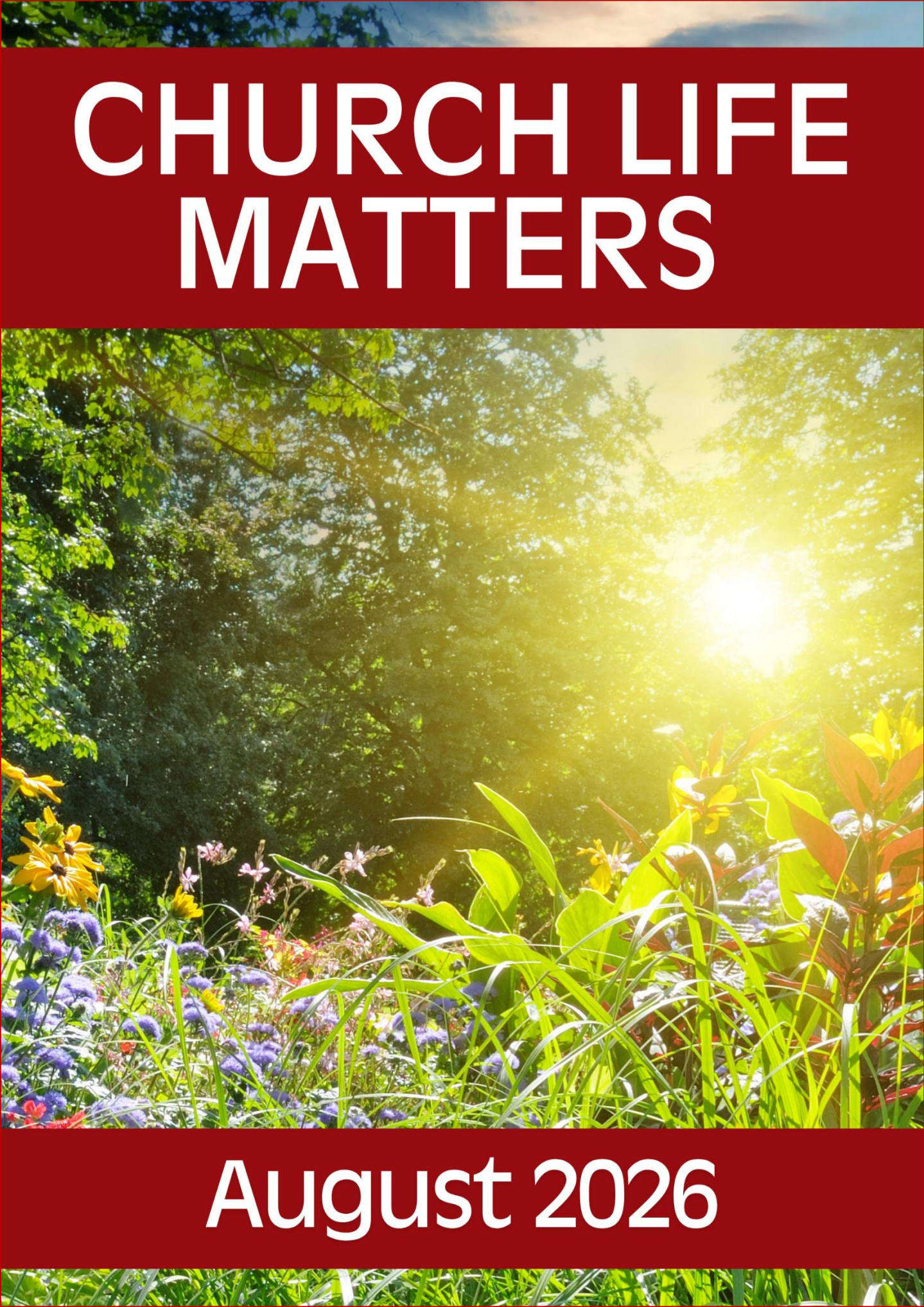




CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

August 2026

A word from Andrew

These days, practically everything you buy seems to carry some kind of warning on it. Some of these warnings can seem a little ridiculous. For example: Sainsbury's peanuts: 'Warning – Contains nuts', Nytol Nighttime Sleep-Aid: 'Warning – May cause drowsiness', on a household DIY drill: 'Not intended for use as dentist drill'. Because so many warnings seem almost absurd, the danger is that we ignore them. But not all warnings are so ridiculous. A foggy day, on 13 March 1991, led to one of Britain's worst road accidents. Ten people died and twenty-five people were injured in a disaster on the M4 motorway. In the midst of the accident one man was hailed as a hero. Alan Bateman climbed out of his damaged car and ran along the central reservation to try to warn oncoming vehicles of the wreckage ahead. Not all appreciated the warnings. Some drivers sounded their horns at him and drove on towards the crash. Alan's warnings to the other drivers were not only heroic; they were an act of love. Jesus himself often warned of dangers ahead (see for example Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate..., 19 Like a tree, bear good fruit or you will be thrown into the fire..., 26–27 Do what Jesus says or you'll be like a house built on sand...). Jesus knew that in the long run it is more loving to warn people by telling them the truth. God loves you. He does not want you to get hurt. There are many warnings in the Bible and they all stem from God's love for you.

Today, we are so worried about sounding negative or judgmental that there is a danger of us being unloving by not being sufficiently bold in warning people of the dangers ahead. In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3, he says that God did not send him into the world to condemn us. Rather we all stand condemned already until we place our trust in Jesus to save us. The warning couldn't be clearer and we, because we have this knowledge, need to tell everyone how to be saved even if some people won't listen to us! John 3:16 makes it clear that Jesus was sent out of love to save us from perishing. If we don't tell people, we are being very unloving.

I am the speaker at our invitation supper in September. Have a think about who you might invite. Some people will come because it's me (I also appreciate that the opposite is true for some, but I leave it to you to discern who this might appeal to)!

With every blessing,
Andrew



St Katharine's Church, Holt

SUPPER EVENING

SAT 19 SEPT



18:15 ARRIVAL

ANDREW EVANS

At this very special supper evening, Rev Andrew Evans will share the story of his journey with Jesus, including his conversion, how his call to be a vicar happened, and how he has witnessed many miracles of healing and provision along the way.

Andrew has been Rector of St Katharine's, All Saint's and St Mary's for the past two decades.

Come along to hear more!

To help with numbers for catering please email united.benefice@outlook.com by Tuesday 15 September 2026 if you would like to attend.



Faith ⁱⁿ_{our} Village

Afternoon Tea

St Katharine's Church, Holt

Saturday 26 September from 2-4pm



Join us to celebrate
20 years of ministry
for Andrew & Jo Evans

Benefice away weekend to Lee Abbey 2026

I was asked to write a few words what I thought about our time for the weekend away we had down in Lee Abbey. We had a lovely journey down there, very relaxing with a pub lunch on the way! I took Jenny and Julia so we had a good travel time.

The place is set in stunning scenery with beautiful, wooded walks as well as coastal walks. I had two really nice walks with Sarah Jones and Jane Scheuber and it was a really good time to be together. The community spirit was very loving and friendly in Lee Abbey itself and a beautiful communion service on Sunday followed by a baptism of three people on the beach. A true way to be baptised.

I would certainly go again so I think that speaks for itself.

Sarah Chandler

The kids had such a brilliant time on the church weekend away! There was so much for them to do, from rock climbing and decorating cookies to making little shakers out of yoghurt pots and rice. They absolutely loved being outside too, with the tree house, swing and swing ball keeping them entertained for hours, with the added bonus of being able to walk down to the beach. It was really lovely to see them all having so much fun together, trying new things and making new friendships along the way. They came home with lots of happy memories, a really special weekend!

Jenny McLaughlin

Overall, we had a lovely weekend in stunning surroundings. It was great to be able to spend time together as a church family and get to know each other better. We were made very welcome by the Lee Abbey Community.

We found the worship and teaching sessions led by David and Caroline particularly helpful.

On Saturday afternoon we joined a group of adrenaline junkies to take on the zip wire challenge. Catherine Mecedry courageously led the charge and all had an exhilarating ride through the trees. Some of the younger ones in the group even managed a second ride.

On Sunday after a service of Holy Communion we gathered on Lee Abbey beach to witness Andrew baptising three of our number in the sea. It was a beautiful experience for all. We said our goodbyes after lunch. It had all gone far too quickly.

Ian & Jayne Gibbons



Lee Abbey 2027

**** Save the dates Friday 2 July – Sunday 4 July 2027 ****

Quiet Garden



Invited Speakers 2026

August
No Quiet Garden

September 1st
Revd Francis Moloney,
Team Vicar, Melksham Church

October 6th
Revd Katie Jackson,
Rector of North Bradford on Avon and villages

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

The Barn Dance held on Saturday 18 July, jointly organised by St Mary's School and Church was a tremendous success. The weather was sunny and had cooled slightly so that people who came were keen to enjoy the dancing. Everything was there for a great evening, a wonderful venue, an excellent band, plenty of barbecue food and a well-stocked bar. It was a brilliant village event. People were enjoying themselves right up to the end at 10pm. These events do not just happen and huge thanks goes to Debbie and Steve Carnie who allow the use of their barn and they provide a great deal of help to get the venue ready. Special thanks must go to Sarah who worked tirelessly by stocking the bar, purchasing the food plus numerous other tasks. We especially thank the Maidment family and David who manned the barbecues. We are grateful to the Friends of St. Mary's School who sourced the numerous and fantastic raffle prizes, helping on the bar, serving the food and providing the salads. We are still awaiting final totals from Sarah but expect to have made a good profit which will be split between the school and church. We especially thank everyone who supported the Barn Dance.

Our monthly Coffee Morning occurred on a different date in July and clashed with a similar event in Holt. This led to a drop in numbers, but we had a good social time and raised £100 for the church.

We can be proud in this benefice for the number of ordinands we have fledged. Amongst these has been Elizabeth Bennett, who after having served in parishes and the New Forest and elsewhere, returned to act as a retired priest in the Benefice. She has now decided that the time has come for her to retire. With our demand for at least two communion services a month in this parish, she has been particularly welcome here. We thank her for her bible-led sermons and her cheery presence,

We are also sad that we are losing the musical skills of Ben Jarvis. Whilst we have not seen him frequently, as a man from Ganderland he is part of our contribution to the life of the Benefice. We wish him well.

Finally, a personal request! Saturday 12 September sees the annual fundraising Ride & Stride Day for Wilshire Historic Churches Trust. I feel worried about my walking and wonder whether anyone has an exercise bike with a mileometer that I might borrow in a bid to rack up alternative miles. Sponsorship would also be very welcome as half the money goes to our parish funds.

Christopher Fielden & Annette Stone

The church was decorated beautifully for the Patronal service on the 19 July and here are a couple of pictures of the stunning flowers.



The next monthly coffee morning is on Saturday 1 August and there will be a lovely array of raffle prizes, cakes and fresh coffee. Everyone welcome.





We are gathering our three churches for a very

SPECIAL SERVICE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BROUGHTON GIFFORD

Sunday 30 August at 10:00

ALL WELCOME

June Supper with Guest Speaker Rev. Rebecca Peters

After a week of extreme heat, it was a relief that Saturday 27 June was slightly cooler for our Invitational Supper. Congratulations to the catering team in producing a delicious meal for us all and the back-up teams who set up the tables and then rearranged the church ready for the Sunday service.

It's amazing how often we sit with other guests who have links with the guests we've invited. All this helps to provide such a warm welcome of hospitality. It was also good to see that newer members of St. Katharine's had invited their friends and family.

In addition we feasted on an inspirational talk by Rebecca Peters, who is the vicar of St Mary's Church, Cholsey, Wallingford. She explained that she had been a Physicist before she was called to being a vicar. I felt that her personal reflection on God's love touched all our lives at different levels and stimulated a variety of conversations afterwards.

Look out for details of the next supper and be thinking and praying about who you could invite to enjoy a lovely evening of hospitality and hearing from someone whose life has been impacted by having Jesus at the centre.

Pat Fuggle

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

Tuesday 18 August & Tuesday 15 September

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

Monday 3 August & Tuesday 1 September

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 sent to the St. Katharine's account, with reference "Coach House".

St. Katharine's Church Coffee Morning

The coffee morning team are always excited when we have the annual fundraiser for Holt Tiny Tots. It's such a wonderful community-building group which provides a beautiful place for mums, dads, carers and the Tots themselves to socialise and make friends and share experiences; so, to boost their funds is very much on all our hearts.

We had over 70 people come through the doors which included some of the families from Tots. A number of people were amongst us for the first time and it was great to see a number who we haven't had along for a while. Our youngest attendee this time was Oscar Robin, who will very soon be one year old. At the other end of the age spectrum we had Eileen who is 96! There was the usual volume from conversations and laughter, and some nimble footwork as mugs of coffee were carried to the tables through groups standing in the way and talking!

A big shout-out to Dave and Kim, Yvonne, Kath and Jayne for the delicious cakes, scones and biscuits, and to Lynnette for the marmalade. All were snapped up. We're very happy to report that a total of £338.94 was raised for Tiny Tots.

There is still room for more folks to come along so maybe you could be there to occupy one of the spare seats next month, which will be on 29 August to coincide with the Holt Scarecrow Trail and all our takings will be going to the charities the Trail is supporting this year.

To sum up ... 72 people
 £338.94 raised
 2 dogs, and one Shark (a vacuum cleaner)!

Coffee Morning dates for the rest of this year:

29 August (all proceeds for Holt Scarecrow Trail)
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

Coffee

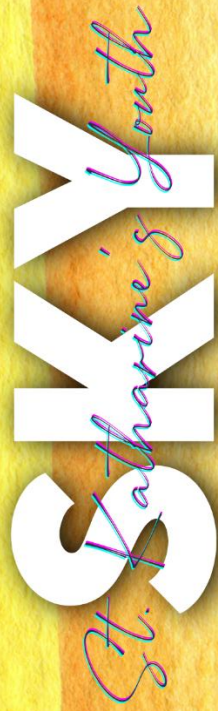
Morning

**ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026
10:00 UNTIL NOON**

ALL PROCEEDS TO

**SHOLT
Scarecrow
TRAIL**





UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

Friday 11th + 25th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

OCTOBER

Friday 9th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

NOVEMBER

Friday 6th + 20th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

DECEMBER

Friday 4th

6:30-7:30 PM (SKY+, 7:30-8:30 PM)

Friday 18th CHRISTMAS PARTY

6:30-8:30 PM

Got Questions?



**Alpha Course starts
Wed 23 Sep @ 7:30pm
The Tollgate Inn, Holt**

**The Alpha Course offers the chance to
explore the Christian faith in an informal,
friendly environment.**

**Book your free place now by emailing Dawn:
united.benefice@outlook.com**

Link to Hope annual shoebox appeal – 16 AUGUST 2026



It is that time of year again when we launch the Link to Hope shoebox appeal. This year it shall be at Café Church on Sunday 16 August.

If you are perhaps unfamiliar about the shoebox appeal there are a number of people in the Benefice including Lynnette, Dawn and Marilyn who will happily talk to you about this as one of their passion projects!

Why not come and hear all about it on the 16th at St. Katharine's Church and get an empty shoebox and leaflet at the same time. You can make a box for either a family or the elderly. There will be some items to help get you started, first come first served basis.

If the thought of filling your own shoebox and gathering the items is a little overwhelming but you like the idea of the appeal how about joining forces within your homegroup, ladies group, Tiny Tots, SKY, etc. and doing a shoebox between you?

We encourage you to please take part and let us share with others less fortunate than ourselves. Your support will be so welcome across the four countries of Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria.



I wonder how many boxes we can do this year. Your completed shoebox needs to be returned by Sunday 25 October please, thank you.

Dawn Farmer & Marilyn Stubbs

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

Services August 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
2 nd	9 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
9 th	10 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
16 th	11 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
23 rd	12 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
30 th	13 th Sunday after Trinity		10:00 Benefice Service	

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 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
Jacque Bennetts Parish Safeguarding Representative	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Dawn Farmer Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com

**Please send content for the September issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 21 August.**



Faith ⁱⁿ_{our} Village