOLT  
SUNDAY 12 & 26 JULY 2026 | 10:30



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR

# OPEN WORSHIP

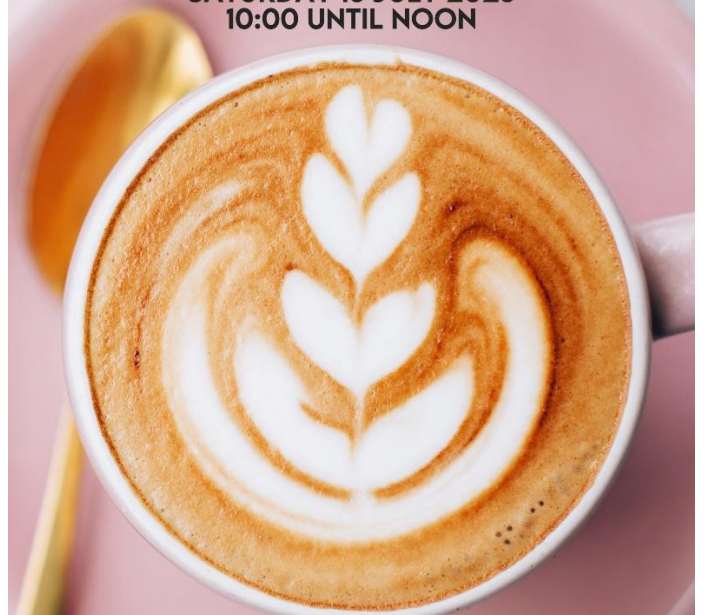
ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
THURSDAY 16 JULY  
19:45 ONWARDS

REFRESHMENTS SERVED  
EVERYONE WELCOME

# Coffee Morning

ALL PROCEEDS TO  
**HOLT TINY TOTS**

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026  
10:00 UNTIL NOON



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

## Services July 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>No Service</b>	10:00 Holy Communion	<b>No Service</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Parish Communion  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion <b>PATRONAL</b>	10:00 Matins
26 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Morning Worship  16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion

Benefice Office: The Coach House  
386a Ham Green  
Holt  
Wiltshire  
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

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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 Bullock Youth and Children's Worker		tom@stkatharinesholt.org
Sandra Bullock Youth and Children's Worker		sandra@stkatharinesholt.org
Elizabeth Bennett Retired Priest	01225 783119	revelizabeth1@gmail.com
Jacque Bennetts Parish Safeguarding Representative	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Ben Jarvis (until 19 July) 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 August issue of Church Life Matters  
via email to Dawn by Friday 17 July.**