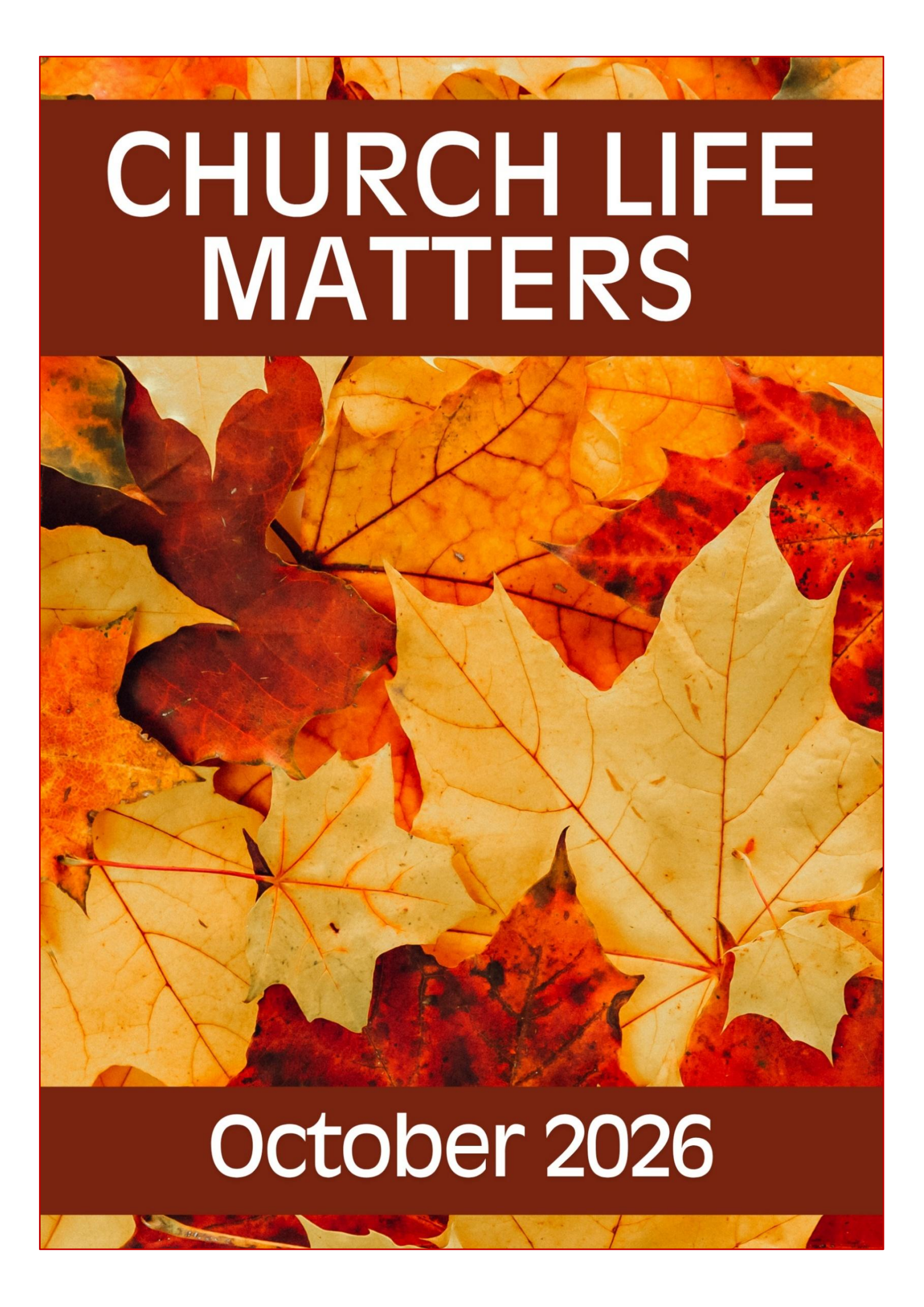




CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

October 2026

A word from Andrew

I was reading an article in the Church Times about Jackie Pullinger as a 60th anniversary edition of her famous book 'Chasing the Dragon' is published. In 1966 after she had responded to the gospel and in her early 20s, she boarded a boat to China and asked God to tell where to get off and where her missionary work was to begin. God called her to disembark in Hong Kong, and she was led to the 'Walled City' a notorious area of makeshift housing, densely populated and with unsanitary conditions, full of drug addicts and managed by gangs. She found that it was possible to pray people off drugs and to see their addictions broken, and particularly by getting the addicts to pray in tongues, they avoided the 'cold turkey' experience. She stood up to the gangsters and her work for Jesus brought relief to many. The first edition of 'Chasing the Dragon' became a best-seller.

Jackie, now in her 80s, is still in Hong Kong and does not intend to retire. As she reflected on her life, she said, 'I still, to this day, do not understand my friends who'd come to faith at the same time as I: why they weren't going to the ends of the earth. Did we hear something different? What? Why? They were all staying behind to get married or something. Do we believe the same thing? I thought they would all be going, but they didn't.'

I suspect that challenges all of us as to what our response to the gospel has been... We might take that a little further by asking who is at the centre of our lives? Is it still us? Does Jesus just exist to serve what we want out of life, to help us with our plans? Or is he our Lord, the one who directs our paths, the one we serve? Jesus died not to improve our circumstances but to atone for our sins. The Jesus who only comforts us and never convicts us is not a saviour. Have we made 'Jesus' an idol in the shape of our preferences, or are we responding to the challenges he gives us?

Jesus says to us, his disciples, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...' Matthew 28: 19-20. 'As you go, preach this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.' Matthew 10: 7-8.

With Every Blessing,
Andrew

Invitation Supper evening 19 September

St Katharine's Church was packed for the Invitation Supper on September 19th and once again it was a pleasure to welcome guests who would not normally come to a church service.

As always, the catering team laid on a delicious two course meal and there was a buzz about the place.

Andrew was the "guest" speaker this time and he entertained us with a synopsis of his life from childhood, when he and some other lads spent summer holidays building dams on the stream and making a hot air balloon using tissue paper! "Health and Safety" was not mentioned!

At the age of 13, he went on a Christian Summer Camp with these lads where they did fun activities in the day and had some teaching in the evening. That was when he realised that others there had something that he didn't, they were kind and humble. He decided he wanted to be like them and made a commitment to follow Jesus which has guided and sustained him since.

He gave many instances of when God had touched his life and influenced his path in profound ways, but to find out more you will have to listen to the recording which is available via the website faithinourvillage.org

If you haven't been to one of the suppers yet, why not give it a try? It's free and is an outreach opportunity to invite someone who isn't a part of the church to experience what we are about.

Betty Last

Prayer Meeting Dates



Tuesday 20 October @ 13:45

St Mary's
BROUGHTON GIFFORD



Monday 5 October @ 19:30

St Katharine's
HOLT, WILTSHIRE

Quiet Garden at Great Chalfield

The reflections at the Quiet Garden vary, but the common thread is God's Word and a measure of thoughtfulness. So often I come away with a new perspective on God's Word, on myself, on the Kingdom of God and my place within it.

At September's Quiet Garden Revd Francis Moloney posed the question, "What are you doing here?" Drawing on the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19, we reflected on what we do when life doesn't turn out quite as we expected. How do we respond when we find ourselves facing change, disappointment or uncertainty and what helps us to keep going? Elijah found that the Lord was not in the wind, earthquake or fire, as he might have expected or hoped; He was in a gentle whisper. Ultimately God wanted him to go back and get on with the work of being a prophet. Sometimes we don't get to find out why things are tough, but God is with us.



Invited Speakers 2026

October 6th

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

November 3rd

Sue Glanville,
Spiritual director and life coach

December 1st

Annie Wintour,
Retired minister

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 & Julia Wade

HARVEST

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2026 | 18:00

EVENSONG

**ALL SAINT'S CHURCH,
GREAT CHALFIELD**

COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



News from St. Mary's

The fifth Sunday in August meant that it was St. Mary's turn to host the Benefice. With thanks to the Hooper family for opening up their field for additional parking we had a congregation of just over forty. Were they attracted by its being billed as a 'Special Service' I do not know, but, in addition to Bible teaching, we also learnt about small boat sailing. It was good to meet worshippers from the other parishes, as well as a couple bringing a baby they wish to have christened.

From a last Sunday to a first Saturday. We had an enjoyable, social Coffee Morning, which raised £135 for our church funds. Please come to our October one where Lynnette will be presenting her autumn collection of jams and chutneys to raise money for the Sudan. For us it is a busy day, as, in the evening it is our Harvest Supper in Broughton Gifford Village Hall. This is a community event - not just for our congregation. All are welcome. It is free, but donations are welcome. In return we offer you a hot supper, a mini-quiz and an evening's entertainment, headed by Demi Williams and Richmond. All profits will go to the Melksham Foodbank.

I write this before Ride and Stride, when Anthony and I will be striding, so I have no idea as to whether I will achieve my target of five miles, but sponsorship donations to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust are still welcome. Half the proceeds will go to our parish.

St. Mary's is not just the church building and its congregation. The village school is not Broughton Gifford School. It is one of the original church schools in the country; it is St. Mary's School. A few years ago, it, together with two other local primary schools, became the first church schools to join the White Horse Academy Trust. This has caused some confusion as to how, if at all, we can influence the school's policy on RE.



Christopher Fielden & Annette Stone

Do you recognise these 'twins' faithfully washing up after morning worship at St. Mary's on Sunday 20 September? Our regular team were on well-deserved holidays.

Lynnette Baston

Coffee Morning

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026
10:00 UNTIL NOON



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





THE QUIZ

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026

7:30PM

BROUGHTON GIFFORD VILLAGE HALL

£7 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE

PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER

(PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINK AND GLASS)

BOOK YOUR TEAM WITH ANNETTE

01225 782610 OR

ANNETTESTONE7A@GMAIL.COM

PROCEEDS TO

Our link diocese in Sudan, Kadugli

St. Katharine's Church Coffee Morning

After months of no rain the heavens opened for the Scarecrow Trail and the St. K's coffee morning. We had a host of damp, or bedraggled, visitors through the doors where hopefully the warmth of the welcome and the convivial atmosphere helped to dry them out. I didn't hear anyone moan about it raining on a Bank Holiday weekend though, they all seemed to be smiling because the wet stuff had arrived at long last.

A few of our regulars were away but we had some new folks appear. For one of our regulars they are having a tough time with a stay in hospital so adding to our prayers for recovery and returning to join us once again.

A total of £326.86 was raised which will all be given to the 'Scary' Team for their fundraising from their amazing Scarecrow Trail this year.

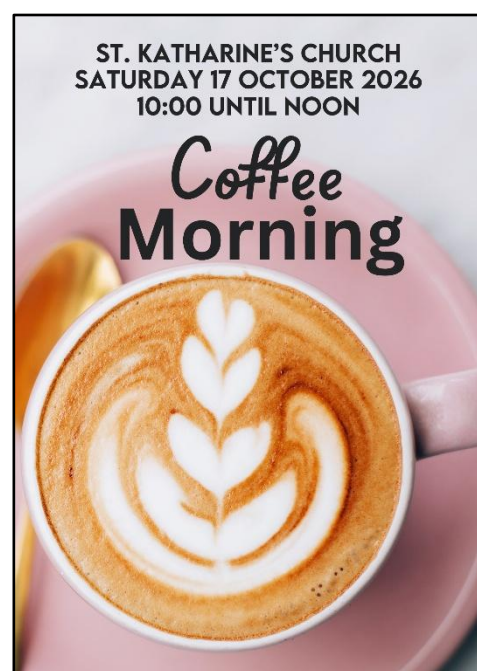
Didn't count the humans, but our youngest attendee was Bianca at 3 months ... an Italian Greyhound pup who was one of the two dogs who came along.

And then, on 12 September we had our lowest attendance since the current team took over the monthly coffee mornings in January 2023! We just managed to scrape over the 30 mark in the last 20 minutes. Fortunately John, our noisiest guest by far, was able to be with us for the first hour so the volume was good!! Was it having the date a week earlier to coincide with Ride and Stride, or folks being away that made our attendance lower? We don't know, but the generosity was wonderful (as ever) and we received £253.94 which will be going to church funds this time.

Next month we will be reverting to the THIRD Saturday, put it in your diaries NOW! Hope to see you there.

Coffee Morning dates for the rest of this year:

17 October
21 November
(collecting items for The Hub in Bradford on Avon)
12 December



Terri Dauncey on behalf of the Coffee Morning Team

ALL WELCOME

Café Church HARVEST

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER | 10:30
WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD
COLLECTING FOR MELKSHAM FOODBANK



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT

St. Katharine's Church, Holt
The Philomel Singers

Present

Gloria

**A concert of
beautiful choral music for Autumn**

with guests

**Justin Chen (piano), Anna Hallett (soprano)
& Taliesin Williams (baritone)**

***Saturday, 10 October 2026
at 7.30pm***

Concert given in support of

WILTSHIRE
+BATH AIR
AMBULANCE



Tickets: £12 (£10 in advance)

Students and children £4 (£2 in advance)

from the Ticket Secretary on 07977 576647
or online at

www.wegottickets.com/ThePhilomelSingers

Church Christmas Card news . . .



The photography for the Church Christmas card is taking place on Sunday 11 October.

The pictures will be used in the card which goes to every household in Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt as well as further afield. The card ensures that the congregation, our communities, friends and families are aware of all of the lovely services and events from Advent Sunday until the end of December. There are plenty of opportunities for inviting people along to something during this period of time.

If you would like your child (children) to be part of this please do come along to the Coach House (386A Ham Green, Holt) for 10:30 either already dressed in their own favourite nativity outfit or to choose one that we have.

We shall need people to help the children choose an outfit and get changed so if you are available and can offer your support, please let us know.

Once completed we will join the congregation in St. Katharine's Church for the communion part of the service. There will therefore not be Outdoor Church on this particular Sunday.

Whatever the weather the pictures will be taken and it will be a fun time and an opportunity to be part of something special.

Dawn Farmer & Heather Marshall



REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE

25 OCTOBER 2026
AT 15:00

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,
HOLT



We warmly invite you to join us for our Remembering a Loved One service on Sunday 25 October at St. Katharine's Church at 15:00. We provide a welcome space to come together in a gentle, reflective service with thoughtful liturgy and music. It is a wonderful opportunity to honour and remember, those we have loved and lost; people who have been deeply significant in our individual life stories.

We provide a lovely tea at the end of the service to which you are also warmly invited. Please do invite friends you know who have been bereaved if you think they might find the service helpful too.

We encourage people to send names of those they wish to remember to Dawn via email: united.benefice@outlook.com by 21 October so we can read them out during the service whilst we light a candle in memory of them. Sometimes it's someone way back in your life story; it can be anyone you have loved the memory of whom you continue to cherish.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Rachel Firth & Dawn Farmer

St. Katharine's Light Party 2026!

On Saturday 31 October 16:00-17:30 we are hosting our annual Light Party – St. Katharine's alternative to Halloween. This is a family event for children of primary school age and below; and will be a fun time of games, crafts, and other activities (including face painting) where we'll celebrate the light in the darkness! We will provide hotdogs (incl. freefrom alternatives) and other treats!

Dress code: Bright Colours!

We can't wait to see you there; it's going to be amazing!

To book your free place, please email Dawn: united.benefice@outlook.com



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

Services October 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
4 th	18 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Harvest Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Harvest Evensong
11 th	19 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
18 th	20 th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
25 th	21 st Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 15:00 Remembering a Loved One	10:00 Morning Service	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	anthony55matthewfcu@gmail.com
Rachel Firth Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01380 871464	rachel.firth@btconnect.com
Marilyn Stubbs Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 753118	marilynstubbs@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 November issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 16 October, 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".