

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



September 2026

A word from Andrew

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind.” *Romans 12:2*

Transformation is a big word. We are used to people having a makeover, perhaps an influencer or a character in a film. Suddenly they look glamorous. Their confidence grows and it's almost as if they can assume a new identity. But with Christianity the transformation is different. Makeovers change a person on the outside but relationship with God transforms us from the inside out.

The Greek word that has been translated 'transformed' gives us the word metamorphosis. It means to undergo a change in form, so that what emerges is genuinely different from what was there before. Think caterpillar to butterfly. Paul isn't thinking about us polishing up our act a little, so we look better to others, but rather a transformation that changes the way we think and live. Important question - Is that happening to you?

We now live in a world which increasingly tells us what to think and asks us to fit in with it. It tells us what we should look like, what we should value, what success means, what will make us happy, and even what we should believe about ourselves. These messages certainly come to us through the advertising industry but increasingly they come through our education system and through the government. Our world wants to tell us what is morally right and wrong, but those values seem to change over time.

In contrast to that we have God's Word which is truth and which does not change. We have a saviour Jesus, who is the way the truth and the life. If we spend most of the week letting our minds be changed to the pattern of this world, with just a little exposure to God's Word on a Sunday, we may find it hard to experience the metamorphosis Paul expects to see in the life of every Christian.

If more people are going to be drawn to Jesus and the church, the world needs to see changed lives – not yet perfect lives, but lives that are definitely changing for the better, and becoming more like Jesus. Otherwise, the church gets accused of hypocrisy.

I come across people who behave badly and want to excuse themselves by saying 'this is who I am'. But, as Christians we don't have to live governed by fear, anxiety, bitterness, anger, or lack of self-control. Otherwise we're saying that God's Word needs to adjust to who I am, rather than letting God's Word adjust me.

Hopefully when we become Christians we start to change, because God forgives us, places his Spirit in us, starts to convince us of his love and begins to lead us in a new direction. This work in us is much accelerated if we daily dip into God's Word and receive what it says and pray it into our lives. If you know the rate of change in you is very slow, I want to ask you whether you have a habit of daily bible reading. This is an essential part of developing relationship with God – there are so many apps and other tools to help you. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

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



Invited Speakers 2026

September 1st

Revd Francis Moloney,
Team Vicar, Melksham Church

October 6th

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

November 3rd

Sue Glanville
Spiritual Director and Life Coach

I am sure most of you have heard of the Quiet Garden Days at Great Chalfield Manor Gardens and Church, but have you actually been to one? I heartily recommend giving it a try. I have been going for many years and absolutely love it - it is one of the highlights of my month, in fact.

At our last Quiet Garden Day, in July, our very own Jenny Davis led the reflection, which was on Praying the Psalms. Jenny spoke movingly and with so much love, about her longing, as we wandered and rested in the beautiful surroundings, "for your hearts to be touched afresh by the Spirit and really feel that you are having an encounter with God through what the Psalms can offer you". She said, "The joy of the Psalms is that they touch our every human experience, they speak about life as it is and are not afraid to tell God how they feel about it... woven through them are prayers of longing, desire, love and praise." She said she finds it thrilling to think that is how Jesus would also have prayed in his day, as we do today, and how that somehow bridges the time span between when he was here on Earth and his presence with us now.

I loved so much about this reflection, frankly I could just type it all out for you. Jenny's passion and love for Jesus, and her fellow humans, shone through. Thinking about how we relate to those who are suffering and how God works in and through those times, was deeply affecting. It requires much prayer and thought about how I can play my part in that, learning to recognise where and how God is working and how to live with the paradox of pain and hope, in myself and in others. When did I last allow my heart to burn within me as if I was on the road to Emmaus? When was my heart last touched with supernatural joy and peace? (Very recently, for the latter; not so much for the former...).

On Tuesday 1 September our speaker will be Francis Moloney, Team Vicar at Melksham Church. He spoke last year and was excellent. Details of the day are in our new programme leaflet, which is available in all our churches, but, briefly, you can arrive from 09:30, Francis will give an introduction at 10:00, followed by silence, we have our own packed lunch at 12:00 and are in the church for the reflection by 12:45, which should finish by 13:30, and you can stay till 15:00. You can come and go as you are able, during this time. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Julia Wade
Quiet Garden Committee Member

A word from Elizabeth to St. Mary's and All Saints

Because of mobility problems I have had to officially retire from taking services, and I took my last ones in July at each church. At St. Mary's Patronal I was presented with an enormous bouquet and a very useful voucher – these were a combined gift from both All Saints and St Mary's churches.

So of course I wanted to say a heartfelt **Thank You** to all at both churches, not only for the gifts but for the fellowship over the past three years. For those who think it's been a lot longer than that, well – just ask and it will be clarified!!

May God richly bless our benefice.
Rev Elizabeth Bennett

Prayer Meeting Dates



St Mary's
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

Tuesday 15 September & Tuesday 20 October @ 13:45



St Katharine's
HOLT, WILTSHIRE

Tuesday 1 September & Monday 5 October @ 19:30

News from St. Mary's

The period of Trinity Sundays may be the longest in the Church calendar, but life goes on. The final result from the Barn Dance was a profit of £1,822 which is split equally between the church and the school. This is a great community event and thanks are due to the many people who made it such a success, particularly to the spearheads, Sarah and the school parents who contributed to the huge variety of raffle prizes and helped with the bar and food on the night. We must extend our special thanks to Steve, Debbie and the Carnie family who provided the venue and gave their valued support.

The school leavers' service was notable in that all this year's Year 6 were boys and each one contributed his memories of his time in school. Each went away with an armful of gifts including a *Link It Up Bible* from the church.

It is now also the time to look forward. On Saturday 12 September it will be the annual Ride & Stride which raises money for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, a charity from which we have benefited in the past. It appears that all the exercise bikes in the benefice are being fully exercised, so I have had to rethink my contribution. I, together with Anthony, will be lapping the Common. My legs are somewhat unsteady at the moment, but I do not think a prostrate body there will go unobserved for too long. We both welcome your sponsorship, half of which will go to the church.

A date for your diary is Saturday 3 October. On the morning will be our regular monthly coffee morning at which Lynnette will be offering for sale of her 2026 vintage jams and chutneys to raise money for the Sudan, which desperately needs it. If any remain unsold, they will be on offer that same evening at our Harvest Supper, in the Village Hall.

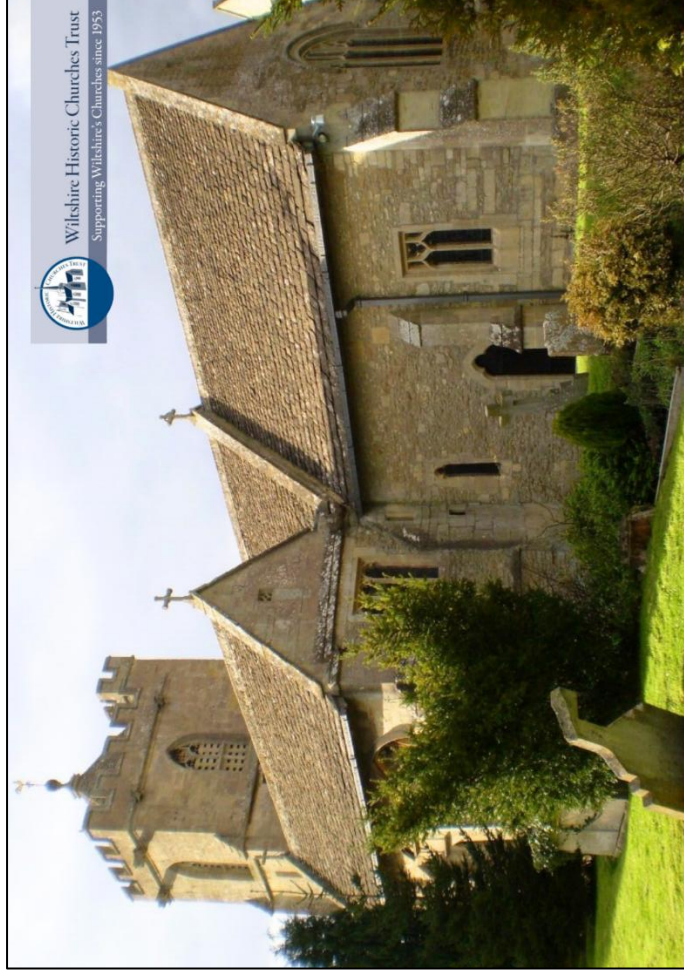
We consider that the Harvest Supper is rather a community event than just one for church members. All are welcome, not just from Broughton Gifford, but from the benefice at large. There is a hot supper, a mini-quiz and an evening's homespun cabaret. There is no charge, but contributions are very welcome. Any profits will go to support the Melksham Foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the monthly Saturday Coffee mornings which raised £132 in August. We look forward to seeing you on 5 September.

Christopher Fielden & Annette Stone

Coffee Morning

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026
10:00 UNTIL NOON



RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

12 SEPTEMBER 2026
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

OPEN FROM 10:00 - 17:00
TO WELCOME PARTICIPANTS, SIGN
SPONSORSHIP FORMS, PROVIDE
REFRESHMENTS AND A WARM WELCOME

HARVEST

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 10:00

MORNING SERVICE

ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BROUGHTON GIFFORD
COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



Harvest Supper

SAT 3 OCTOBER @ 19:00

BROUGHTON GIFFORD
VILLAGE HALL

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE
782241 OR 782610

RSVP BY FRI 25 SEPTEMBER

Donations welcome on the night
Bring your own drink and glass

Cake and produce stall in aid of Sudan,
please bring cash for purchases



Tiny Tots “End of Term” Party

Picture the scene; it's a very warm, bright July morning. St K's looks lovely; it's full of light, colourful toys, crafts, snacks and games. [Our thanks to all who faithfully prepare the Church for each Tuesday, bless you.]



It's soon 10am and the Church's tranquillity is wonderfully broken by exuberant little footsteps, the sound of prams and pushchairs and excited laughter / chatter. Some of the Toddlers ran towards the kitchen area to share their party food!

The last Tiny Tots of term 6 had begun....

In one corner, there are Mums, with babies, enjoying a “cuppa” and some much needed adult company, advice and encouragement.

In another corner there is painting; beautiful, colourful mosaic tiles are being lovingly created for the Tiny Tots entry in the Holt Scarecrow Trail. I don't think that I'll be spoiling any surprise when I reveal that this year's entry is Elmer (If you aren't familiar with the stories they are amazing, they centre on a patchwork elephant, Elmer and all of his adventures – joyful)!

A third corner contains colourful mats and a wooden slide, always good fun. On this occasion we had some older siblings with us, who had already finished school. It was heartening to see how gentle they were with the younger children.

There's also the choice of the beautifully painted “Playhouse” containing books, large duplo, the wooden train set, a giant marble run, paper crafts, table top toys.....

SO much to see, experience, play and do.

Then, of course, because it's the end of term, there's a beautiful array of party food, including luscious, prepared fruit, it's a joy for all the senses. Thanks to all of the Team, who help with the lovingly provided hospitality, each week.

The morning races by “all too quickly” and soon it’s time to pause, for our time of “Refresh” – a short “thought,” based on a Bible verse, given by one of the Tiny Tots Team. [Thanks to all who prepare and deliver these talks. Thanks too, to those who design, print and collate the Bible Verse cards for our families to take home].

Once we have all tidied up, it was time for Story and Singing. We sit in an informal circle where Ruth amazingly welcomes each baby / child by name (I am totally in awe of her memory, a true blessing, PTL!) Our thanks to Ruth for making Bible stories wonderfully accessible, despite the noise and distractions. Thanks, too, to Ken and Heather for their musical contribution and for the notices. We share some fantastic songs with actions or signs; these songs stay in our minds all week (“earworms” I think they call them!) If you see Marilyn, ask her about “The Frog Song” - she loves it (not really!)

This week’s story-time was particularly poignant because we were aware of several young children who were leaving us to go to Pre-School or Primary School. Ruth asked these children to stand in the middle of the circle, where she prayed for them. We sang “The Blessing” over them - what a beautiful, God-filled experience, I pray that these Tots will remember that and how it made them feel.

All too quickly, it’s the moment to sing “Time to go home.” As the families leave, they are all given the Bible Verse relating to the Refresh and copies of the CLM, giving them information about Church activities throughout the summer.

It’s now quiet, fairly messy and there’s still washing up to do, but we don’t mind; the Tots Team love it. We pray, thanking Father-God for protecting everyone, for bringing Tots to us and for all of the work of the Spirit, that morning.

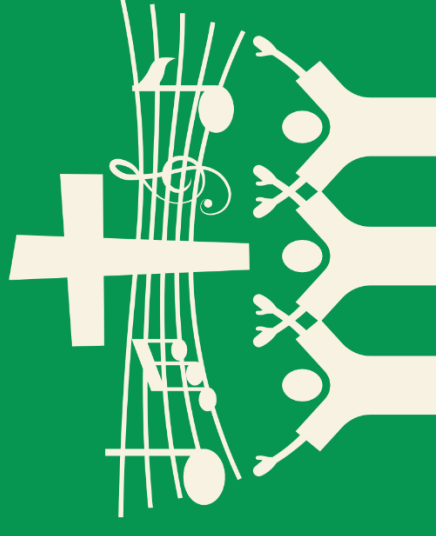
The Tots Team are enjoying (a well-earned) rest, until September 8th, but we continue to pray for the families we are privileged to “speak Jesus” over. Please join us, in these prayers, thank you.

Kathryn Harris on behalf of the Tiny Tots Team



**ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026
10:00 UNTIL NOON**

Coffee **Morning**



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR

OPEN WORSHIP

**ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
19:45 ONWARDS**

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME**

SKY

St. Katharine's Youth

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

Friday 11th + 25th

6:30 – 8 PM (SKY+, 8 – 8:30 PM)

OCTOBER

Friday 9th

6:30 – 8 PM (SKY+, 8 – 8:30 PM)

NOVEMBER

Friday 6th + 20th

6:30 – 8 PM (SKY+, 8 – 8:30 PM)

DECEMBER

Friday 4th

6:30 – 8 PM (SKY+, 8 – 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**

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

Services September 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
6 th	14 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
13 th	15 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
20 th	16 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
27 th	17 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Harvest Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion

Church Office – The Coach House, 386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ

E: united.benefice@outlook.com

W: faithinourvillage.org

Follow us @faithinourvillage



YouTube

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	<u>anthony55matthewfcn@gmail.com</u>
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 October issue of Church Life Matters via email to Dawn by Monday 21 September, thank you.

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".