

September/October 2026

Great Wyrley Parish Churches

NEWSLETTER



WORD FROM REVEREND MARIE...

Dear Friends,

September brings a sense of change. Our schools which have stood silent for six weeks are now the chatter of voices. For children and young people, it is a time of new teachers, new classrooms, new subjects and, perhaps, a few nerves!

Learning is important. The Book of Proverbs says, "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7). Learning is not just about facts, exams and qualifications, it's about developing a rounded understanding of, and being curious about the world around us.

*Jesus was an outstanding teacher! (Although Ofsted may disagree!) He used simple, everyday stories to help people understand God's love. In our first **God Loves Us** Service (also known as GLU) launching on 4th October, we will look at the Parable of the Sower and consider learning. Jesus reminds us that God's word is like seed, scattered generously, and asks us to think about how ready we are to receive it and allow it to grow in our lives.*

Let's remember that we are all still learning; from one another, from

AUTUMN IS HERE, TIME TO REFLECT..

As a new academic year begins, we extend a warm welcome back to all of our students, teachers, and school staff returning to the classroom. This September/October season is a time of fresh starts and new opportunities, and we keep our young people and educators foremost in our prayers for a safe, inspiring, and successful year ahead.

experiences of everyday life and from God's Word. Let's be open to all the things God wants to teach us. 'There's something here also for seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn' (Proverbs 1: 5, The Message).

At the start of the new school year, let's celebrate our schools, all teachers, governors, TA's, site and support staff who work hard to help our children and young people flourish. Let's also celebrate parents, grandparents and family, whose encouragement and support make such a difference in a young person's life.

Let this Autumn be a time of growth, discovery and fresh beginnings for all of us. As Jesus says in the Parable of the Sower: "Whoever has ears, let them hear." (Matthew 13:9)

Your Sister in Christ
Revd Marie

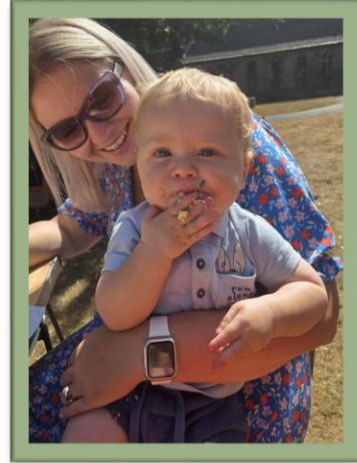
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

Here are some highlights of the wonderful events we have led:

Teddy Bear's Picnic



What a wonderful afternoon we had at our Teddy Bears' Picnic! We were delighted to welcome lots of children and families, along with plenty of very special teddy bears! Everyone brought along their own picnic to enjoy together in the church grounds, while tea and coffee were provided for the grown-ups.



There was lots of fun throughout the afternoon, with cake decorating, crafts, games, singing and dancing, as well as a bear hunt around the church grounds. There were plenty of smiles, lots of laughter and some wonderful memories made together. We were incredibly blessed with beautiful weather, which meant everyone could relax outside, enjoy their picnics and make the most of our lovely church grounds.



A very special thank you goes to Marie, Mel, Pam, Fatmata, Ian, Ray, Keith, Terry, Barry, Wendy and Phil, who each helped in different ways to make the day possible. Whether it was preparing beforehand, helping with activities and refreshments, looking after our beautiful grounds, or lending a hand on the day, we are so grateful for the time and care you gave. And, of course, a huge thank you to all the families who came along. Seeing everyone enjoying themselves together is what made the afternoon so special.

We hope the children went home happy, the grown-ups went home smiling, and all those teddy bears weren't too tired after their big adventure!

*"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14*

Afternoon Tea Party

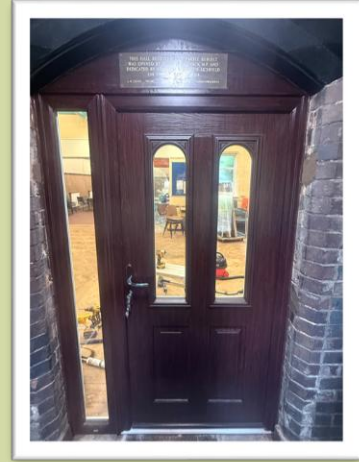


Our recent Afternoon Tea Party was an absolute triumph, filled with warmth, laughter, and wonderful company. We were blessed with beautiful, sunny weather that set the perfect backdrop for our parish family to gather, catch up, and share stories. Attendees enjoyed a spectacular spread of traditional afternoon tea, featuring a delicious variety of homemade cakes, bakes, and treats. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, helped out, or came along to make the afternoon such a joyful and memorable community celebration!

UPDATES

St Marks Church Hall

It's fantastic to see our Church Hall continuing to move forward. Our new front, internal and rear doors are now installed, making a real difference to the appearance of the building while, importantly, helping us keep the hall secure. We're also looking at reinstating a partition door, with more news to follow over the coming months.



A huge thank you to Mitch Rolston and his team for their excellent work — it's wonderful to support local tradespeople who, in turn, help us care for and invest in our community church. The hall is now in a really positive place and available to hire for events and functions, and we hope to see more of our local community making use of it once again.

If you have any questions or would like to enquire about hiring the hall, please do get in touch.



Stewardship and the Future of St Mark's



Over recent weeks, Marie and I have been looking carefully at the stewardship of our finances at St Mark's, including the day-to-day costs involved in keeping our wonderful church open, safe and welcoming. Many of you will have received our recent Stewardship leaflet, and I would encourage everyone to take a few moments to read it again and consider how, together, we can support the future of our church.

There are a few spare copies at the back of church, so if you haven't received one, please do speak to me or Marie and we will be very happy to provide you with a copy and talk through any questions you may have.

As we reflected during our 180th anniversary year, we are incredibly blessed to be the current custodians of such a special place, with generations of our congregation having shared so many important moments within its walls. It is now our responsibility to ensure that St Mark's remains here, thriving and serving our community, for generations to come — hopefully for another 180 years and beyond!

Your Shopping Could Help Support Our Churches *- At No Extra Cost!*

What if your everyday online shopping could help support **Great Wyrley Parish Churches** without costing you an extra penny? Well, it can! We're delighted to be promoting **easyfundraising** - a simple way of turning the online shopping you already do into a little extra support for our churches.



A message from your Parish Warden

I have to say, I was genuinely impressed by just how simple easyfundraising is to use - and, more importantly, it really works! We recently booked a hotel for our family, something we would have done anyway. I went through easyfundraising to make the booking and, without spending anything extra, the company made a donation to our church. It really made me think: imagine if lots of us did this whenever we shopped online?

Whether you're booking a hotel or holiday, buying something for the house, ordering a present, buying clothes or simply doing your everyday online shopping, there are opportunities to generate a donation for our church. You don't have to change what you're buying. You simply shop as you normally would - and the retailer gives a little something back to support us. Give it a try. I have - and I can honestly say it works!

*Geoff Knight
Parish Warden*

How does easyfundraising work?

It's incredibly simple!

*When you shop online through easyfundraising, participating retailers make a small donation to your chosen good cause as a thank you for shopping with them. It doesn't cost you anything extra - the retailer makes the donation. There are thousands of retailers involved, covering everything from holidays and hotels to supermarkets, household goods, technology, clothing and much more. So, the next time you're about to make an online purchase, take a moment to check whether you can raise a donation for **Great Wyrley Parish Churches** at the same time.*

Why does it matter?

At Great Wyrley Parish Churches, we have buildings to maintain, bills to pay and ministry and community work to support.

Easyfundraising gives us another way of raising funds – by encouraging retailers to give something back from purchases you're already making. One purchase might only generate a small donation, but lots of people making lots of everyday purchases could make a real difference over time.

Getting started takes just a few minutes...

*You can support **St Mark's, Great Wyrley** through our dedicated easyfundraising page:*

[SCAN THE QR CODE / VISIT OUR EASYFUNDRAISING PAGE]



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-marks>

Once registered, you can shop through easyfundraising and use the free Donation Reminder to help you remember when you're shopping with a participating retailer.

Give it a try!

We'd love as many people as possible across St Mark's, St Andrew's and our wider Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Landywood community to get involved.

- ✓ *Shop as you normally would.*
- ✓ *Spend nothing extra.*
- ✓ *Let the retailer make the donation.*
- ✓ *Help support our churches.*

It really is easy fundraising!



So, before you make your next online purchase, give it a try – you might be surprised just how quickly those little donations add up!

SUPPORT LOCAL

Tradespeople who support our churches

Over the years, our churches have been blessed by the generosity, skill and support of a number of local tradespeople. Whether it has been repairing, maintaining, improving or simply responding when we have needed help, these local businesses have given their time and expertise to help us care for our buildings and grounds. We wanted to take the opportunity to say '**Thank You**' — and, in doing so, to give something back. So, if you are looking for a trusted local tradesperson for work around your home or garden, we would encourage you to consider contacting some of the people who have supported our parish.



MCR Carpentry & Roofing ***Mitch Rolston - 07384 977220***

Mitch and his team at **MCR Carpentry & Roofing** have carried out a considerable amount of work for us across both St Mark's and St Andrew's. Mitch has always been willing to help when we have needed him, and his support extends well beyond simply carrying out work. When St Andrew's was broken into a couple of months ago, Mitch was a fantastic support to us, helping us to respond quickly and begin putting things right. We are extremely grateful for the practical support, reliability and care that Mitch and his team have shown to our churches.

Contact: 07384 977220



Green Escapes Tree Surgery ***Ashley - 07527 555399***

Trees and grounds are an important part of caring for our church sites, and Ashley at **Green Escapes Tree Surgery** has been hugely helpful as we work to get on top of the maintenance of our grounds. Green Escapes are highly skilled and fully qualified tree surgeons based in Lichfield, providing arboriculture services throughout the Midlands.

Their services include tree removal, tree reduction, pollarding and re-pollarding, stump grinding, hedge cutting, and advice and applications relating to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Ashley has been a great help to us in managing the trees across our sites and we are very grateful for his advice, practical support and willingness to help.

Contact: 07527 555399

Website: greenescapestreesurgery.co.uk



Flux Electrical Solutions

Adam - 07810 898483

Adam and the team at Flux Electrical Solutions are a local, NICEIC-certified electrical contractor based in Penkridge, providing domestic, commercial and industrial electrical services. Their work includes electrical installations and repairs, lighting, consumer unit upgrades, EV chargers, solar PV and battery storage. Flux are also MCS-certified for solar installation. Adam has supported our churches with electrical work and we are pleased to be able to recommend a local business that combines professional expertise with a friendly and reliable approach.

Contact: 07810 898483

Website: fluxelectric.co.uk



Aqua

Mark Scarrett - 07886 668847

Nothing is too much trouble for Mark.

Mark has been a tremendous help to us at St Mark's, and his practical support has made a real difference to our church buildings. In fact, the warmth you now experience in the church hall is in no small part down to Mark and the work he has carried out for us. His willingness to help, his practical knowledge and his commitment to getting things sorted have been hugely appreciated. We are delighted to be able to say thank you by including Mark in our list of local tradespeople who have supported our parish.

Contact: 07886 668847



A BIG THANK YOU



We are very grateful to Mitch, Ashley, Adam and Mark, and to all the local tradespeople who have supported our churches over the years. Supporting local businesses helps our community to thrive — and when those businesses also give their time, expertise and support to our churches, we are particularly grateful.

Why not print these pages off and keep them handy, just in case you need a tradesman

Please note: Inclusion on this page reflects our experience of these tradespeople supporting our churches. As with any contractor, please make your own enquiries, agree the scope and cost of work directly with the tradesperson, and satisfy yourself that they are suitable for your particular requirements.

OUR COMMUNITY

Cheslyn Hay Camp Kenya Fundraising

We were delighted to welcome Harley and Jenna to our St Mark's Summer Fayre this year as they fundraised for an incredible trip to Kenya. Read on to hear more about their exciting adventure and how you can support their fundraising journey.



"Hi, my name is Scarlett, I am a 14 year old student from Cheslyn Hay Academy. I am a very outdoorsy, active person that is up to new challenges and this will be the biggest one yet!"

"I have always been passionate about conservation and am fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to participate in a month long residential in Kenya, where I will be doing various conservation projects and other activities to help local people with community"

During my expedition I'll help build essential community facilities and install clean water sources while also supporting conservation efforts, such as deworming goats and maintaining rhino sanctuaries to protect endangered wildlife

Alongside my generous sponsors, events I have hosted and help from my local community, I am close to meeting my target of £4600. If you are able to help me achieve my end goal please click the link for my go fund me page. Thank You

Search Donate Fundraise

gofundme

About Sign in Start a GoFundMe

Scarlett's Kenya Trip



73% £1,450 raised of £2K

7 donations

Donate now

Share

KENYA 2027

My name is Harley and I'm currently fundraising for a month away expedition to Kenya with Camps International in the summer of 2027. During the expedition I'll be working with local communities on projects like building classrooms, creating more easy access to clean water, and supporting local wildlife conservation efforts.

I have chosen to raise for this trip to learn new skills, and help where it's needed most. So far, I've been raising money through school stalls, sweet sales, and community events in the area, and every bit of support helps me get closer to my total target.

If you'd like to learn more or support my journey any contribution big or small it would be much appreciated.



Q Search Donate Fundraise

gofundme

About Sign In

Start a GoFundMe

Kenya 2027 Fundraiser



7%

£300 raised of £4.6K
3 donations

Donate now

Share

Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Chit Chat

It was wonderful to have such a productive meeting with Lee and Sarah from Great Wyrley ChitChat, exploring the many opportunities that working together could unlock for our community. The first of these is already taking shape, with Great Wyrley ChitChat hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Mark's Church Hall.

A huge thank you to Lee and Sarah for their enthusiasm, support and commitment to making a difference in our community.



DRINKS AND CAKES ON SALE

A friendly space for everyone
in our community.

- ✓ A safe space for chit chat
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Ask for advice with local matters

CHIT CHAT CAFE

Pop-up!

M **MACMILLAN**
CANCER SUPPORT

September

Saturday 26th

10am - 12pm

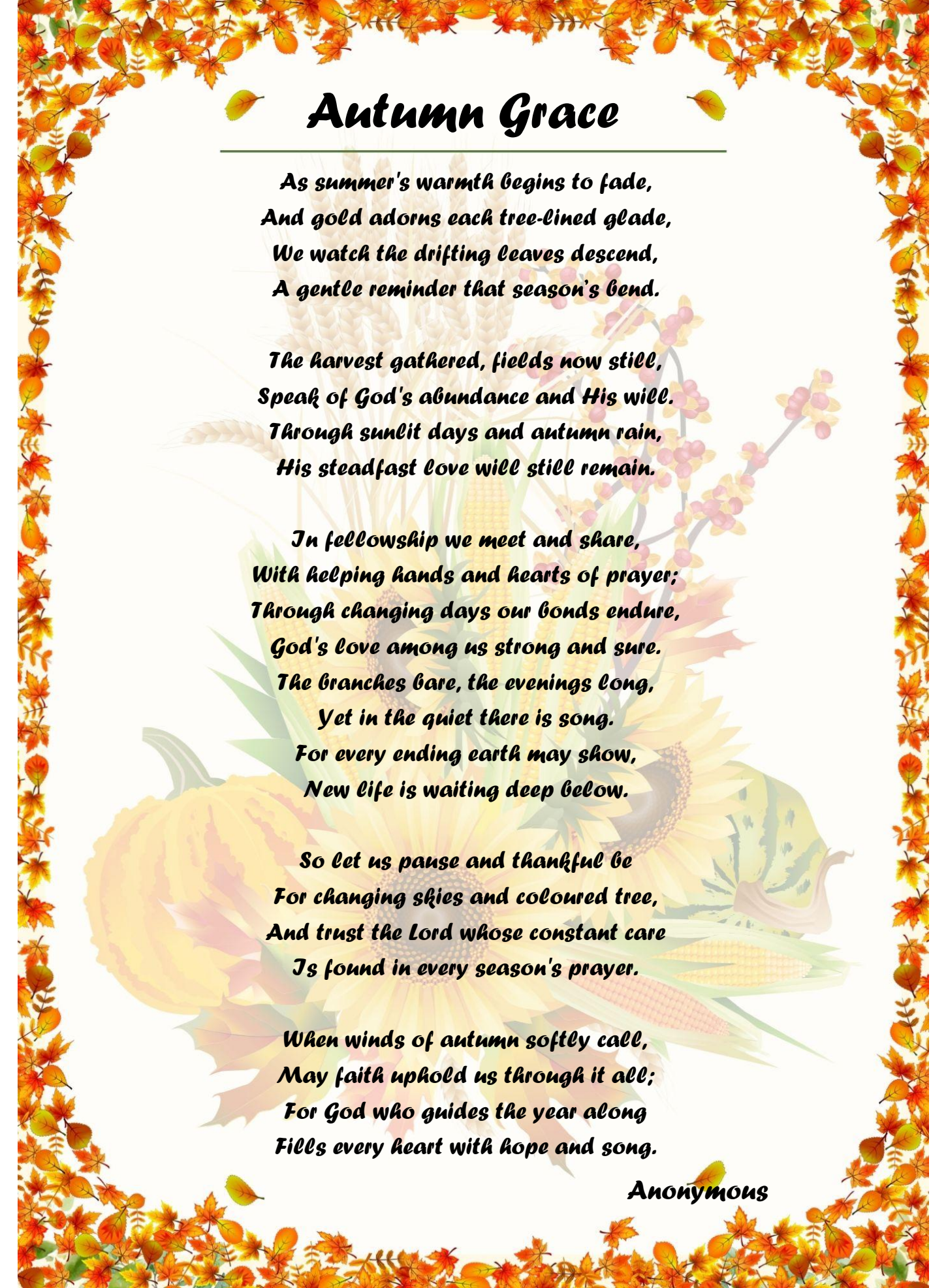
Venue: St Marks Church,
Station Road

**ALL MONEY
RAISED
WILL GO TO
MACMILLAN**

*Come for a cuppa,
stay for a chat! ☺*

In memory of
Tom McHugh
1992 - 2026

by Great Wyrley & Cheslyn Hay
Chit Chat Community ♡
www.linktr.ee/gwchcommunity



Autumn Grace

*As summer's warmth begins to fade,
And gold adorns each tree-lined glade,
We watch the drifting leaves descend,
A gentle reminder that season's bend.*

*The harvest gathered, fields now still,
Speak of God's abundance and His will.
Through sunlit days and autumn rain,
His steadfast love will still remain.*

*In fellowship we meet and share,
With helping hands and hearts of prayer;
Through changing days our bonds endure,
God's love among us strong and sure.
The branches bare, the evenings long,
Yet in the quiet there is song.
For every ending earth may show,
New life is waiting deep below.*

*So let us pause and thankful be
For changing skies and coloured tree,
And trust the Lord whose constant care
Is found in every season's prayer.*

*When winds of autumn softly call,
May faith uphold us through it all;
For God who guides the year along
Fills every heart with hope and song.*

Anonymous

Autumnal Recipe

As we gather around our tables this autumn, may we be thankful for God's provision, the companionship of loved ones, and the simple blessings that nourish both body and spirit.

As the evenings grow cooler and the leaves begin to turn, there's nothing quite like a hearty casserole to bring comfort and warmth to the table.

Autumn Chicken, Leek & Mushroom Casserole

Serves: 4-6 people

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 8 chicken thighs (bone-in or boneless)
 - 2 leeks, sliced
- 250g mushrooms, sliced
 - 2 carrots, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 - 1 tbsp plain flour
- 500ml chicken stock
 - 1 tsp dried thyme
- 2 tbsp crème fraîche (optional)
 - Salt and black pepper



Method

1. Heat the oil in a large casserole dish or deep pan.
2. Brown the chicken on all sides, then remove and set aside.
3. Add the leeks, mushrooms, carrots and garlic, cooking for 5 minutes until softened.
4. Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute.
5. Gradually add the chicken stock, stirring well.
6. Return the chicken to the pan and add the thyme.
7. Cover and simmer gently for 40-45 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through and tender.
8. Stir in the crème fraîche if using, and season to taste.
9. Serve with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Autumn Dessert

Harvest Apple & Cinnamon Crumble

A comforting autumn dessert celebrating the season's apple harvest.

Serves: 6-8 people

Ingredients

For the filling

6 large cooking apples (such as Bramley), peeled and sliced

2 tbsp caster sugar

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tbsp lemon juice



For the crumble topping

225g plain flour

125g butter, chilled and cubed

100g light brown sugar

50g porridge oats (optional)



Method

- *Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan).*
- *Place the sliced apples in an ovenproof dish and toss with the sugar, cinnamon and lemon juice.*
- *In a mixing bowl, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.*
 - *Stir in the brown sugar and oats.*
 - *Sprinkle the crumble mixture evenly over the apples.*
- *Bake for 35-40 minutes until golden brown and bubbling around the edges.*
- *Serve warm with custard, cream or ice cream.*

A Thought for Autumn

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."

Psalm 34:8

REFLECTION FOR THIS SEASON

This season of autumn invites us to pause, breathe, and gaze upon the magnificent canvas of God's Creation. As the leaves transform into vibrant shades of amber and gold and the harvest is gathered, we are given a gentle, divine reminder to step back from our busy lives and simply admire the beauty that surrounds us. Every changing season reflects the Creator's hand, calling us to a deeper sense of wonder and gratitude for the earth we call home.

Yet, this time of admiration is also a call to action. As we reflect on these natural gifts, we are reminded of our profound responsibility to be better stewards of creation. Caring for our common home means making mindful choices—cherishing our resources, protecting the environment, and ensuring that the beauty we enjoy today is preserved for generations to come. Let us take this season to renew our commitment to guarding and nurturing the wonderful world God has entrusted to us.

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." **Genesis 1:1,31***



CAN YOU HELP?

Our parish music ministry is looking to welcome new musicians to join our church band for upcoming services!

If you play an instrument, whether it is guitar, keyboard, woodwind, or percussion, we would love for you to share your musical gifts with our community.

No professional experience is necessary, just a willing heart and a desire to enhance our worship through music!

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Saturday 26th September
19:00

Harvest Barn Dance with light refreshments
Tickets £6 available from Ruth Crook

Saturday 3rd October
10.30 to 12:00

Coffee morning in aid of dogs for the deaf

Monday 12th October
Open All Day

History Cheslyn Hay Exhibition
24b High St (opposite Salem Church)
In Aid of The Baby Bear project

Saturday 17th October
14.30 to 17:30
Table top sale

**At Salem Methodist Church,
Cheslyn Hay**

2nd Saturday of Every Month
10:00 to 12:00

Coffee & a chat, bits & bobs
All Welcome

Every Tuesday
11:00 to 12:00

Be Happy Owls
Healthy Living Weight Loss Group

Last Wednesday of Every Month
19:30 to 21:30
SoBS

Survivors of bereavement by Suicide

Every Thursday
13:00 to 15:00

Bereavement & Friendship Support Group

**At St Andrews Church,
Hilton Lane**



Saturday 3rd October
10:00 to 12:00

Coffee morning
With New Clothes rail at
Bargain prices

**At Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist
Church**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH AT A GLANCE

September 2026		
Date	St Mark's	St Andrews
6/09	10am Communion	10am Morning Worship
09/09	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
10/09	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
12/09	-	10am Coffee Morning
13/09	10am Morning Worship	10am Communion
16/09	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
17/09	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
20/09	10am Morning Worship	10am Family Communion
23/09	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
24/09	-	1.30pm Bereavement friendship Cafe
26/09	10am Chitchat Macmillan Coffee Morning	-
27/09	10am Communion 6.30pm Celebrate	10am Morning Worship
30/09	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates 7.30pm Survivors of Bereavement Suicide (SoBS)

October 2026		
Date	St Mark's	St Andrews
1/10	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
04/10	10am GLU Service (God Loves Us)	10am Morning Worship
07/10	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
08/10	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
09/10	10am Moat Hall School Harvest 1.30pm Moat Hall School Harvest	-
10/10	-	10am Coffee Morning
11/10	10am Parish Harvest Festival with Communion	St Andrew's Church Closed
14/10	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
15/10	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
18/10	10am Morning Worship	10am Communion
21/10	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates
22/10		1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe
25/10	10am Communion	10am Morning Worship
28/10	10am Communion	7.30pm Pilates 7.30pm Survivors of Bereavement Suicide (SoBS)
29/10	-	1.30pm Bereavement Friendship Cafe

Why not save or print this page off to refer to
😊 throughout the next few months 😊

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH CHURCHES CONTACTS

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Email: ggciknight@sky.com

Ms Fatmatah Conteh, Parish Warden

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Email: faconteh76@gmail.com

Mrs Diane Owen

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STAY IN TOUCH:



@GreatWyrleyParishChurches



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