

Water, Water Everywhere... But What Does It Mean? From the Vicar

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once wrote those haunting lines: "Water, water, everywhere, / Nor any drop to drink."

We know that feeling all too well in our river-rich corner of the world. The rivers Avon and Severn have long shaped life here in Twyning and Tewkesbury—bringing trade, community, and beauty. In fact, legend has it that our local saint, Theoc, journeyed by water to settle here, choosing this spot where the rivers meet to pray and live.

These rivers gave rise to Tewkesbury as an inland port. The quays once buzzed with trade—boats hauling flour, malt, timber and coal. River-powered mills, rope-makers and barge builders kept the town thriving. Today, the landscape shaped by these rivers—wetlands, meadows, and floodplains—is rich with wildlife: herons, kingfishers, trout, and even the occasional otter.



But now these rivers are in trouble. Volunteer groups, like the Safe Avon Network, are measuring pollution levels—and the news is worrying. In 2023, the environment agency reported over 700 raw sewage spills locally into the Avon. Much of this happened right on our doorstep: in Twyning, Lower Lode, Tewkesbury, and surrounding villages. The Avon, once a giver of life, is becoming sick.

So what can we do? Friends of the Earth and other groups are calling for better monitoring and investment in our water infrastructure. And many people want to see real action to protect these vital waterways.

From a Christian point of view, water is a symbol of life and renewal. In the Bible, water brings the earth to life, sustains communities, and even symbolises God's love and presence. Jesus once told a woman by a well that the water he offered would be like a spring bubbling up into eternal life—a reminder that water isn't just about survival, it's about hope. We often take clean, flowing water for granted. But perhaps now's the time to remember that it's sacred—not only in the spiritual sense, but also in its everyday importance to our health, our environment, and our future.

As a town shaped by water, maybe we're also called to be its guardians? If you'd like to know more, do you get in touch with Nicola Marples who is leading on our ecological work at St Mary's Twyning.

Revd. Canon Nicholas Davies Vicar, Twyning

A prayer



I pray by the window and thank you,
God of sun and rain, storm and breeze,
warmth and chill.
I thank you for all of it,
for the precarious balance of what you hold
in your all-powerful hands.
I pray to be open to this hour's weather—
and its influence on my day.
I thank you for its benefits and blessings.
Help me feel your presence in the temperature,
the clouds, the wind, the light.
May I accept your gifts always.

[St Swithin's Day If it rains on St. Swithin's Day according to an old English superstition, it will rain for the next 40 days. Conversely, if it's a dry day on St. Swithin's Day, it's believed that the following 40 days will be dry. 15th July, was this year quite showery so the rest of the year is predicted to be wet. We shall see !!]

From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes: 14th July 2025 Hilary Jones RIP

Baptism anniversaries

This month we celebrate the anniversaries of the Baptisms of

Sophia Rose on 1st August 2021 Harriet Daisy on 14th August 2022 and George Thomas on 25th August 2024.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

'See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.' (1 John 3:1)



VJ Day

A national two-minute silence will be held at 12 noon on Friday 15 August 2025 to honour the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA at BIRDS FARM 13 July 2025

Here is preliminary info from the Tea.

We couldn't believe how many people came considering the very hot weather. What a superb social occasion. It was a very successful day enjoyed by so many people.

There were lots of conversations & meeting up with old friends & new ones.

We were ably supported by a team on the teas and by stallholders and friends. Scones were donated by the Colston Bakery in Upton and Fiona made the gluten free scones. Warners of Upton donated the strawberries. About 70 teas were served...... Here are the receipts so far:

Teas £ 302.10 Mary, Alison, Colleen, Gemma & Dave (at the sink)

Raffle £ 222.50 Junie & Robert Birthday Game £ 58.00 Harrison & Ben

TOTAL £ 582.60



With £148 from the monthly stall this year and a PCC contribution of £70, a cheque for £800 is to be sent to Acorns Children's Hospice to help nurses support families with life-limited children in their own homes. Many thanks to you all!!

PATRONAL FESTIVAL – Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Huge thanks to all who participated in the service on July 20th, especially to readers and the augmented Open the Book Team. They presented the story of '*A Happy Day*', a meaningful account of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Lord. As Tom Wright comments, "[Mary] ... is the apostle to the apostle. ... If someone in the first century had wanted to invent a story about people seeing Jesus, they wouldn't have dreamed giving the star part to a woman. Let alone Mary Magdalene."

Angela has asked me to tell you a little about our beautiful banner dedicated to our patron saint, Mary Magdalene – sent in by Jac Taylor

"Revd Adrian Berry was Vicar of Twyning between 1988 and 1996 and we had more in the Choir in those days. He said the Choir and any Church members might enjoy a visit to the Glastonbury Church Pilgrimage which takes place to celebrate Church unity in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey on a Saturday each year - not to be confused with the Music Festival at Glastonbury, a very different event!



Church choirs process through the town behind their own banners singing hymns and join with church members to celebrate a Eucharist in the grounds of the Abbey. One of the C of E Diocesan Bishops is the Celebrant. After the service everyone enjoys their own picnic lunches while meeting fellow Christians, before going home, very happy as I remember.

I was a PCC member at that time and volunteered to design the banner. Adrian met with a lady artist named Jacquie Binns, who advertised in the Church Times. She visited our church and professionally designed and had the banner made for us. I was given the honour of carrying and presenting it at the altar when it was dedicated.

We went to the Pilgrimage several times during the years just after 1990, proudly following our banner."

SERVICES AND EVENTS

AUGUST

Aug 3rd Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

Aug 10th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

with Acorns Stall and Refreshments

Aug 17th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

Aug 24th Sunday Service on the Village Green at 10am



Twyning Fete Weekend Sunday 24th August at 10am Joint service with Twyning Chapel in the Fete marquee on the Village Green

Aug 25th Monday 1-4pm Village fete including Church Stall

Aug 31st Sunday 9.30am FAMILY COMMUNION+Backpack Blessing



BLESSING OF BACKPACKS service with refreshments

This back-to-school/ preschool event is being led by Rev Hannah.

Bring your backpacks to be blessed before to start of term!!

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2nd Tuesday 12-2pm End of Summer Picnic on the Green (see p8)

Sep 7th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

Sept 13th Saturday Ride + Stride or Drive 10am (see p7)

Sep 14th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

with Acorns Stall and Refreshments



Wednesday 17th Sep 10am -12noon **PARISH COFFEE MORNING** with Caroline and David, Tudor Cottage, Church End

Sep 21st Sunday 9.30am Pet Service tbc - MORNING PRAISE

Sep 28th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION with Refreshments

Everyone is always welcome at all our services and events.

See our website: http://www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene

Vicar:Revd Canon Nick Davies01684 850 959Reader & Parish Lay Minister:Angela Cole01684 294 325Churchwarden:Chris Cole01684 294 325Hon. Treasurer:Richard Bailey01684 298 268

Services, Readers & Hymns for August & Sept. 2025

9.30am unless time given	readings [small lectionary]	1 st & 2 nd readings	hymns NEH unless otherwise given
3 rd August Trinity 7 Parish Communion	Ecc 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23 Col 3.1-11 p.856 Luke 12.13-21	Vera Hesketh	339 Be thou my vision 232 Awake my soul 333 All my hope 381 Jerusalem the golden
10 th August Trinity 8 Parish Communion	Genesis 15.1-6 p861 Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16 Luke 12.32-40	Nicola Marples	12 As the deer pants198 To God be the glory115 Lord Jesus Christ25 Christ triumphant, ever
17 th August Trinity 9 Parish Communion	Jeremiah 23.23-29 p867 Hebrews 11.29-12.2 John 20.1-2,11-18	Dorothy Williams	427 O praise ye the Lord 443 Rejoice the Lord is King 453 Stand up, stand up for Jesus 440 Praise to the Lord [omit *]
24 th August <mark>10am</mark>	JOINT SERVICE	ON THE	GREEN
31 st August Trinity 11 Family Communion	Proverbs 25.6-7 p876 Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16 Luke 14.1, 7-14	Mac McKeever	396 Come let us join 418 O happy band of pilgrims [omit *] 393 Lead us heavenly Father 420 O Jesus I have promised
7 th September Trinity 12 Parish Communion	Deut 30.15-20 p881393 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.24-33	Muriel Russell	tbc
14 th September Holy Cross Day	Numbers 21.4-19 p1009 Philippians 2.6-11 p1011 John 3.13-17 p1012	Arthur Storey	tbc
/ Trinity 13 Parish Communion	OR Exodus 32.7-14 p886 1 Timothy 1. 12-17 Luke 15.1-10		
21 st September Pet Service tbc Morning Praise	tbc	Gemma Munro + Olivia	tbc
28 th September Trinity 15 Parish Communion	Amos 6.1a,.4-7 p896 1 Timothy 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-31	Pam Dell	tbc

HARVEST October 2025

Canon Nick suggests that this year's Harvest is a child-centred celebration on <u>Sunday 12 October</u> at <u>11am</u>. During the service that he will lead, the youngsters may be creating their own food. We will all then have lunch in the Ann Townend Hall – the adults



providing their own Bring to Share food. Please put the date and time in your diary!

THE STORY OF THE CHURCH PROJECTS 2006 - 2014: part 2

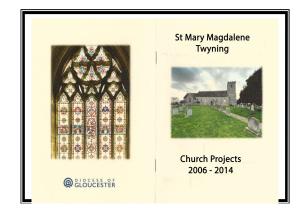
A booklet has been printed to tell the story- see excerpts in this newsletter over the next few months. There are copies in church for you to take to read the whole story.

By the end of 2008, designs were prepared by Tony Hartman and approvals had been received from the Diocese. Funds had been assembled through the PCC savings, donations and fundraising events.

By February 2009 the PCC was ready for the work to go ahead and a contract for construction was let to a local firm Scotia Build Ltd and work began.

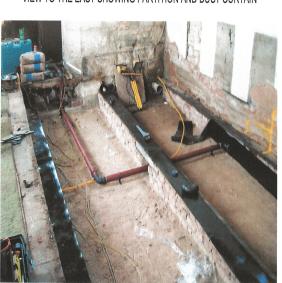
- Week 1 A wooden partition and dust curtain were put in to help seal off the rear working area
 - Hand painted pews were repositioned from rear to front of the north side of the nave.
 - The timber floor was removed, foundations exposed and new heating pipes laid
- Week 2 The block floor laid in the south west nave
 - Walls for the storeroom built
- Week 3 Walls built for the toilet room
 - Sewer trench dug down the church path
 - The block floor laid in the north west nave

Next month - coming together





WEEK 1 REMOVING TIMBER FLOOR
VIEW TO THE EAST SHOWING PARTITION AND DUST CURTAIN



WEEK 1 FOUNDATIONS EXPOSED
NEW HEATING PIPES
NORTH WEST NAVE



WEEK 3 WALL FOR TOILET ROOM



WEEK 3 SEWER TRENCH



Our event is on **Saturday 13th September 2025**. We will start from Twyning Village Green at 10.00am.

In recent years we had a whole day with lunch at a pub and tea in the garden at Twyning.

•			
Bredon Hill ride via Elmley Castle was 23 miles			
Eldersfield via Castlemorton was 18 miles			
Corse via Ashleworth was 17 miles			
Dumbleton via Toddington was 18 miles			
Croome via lunch at Kinnersley was 22 miles			
Ripple & Hill Croome 10 miles lunch at home			
Defford via lunch at Ripple was 19 miles.			
Strensham, Defford & Ripple 19 miles			
Bredon Hill via lunch at Elmley was 23 miles			
Earl's Croome with lunch at Defford 19 miles.			
This year we propose a shorter ride.			
Strensham with lunch at Ripple 9 miles. Return via			
Twyning Church and tea in the garden at Birds Farm.			

Would you like to join in all or part of this route?

If you are not a rider why not come in a car.....

Maybe you would like to sponsor us, for Church funds.

You can give a cash donation to any rider.

If you want to donate directly the Twyning PCC account is Lloyds Bank sort code 30-91-87 acc't no 03054702

If you have any queries please contact:-Richard Bailey, Birds Farm, Twyning Green 01684 298 268 <u>RABailey@btinternet.com</u>

END OF SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC



Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 12-2pm on Twyning Green

Bring a picnic, rug, outdoor ball games and we'll provide:

- Sweets * Games & Activities * Craft & Story * Fun & Socialising
- Bring your backpack to be blessed for the new term

If the weather is not good, we'll meet in Twyning Chapel
All ages welcome. Parents/guardians please accompany children – no need to book
Brought to you by Twyning Church & Twyning Chapel

For further information contact angelacole135@hotmail.com or emilyhastingsactingup@gmail.com



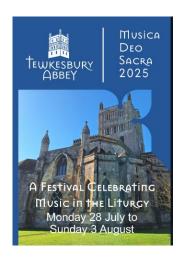
Tewkesbury Benefice



We are part of the Benefice of **Tewkesbury with Walton Cardiff & Twyning** with Revd Canon Nick Davies as our vicar, & Revd Hannah Barraclough as associate vicar. See page 1 of this newsletter for Canon Nick's letter in the latest Twyning Bulletin.

Tewkesbury Abbey has weekly organ recitals on Tuesdays 1pm - respite from the sunshine in a cool abbey with music thrown in! And also music-related, they are gearing up for the annual celebration of music in liturgy: **MUSICA DEO SACRA**, which started on 28th July.

Also, there's a **DINOSAUR TRAIL** for youngsters in the Abbey until Sun. 31 August.



ROAD THROUGH TIME



at Tewkesbury Abbey

Join us this summer for a family friendly trail
Hunt for the dinosaurs inside the Abbey's historic walls
Follow the trail to discover amazing facts about the Abbey and
win a small prize. Free to take part, donations gratefully
accepted. Until Sunday 31st August.

Come yourself and bring your visitors to explore Tewkesbury Abbey
Saturday tours at 12noon, Sunday tours at 1.30pm for 45 minutes. Meet in the porch
Over 16s tickets: £6.50 available in the tea room or on the day



AUGUST

- 5 Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)
- 12 Marc Murray (Bury Parish Church)
- 19 Simon Bell (Dean Close School, Cheltenham)
- 26 Paul Carr (Birmingham)

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Stephen King (Brentwood Cathedral)
- 9 David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham)
- 16 Angela Sones (St Alban's Highgate)
- 23 Piers Maxim (Malvern Priory)
- 30 Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey)



Friday 22 Aug, 7pm

Jenny Wren Productions presents

Robert Louis Stevenson's

TREASURE ISLAND

Looking for adventure? Jenny Wren Productions invite you to join our hero Jim Hawkins and sail the seven seas in search of buried treasure! There's never a dull moment on board ship – the grog flows, we love a sea shanty and the parrot can't keep a secret.

But it won't all be plain sailing with the notorious Long John Silver aboard. Murder and mutiny abound, not to mention the dreaded "Black Spot"; surrounded by all those brawling buccaneers, who can you trust? Anchors aweigh as our small and entirely dubious crew chart the course to Treasure Island. Suitable for ages 8 to 108yrs

In the open-air – please bring a chair or blanket. Tickets from Everyman Box Office: £15 / £10

Venues (Click here for further detail)



The Sixteen -

Angel of Peace

13th September

3pm



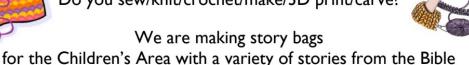
Tuesday, October 21 \cdot 6:30 - 7:45pm, at Tewkesbury Abbey Cinema's most iconic music performed by a live chamber orchestra, enhanced by a stunning light show! For 8+ yrs

SERVICE TIMES AT TEWKESBURY ABBEY (please check with Abbey)

Sunday 7.30am Morning Prayer	Wednesday 9am Morning Prayer
8am Holy Communion BCP	4pm Centering Prayer
1 st Sun of month 9.30am All Age Service	Thursday 9am Morning Prayer
or 10.30am Parish / High Mass	11am Holy Communion (BCP)
5pm Evensong	4pm Evening Prayer
Monday 9am Morning Prayer	Friday 9am Morning Prayer
4pm Evening Prayer	4pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 9am Morning Prayer	Saturday 9am Morning Prayer
12 noon Holy Communion	4pm Evening Prayer
4pm Evening Prayer	

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Do you sew/knit/crochet/make/3D print/carve?



for children to interact with. We would love some hand-made congregation-made items to add

to these bags to enable learning, creation and play.

If you are able or interested, please contact Hannah

CONTACT US on 01684 850 959

Revd Canon Nick Davies vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

Revd Hannah Barraclough <u>associate.vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk</u>

Benefice Administrator Claire Redstone info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

August 's Acumen



Here are more interesting quotes:

Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted - Aldous Huxley

Man is so made that he can only find relaxation from one kind of labour by taking up another - Anatole France

Deeds, not stones, are the true monuments of the great - John L. Motley

<u>Your contributions are ALWAYS welcome</u> for the next issue –by **the 25th**. Thank you!

Mid-summer peace and blessings to you.

Angela Cole

Reader, Parish Lay Minister 01684 294325 angelacole135@hotmail.com

LOCAL SERVICES 2025

To place an Advertisement please contact Richard Bailey

01684 298 268

RABailey@btinternet.com

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Bookings: Bill Chescoe on 01684 295 352 or beckyhallett@btinternet.com

HALL FOR HIRE

Twyning Village Hall, Fleet Road. Capacity 100 persons Disabled access

Licensed bar State of the art kitchen Full PA system with hearing loop.

Booking Secretary: Delta Ferguson To request a booking please use this link:

https://www.twyningvillage.co.uk/village-hall Email: bookings@twyningvillagehall.org.uk

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Thomas A. Spry, Mill Stone, Eckington Road, Bredon.

Phone 01684 773 089

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Tel: 01684 292 201

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PIED PIPER APPEAL

We fundraise to supply specialist medical equipment for sick and disabled children in the county, by your donated used stamps. Stamps of all types, from British and other Countries are most welcome. They are sorted and sold on to a local stamp dealer, which generates income for Pied Piper. Old stamp albums are most welcome too. It is important you leave a margin around the stamps — at least ½ inch.

Mike Bennett 1 Abbots Court Drive, Church End -www.piedpiperappeal.co.uk

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