



St Bartholomew



Holy Trinity



St John the Baptist

CLUWES – NEWS

News from the parish churches of **Cresswell**, **Lynemouth**, **Ulgham**, **Widdrington**,
Widdrington Station, **Ellington** and **Stobswood**

A View from the Pews

July 2026

Steam room in a church? Sticky pews ruining dresses? Water pools after thunderstorms? Welcome to the heatwave! Our buildings are beautiful but old and certainly not used to the kind of heat we have been experiencing for the last few years. The strain is considerable: did you know that the thick stones of Holy Trinity for example will expand on the outside in the heat while the inside will catch up more slowly, basically stretching the stone? And when the sun shines on the pews at St Bartholomew it now melts the varnish and sticks to clothing. Opening the door to St John's you are welcomed into your local sauna because there is no sophisticated insulation that helps to keep the temperature down. However, it is in the summer months that we welcome the majority of our visitors, the little quirks of old buildings are just that – come and have a look yourself, there is always something new to be discovered, including a kind of peace that is rare in these times.

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July Reflection: Growing Together in God's Summer

As July unfolds, many of us find ourselves enjoying longer days, warmer weather, holidays, family gatherings, and moments outdoors. Summer offers us a welcome opportunity to slow down, notice God's creation, and cherish the relationships He has given us.

The beauty of God's world reminds us that every season has its purpose. Just as gardens flourish under the summer sun, our faith also grows when we spend time in God's presence and nurture our relationships with one another. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."(Ecclesiastes 4:9–10)

Friendship is one of God's precious gifts. Whether it is sharing a cup of tea, offering a listening ear, praying with someone, or simply checking in with a neighbour, these acts of kindness reflect Christ's love. The friendships we build within our church family encourage us, strengthen us, and remind us that we never walk alone.

Jesus Himself called His disciples friends, saying:

"I no longer call you servants... Instead, I have called you friends." (John 15:15)

What an incredible thought—that our Lord invites us into friendship with Him. As we deepen that relationship, we are also called to love and care for one another.

Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans:

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)

During this month, perhaps we can all make a simple commitment: to reach out to someone we haven't seen for a while, invite a friend for a walk or coffee, encourage someone who may be feeling lonely, or spend a little extra time in prayer for those in our church community.

May this July be a season of gratitude—for God's faithfulness, the beauty of His creation, and the blessing of friendship. As we journey together, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, supporting one another as members of Christ's family.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for the gift of summer and for the friendships that enrich our lives. Help us to be faithful friends, ready to encourage, listen, and serve one another. Draw us closer to You and to each other, so that our lives may reflect the love of Christ. Bless our church family throughout this month, and may we be a source of hope and joy to everyone we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Paula Darkin

When Summer finally arrived.

The birds sang and the bells rang
When Summer finally arrived.
So many years spent trying.
A woman's face, wet with crying,
A man strained by grief,
Both holding onto belief
That Summer would come.

IVF, round by round by round.
"I'm so sorry" a familiar sound.
The waiting for life was killing.
Every pregnancy un fulfilling.
A woman's face, avoiding the others.
A man ill at ease with fathers and mothers.
For pity's sake, let Summer come!

All hope was placed on one last egg.
"You see, there's the arms and that's a leg."
Family, friends all held their breath,
God, Buddha, Allah, give us life, not death!
A woman whose heart is fit to burst.
A man, overcome, he can't look at first,
When Summer finally arrived.

By Lorraine Rutherford

Activity Corner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrXL4GeksPw>



COMMUNITY NEWS

Light time

Let's come together for family service at **Holy Trinity Church, Widdrington**, followed by faith based activities, games, songs, stories and refreshments for the whole family to enjoy.

4pm on the last Sunday of every month.





Walk of Blessings 2026

JOIN REV JULIA FOR A SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE

in aid of the **Anglican Alliance** and **community projects** in Widdrington and Widdrington Station

5 and 26 June

10 and 17 July

details overleaf

At the centre of this year's Walk of Blessings is
Holy Trinity Widdrington

The theme is "Pilgrimage - Heart Journey"

In the CLUWES parishes we believe that the heart of our mission is life in community and our desire is to show God's Love for all.

Holy Trinity Widdrington has got a tiny parish but a huge heart for all who walk into this old building - and for the surrounding communities.

Our "heart journey" is a pilgrimage of prayerful attention to what God is saying to us in these fragmented times. Therefore we **start and finish each journey day with prayer at Holy Trinity**. On the way we will chat, discover the hearts of our communities and search for new ways of connecting with one another and with God.

Come and join us on the journey and help raise funds for the Anglican Alliance (anglicanalliance.org) and community projects in Widdrington and Widdrington Station.

5 June: 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity, 12 noon picnic at St John's Ulgham, then return to Holy Trinity for 4pm Evening Prayer

26 June: 9am Morning Prayer, 1pm picnic at St Bartholomew Cresswell, 5pm Evening Prayer

10 July: 9am Morning Prayer, 1pm Picnic at Lynemouth Miners Institute, 5pm Evening Prayer

17 July: 9am Morning Prayer, 1pm picnic at St John's Longhirst, 5pm Evening Prayer

What's on in July

	Cresswell	Widdrington	Ulgham
5 July Trinity 5	10.30am Morning Prayer	9.30 Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
12 July Trinity 6	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
19 July Trinity 7	10am for 10.30am St Aidan's Sunday Informal worship at Lynemouth Institute	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
26 July Trinity 8	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer 4pm Light Time Family service	11am Morning Prayer

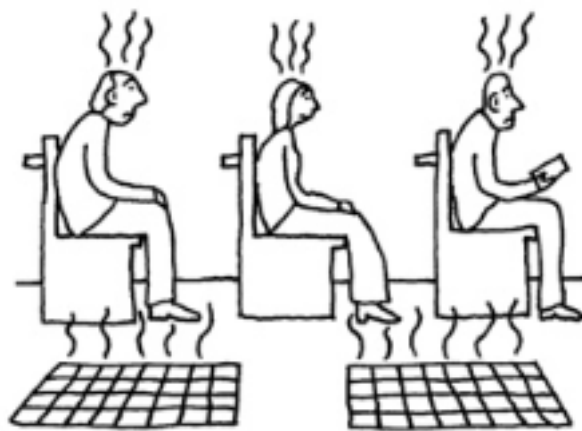
Events

- 2 July** **6.30pm** Choir rehearsal - URC Widdrington
- 4 and 5 July** **11am-5pm**, Longhirst Open Gardens, £7.50 per adult, children free, dogs welcome
- 7 July** **5.30pm** God Squad - Lynemouth Institute conservatory
- 10 July** **9.00am** Walk of Blessings - Start with Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity
- 11 July** **10am** St Aidan's Way pilgrimage: Warkworth church to Cresswell church
- 16 July** **6.30pm** Choir rehearsal - URC Widdrington
- 17 July** **9.00am** Walk of Blessings - Start with Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity
- 27 July** **7.00pm** Quiz night at Lynemouth Institute
- 30 July** **6.30pm** Choir rehearsal - URC Widdrington

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Just for fun

THE SUMMER



THE HEATING FINALLY
STARTS WORKING