

# CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



November 2026

## A word from Andrew

### I am the life

What do you think Jesus was offering us when he said, 'I am the life'? Of course it comes from the longer quote in John 14:6 where he says, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

I think that sometimes we imagine that Jesus is offering His life as an add-on to our life, as if to enhance what we already have. When we talk to others about our life, we may talk about our families, our work, our experiences, our hopes and dreams. Is what Jesus is offering an add-on to that?

I think that Jesus is offering us the very life of God which was lost from the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God's life flows from his nature, and where God's life is present, his holiness, love, goodness truth and purity are present too.

There are countless examples in the bible of how God's life makes human beings whole. I think first we need to comprehend who we are before him. Psalm 8:3-4 'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?' That's a call to humility! But as the psalm continues it says that God has made us only a little lower than the angels and crowned us with glory and honour! He cares passionately about his human creatures and wants us to walk in the life we were created for – a life where we trust him absolutely and walk his life out to others.

With Every Blessing,  
*Andrew*

## Prayer Meeting Dates



**St Mary's**  
BROUGHTON GIFFORD

Tuesday 17 November & 15 December @ 13:45



**St Katharine's**  
HOLT, WILTSHIRE

Tuesday 3 November & Monday 7 December @ 19:30



## Quiet Garden at Great Chalfield

In October the speaker at The Quiet Garden was Revd. Katie Jackson who spoke about seasons and trees. In which season - spring, summer, autumn, or winter are we? Trees have a seasonal variation. They are always dependent on their root system for sustenance and stability. How are our roots? On what do we depend? The reading was from Ecclesiastes 3 "There is a time for everything .... " Trees take time out to rest and be restored. The Quiet Garden is a great place in which to draw aside. Everyone is welcomed.

### Invited Speakers 2026

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**      Sue Glanville, Spiritual director and life coach

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**      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*

## News from St. Mary's

Once the holidays are over there seems to be a new lease of life in our church. Our two ride and striders duly achieved their targets and raised £510. Half of this will come back to our church, with the balance going to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Thanks are due to our very generous sponsors.

This year, for vacational reasons our Harvest Festival in church came a week before our Harvest Supper. Once again, our floral team did us proud and we were also able to deliver a car full of produce to the Melksham Foodbank.

As the following Saturday (3 October) happened to be the first one in the month we had a very busy day. In the morning it was our monthly Coffee Morning, boosted by Lynnette offering a range of jams, cakes and chutneys in aid of our link diocese of Kadugli in Sudan. We also had the largest number of child visitors, which boosted interest in the raffle. Would they choose a bottle of wine for Daddy or sweets for themselves? The coffee morning made a profit of £98 and Lynnette raised a total of £108 from the stall at the coffee morning and harvest supper.

In the evening was the Harvest Supper and we were pleased to see some new faces amongst the almost fifty present. Once again, we were pleased to welcome Kay and Maurice from the Foodbank to tell us of the challenges facing them. The chefs excelled with a choice of three hot dishes and many returned for second helpings. As happened also with the wide range of puddings that followed.



Whilst the men were at the sink, there was a quiz and then came our traditional cabaret, headed by Demi and Richmond. This team effort led to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

There were proceeds from the supper of £128 going to help the Foodbank and also £111 from the Harvest Festival service (27 September), which made a very generous total of £239.

Whilst the berries on our holly tree have been red for some time, there are other signs of the approach of Christmas. The Christingle service will be in the church on Monday 7 December at 2pm and there will be Beer (and alternatives) & Carols in the Fox & Hounds at 8pm on Tuesday 15 December. Please note these dates in your diaries.

Please book your team for the Quiz in support of our link diocese in Kadugli at 7.30 pm on Saturday 21 November in Broughton Gifford Village Hall, details on the poster.

*Christopher Fielden & Annette Stone*



# **REMEMBRANCE PARADE SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER**

**09:45**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**10:45**

**WAR MEMORIAL  
BROUGHTON GIFFORD**

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**





# **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**

## Harvest Café Church at St. Katharine's Church



Our Harvest Service at St Katharine's was a wonderfully joyful occasion. It was a true family affair with all the children present all the time, and as is often the case for our Café Church service, packed to the gunnels!!

Heather led us so well in what was a vibrantly visual experience, as we explored the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, landing on Jesus's words 'I am the Bread of Life.' Scripture was displayed across the stage by just the right number of willing children holding the words up, and the beautiful loaves on the stage were distributed among us all at our tables during the discussion time. It was as if we were joining the 5,000 on the hillside with Jesus!

The flower arrangements were a festive burst of thanksgiving and produce for sale after the service was arranged so beautifully in generous baskets by our flower team. All proceeds went to the Melksham Food Bank, along with non-perishable items that people brought.

*Rachel Firth*

## St. Katharine's Church Coffee Morning

A very bright and sunny but crisp autumnal morning, 4C outside as we opened the church but toasty warm inside. It wasn't just the heating being on that meant our visitors got a warm welcome.

Cakes were enjoyed and a few gallons of coffee and tea were consumed over the two hours and we raised a healthy £252.07 for the church. Huge thanks to Helen and Hazel from the Holt Crafters who came with a big selection of items for the shoebox appeal. Dawn didn't quite do backflips in gratitude but it was a near thing; the shoebox appeal being very close to her heart. Thanks also to those who brought in items for the raffle and our wonderful bakers, without these generous donations our coffee mornings wouldn't be so successful.

It was lovely that our youngest visitor this month won a raffle prize on his first visit to coffee morning - lucky Leo!

A number of our regulars were missing through ill health or away from the area. We look forward to welcoming them back and hopefully you, if you weren't with us this month, next time when we reconvene on 21 November when we are inviting people to donate items for The Hub Christmas Hampers.

And finally, the score ..... Humans 45-ish, Dogs 2.

*Terri Dauncey on behalf of the Coffee Morning Team*



**Advance notice:**

December date is 12 December (a week earlier than normal).

# REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**8 NOVEMBER**

**10:00**

**ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH**

**10:45**

**WAR MEMORIAL  
HAM GREEN, HOLT**

**REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS IN  
ST KATHARINE'S. ALL WELCOME.**

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



ALL WELCOME

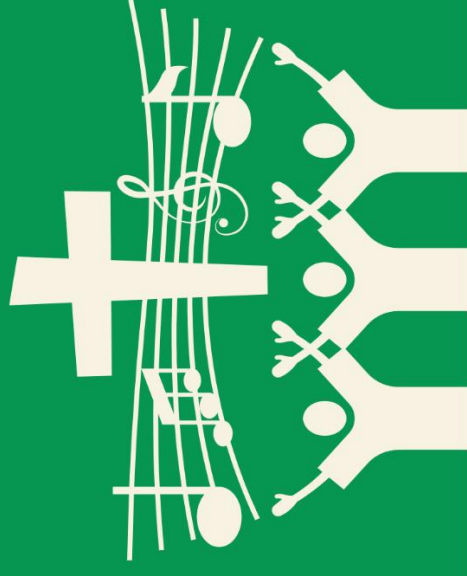
# Café Church

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER | 10:30  
WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD

INCLUDING A CAKE AND PRODUCE STALL  
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SUDAN



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,  
HOLT



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR

# OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER  
19:45 ONWARDS

REFRESHMENTS SERVED  
EVERYONE WELCOME

## Ecclesiastical colours used in St. Katharine's Church

From time to time when I am changing the high altar frontals in St. Katharine's people from non-Anglican traditions ask about the colours and seasons.

We all know that the season of Advent will soon be upon us. This is the Church's New Year when we remember the prophecies foretelling Jesus' birth in our preparation for Christmas.

During November and December there are a number of changes, four of which we will use, currently green (Ordinary Time).



Detail from lower left corner of new green frontal (above) shown below:



Red (for Remembrance, St Katharine a martyr and for Christ The King, celebrated on the last Sunday before Advent).

Then we will display purple for Advent symbolising penance and humility. The gold and white frontal will be used for All Saints Day and of course for Christmas.

We are able to use all these colours thanks to a number of ladies who have given their time and expertise to mend and make during the past year.

So, many thanks to Coral Mackenzie for remaking parts of the white frontal, Yvonne Bennett for re-sewing the red and to Val Stewart Howard for replacing torn lace on one of the altar linens. The new green frontal was made by a team, Catherine Ayers, Sue Brown and Sarah Jones.

**MANY THANKS** from me personally to all of you plus those who have helped and sometimes stood in to get the right colours out at the right time.



*Jane Scheuber*



# Advent Service of Light

**Sunday 29 November 18:00  
St Katharine's Church**

**Candlelit Service  
Dramatic Presentation from Darkness to Light**

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

## Services November 2026

| Date             | Sunday                                  | Holt<br>St. Katharine's                                                                                              | Broughton<br>Gifford<br>St. Mary's                                         | Great Chalfield<br>All Saints                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>All Saints Day</b>                   | 10:30<br>Café Church                                                                                                 | 10:00<br>Parish<br>Communion                                               | 18:00<br>Patronal<br>Evensong                 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Remembrance<br/>Sunday</b>           | 10:00<br><b>Remembrance<br/>Service</b><br><br>10:45<br>War Memorial at<br>Ham Green<br><br>18:00<br>Revival Meeting | 09:45<br><b>Remembrance</b><br>Parade Service<br><br>10:45<br>War Memorial | 10:00<br><b>Remembrance</b><br>Holy Communion |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br>before Advent | 10:30<br>Café Church &<br>stall for Sudan<br><br>18:00<br>Revival Meeting                                            | 10:00<br>Parish<br>Communion                                               | 10:00<br>Matins                               |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Christ the King                         | 10:30<br>Outdoor Church<br><br>10:30<br>Morning Worship<br><br>16:00<br>Evensong                                     | 10:00<br>Morning Service                                                   | 10:00<br>Holy Communion                       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Advent<br/>Sunday</b>                | 18:00<br>Advent Service<br>of Light                                                                                  |                                                                            |                                               |

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

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W: [faithinourvillage.org](http://faithinourvillage.org)

Follow us @faithinourvillage



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

|                                                           |              |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Andrew Evans<br>Rector (Day off Friday)                   | 01225 782289 | goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com      |
| Ruth Mecredy<br>Associate Priest                          | 01225 783197 | rmecredy@gmail.com                |
| Anthony Matthew<br>Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)            | 01225 782082 | anthony55matthewfcn@gmail.com     |
| Rachel Firth<br>Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)               | 01380 871464 | rachel.firth@btconnect.com        |
| Marilyn Stubbs<br>Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)             | 01225 753118 | marilynistubbs@yahoo.co.uk        |
| Jacque Bennetts<br>Parish Safeguarding Representative     | 07738 763951 | safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org |
| Dawn Farmer<br>Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL) | 01225 782717 | united.benefice@outlook.com       |

**Please send content for the December issue of Church Life Matters  
via email to Dawn by Friday 20 November, 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:

|                                   |                     |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>St Katharine's PCC of Holt</b> | Sort code: 30 98 75 | A/C: 01525597 |
| <b>Broughton Gifford PCC</b>      | Sort code: 40 44 33 | A/C: 51168657 |
| <b>PCC of Great Chalfield</b>     | 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".