

St Peter's Church Magazine



*September 2026 issue ♦ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ♦ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk
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Neurodivergent Christians

At the last meeting of the Church of England's General Synod, the meeting approved the appointment of a network of diocesan 'champions' to help ensure that neurodivergent clergy and lay people feel welcome and able to flourish in the Church of England.

Members approved a proposal for more training at every level of the church on neurodiversity and a new network of neurodiversity champions throughout the dioceses, based on the model of the existing disability advisers network.

Neurodivergent people, who include autistic people, people with ADHD, and those with dyslexia or dyspraxia, are a blessing to the church and wider society and their experience adds to the richness of experience of all, the General Synod heard, but they face discrimination and barriers that prevent them from flourishing.

The Archbishop of Canterbury described how her dyslexia had led some people to believe she 'wouldn't amount to much'. She said: "I struggled at school and it was at a time when we were given very little support to overcome the challenges that dyslexia presented." She added: "I have learnt however – and it wasn't an easy journey – that I am made in the image of God and that I am called as somebody who is dyslexic, not despite dyslexia, and sometimes because of dyslexia. I now speak more regularly about my dyslexia because I hope that by sharing my own experiences I might offer some encouragement, that we are a Church of all kinds of people. Neurodiversity is not a problem to be solved within the Church, but it is a gift."

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General Synod member Fiona MacMillan, for the Church of England's Neurodiversity Working Group of the Committee for the Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People (CMDDP), spoke of diagnoses she has had since the age of 40 of ADHD, Tourette's, and as autistic. "These three diagnoses each came as a surprise, a serial unveiling of reasons for lifelong struggle and, initially a source of shame, grief and relief, before I gradually grew to understand and know myself as fearfully, wonderfully and intentionally made by God, with my particular combination of needs and gifts," she said.

She added that the celebration of diversity and inclusion of all is a "core" commitment of the church. "In each of the Gospels, Jesus welcomes the outcast and challenges those who limit the extent of the Spirit's work. This motion calls on the Church to include people who think differently, and to allow ourselves to be blessed by them."

At St Peter's, we try to be welcoming for neurodivergent Christians and seekers as far as possible. We understand that the formal liturgy that is at the centre of our tradition, and which repeats week-by-week, can be both helpful and difficult for people, depending on their needs. If you, or your child, are neurodivergent, and you think there's anything helpful we might be able to incorporate into our worship, please talk to Revd Hannah or the Church Wardens.

Wednesday Church First Wednesday of the Month

Help is needed for Wednesday Church, our monthly group for adults with learning disabilities and their carers.

We need help with moving some of the pews and setting up tables and chairs in the narthex, starting at around 9am on the day of the meeting.

If you are able to help, please speak to Sheila Brown.

Ride and Stride

Leon is taking over the cycling challenge of the Ride and Stride from Rev. Fran this year.

Ride and Stride takes place on Saturday 19th September.

Please sponsor him if you are able.

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!

New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.

Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

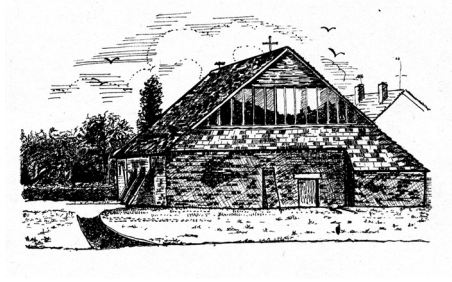
Quiz & Chips – New Season 2026-27

The new season starts on 19th September. We welcome everyone who'd like to come and play. There is no age limits, nor levels of ability! If you'd like to bring a new team, or are returning please get in touch with quiz@stpeter-didcot.org.uk or speak to Hugh.

A Fish and Chips supper is available, pre-ordered, at the break.

There is a popular bar, which is stocked with a mix of local beers, as well as bottled beers, wine and soft drinks.

St Peter's Church Quiz & Chips Dates for 2026-27



2026

19th September

17th October

21st November

2027

16th January

27th February

17th April

15th May

19th June

Contact quiz@stpeters-didcot.org.uk, or Hugh on
01235 811465.

Sustainable Didcot have recently launched a Community Fridge with an aim to reduce food wastage. Community Fridges redistribute surplus food from supermarkets, local food businesses, producers, households and gardens, making it freely available to everyone in the community.

Community fridges are open to all. They're not means tested, so anyone can visit to see what food is available to 'save', take home and cook with - just drop in during opening hours!

The Community Fridge will be in the Green Hub on Lydalls Road. What3Words: tiny. hillsides. strongly. Please keep an eye out on our [Facebookpage](#) for more details of when the Fridge will be open.

Prayer Intentions: September 2026

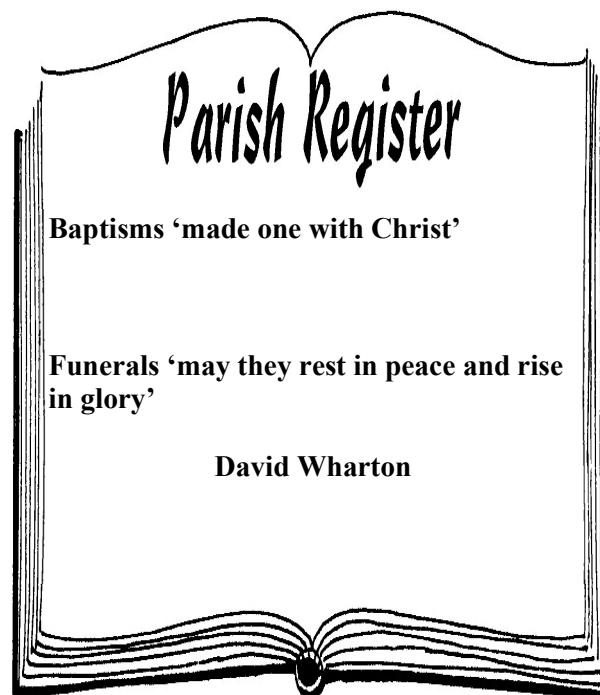
1st: Giles Readings: Pss 132, 133; 2 Samuel 18: 19-19: 8a; Acts 11: 1-18. Originally from Athens, Giles lived as a hermit in the forest close to Nimes (France). He eventually led a monastery under the rule of St Benedict. Prayer intentions: Church Street, East Street. All those returning to, or starting, school.	2nd: Martyrs of Papua New Guinea Readings: Ps 119: 153-end; 2 Samuel 19: 8b-23; Acts 11: 19 - end. Prayer intentions: High Street, Bourne Street. People with learning disabilities and their carers. Our friends at Wednesday Church.	3rd: Gregory the Great Readings: Psalms 143, 146; 2 Samuel 19: 24-end; Acts 12: 1-17. Pope Gregory sent Augustine to Kent to evangelise the Saxons there and to negotiate with the Celtic Christians in the north of England Prayer intentions: Northbourne Court, Pease Place. Eucharistic Ministers and those who receive Home Communion.	4th: Birinus Readings: Pss 142, 144; 2 Samuel 23: 1-7; Acts 12: 18-end. Birinus was the first Bishop of Dorchester and 'Apostle to the West Saxons.' He laid the foundations for many churches in this area. Prayer intentions: Ridgeway Road, Beech Lane. St Birinus School, Bishop Gavin and his team.
5th: Readings: Psalm 147; 2 Samuel 24; Acts 13: 1-12. Prayer intentions: Sinodun Road, Bridge Close. Our Treasurer.	6th: Trinity XIV Readings: Psalm 108; Jonah 3: 10 - 4: 11; Revelation 8: 1-5. Prayer intentions: Kynaston Road, Ransoms Crescent. Those who prepare and read their intercessions in church.	7th: Readings: Psalms 1, 2,3; 1 Kings 1: 5-31; Acts 13: 13-43. Prayer intentions: Broadway, Vicarage Road. For an end to conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine.	8th: Birth of BVM Readings: Psalms 5, 6; 1 Kings 1: 32-2: 4, 10-12; Acts 13: 44-14:7. Prayer intentions: St Andrew's Road, St Peter's Road. The work of the Mothers' Union worldwide.
9th: Readings: Ps 119: 1-32 ; 1 Kings 3; Acts 14: 8-end. Prayer intentions: Wessex Road, Samor Way Those who keep the church linens clean.	10th: Rdgs: Psalms 14, 15, 16; 1 Kings 4: 29-5: 12; Acts 15: 1-21. Prayer intentions: Lower Broadway, Roebuck Court. Churches Together in Didcot and District.	11th: Readings: Psalms 17, 19 ; 1 Kings 6: 1, 11-28; Acts 15: 22-35. Prayer intentions: Hagbourne Road, Edmund's Court. Our Director of Music and choir.	12th: Readings: Pss 20, 21, 23; 1 Kings 8: 1-30; Acts 15: 36-16: 5. Prayer intentions: Ernest Road. Fairacres Road, Marlborough Court. Didcot Police Station, our PCSOs.
13th: Trinity XV Readings: Psalms 114; Isaiah 44: 24-45: 8; Revelation 12: 1-12. Prayer intentions: Clover Fields, Reed Street, Aster Close. Those who keep the church clean and tidy.	14th: Holy Cross Day Readings: Pss 2, 8, 146; Genesis 3:1-15; John 12:27-36a. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, was dedicated on this day in 335AD, with the True Cross presented for all to venerate. Prayer intentions: Oatland Road, Bradbery Gardens. Pebbles, church for babies and toddlers.	15th: Cyprian Readings: Psalms 32, 36; 1 Kings 8: 63-9:9; Acts 16: 25-end. A 3rd Century convert to Christianity. He was swiftly made Bishop and faced Roman persecution. He was executed in 258. Prayer intentions: Mereland Road, Laburnum Grove. Persecuted Christians worldwide.	16th: Ninian Readings: Psalm 34; 1 Kings 10: 1-25 Acts 17: 1-15. Ninian is known as the 'Apostle to the Southern Picts' in the Scottish Lowlands. He lived and ministered 360-432 AD. Prayer intentions: Abbott Road, Abbott Close. Those engaged in missions in England and further afield.

Prayer Intentions: September 2026

17th: Hildegard Readings: Psalm 37; 1 Kings 11: 1-13; Acts 17: 16-end. Visionary, Musician, Liturgist, Exorcist, Theologian and nun. Hildegard was tithed to God at the age of 8, as her parents' 10th child. Prayer intentions: Richmere Road, The Croft, Diamond Drive. All those who use and work at Didcot Library.	18th: Readings: Psalm 31; 1 Kings 11: 26-end; Acts 18: 1-21. Prayer intentions: Marsh Cottages, Jubilee Way. Regent Gardens. Former members of St Peter's who are no longer able to join us in our worship on Sundays.	19th: Theodore of Tarsus Readings: Pss 41, 42, 43; 1 Kings 12: 1-24; Acts 18: 22-19: 7. The 8th Archbishop of Canterbury, established a school attached to the Cathedral. He was a great reformer of the Church in England, calling several Synods. Prayer intentions: Saxon's Way, Viking Drive. The Quiz n Chips Team	20th: Trinity XVI Readings: Psalm 145; Isaiah 45: 9-22; Revelation 14: 1-5. Prayer intentions: Oriel Court, Lincoln Gardens. All those baptised this year.
21st: Matthew Readings: Ps 49, 117; 1 Kings 19:15-end; 2 Timothy 3:14-end. Matthew has a Gospel written in his name. Prayer intentions: Beaufort Close, Worcester Drive. Those who lead Sunday School.	22nd: Readings: Psalms 48, 52; 1 Kings 13: 11-end; Acts 19: 21-end. Prayer intentions: Exeter Court, Magdalene Court. All those who provide refreshments for services and events at the church.	23rd: Readings: Ps 119: 57-80; 1 Kings 17; Acts 20: 1-16. Prayer intentions: Merton Close, Somerville. Those who look after the grounds.	24th: Rdgs: Psalms 56, 57; 1 Kings 18: 1-20; Acts 20: 17-end. Prayer intentions: Nuffield Close, Dirac Place Didcot Community Hospital.
25th: Readings: Psalms 51, 54; 1 Kings 18: 21-end; Acts 21: 1-16 Prayer intentions: Fleet Way, Kibble Close. Our servers and team of welcomers.	26th: Wilson Carlile Readings: Psalm 68; 1 Kings 19; Acts 21: 17-36. Founder of the Church Army Prayer intentions: St John's Close, Ruskin Close. Revd Josie Midwinter, and all Church Army Ministers.	27th: Trinity XVII Readings: Psalm 25; Isaiah 48: 12-21; Luke 11: 37-54. Prayer intentions: Shannon Road, Severn Road. Those being Confirmed today at St James, West Hanney.	28th: Readings: Psalm 71; 1 Kings 21; Acts 21: 37-22: 21. Prayer intentions: Kennet Place, Thames Court. The work of Helen House and other hospices.
29th: Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas) Readings: Psalms 34, 150; Daniel 12:1-4; & Revelation 5. The Archangel Michael is referred to in the New Testament letter of Jude as fighting and defeating the devil, and is commemorated together with All Angels as a reminder that the continuing war on earth between good and evil had its start in heaven. The feast falls at a time when the nights are growing long, to remind Christians that we are not alone as we face both physical and spiritual struggles in the months to come. Prayer intentions: Medway Grove, Tyne Square. Churches dedicated to Ss Michael and All Angels, those engaged in deliverance ministry. Those to be ordained at Michaelmas-tide.			30th: Jerome Readings: Psalm 77; 1 Kings 22: 29-45; Acts 23: 12-end. Translated the Bible into Latin (from Greek) in the 4th Century. Prayer intentions: Western Avenue. ECHO, Didcot TRAIN and all youth work in Didcot

Year's Mind for September

1	Roessa Yates	20	Dorothy Bird
2			Dennis Cartwright
3	Doris Clare	21	Brian Collyer
	Sheila Burgess		William McGibbon
4	Reginald Wilkes		Albert Faulkes
	Doreen Ballard	22	Mavis Bonner
5			Ruth Griffiths
6	George Herbert	23	Harold Redding
	Percy Lane		Frederick Wells
	Christine Skirving		Ruby Humphreys
	Eva Cameron	24	Reginald Porter
	Evelyn Boldogh		Lorraine Herbert
7	Irene Bromhall	25	
8	Ernest Butler	26	Grant Embling
	Eleanor Butcher		Hilda Knights
9	Nancy Davies	27	Margaret Henbest
10		28	George Tubb
11	Percy Jefferies	29	Ellen East
12	Walter Bush		John Seymour
13			Sarah Digweed
14	Esther Hall		Ivy May Bennett
	Edith Crawford	30	Thomas Faulkner
15	Constance White		William Pratt
	Patricia Chapman		Arthur Nicholas
16	Ethel Cox		Beryl Peterson
	John Mildenhall		
	Frederick Bennett		
	Charles Carter		
	Marjorie Jean Nicholls		
17	Walter Davis		
18			
19			



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

'Newly retired or semi retired and keen to remain active in body and soul, then the Didcot and District U3A (motto, 'Learn, Laugh, Live !') could be just what you've been looking for ?!

With over 30 Interest Groups that include walking, gardening, learn an instrument or language and many more - see details at Didcot.u3asite.uk

Monthly meetings start at 2:30 pm on the Third Tuesday of every month at the Didcot Civic Hall, new members always warmly welcomed over tea and biscuits (first visit free-pre membership) along with a Guest Speaker, forth coming Speakers include;

August 18th - The Flanders and Swann story - as told by James Mitchell and James Williams. The two first collaborated in 1939 and Michael Flanders was considered a great British wit along with Donald Swann- the are best known for their comedic songs concerning animals).

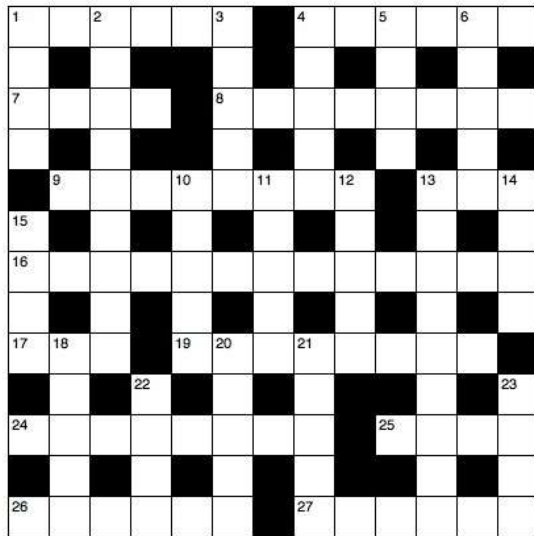
September 15th - a talk by popular photographer David Bailey- His talk is entitled 'Wild Homes' and it is expected to be very well received as his previous presentations have been.

October 20th Sing with Mandy who offers a brief history of folk music (but beware- you will be invited to sing along!).

Why not come along and sample for yourself - you are never too young to 'Learn, Laugh, Live! '

More information of your local U3A can be found at Didcot.u3a site.uk

September Crossword



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Answers to July Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

NEXT ISSUE

Wednesday 26 August 2026 is the next magazine deadline. Please email the editor with any articles—
se.scane@ntlworld.com

Church Calendar for September 2026

SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

Wednesday 2 *Martyrs of Papua New Guinea*
10.00AM-Wednesday Church

Thursday 3 *Gregory the Great*
9.30am—Said Mass

Sunday 6 *Trinity XI*
10.00am-Parish Mass

Thursday 10
10.00am—Said Mass

Sunday 13 *Trinity XV*
10.00am—Parish Mass

Monday 14 *Holy Cross Day*
9:15AM– Pebbles Baby Church

Thursday 17 *Hildegard of Bingen*
10.00am —Said Mass

Sunday 20 *Trinity XVI*
10.00am—Parish Mass
12.00 – Holy Baptism

Thursday 24
10.00am —Said Mass

Sunday 27 **HARVEST FESTIVAL**
10.00am—Parish Mass



Vicar
The Revd. Hannah Reynolds
The Vicarage,
47A Newlands Avenue,
Didcot
01235 812114

Associate Minister



The Revd. Fran Childs
01235 816166

Safeguarding Officers



Gail & Paul Hedley
07775 675401

Church Wardens



Alan Wilson
07817 061752



Tim Scane
07785 308160



ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday - Thursday & Saturday
9.00AM Morning Prayer

Sunday
10.00AM - Parish Mass—live
streamed from church