



Twyning Parish Church Newsletter 2026

The message from Canon Nick, our vicar, given to Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

In this Eastertide season, I am reminded of the words of St. Augustine: "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song". As I look back over this last year in the life of St Mary Magdalene and the wider community, I get a sense that we truly know this and live it through our faithfulness and our welcome to others.

I must say, I really enjoy leading services here each month. During those months when I miss it—whether due to holidays or being drawn into the liturgical life of the Abbey—it leaves a hole in my spiritual calendar. I am always struck by the warmth of the welcome here, the faithfulness of the congregation, and the diligence of key individuals in ensuring the prayerful continuity of our worshipping life.

Highlights of the Year

Looking back over the year, there are several highlights for which I am giving thanks:

- **The Abbey Walk:** *I thoroughly enjoyed our walk from the Abbey last spring, culminating in games in the churchyard, the blessing of the bell ropes, and Evensong sung by the Abbey choir.*
- **Ecumenical Services:** *Our ecumenical service continues to be a creative way of joining with the Fair weekend on the green—even if the hay bale seating can be a little prickly!*
- **Community Engagement:** *The Fair itself was a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances with the wider community. Sadly, however, it has been another year in which I failed to win the egg race and missed the china-smashing stall as well!*
- **Festivals:** *As the year wore on, the Harvest Festival and lunch were great fun. I am only sorry that Remembrance and Christmas activities are things I only hear reports of from Twyning, as I am otherwise engaged "down the hill".*

Connection to the Village

One of the things I deeply appreciate about the life of our church is how it is so wrapped up in the life of the wider village, even if we are located at some distance from where most people live! Over the last year, I have enjoyed contributing thoughts to the community newsletter on topics ranging from Candlemas and the arrival of electricity to the introduction of "bug hotels"—thanking God for creepy crawlies and all things bright and beautiful.

Liturgical Developments

Over the year, we have begun to renew our orders of service. Following conversations with the PCC, we decided to move to seasonal orders of service, which we have started

to enjoy during Lent and Easter. Hopefully, these are easier to follow, requiring less "flicking of pages" to work out where we are!

Ministry and Personnel

In terms of the provision of ministry, I want to take this opportunity to thank Angela, our Licensed Lay Reader, and Ron, who continues to faithfully serve with his Permission to Officiate. Their pastoral care and presence in the village are invaluable in maintaining the relationships that contribute to the witness of this congregation. I often say that omnipresence is a gift of God but not of His ministers; until that changes, I remain extremely grateful for all that Ron and Angela continue to offer.

Sadly, we have lost Hannah this year. This was a disappointment, particularly as we hoped her role might lead to new developments both here and at the Abbey. However, I am currently in conversations regarding the possibility of appointing a Children and Families Worker. This role would pick up the mantle of the work Hannah began, supporting activities in Twyning and engaging with our primary school. I hope to host a Sunday afternoon conversation with everyone involved in children and families work across the benefice as a stepping stone toward developing a job description.

Grateful Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank Junie for her faithfulness on the organ and for enabling us to "find our voice." My thanks also go to the many volunteers: the churchyard working groups, the bell ringers, those who prepare the altar, lead intercessions, and read, the *Open the Book* team, and, of course, the Parochial Church Council.

Saint Paul often speaks about the differing ministries in the life of the church. I am not sure the original Greek mentions "brass cleaners," but I am nevertheless very aware and extremely grateful for the hard work offered by so many that enables this church to flourish. Thank you to one and all.

Facing a Spiritual Fork in our Lives - Life is a journey we cannot predict or control.

Sometimes there will be valleys and other times mountain highs. It will be full of joy, sorrow, discernment, and many different experiences. Sometimes life offers us unique situations—a spiritual fork in the road where a decision needs to be made. One choice leads to a certain path. Another choice leads in another direction. But how do you know where God is calling you?

A Prayer - Dear Jesus, help me make all my life decisions with you. Lead me in ardent clarity, divine wisdom, and unshakeable peace. Teach me to trust myself and your voice speaking to me and in my life. Help me to have open hands and not clenched fists with you in my life.

From the Parish Registers

Funeral and Burial

7th April 2026

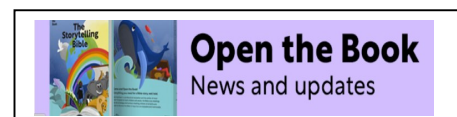
Betty Spacey

RIP

THANKS to the Open the Book (OtB) Team

Many thanks to the Open the Book (OtB) Team for saving the day on Palm Sunday and lending the Church their "hobby-donkey" to be carried at the front of the procession. The venerable prop, made originally by members of the Chapel, is now re-named *Bluebell*!

Also grateful thanks to the OtB team for playing a major part in the Morning Praise service on 19th April and sharing with us the story of *The Walk to Emmaus* – in full costume!



ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING



This was held on Tuesday 14th April with Canon Nick in the chair. Honorary officers were appointed and the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Canon Nick's report is on the front page of this newsletter. Here are more of the reports; please see next month's edition for the rest

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD to APRIL 2026

TO THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING on MONDAY 14th APRIL 2026.

Services. Since the last APCM, we resumed our normal routine for **Sunday services**.

Attendance has held up well with about 30 people at most services. Members of the congregation are participating in the services both by reading the lessons and leading the intercessions. They are helped in this by our Parish Lay Reader.

Vicar. Our vicar is Rev'd Canon Nick Davies at Tewkesbury Abbey. He takes one service a month. He has introduced a new Order of Service, and another for Lent. Ven. Ron Hesketh takes another service. Unfortunately Rev'd Hannah Barraclough has resigned her position at the Abbey after a prolonged illness. Mrs Angela Cole leads on most third Sundays. Other services are led by Abbey clergy. The number of hymns is now four.

Coffee mornings are now started again every month, except August, and are very popular with many people. All are welcome on Wednesdays from 10am to noon, come and see!!

Charitable Giving. In September we again enjoyed the **Ride & Stride & Drive** to churches in the neighbourhood, raising sponsorship for the Glos Historic Churches Trust and for our own Church. In October, we had our **Harvest Festival** – collecting mostly funds, rather than goods, and sending donations to the Mary's Meals and the Glos Farming Friends charity. This service was followed by a Bring & Share lunch – it was well supported.

Leading up to Christmas, Gemma organised **Carol Singing** and the funds raised went to local charities, namely Gloucestershire Young Carers and Midlands Air Ambulance. We had a **Christingle Service** led by Mrs. Angela Cole, and the funds raised went to the Children's Society. Refreshments twice each month are under way. Mary Heeks sets out her sales stall in aid of **Acorns Children's Hospice**. This is our regular Church charity and is well supported with donations sent twice year to the Hospice in Worcester which serves the Three Counties. We also collect to support other appeals, both national and global, when the need arises.

Music in Church is well provided by our amazing Organist Junie Arnold. We have a new young organist, Rosie Latiff, who played at the Carol Service in December. A second organist would also allow Junie to take a week off. We are very lucky to have visiting organists in Roy Massey and James Lancelot.

We continue to enjoy floral beauty in Church, supplied by our talented, but sadly diminishing, group of **Flower arrangers** who are still doing their best to put some lovely displays in Church.

The people who do **cleaning** in the Church building, the toilet and tidy the children's area are also working to a rota. **Bell ringing** can be heard as the bellringers are in action. The **Churchyard** is still being maintained and kept in order by willing volunteers. The working party in March was very successful, and local contractors have been engaged to do a fortnightly mow of the main flat areas.

Following Ron's retirement, Angela Cole has kindly taken over producing the monthly **NewsSheet** which is proving to be very popular. It goes out to a much wider community than our local churchgoers. This is the mission of our Church.

Special mention must be given to Rev'd Nick, to Ron, to Angela our Lay Reader; to Richard, our Treasurer; and to all the members of the **Parochial Church Council** who collectively and individually have supported Church activities through the years.

We are also aware of getting older and less energetic. Still our Church remains active and vibrant. In general, we certainly do need some younger members and we delight in seeing the younger families for Morning Praise and at other services.

Lastly, I thank all our congregation for everything anyone does towards the body of the Church community. We move forward in faith & hope as the year progresses. **Chris Cole, Churchwarden**

REPORT OF THE PCC FOR 2026 BY THE HONARARY SECRETARY

There were four PCC, plus one Standing Committee, meetings during the year with 83% attendance.

Meeting on 3rd February 2025.

Domestic Abuse training continues.
A new service leaflet has been printed.
A bequest from the estate of Mr. Hartland was announced.
The Budget from the Standing Committee was received.
There had been delays in the works programme.
The churchyard fence was agreed.
The Route to net Zero by 2030 was discussed.
The Years Mind list was revised.
A gave space reservation error was mentioned.
Peregrine falcons on the tower were discussed.
The locking and unlocking list was revised.



Meeting on 20th May 2025.

Domestic Abuse training was completed.
The new bell ropes were fitted and blessed.
The grave space error was resolved.
The tower is not suitable for a Peregrine falcon nest.
The new organ scholar had started.
Twenty windows had been pointed.
The Cockrell was painted with three coats of gold paint.
The Cardinal points were re-fixed.
The churchyard safety issue fence was erected.
Harvest, Ride & Stride and the August Bank holiday arrangements made.

Meeting 16th September 2025.

The organ scholar is to play at the Carol Service.
Rev'd Dr. Hannah Barraclough has been on illness leave.
All the quinquennial work has been completed.
The legacy of £49,422 from Edward Hartland had been received.
Resurfacing the church paths was discussed.
A policy on hiring ex-offenders as drawn up.
The churchyard gates were sent to the Men's Shed for repair.



Standing Committee, 4th Dec, fixed the 2026 budget & fees for weddings, funerals plus grants to charities.

Meeting on 3rd February 2026.

The organ scholar had played at the Carol Service.
Mrs. N. Marples has been working with a children's choir.
Mrs. A. Cole agreed to make a welcome pack for new householders.
A draft order or service for Lent was discussed.
The changes to the Deanery Synod finances were noted.
The budget from the Standing Committee was received.
A church path and lighting sub-committee was formed.
The porch doors were eased by a local carpenter.
Churchyard gates were returned after remedial work.
The bell ringers report that the furniture in the bell town has woodworm,

Honorary Secretary – C. J. Cole. 14th March 2026.

FLOWER ARRANGERS' REPORT 2025-26



Once again, a very big thank you to everyone for your great efforts. Our church has looked good all year. It has worked well with some members taking responsibility for particular areas, others at festival times.

We all filled the church with spring flowers and colour for Easter; again, the cross by Pam Page was a highlight of this special time of the year. We thank the monetary contributors for their help towards the Easter flowers.

In August we were privileged to create flowers for the wedding of Emily and James. The Church was filled with gypsophila and roses - very delicate in the sunshine.

Harvest reflected the passing of the seasons with autumn colours. This was followed by Remembrance and the time of poppies. Christmas was full of colour with all our flower arrangers able to participate fully in preparing displays which lasted the full Christmas season.

Rosie Warner has now moved from Twynning and so it will not be easy for her to continue with the flower arranging. We thank her for all that she has done in the past and we will miss her - but I feel sure that we will always be able to count on her.

Easter is early this year - Easter Sunday 5th April - but next year it is even earlier - 28th March!

Thank you for your work and enjoy another year ahead.

Madge Storey

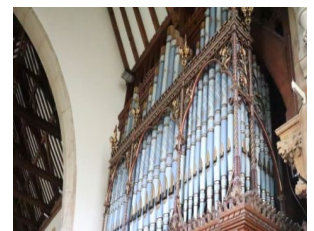
Twynning Church Music Report March 2026

The music in church is making some progress in as much as we have a few new members in the choir and therefore are able to sing the occasional anthem on special days – many thanks to them.

We are also trying to encourage a junior choir from the Village School [called Young Voices] and Nicola has so far got 4 – 5 youngsters to join. This is going to be included in Angela's service, so we keep our fingers crossed that it will continue – they did well last Sunday.

Our young organ scholar is making good progress and is very keen.

We have got an organ visit in June, as the Oxford Organ Society have asked if they can come to see our lovely and historic organ – we are very lucky to have it!



I have been very lucky to have Muriel to step in and play the piano for some services, so many thanks to her; also Roy Massey, ex-Hereford Cathedral organist who now lives in Tewkesbury, has helped me out on several occasions for which I am very grateful, as unfortunately I am the only 'organist' left standing.

Junie Arnold ~ Organist

SERVICES AND EVENTS

MAY

May 3 rd	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION
May 6 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	Twyning Bellringers' AGM in church
May 10 th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION with Acorns Stall and Refreshments
May 12 th	Wednesday	10-12	PARISH COFFEE MORNING with Vera and Ron at Whistledown, The Green 
May 14 th	Thursday		ASCENSION DAY COMMUNION at Tewkesbury Abbey: 11am, 5.30pm and High Mass at 7.30pm
May 17 th	Sunday	9.30am	MORNING PRAISE 
May 24 th	Pentecost / Whit Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments
May 31 st	Trinity Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION

JUNE

Jun 7 th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION
Jun 8 th	Monday	1.30pm	Open the Book Twyning School
Jun 10 th	Wednesday	10-12	PARISH COFFEE MORNING with Ann and Peter, Twyning Park, Fleet Road
Jun 14 th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION with Acorns Stall and Refreshments
		3.00pm	RIVER WALK & BLESSING: details later
Jun 21 st	Sunday	9.30am	MORNING PRAISE
Jun 28 th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments
Jun 29 th	Monday	1.30pm	Open the Book Twyning School

Have you looked at our church website recently?

Do visit our church website expertly kept up to date - thanks to **Pete Hallett**.
For details and information, look on *A Church Near You* - click on
[St Mary Magdalene - A Church Near You](#)

Readings, Readers & Hymns

9.30am unless time given	readings [small lectionary]	1 st & 2 nd readings	hymns NEH unless stated
3 rd May Easter 5 Parish Communion	Acts 7.55-60 p207 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14	Mike Jones	103 Alleluya, alleluya hearts 343 Bright the vision 146 Holy, holy, holy 485 Thy hand O God
10 th May Easter 6 Parish Communion	Acts 17.22-31 p210 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21	Nicola McKeever	64 Be thou my guardian 124 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem 374 How sweet the name 484 The Church's 1 foundation
17 th May Easter 7 Morning Praise	contemporary Acts 1.6-14	tbc	91 I danced in the morning JP 13 At the name of Jesus 192 Our Father who is in heaven 50 Give me oil in my lamp
24 th May <i>Pentecost</i> Parish Communion	Acts 2.1-21 p221 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 John 14.15-31a	Arthur Storey	137 Come down O love divine 342 Breathe on me 138 Come, Holy Ghost 139(i) Come. Thou Holy Spirit
31 st May Trinity Sunday Parish Communion	Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20 p229	Richard Bailey	62 I, the Lord of sea and sky 12 As the deer pants RED 162 Seek ye first 123 Lord the light of your love
7 th June Trinity 1 Parish Communion	Hosea 5.15-6.6 p242 Romans 4.13-25 Matthew 9.9,18-26	Muriel Russell	333 All my hope on God 272 All for Jesus 360 Firmly I believe and truly 495 God is working his purpose
14 th June Trinity 2 Parish Communion	Exodus 19.2-8a p250 Romans 5.1-5 Matthew 9.35-10.8	Chris Cole	393 Lead us heavenly Father 377 Immortal, invisible 271 Alleluya, sing to Jesus 336 Angel voices ever singing
21 st June Trinity 3 / <i>Fathers' Day</i> Morning Praise	Jeremiah 20.7-13 p254 Romans 6.1b-11 Matthew 10.24-39	tbc	tbc
28 th June Trinity 4 Parish Communion	Jeremiah 28.5-9 p260 Romans 6.12-23 Matthew 10.40-42	Mac McKeever	394 Let all the world 417 O God, our help 353 Dear Lord and Father 362 Glorious things of thee

Everyone is always welcome at all our services.

Contact us on:

Vicar:	Rev'd Canon Nick Davies	01684 850 959
Reader & Parish Lay Minister:	Angela Cole	01684 294 325
Churchwarden:	Chris Cole	01684 294 325
Hon. Treasurer:	Richard Bailey	01684 298 268
Benefice Administrator	Claire Redstone	info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

Pentecost or Whit Sunday falls on Sunday 24th May. This is what happened on that day, over 2000 years ago.



Blowing WIND and TONGUES of FLAME

Blowing wind and **TONGUES of flame**,
And then the Spirit came.

Blowing wind and **TONGUES of flame**,
And everything was changed.

Gathered in an upstairs room were
Jesus' friends, together.
But when the wind began to blow,
It wasn't just the weather!

God's Holy Spirit filled that place,
And **TONGUES of fire**, too,
Appeared on each disciple's head,
A sign of something new.

For **TONGUES of fire** soon turned into
Tongues of every nation.
And Jesus' friends could speak them all,
Without an education!

It was the feast of **PENTECOST**,
So Jews from every land
Were gathered in Jerusalem.
They didn't understand.

'These people are from Galilee
But somehow they can speak
To each of us in our own tongues,
In Latin, *French* and **GREEK!**'

But one man, not so courteous,
Said, 'This is what I think:
They're **babbling**. They make no sense.
They've had too much to drink!'

God promised this, it's coming from
The Spirit that he sends.
So Peter stood and told the crowd,
'These men are sober, friends

'The prophet Joel told us plain
That one day we'd dream dreams,
Men and women, old and young.
That day has come, it seems.

'For God's own Spirit falls on all,
The gift of **JESUS CHRIST**.
Who came to bring God's truth
And lead us all from **dark** to **LIGHT**.

'But right here in Jerusalem
That man was crucified.
You killed the one that God had sent.
He suffered here and **died**.

'So God raised Jesus from the dead,
To live and never die,
And reign for ever on a throne,
Seated at God's side.'

Upset, the people cried to Peter,
'**TELL US WHAT TO DO!**'
'Repent and be baptised,' he said.
'Receive *God's Spirit*, too!'

So that is what the people did.
Three thousand were baptized,
And followed Jesus from that day
Reborn, renewed, ALIVE.

Blowing wind and **TONGUES of flame**,
And then the Spirit came.
Blowing wind and **TONGUES of flame**,
And **EVERYTHING** was changed.

- taken from Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible



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We are part of the Benefice of **Tewkesbury with Walton Cardiff & Twynning**
with Revd Canon Nick Davies as our vicar

Services times at Tewkesbury Abbey (please check with Abbey Bulletin)

Sunday	7.30am Morning Prayer	Wednesday	9am Morning Prayer
	8am Holy Communion BCP		4pm Centering Prayer
	10.30am High Mass with Children's Church	Thursday	9am Morning Prayer
	5pm Evensong		11am Holy Communion (BCP)
Monday	9am Morning Prayer		5.30 Choral Evensong
	4pm Evening Prayer /5.30 Choral Evensong	Friday	9am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9am Morning Prayer		5.30 Choral Evensong
	12 noon Holy Communion	Saturday	9am Morning Prayer
	4pm Evening Prayer /5.30 Choral Evensong		4pm Evening Prayer

What's on at the Abbey:

THE MUSIC OF COLDPLAY by Candlelight **Saturday 9 May 2026 at 6:15 and 8:30pm** - an incredible live band & singers. Buy tickets **online**.



TEWKESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT, Saturday 16 May, 7.30

Verdi Requiem with Regency Sinfonia & soloists directed by John Hollaway. Tickets £20 from society members, the Abbey Shop, online – www.ticketsource.co.uk/t-c-s & on the door

CONTACT US on 01684 850 959

Rev'd Canon Nick Davies vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk
Benefice Administrator Claire Redstone info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk



May's Meanderings

M for May, Month, Moving, Mortality, Mosquitoes



Contributions are most welcome for the next issue –by **Wednesday 21st May**. Thank you!

Peace and blessings to you all, *Angela Cole*

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

LOCAL SERVICES 2026

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

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

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Certified Chimney Sweep, Sweep & Vacuum, Insurance Certificate Issued, Chimney & Stove Maintenance & Repairs, Bird Guards & Cows.

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