

TWYNING PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER 2025

A home for creepy crawlies...

As I write this, autumn seems to have arrived with a vengeance. With high winds and much-needed rain, our dust-bowl lawn has seemed to turn into something a little more green- and I'm not too bothered whether it's clover, grass, or weeds at the moment!

As I look out on this green lawn, I'm reminded of the miraculous resilience of nature. This is something that was celebrated by the medieval mystic Hildegard of Bingen, who spoke about God's creative power in all things as "verdant greening". She saw God revealed in the majesty of creation and spoke of every creature as a "glittering, glistening mirror of divinity."

I gathered with others in the churchyard of Tewkesbury Abbey recently to celebrate some of those glittering, glistening mirrors of divinity when we built and blessed our new bug hotel. Modelled on the Abbey tower, it is a large structure that you can find under one of our yew trees. It's crammed with nooks and crannies to provide shelter over the winter for a whole range of creepy crawlies. We have christened it our Minibeast Monastery!

The miraculous resilience of nature we see in our gardens is, however, facing an unprecedented challenge. Climate change is having a devastating impact on insect populations across the UK. Rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns are disrupting the delicate balance of their life cycles. For example, milder winters are causing some insects to emerge from hibernation too early, only to find that their essential food sources, such as specific plants and flowers, are not yet in bloom. This mismatch is a major threat to their survival.

Habitat loss is also a significant factor, with extreme weather events like prolonged droughts and flash floods destroying the ecosystems that these creatures depend on. This decline is especially worrying because insects, from pollinating bees and butterflies to beneficial beetles and moths, are vital to our environment. They are the essential backbone of our ecosystems, responsible for pollinating our food crops and wildflowers, breaking down organic matter, and serving as a crucial food source for birds and other wildlife. When we lose them, we are losing more than just a species; we are losing part of the divine tapestry, the "mirrors of divinity" that reflect God's intricate and beautiful design.

At both the Abbey and St. Mary Magdalene's church, we are enjoying our journey of becoming more ecologically-aware congregations, and it may well be that you share that same desire to care for our fragile Earth. If so, creating a bug hotel could be a small contribution to the well-being of wildlife in your own garden.

We will be celebrating all of this at St. Mary Magdalene's at our **Harvest Festival** on **Sunday**, **October 12th at 11 a.m.** All are welcome for a traditional harvest service and to stay for a bring and share harvest lunch in the Ann Townend Hall afterwards. It should not only give us an opportunity to celebrate the harvest but also our local community.

Wishing you peace and every blessing!

Revd. Canon Nick Davies

Baptism anniversaries

This month we celebrate the anniversaries of Baptisms of

Cleo Jayne on 2nd October 2022
Aiden John Richard on 2nd October 2022
Olivia Katy on 7th October 2018
Archie Morgan James on 30th October 2022



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)

A report on the END OF SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC

- a joint event between church and chapel



Monday 2nd September proved to be a day of mixed rain showers & sunny spells so we retired to the warm & dry Twyning Chapel. Several families brought their picnics though few bears were in evidence. The youngsters avidly listened to the bible story of *The*

Good Samaritan (who had his backpack stolen). Then after the Blessing of the children's backpacks, they enjoyed 'filling' card 'packs' with stickers. The youngsters enjoyed more games & then is was time to leave — with sweets given out as presents. Thank you to Nicola [Marples] for the advertising, Emily [Hastings] and Jan [Miller] for organising the Chapel, table crafts, the games and the goodies. Thank you too to the families who brought food to share — including delicious rock cakes! We'll see you next year, hopefully on the Green.

RIDE & DRIVE Saturday 13 September 2025



Here is a note of the Ride & Drive around nearby churches. A happy band of 8 adult cyclists — and 5 youngsters travelled with about twenty car drivers & passengers. There were no striders. Here is a pic of the Start on Twyning Green. We saw some fascinating church interiors and met a lot of friends.

At <u>Strensham</u> Church we met two Twyning Bellringers who were dusting the box pews and a gallery with a score of ancient paintings depicting Jesus and his disciples. The Church is on a river cliff of the Avon on its own on top of a hill with great views. Strensham Church was, like Twyning Church, abandoned in the Middle Ages when the population suffered the 'Black Death'.

<u>Earls Croome</u> Church boasts a historic heritage and in the south wall of the Nave there is an ancient Norman doorway over 1,000 years old.

On the way to <u>Hill Croome</u> the riders were undaunted by a shower of rain. The Church is small, with a very low roof and 3 bells that could be seen and rung.

After Lunch at the Railway Inn, we went to <u>Ripple</u> Church where there was a Heritage Weekend with special displays and belltower tours. Ripple is a large Church with a long Nave and Chancel, and a high ceiling. In the Chancel there are rows of choir seats – called miserichords – carved around 1460 – depicting the Farming year month by month and grain sowing, growing, harvest, milling and bread making.

We travelled back to Twyning and had a tea of tasty cakes at Birds Farm.

Many people have sponsored the event and a good sum, over £300, will be sent to the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust towards grants. At Twyning we have received grants in recent years for the restoration of the Church clock and a canopy of the Tower door.

ANIMAL BLESSING (PET) SERVICE 21 September 2025

As our last Pet Service was in 2019, we were overdue for a repeat. Revd Hannah was so keen to lead this but, unfortunately, she was indisposed, and we missed her.

However, people and animals rallied so this was a great success. We blessed our past and present pets which included:

four dogs
Mr. Tortoise
photos of two cats and a rabbit +
a treasured toy cat and many (stuffed) owls.

Our prayer was / is:

God of all living things, thank you for the world's creatures. May you bless our pets, past and present, and help us to cherish them. May each be a sign of your love and place joy in the hearts of all who care for or have cared for them. Amen.

SERVICES AND EVENTS

OCTOBER

Oct 5th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

Oct 11th Saturday Churchyard Working Party (see page 7)

Oct 12th Sunday 11am HARVEST FESTIVAL

including Family Communion

**please note the time: 11am followed by a Bring & Share Lunch in Ann Townend Hall All are very welcome!!





Wednesday 15th October 10am -12noon **PARISH COFFEE MORNING** with Caroline and David Prior, Tudor Cottage, Church End

Oct 19th Sunday 9.30am MORNING PRAISE

Oct 26th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION with Refreshments

NOVEMBER

Nov 2nd ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION remembering loved ones - please see list in Church two weeks prior - plus Refreshments after the service

Nov 9th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.30 short parish communion in Church 10.45 service at War Memorial

Nov 16th Sunday 9.30am MORNING PRAISE





Wednesday 19th Nov 10am -12noon **PARISH COFFEE MORNING** with Angela and Chris Cole, Shieling, Fleet Road

Nov 23rd Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION with Refreshments

Nov 30th Sunday 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION

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 Cole1684 294 325Churchwarden:Chris Cole01684 294 325Hon. Treasurer:Richard Bailey01684 298 268

Services, Readers & Hymns for Oct. & Nov. 2025

9.30am unless time given	readings [small lectionary	1 st & 2 nd readings	hymns NEH unless otherwise given
5 th October Trinity 16 Parish Communion	Habakkuk 1.1-4,2.1-4 2 Timothy 1.1-14 p.901 Luke 17.5-10	Mike Jones	364 God is love let heavens 433 O worship the King 475 Ye holy angels bright 362 Glorious things of thee
12 th October **Harvest @ 11am* Trinity 17 Family Communion	2 Kings 5.1-3,7-15 p906 2 Timothy 2.8-15 Luke 17.11-19	Gemma Munro	259 Come ye thankful people 260 Fair waved the golden corn 262 We plough the fields 263 All creatures of our God
19 th October Morning Praise Trinity 18	contemporary Genesis 32.22-31 Luke 18.1-8	tbc	100 Hymns for Today 3 All my hope on God 40 Help us O Lord to learn 45 Jesus good above all other
26 th October Last Sun after Trinity Parish Communion	Ecc 35.12-17 p917 2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18 Luke 18.9-14	Richard Bailey	346 City of God how broad 339 Be thou my vision 372 He who would valiant be 484 The Church's one foundation
2 nd November **All Saints Day Parish Communion	Daniel 7.1-3,15-18 p881 Ephesians 1.11-23 Luke 6.20-31	Mandy Hunt	tbc
9 th November Remembrance Sunday Parish Communion	Job 19.23-27 p936 2 Thess 2.1-5,13-17 Luke 20.27-38	Chris Cole	tbc
16 th November Morning Praise	contemporary Luke 21.5-19	Lucy Jones	tbc
23 rd November <i>Christ the King</i> Parish Communion	Jeremiah 33.1-6 p944 1 Timothy 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-31	Robert Cockrell	tbc
30 th November Advent Sunday Parish Communion	Isaiah 2.1-5 p1 Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.36-44	Nicola Marples	tbc

NB An induction loop for those with hearing aids is available at all services in Twyning Church

Autumn Churchyard Working Party – Saturday 11 October 2025

The Autumn Churchyard Working Party takes place on the Harvest Festival weekend.

It is good to have our Church looking at its best inside and out!

A big thank you to all who have helped to keep the Churchyard in such good order. With a variable climate and periods of optimal growing conditions for grass, the care and maintenance of the Churchyard has been a challenge over the last year but you and our splendid contractors rose to the challenge! Your efforts are appreciated by all who visit the Church.

However this is no time to sit back on our laurels!!

Whatever time you can spare on Saturday 11th October will be gratefully received. Our working party in the Spring was very successful and made a real difference to the appearance of the Churchyard. We were able to tackle tasks which normally have to give way to the regular round of mowing.

If you can join us this time..... we will gather at 0930 or whenever you surface! There are usually plenty of jobs to do, so bring a few tools with you....shears etc.... coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided.

With all your help....our churchyard is a credit to our parish....let's keep it that way!

Hope to see you on Saturday 11th October. If you need to know more, don't hesitate to contact me.

Ron Hesketh 01684 299773/07745 758899 or ronhesketh@gmail.com

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 12th October

A special FAMILY service with Holy Communion at 11am

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 will 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!



She stoops to conker

HARVEST GIFTS

As usual, donations of harvest produce and groceries will be welcome for display in the Church. Please bring them on Saturday morning. All perishable gifts will go to the Tewkesbury Food Bank. Those who kindly donate harvest vegetables and fruit are asked to take these home.

HARVEST COLLECTION. On Sundays 12th and 19th October we will make a special cash collection for donations to two charities that support those in great need. This year we are again supporting

Gloucestershire Farming Friends

This is a group of volunteers with many skills ready to assist Those working or connected with agriculture who are in need.

Mary's Meals

This is a registered charity which sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions.

BRING & SHARE LUNCH

There will be a bring & share lunch in the Ann Townend Hall after this service (gathering at about 12 noon). Please bring your own plates and cutlery. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Poppy Fields coming to Gloucester Cathedral Fri 17 Oct to Sat 25 Oct



This autumn, Gloucester Cathedral will once again be transformed by the lights and sounds of the projection art gallery of Luxmuralis. This immersive installation marks the much-anticipated return of Luxmuralis to the Cathedral, following the sell-out success of Light Eternal in 2023 and reflects on the sacrifices of the First and Second World Wars, offering a message of peace and hope for the future. As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Day and approach the season of Remembrance, this moving experience invites you to pause, reflect and remember.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

All Soul's Day is on 1st November On the next day, Sunday 2nd November, we shall be remembering our loved ones and names will be read out. The list of names used previously has been augmented with those who have recently died. The sheets will be in church from Sunday 19th October for any amendments you wish to make - please print in capitals.

Homelessness Sunday 2025

This year, Homelessness Sunday falls on 5th October and the theme is 'Love thy neighbour'. It is hoped that by taking time to reflect on Homelessness Sunday, people will consider what they can do to alleviate homelessness, suffering and poverty. Please consider what you can do. For example,

- Consider hosting someone seeking sanctuary and at risk of homelessness in your spare room. There are a number of charities that run hosting programmes which you will be able to find online.
- Consider renting out your room to a newly granted refugee for a period of six months through Housing Justice's Refugee Lodgings Project. Find out more **here**.
- Make a donation to a homelessness charity of your choice.

THE STORY OF THE CHURCH PROJECTS 2006 - 2014 - Part 4

INSIDE THE TOWER VESTRY



OLD REFRESHMENT AREA



NEW REFRESHMENT CABINET



A booklet has been printed to tell the story- see the excerpts in this newsletter which began in July. There are copies in church to take to read the whole story.

The 'kitchen' area

The new refreshment unit in the base of the tower was specifically designed.

It has shelving for crockery and supplies, a sink with hop and cold water and drainage to the sewer, and a refrigerator.

Alongside the unit is a counter with a fixed water heater plumbed into the mains for a continuous supply of boiling water for tea etc.

The next stage

The first contract supervised by Tony Hartman was completed and paid for by funds raised by efforts of the congregation and by applying for grants.

Now efforts began on the next stage to prepare for work on

- the monuments
- decoration
- heating and for improved lighting for the whole Church.

An appeal to the wider village community was launched to secure funds for these p[roposed works. A booklet was prepared and delivered to every household in the parish to explain the progress made and plans for completion. Fundraising events were organised and as funds become available so the works proceeded.

next month: the later projects





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.

This autumn, step into the serene glow of the

Museum of the Moon

at Tewkesbury Abbey. From 16th October to 4th November 2025, this awe-inspiring artwork by Luke Jerram will transform the Abbey into a space of wonder, reflection and imagination.

Measuring seven metres in diameter and featuring detailed NASA imagery, the internally lit Moon sculpture floats amidst the gothic arches, accompanied by a tranquil soundscape composed by Dan Jones.

To celebrate its arrival, we've curated a vibrant and varied program of moon-inspired events for all ages. From atmospheric evening viewings to sunrise yoga, concerts, storytelling & a special opening night, there is something for everyone under the Moon.

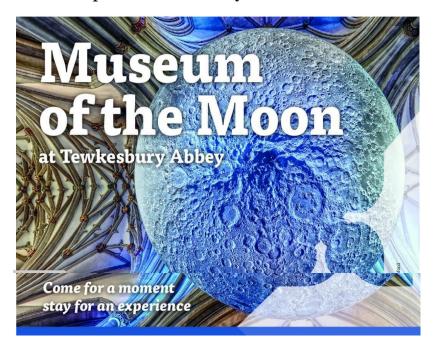
Worship will also play a central role throughout this period and alongside our usual service pattern we will be hosting a number of additional service that capitalize on the presence of this awe-inspiring installation.

On Sunday October 26th from 3-4pm we will be hosting a special 'wild worship' service starting in the Abbey before heading outdoors to the Rose Garden.

We will also host the following clergy-led events under the Moon:

- Introduction to Centering Prayer under the Moon Wednesday 22nd and Friday 24th October 2.30-3.00pm
- Centering Prayer under the Moon Thursday 23rd October 4pm
- A Time for Reflection with the Sentinel of Stillness Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th November 2.30-3,00pm
- Dates for Compline to be announced.

This is your invitation to experience the Abbey like never before.



RIP

The Vicar has asked me to let you all know that Don Freeman (Claire Redstone's Dad) sadly passed away on 15th September. Our thoughts and prayers are with Claire and the family at this very sad time. Don was much loved at the Abbey and has become part of the Abbeys history. Don worked at the Abbey between 1973 – 1976 but even after retirement kept very strong links with the Abbey. Don will be much missed by all those that knew him. May he rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Donald Cecil Freeman

was born in Tewkesbury on 7th September 1937, and was for many years a server at the Abbey. After service in the Grenadier Guards, he took over his father's butcher's shop in Tewkesbury High Street, and married Josephine Denise Webley on 3rd April 1961 at the Abbey. He was appointed Associate Sacristan at the beginning of 1972, so that he could spend a year working with Ernest Leach before becoming Head Sacristan at the beginning of 1973. Don Freeman resigned at the end of July 1976.

Kind Regards, Mark Taylor, Head of Operations Tewkesbury Abbey

Tewkesbury Abbey's Labrador Assistant Vergers set to retire



Eric and Flo. Photo credit: Jack Boskett

After two years of service at Tewkesbury Abbey, labradors Eric and Flo will be retiring from their roles as Assistant Vergers to enjoy a relaxing retirement at home.

Eric, 11, and Flo, 10, belong to the Abbey's Head Verger, Chris Skepper, who originally asked if he could bring his labradors to the Abbey with him on a short-term basis. Visitors are invited to meet Eric and Flo, and stroke them, if they would like to. They are so well behaved and provide a relaxing and calming environment for those who meet them.

Since Eric and Flo started working at the Abbey, they have been very popular, attracting visitors and media from across the world.

Chris Skepper said: "Eric and Flo really enjoy their work at the Abbey and get excited when I put their lanyards on them, they know exactly what they are going to be doing.

"I made the decision that it was time for Eric and Flo to retire from their full-time role due to their age, and how cold the Abbey gets over winter, but I'm sure they will both miss coming to work. Although they are retiring from their full-time roles, they may still visit the Abbey on occasion." The date for their retirement is Wednesday 1 October. Tewkesbury Abbey will be hosting a special retirement party for them at the Abbey from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, to which everyone is welcome – along with their pups.

Tewkesbury Abbey has always had an open policy with dogs, so although Eric and Flo are regular attendees at the Abbey, it was not new for dogs to be seen around the grounds. Until their retirement Eric and Flo will be working their usual days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They can be found sat on their mat or walking around with Chris, so do make sure to visit them before their retirement. The Abbey opens from 9.30am - 4pm daily.

Hospital Chaplaincy

It is very heartening to be able to write that two people from Twyning Church have volunteered to explore this opportunity for chaplaincy. Patients are visited each month and on the following day, Sunday, communion is taken to those who requested this. Our prayers are with all hospital Chaplains, staff and patients.

Sunday Services at Tewkesbury Abbey

Sunday	7.30am	Morning Prayer	Wedr	Wednesday 9am		Morning Prayer
	8am	Holy Communion BC	>		4pm	Centering Prayer
	10.30am	High Mass	Thurs	sday	9am	Morning Prayer
	5pm	Evensong			11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Monday	9am	Morning Prayer			5.30	Choral Evensong*
	5.30	Choral Evensong*	Frida	У	9am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer			5.30	Choral Evensong*
	12 noon	Holy Communion	Satur	day	9am	Morning Prayer
	5.30	Choral Evensong*			4pm	
*Choral Evensong sung by Schola Cantorum in			* term	* term-time, otherwise said Evening Prayer 4pm		

Thinking about confirmation?

Have you been baptised but not yet confirmed?

Do you want to make your own public commitment to follow Christ, strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

This November at Tewkesbury Abby, we will host a service of Confirmation with baptism if you haven't done this yet with The Rt Revd Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury on Sunday 23rd November at 10.30am.

Group preparations sessions begin Sunday 12th October. If you would like to explore being confirmed, or are simply curious, please speak to the parish office on 01684 850 959.

A Bat Survey Tewkesbury Abbey has surveyed bats in the building as part of its 'Welcoming All' project. It was completed to help the Abbey consolidate past findings, check for signs of current use and estimate numbers. Previous bat surveys found that bats used the Abbey, particularly in quiet, undisturbed areas like roof spaces. Brian Hoggard, Fabric Officer at the Abbey, said: "As it turns out, they aren't using the Abbey very much at all at the moment. I think this might be because there may be better places locally where they can lead a more peaceful life." Bats are protected by law, so identifying roosting locations and understanding how they use the building is essential before any restoration or maintenance work takes place.

Come to explore Tewkesbury Abbey and bring your visitors

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 The Touching Souls Tea Room is now open Monday to Saturday from 9am till 4pm and Sunday 11am to 3pm. The Abbey Shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am till 4pm and Sunday after the morning service till 4pm

Another upcoming event at Tewkesbury Abbey:



Tuesday, October 21 · 6:30 - 7:45pm Cinema's most iconic music performed by a live chamber orchestra, enhanced by a stunning light show! The advised age of the concert is 8+

CONTACT US on 01684 850 959

Revd Canon Nick Davies Revd Hannah Barraclough Benefice Administrator Claire Redstone info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk associate.vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

October's Offcuts

Three quotes to think about:

The highest possible stage in moral culture is when we recognise that we ought to control out thoughts.

Charles Darwin



Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow. Mark Twair

There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: impatience and laziness.

Franz Kafka

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Your contributions are most welcome for the next issue – by the <u>25th</u> please

Peace and blessings to you all, *Angela Cole*

Reader, Parish Lay Minister

01684 294325

angelacole135@hotmail.com

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Ann Townend Hall, Church End, Twyning, provides the perfect location for social, educational and club activities. It is conveniently situated to Twyning Church for christening parties and funeral teas. Fully modernised, with disabled access, large secure patio/grass area to the rear, kitchen area & local parking, the hall can accommodate up to 60 persons.

Bookings Phone Bill Chescoe on 01684 295 352 or email 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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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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