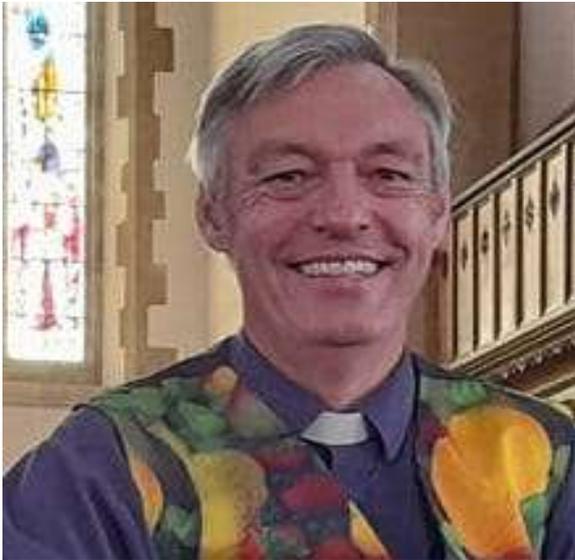




Newsletter



Days of Mellow Fruitfulness!

Mr. Google tells me that Keats' days of mellow fruitfulness is autumn, not March as I'd hoped for this article. So much for a comprehensive education. The phrase is in my head because it seems to describe where the Church of England is at this particular moment. In a number of different settings, people have reported a quiet revival going on, and Southbourne is not immune. Ash Wednesday saw our largest attendance at midweek communion, followed by the start of the Lent course. With people recognisable from different Southbourne churches, and some people that I had never seen before.

If this really is a phenomenon, what might be causing it? One serviceable explanation, if you'll excuse the pun, is that with so much turmoil in the world politically and demographically, people are turning to the church. Do you remember the great storm of 1987? One of the big surprises for me was how shallow the roots of many trees are. I'd always thought 'iceberg' but here we had 'tender stem broccoli'. It strikes me that we might just be one of the trees still standing and people are saying, "still here, I'll take a look then". What a privileged position to be in. Let's build on it by being communities of truth and love.

All the best
Mike

SCONES OF PRAISE

Although it was a miserable afternoon, many turned out to our Scones of Praise in February, which proved once again to be a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you John & Jo for organising this. The event will be repeated on Sunday 14th June at 3.00 pm, so put the date in your diary and let John know if you have a favourite hymn that you would like included.



SUNDAY EVENINGS IN MARCH AT ALL SAINTS

Choral Evensong at All Saints is on Sunday 1st March at 6.00pm followed by cheese and wine. This is a great opportunity to share in worship led by our choir with a lovely setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Thomas Tallis and a beautiful anthem, God be in my head by John Rutter, together with some well-known hymns. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to share in fellowship as cheese and wine will be served.

On Palm Sunday, 29th March at 6.00pm there will be a special evening service. Entitled **Lift High the Cross**, this will be a service of music and readings, led by our choir, enabling us to reflect on the events of Palm Sunday in preparation for Holy week.

Do come and join us at these services.

Also, don't forget to get your tickets for our Concert at All Saints' Church this should be a lovely event!

DORSET POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

We are looking forward to a Spring Concert performed by Dorset Police Male Voice Choir at our church on **Saturday 14th March 2026 at 7.30pm**. Tickets £10 per person available in church or online here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-southbourne/t-oejykgk>. Flyers at the back of church, so please invite your friends and family to a wonderful evening. **All the funds raised from this event will support the life and work of All Saints' Church.**

EASTER SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April – Holy Communion at 7.00 pm

Good Friday – 3rd April – Hot Cross Buns at 11.00 am & Good Friday service at 11.15 am. An hour at the Cross at 2.00 pm

Easter Sunday – 5th April – Family Communion at 10.30 am

Please also pencil in your diary (Church Commissioners willing) the following dates:-
Sunday 12th April at 12.00 pm – Special Meeting of Southbourne-on-Sea, followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Saturday 18th April 10.00 am to 4.00 pm New Parish Vision Day

There are also plans to put on an Easter play, written by a parishioner from St.

Nicholas' Church, on **Sunday 19th April at 3.00 pm**. We are still in need of some actors – particularly females (late teens to early 40's), some help with costumes (someone who can sew would be great), and some spare sheets of wood (any type and thickness) for scenery. To find out more or express an interest, please contact Douglas Eyre on 01202 423479 or email eyreworks@gmail.com

CRAFTY SUNDAY & SmAll SAINTS

This month our Crafty Sunday was all about Lent. We had a few families who enjoyed making craft and thinking of how we could help others during Lent. We came together for a prayer then had fun singing and dancing to praise songs!



We had a really enjoyable first half term at SmAll Saints introducing lots of weekly animal themes. We welcomed everyone back this week when we celebrated Chinese New Year and the children really enjoyed making lanterns.





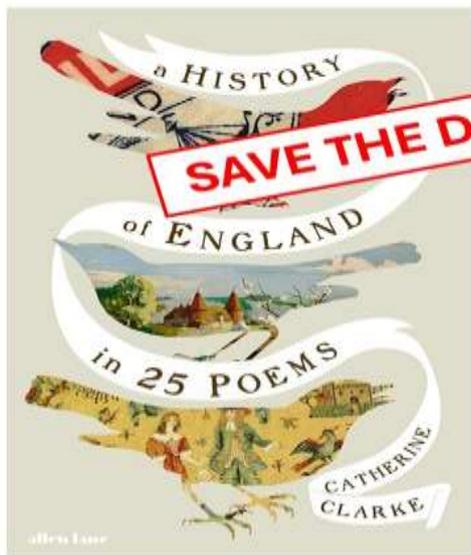
The Guides & Rangers have been busy working on their Skill Builder Reflect which looks at how we all interact with each other. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers enjoyed celebrating Thinking Day 100 on 22nd February with other girls from Bournemouth South Division.

We met at Littledown and used a passport designed by Rebecca to work our way around 5 activities based on our 5 World Centres. The girls made floral headbands at Our Chalet in Switzerland, tried Bollywood dancing at Sangam India, tried Mexican crafts at Our Cabana, more crafts at Pax Lodge London then tried African drumming at Kusafari. We finished with a promise ceremony. It was fantastic to get everyone together. (Sorry no photos as some girls parents have requested no photos).

We all agreed we love doing activities together and hope to plan more soon. At All Saints all groups are joining to have a mock camp in the upper hall after Easter. Guides & Rangers will help Rainbows and Brownies learn how to put up tents and how life in camp works.

Thank you to all the leaders for the huge amount of time they give to make these things happen, for every hour of activity there is 4-5 hours of admin!

Christine & the team



A History of England in 25 Poems

Saturday 25 April 2026, 7pm
All Saints Church, Southbourne

An evening of words and music,
journeying into 1300 years of
England's history

with local writer **Catherine Clarke**
author of
A History of England in 25 Poems
and musical interludes together with
Rebecca Newton (soprano, piano) and
Ellen Davis (cello)

A Times History Book of the Year, a
Financial Times Book of the Year, a
BBC History Extra Book of the Year.
A BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.

'A marvellous idea, quite brilliantly realised' – Dominic Sandbrook
'A charming mix of history, travel & literature' – Alice Loxton
'I couldn't put it down' – Cerys Matthews

Tickets on sale soon



FELLOWSHIP CLUB

We had lunch at the Brew Cafe in February and our next lunch will be on Wednesday 18th March 12.30 pm at The Bear in Burton.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS LENT?

What are you doing for Lent this year? When I was much younger, we were always encouraged to give up something for Lent. Chocolate always seemed to be the favourite when I was at school, or sweets, or cake. Then, as I became old enough, it was wine or any other sort of alcoholic drink. It meant that we would look forward to indulging again on Easter Sunday. Giving up something still works for many people, but I think it is really important to do something you would not normally do during Lent.

The first thing that I would encourage you to do is to join our Lent Course – **Draw near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. This is running on Wednesdays in church after the morning communion and also on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm (speak to Rich or Angela). It doesn't matter if you haven't signed up, you can still join us or you can follow the reflections on the **Everyday Faith** app available here:



<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

Perhaps you might also set aside time to read a reflective book. Maybe you could also do something for others, perhaps by donating to a local charity or the food bank, or by going out of your way to help someone.

My grandson, Albie, is collecting things for Southbourne foodbank this Lent. He wanted to know where the gifts go, so last week he came with me to deliver the All Saints regular collection and his first gifts. He certainly enjoyed his visit. He has a box at home in which to collect his items and is colouring in the days too.

John





WICKMEADS
Your local Care South home for residential and dementia care
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All Saints
SOUTHBOURNE

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Vicar: Rev Canon Mike Powis

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