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Dever Churches weekly update

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Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 13:8



Dear Friends

What a week of sunshine it has been! I hope that those of you who enjoy the sun have been able to get outside and those who prefer it cooler have found a shady spot. I have been fascinated watching the maize growing – so fast it's almost as if you can see it grow right in front of your eyes! That reminded me of the parable of the sower in Matthew's gospel, which is also our gospel reading for this week. This parable tells us that God is abundant – God does not hoard resources, God does not count the cost. Instead God scatters the seed liberally knowing that some will fail but that by working in abundance, by taking risks and behaving generously, a harvest is possible that is greater than anything we could ask or imagine. This is a great rule of thumb for us in our lives too, as we seek to follow God's lead, and has been influential in our approach to the Growing Rural Parishes project. I will be preaching on this at East Stratton on Sunday morning – do come along if you want to dig into it some more!

What3Words

Some of you may be familiar with the app What3Words which uses three words to pinpoint any map reference. This is What3Words with a difference... As part of the Growing Rural Parishes project the steering group (made up of representatives from all our church communities) is looking to design a Benefice website to be one point of contact for us all. To help us design something which accurately reflects our church family, we want **you** to tell us What3Words you would use to describe your church, or the Benefice as a whole. All these ideas will then be reviewed by the steering group and will feed into our design conversations. What3Words pinpoint **your** experience of church here? Please send your three words to revclairebentham@outlook.com or look out for the post-it notes I'll have with me at services over the next few weeks.

Coming up...

Saturday 11th July, 1-4:30pm – the amazing Wonston fete is back at The Old House, Wonston. Come along for the perfect village fete experience!

Monday 13th July, 7pm @my house – Bible Book Club. This month we are looking at chapters 8-15 of the book of Acts. Everyone is welcome whether you are a theology expert or a complete newbie – just come armed with your thoughts and questions as we discuss the great story of the start of the church. Drop me an email on revclairebentham@outlook.com if you're planning on coming for the first time.

Sunday 19th July – Rev'd Jo's last Sunday in the Benefice. We will be celebrating all she has brought to us and wishing her farewell at the 11am service at South Wonston, followed by lunch together. If you want to contribute to her leaving gift

and write her a farewell message, you can do that here

<https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3528210>

And finally, the services for this Sunday are all in the news sheet below – I look forward to seeing you if you're heading to East Stratton in the morning or South Wonston for Messy Church, and Rev'd Jo looks forward to seeing you if you're heading to Wonston in the morning or Micheldever in the evening.

THE DEVER CHURCHES



Sunday 12 July 2026

'Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.
I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.'

Psalm 119:105-106

Sunday 12 July 2026

10am	Holy Communion	East Stratton	Claire Bentham
10am	Informal Service	Hunton	Iain Henderson
10am	Morning Prayer with Fellowship (said)	South Wonston	Lay Led
11am	Morning Prayer	Wonston	Jo Criscenti
4pm	Messy Church	South Wonston	Claire Bentham
6pm	Evensong	Micheldever	Jo Criscenti

NEWS

Fetes

Sat 11 Jul 1-4.30pm Wonston Fete at
the Old House, Wonston

Bible Book Club

Bible Book Club Mon 13 Jul 7pm
Micheldever Cottage, Rook Lane, Micheldever SO21 3DE

Cafés

Sutton Scotney Community Café, Wed 15 Jul 9.30am-12noon
Pop-up Café, Wed 5 Aug 9.30am-12noon
both at Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

PRAYER

Magdalena Lozio & Michael Hall's marriage, and
their son Harrison Hall's baptism on Sat 11 Jul, South Wonston
Norah Godfrey's baptism last week at Micheldever
Persephone Davis's baptism next week at Wonston

Next Week's Services - Sunday 19 July 2026

11am	Patronal Festival of St Margaret's	South Wonston	Jo Criscenti & Dave Mapes
11am	Holy Communion with Baptism	Wonston	Claire Bentham

Contact

Clare Fancourt, Parish Coordinator, email: coordinator.upperdever@hotmail.com

Rev'd Claire Bentham

Assistant Curate, Dever Benefice

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

The Dever Benefice



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