

News and views from the Parishes of Badgeworth,
Shurdington and Witcombe with
Bertham

June 2026

Three in One



St. Alban, commemorated on 22nd June, is venerated as the first-recorded British Christian Martyr

Issue number 358

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£1

Three in One Magazine

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THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

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Greenway Benefice - Badgeworth, Shurdington and Witcombe with Bentham.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15

2026 Benefice Worship Pattern

1st Sunday of the month

8am	St Paul's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11am	St Mary's	Worship

2nd Sunday of the month

8am	St Mary's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

3rd Sunday of the month

9:30	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	BCP* Morning Worship
11am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

****These are services using the Book of Common Prayer***

4th Sunday 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

***January, April, July, October at Holy Trinity Badgeworth
February, May, August, November at St Mary's Great Witcombe***

March, June, September, December at St Paul's Shurdington

5th Sunday Benefice Service at 10am "Let's Worship"

usually in Shurdington Church of England Primary School

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR NOTICEBOARDS AND ONLINE FOR SEASONAL SERVICES SUCH AS CHRISTMAS, EASTER, HARVEST ETC.

Find us on social media on Facebook:

@GreenwayChurches

SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL

School Lane, Shurdington

Lettings for groups and private functions.

Rates £25 large room, £20 small room per session

Further details from the church administrator by
emailing greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

WITCOMBE & BENTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Enquiries should be made to the Custodian

07518 137635

witcombevillagehall@gmail.com

www.witcombevillagehall.co.uk

BADGEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely old school hall is an excellent venue for meetings, rehearsals, receptions and small parties, seating a maximum of 50 people.

Reception hall, main hall, fully fitted kitchen with crockery and cutlery for 50.

Car park opposite the hall for hall users.

Hire charge £25 per session

(8am-1pm, 1-6pm, 6-11pm).

For enquiries and bookings, please email

badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com

or call 07895 764947.

Badgeworth Village Hall Management Committee

SHURDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre consists of two spacious halls, a room which links both, and a grassed open space.

Events may be booked by following the 'Bookings' link on our website : shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Email: bookings@shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Tel: 07483 303190

CONTENTS

JUNE

	page		page
Pastoral Letter	2	Witcombe & Bentham	
Listening team	5	Organisations	13
Welcome Table	6	Books and Banter	15
Save the date	7	The Messenger	16
Summer Fete	9	Gardening Society	22
Useful Phone Numbers	11	Coffee Morning	23
Shurdington Organisations	12	Coffee and chat	24
Badgeworth Organisations	13		



Contributors please note: material for the
July/August 2026 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 17th June 2026



Pastoral Letter

Vaughan
writes



June
2026

Dear Friends

June comes into the Church's calendar as part of 'ordinary time,' which begins on the Monday after Pentecost, our celebration of the outpouring of God's Spirit on the followers of Jesus, which this year fell on the 24th May. Ordinary time will take us up to our preparation for Advent and the beginning of a new Church year. For churchgoers and perhaps especially the clergy 'ordinary time' has the sound of relief about it; like a time to breathe slowly outwards and relax after the hectic period of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter (which extends to Pentecost). Ok there is a short break before Lent but it is not long enough to sit down in.

For most people though June might just signify the approach of summer – despite being the time of mid-summer's day-, of warm weather, of long evenings to relax in, of more time to be sociable, and maybe the lengthening evenings do bring with that extra light a sense of hope, of positivity even amidst trying circumstances. Generally though I suspect that life as we experience it rather than we as we would rather anticipate it carries on in much the same way – hopes are raised and sometimes fulfilled or sometimes dashed, unexpected events or news might be good or bad, time might seem to speed by or might seem interminable so that we might experience not having enough time or having too much time to fill.

These experiences are common to our humanity whether we are people of faith or none-at-all. Life can become hectic at anytime, but especially in these days when technology enables calls to be made on us that no-one would have predicted fifty years ago. It becomes more important for us to find occasions when we can be quiet, able to reflect and learn to put events or news into

proportion – in other words to make room for some peace of mind. It does mean leaving our mobile phones turned off. It is surprising just how possible this is. Walking the dog, talking to the cat, admiring the immensity of nature or the beauty of a garden, helping a neighbour, sharing inner thoughts, those thoughts we might be embarrassed about or even afraid to let out, or looking for help through prayer, which after all is only opening up to a conversation with God. It all begins in little things, whereby we look outside ourselves; what spiritually might be called self-forgetfulness, yet this is what creates relatedness. We cannot control what will happen in these moments, but we can seek them out and make time and space for something new to happen.

God after all is everywhere- it is in him that we all live and move and have our being, as Paul the apostle put it, recounting a saying from a Greek stoic philosopher.

SOWING THE SEED.

Do all the good you can.—Eccl. ix. 10.

In every way you can.—Matt. v. 16.

To all the people you can.—Gal. vi. 10.

In every place you can.—Acts x. 38.

At all the times you can.—1 Cor. xv. 58.

In the quietest way you can.—Matt. vi. 3-4.

As long as ever you can.—Rev. ii. 10.

For the sowing time will soon be over.

Benefice Diary

June

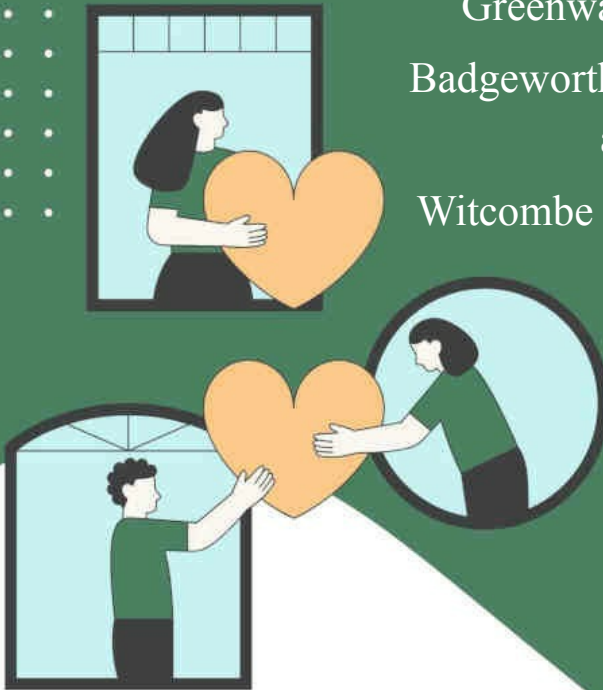
Thursday	4	Welcome table Coffee	6
Saturday	6	Coffee and Chat	24
Monday	8	Open Monday	14
Friday	12	Books and Banter	15
Saturday	13	Wheels-on-the-Green	20
		Community Choir Concert	32
Saturday	20	Gardening Society Show	22
Wednesday	24	Julian Meeting	11
Monday	29	Open Monday	14
Saturday	27	Coffee Morning	23

July

Thursday	2	Welcome Table	6
Friday	10	Books and Banter	15
Sunday	12	Witcombe Family Funday	
Monday	13	Open Monday	14
Thursday	16	Gardening Society	22
Wednesday	22	Julian Meeting	11
Saturday	25	Coffee Morning	23
Monday	27	Open Monday	14

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts
Every Thursday in term-time Community Choir

Greenway Benefice
Badgeworth, Shurdington
and
Witcombe with Bentham



LISTENING TEAM

**Do you need someone to talk to?
Someone to pray with or for you?**

We have a small, dedicated team of people ready to listen, and if you would like, we can pray with you or for you.

Our support is for anyone, if you go to church regularly, occasionally, used to or have never been. We are here to help. Please contact our Churchwardens to arrange a visit.

Holy Trinity, Badgeworth - Paul Stanfield 01242 512926

St Mary's, Witcombe - Sue Padfield 01452 862509

St Paul's, Shurdington - Rev'd Susan Cooke



The Welcome Table

for older people

Do you enjoy going out for a coffee but would like to have the opportunity to talk with others while you are out and about?

Are you a carer and would like for you both to come out for coffee?

Members of the Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Chaplaincy (CaBiC) team are great at engaging with residents in care homes but we are very aware that there are many older people, living independently, who would like to meet others for a cup of coffee and a casual catch up.

We would like to spread our wings and meet you!

Come and join us at

The Welcome Table,

at the Fiero Lounge, Bath Road GL53 7NB

Thursday 4th June

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday 6th August

10.30am = 12noon

We will have a table reserved for us and one of our Anna Chaplaincy volunteers will be there. All you need to do is order and pay for a coffee (and cake!) and join us at the table. It is all very casual and very friendly!

info@cabic.co.uk

SAVE the DATE!



WITCOMBE w BENTHAM COMMUNITY EVENT DATES

Saturday 13 June Wheels-on-the-Green +Teas

Sunday 12 July Family Fun-Day at the Cricket Club
(reserve date 19th)

Saturday 5 September (tbc) Picnic-in-the-Park

Friday 16 October The Quiz

Saturday 28 November Bingo and Fish'nChips

More details to follow

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The club was set up to raise money for the Church, the incentive being four prize draws plus a Christmas draw annually.

Each draw comprises three winning share numbers with a first prize of £100 and two runners up of £25. The Christmas draw has an additional £100 prize. That's 13 winners in a year!

This year's draws will take place at community events in June, September, December and March '26.

You are now invited to renew your shares, or to join, for the current year beginning 1st April, 2026.

Existing share holders wishing to renew their shares for another year (£12 per share) need only to pay by BACS* or by cheque* or cash sent to Sue Padfield (Churchwarden) Woodview Cottage, Birdlip Hill, Witcombe, GL34SN.

For new applicants, forms are available from Sue Padfield (01452862509 suepadfield@btinternet.com) or in church. The purchase price is £12 per share; multiple share purchases are possible.

*Cheques should be made payable to St Mary's Church 100 Club. Payments by BACS to *St Mary's Church 100 Club* 40-22-09 a/c 72514125 ref100 Club.

A vibrant, colorful illustration for a Summer Fete. At the top, a large, smiling sun is surrounded by a banner that reads 'SUMMER FETE'. The background features a field of green grass with a striped pole in the center, from which colorful ribbons hang down. Children are dancing around the pole. To the left, two women in traditional Indian attire are dancing. In the foreground, there's a large teapot, a cup of tea, and a cupcake. To the right, a red fire truck is parked, and a sign says 'START'. The overall scene is festive and cheerful.

SUMMER FETE

**BBQ & ICE CREAM
DANCING
COMMUNITY CHOIR
FACE PAINTING
UKULELE MUSIC**

**DOG SHOW
TEA AND CAKE
CRAFT STALLS
CHILDREN'S
RACES
MAYPOLE
DANCING**

**SATURDAY 30TH MAY, 12- 3PM
SHURDINGTON VILLAGE
THE GREEN AND COMMUNITY
HALLS**

Greenway Benefice Churches

How to find us:

Holy Trinity Badgeworth
Church Lane
Badgeworth
Gloucester
GL51 4UL

(Registered Charity number 1209315)

St Paul's Shurdington
School Lane
Shurdington
Cheltenham
GL51 4TF

St Mary* the Virgin Witcombe with Bentham
Great Witcombe
Gloucester
*GL3 4TS**

**turnings off Ermin Way or Birdlip Hill*

You can also see more information on A Church Near You.

Simply type "A Church Near You Badgeworth" or "A Church Near You Shurdington" or "A Church Near You Witcombe" into your search engine.



Useful Phone Numbers:



Furniture Recycling Warehouse	01452 331333
Removal of Bulky Waste	01684 295010
Glos Highways	0800 0 514 514
Faulty Streetlights	0800 0 514 514
Police (non-emergency)	101
101 is 15p, the local call number is	01452 726920
Fire/Police/Ambulance (emergency only)	999
NHS 'Out of Hours'	08454 220220
NHS Help line	111
Adult social services and District nurses	01452 328224
Samaritans	116123
Citizens Advice	01452 527202
Children's social services	01452 328213
CARE direct	0800 444000
Electricity Power Loss	0800 328 1111
Water Services & Emergencies	0800 783 4444
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Emmaus*	01452 413095

*at Chequers Road, Gloucester:

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

**at Chequers Road, Gloucester:*

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

Julian Meeting

Meeting in silence with God

Please do join us for 30 minutes of silent prayer followed
by a cup of tea together.

Time: 2:30pm Wednesday June 24th

Place: 52 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington. GL51 4ST

Ian & Wendy Davies (01242 861293)



Shurdington church and village organisations

Churchwarden	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Christine Langham	(01242) 861218
Gift Aid Officer		
Sacristan	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
Church Flowers	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
Mothers' Union	Mrs Janet Holmes	(01242) 862989
Church Hall Lettings		
Verger		
Parish Council Clerk	John Kay	07841204404
Shurdington Pre School	Kelly Clifford	07867813627
Gardening Society	Mr. G. Woodruffe	07792269353
Scout Group	Mrs Louise Slee	
	15thcheltenhamscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Shurdington Sports Club	Mr J Barnfield	(01242) 862826
Friendship Club	Mrs Maureen West	(01242) 863991
Children's Society	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505

In time of illness if you would like a visit and / or to be remembered in prayer please contact Sue Padfield (01452) 862509.

Three in One Magazine

Editor John Cummins

07795849688

e-mail address: editor3in1@gmail.com

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293

email: ilandavies@pobox.com



Witcombe & Bentham church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07582036001
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer	Mr Jon Frewin	07808912217
Verger	Mrs Jane Bell	(01452) 862558
Captain of Bells		Vacancy
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07582036001
Magazine Coordinator	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
Village Hall Enquiries Custodian		07518137635
Witcombe Social Fundraisers	Mrs Christine Dyer	(01452) 862399
Witcombe Under 5s	Kyla Hill	thevictoria@btinternet.com



Badgeworth church and Village organisations

Churchwardens	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Antoinette Wilson	(01452) 856907
PCC Treasurer		
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
Sacristan		
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs H.L. Jones	07840073143
Village Hall	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Friends of Church	Mrs Beverly Pickering	(01452) 712907
Church Flowers	Mrs Diana Brown	07887791230

Open Mondays at Shurdington Community Centre

Century Hall from 11am – 4pm
Second and last Monday of the month.

Refreshments

No charge and all are welcome.

Newspapers, jigsaws, table tennis, charge your phone or just have a chat.

Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system.

Play facilities for children and on the last Monday of the month, an **NHS run Baby Hub**.

All welcome



Supported by: **Shurdington Parish Council, Tewkesbury
Warm Spaces**

**Community Fund, Gloucester Thriving Communities,
National Grid Community Matters
Gloucestershire Community Foundation**



BOOKS & BANTER

Shurdington book club

Where: in Beauty and the Teacup

When: 6pm

Next Meeting 12th June

2026 – 2nd Fridays of the month

10th July

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

11th September 9th October

13th November 11th December

New members are always welcome.

If you'd like to join, please email
revsusancooke@gmail.com

or ask Wendy Lovett in Beauty and the Teacup
or just come along!

All welcome! Susan & Wendy.

Churches Count on Nature 2026

Churches across England and Wales are being encouraged to take part in Churches Count on Nature 2026, which will take place from Saturday 6 June to Sunday 14 June as part of Love Your Burial Ground Week.

The initiative invites churches to discover, record and celebrate the wildlife found in churchyards and burial grounds. The information collected contributes to a wider understanding of the ecological value of churchyards and burial grounds across the UK.

Churchyards can provide important habitats for wildlife, particularly in areas where green space is limited or heavily managed. Many have remained relatively undisturbed for centuries and can support a rich variety of species, including wildflowers, lichens, mosses, pollinating insects, birds and small mammals.

One of the simplest changes some churches are making is leaving certain areas of grass unmown. Allowing grass to grow longer can encourage native wildflowers to emerge naturally, providing food and shelter for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. In turn, this helps support wider ecosystems within churchyards.

Churches taking part in Churches Count on Nature in the past have often organised community events such as wildlife walks, species surveys, talks, outdoor activities and guided nature recording sessions. Many also make use of identification charts, bird boxes, and the iNaturalist phone app to help participants recognise and record the species they find.

Erica Siddall, Strategic Net Zero Carbon Lead for the Diocese of Gloucester, said:

"Many people appreciate nature and have experienced God when spending time in creation. We tend to focus on buildings, but spending time beyond the doors of the church is a great reminder that God's beautiful creation also honours Him and is worthy of our love and care. It feels good to learn more and feel more connected with your surroundings, your neighbours and God.

"In the past six months I have enjoyed starting to use the iNaturalist app, and I have also begun paying special attention to our churchyard yews. If these sound too vigorous, simple personal prayers of thanksgiving for creation are also a great starting point."

For more information about Churches Count on Nature 2026, visit <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-burial-ground-week-national-cemeteries-week-and-churches-count-on-nature/>

As part of Churches Count on Nature 2026, the Church of England and Caring for God's Acre will also host a series of lunchtime webinars on Zoom exploring different aspects of land and nature. You can find more information about these webinars at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/churches-count-nature>

GDBF supports affordable housing at Innsworth

The Diocese of Gloucester has helped open seven new affordable homes in Innsworth, near Gloucester. The homes are part of the Church Housing Association's first ever housing project.

The project was paid for with support from the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance. The rent is set at or below Local Housing Allowance levels, which means it's cheaper than many 'affordable' homes that still cost close to normal market prices. One tenant shared the impact the new home has had on their family:

"It has truly been life changing. For many years, we lived in a

very small space. Now, my four children each have their own space to sleep, grow and feel comfortable. My oldest finally has a quiet place to focus on schoolwork, and the younger ones are happier too. Our home feels peaceful for the first time in a long time.”

The project follows ideas set out in the Church of England’s *Coming Home* report in 2021. The report challenged the Church to use its land, money and influence to help tackle the housing crisis and create homes people can genuinely afford.

At the opening ceremony in April, Bishop Robert said the homes were “far more than bricks and mortar”.

“These houses are becoming real homes and communities,” he said. “This project is about hope, faith in action, and helping neighbours who are struggling to find somewhere secure to live.

“We hope this inspires similar projects across the country.”

Read the full article at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/gdbf-supports-affordable-housing-at-innsworth/>

Events and training

More details for all these events at

gloucester.anglican.org/events

Community day, St Paul and St Stephen’s Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL1 5AH, Saturday 6 June, 10am to 2pm.

A family friendly day of fellowship with arts and crafts, food, stalls, and a bouncy castle. <https://www.stpaulstephenglos.org.uk/>

Gloucester Cathedral organ festival, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, Saturday 13 June to Monday 15 June. A celebration of the unveiling of Gloucester Cathedral’s new organ with a

weekend of gala concerts, family performances, recitals, and workshops featuring leading musicians.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/organ-festival>

‘Songs for a summer evening’, St Philip and St James Church, Leckhampton, GL50 2DD, Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. An evening with performances from The Cheltenham Singing Groups’ The Tuesdays and The Cheltones, alongside The Ladybrook Singers, raising money for Maggie’s Cancer Care. <https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/wqlll6xn>

Sailing Ships of Sound: An Orchestral Premiere by Crimea Butler-Downton, St Laurence Stroud, The Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1JL, Saturday 27 June, 7.30pm to 10.30pm An evening featuring the premiere of ‘*Sailing Ships of Sound*’, the latest orchestral work by Crimea Butler-Downton, whose compositions are created entirely by hand despite total visual impairment. https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event_custom/sailing-ships-of-sound-an-orchestral-premiere-by-crimea-butler-downton/

Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

Out of the Mouths of Babes

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to, “honour thy father and thy mother,” she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat, one little girl answered, “Thou shall not kill.”



WHEELS
(and tea)
on the GREEN

Saturday 13th June

Midday until 16:00

*On Little Witcombe Village
Green GL3 4SY*

**REFRESHMENTS
SERVED**

**From midday-14:00
Burgers, Soft Drinks**

From 14:00-16:00

**A community event
for everyone**

**All types of wheels
welcome**

St Paul's, Shurdington

Churchyard

In order to protect this important and beautiful churchyard we politely request that everyone adhere to the following principles.

- All waste should be disposed of in the bins provided.
- Kerb stones, fencing, stone chippings and statues are not permitted.
- Artificial flowers are not permitted.
- Flowers may only be placed in a non-glass removable container that has been sunk into the ground.
- Trees, shrubs, or bushes are not permitted to be planted in any grave.
- The Parish priest, Churchwardens or whoever is authorised by the PCC to look after the churchyard is permitted to remove unsightly flowers and any items not permitted.

Please be aware that we will have to remove items that are not permitted under these regulations.

If you have any of these items in the churchyard please could you collect when you are able.

We will be clearing any remaining items on 25/07/2026.

They will be stored for collection until 09/01/2027

Thank you

Churchwardens & P.C.C.



A full copy of churchyard regulations can be obtained by application to the Churchwardens or the Benefice office.

They are also available on the Diocese of Gloucester website or by following the QR code.



SHURDINGTON & BADGEWORTH GARDENING SOCIETY



Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (unless it is a show month), at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall.

On 20th June we will be holding our show, there will be lots of roses on display as well as other plants. There will be a plant sale, raffle and of course refreshments. Please try and visit, we are open from 3pm and it is only 50p to enter. If you are interested in showing then please contact Gary Woodruffe (07792269353), we will be on hand to help so don't worry if you have never shown before.

Thursday 16th July will be a talk by Robert Bryant on the natural world of Gloucestershire.

Hoping for some sunny warm weather and to seeing you at one of these meetings.

Stay safe keep gardening
Janette Willis (Secretary)

Quotable Quotes

Opera in English is, in the main, just about as sensible as cricket in Italian. anon

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't.

- Henry Ward Beecher

There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have. Jon Herold



4th SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

**SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL
10am to Noon**

27th JUNE, 25th JULY

22nd AUGUST, 26th SEPTEMBER

24th OCTOBER, 21st NOVEMBER

**RAFFLE, BOOKS, PLANTS,
COFFEE, CAKE, BRIC-A-BRAC**

**IN AID OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE
CHURCH HALL**





Sat 6th June

**10am-12noon
Badgeworth Village Hall**

Coffee and home-made cakes, good company,
a raffle & the morning papers.

Please bring items for the
Foodbank box.

**A community event
organized by
Holy Trinity Church
and sponsored by
Badgeworth Village Hall**



Greenway Gifts



Food Bank

If you need some help with groceries, please come along to our non-referral food bank, every Monday, **except Bank Holidays**, between 9am and 10am, at St Paul's Church Hall. This is for Shurdington, Witcombe, Bentham and Badgeworth, and those associated with Shurdington School and Shurdington Preschool.



Cake and Chat

Every 3rd Monday of the month we have cake and chat. Free & all welcome!

If you would like to support the Food Bank, you can offer long dated items by leaving them in our churches, dropping in on a Monday morning, or you can donate directly to Shurdington Parochial Church Council using the QR code below. Please use the references GIFTS. Thank you!





Mothers' Union Celebration Eucharist

Sunday 26th July 10:30am

Holy Trinity Church,
Badgeworth
Everyone is welcome.



150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in
Lighting the way for generations to come

BENTHAM CHURCHYARD

CAN YOU HELP?

The PCC of St Mary's Church is responsible for the upkeep of the Churchyard at Bentham, where many local people have relatives buried, and it is important to keep it looking good.

We should be very grateful for some help with mowing – we have a rota with some generous volunteers, but we could do with more to lighten their load. If you think you could help or would like more information, please contact Sue Padfield (Churchwarden) on 01452 862509 or suepadfield@btinternet.com

BEING ECO CHURCH CITIZEN SCIENCE

You may have realised that this series of articles looks a little deeper at the suggestions in our weekly pew sheet, which are provided by A Rocha, sponsors of the eco church scheme. As part of caring for God's creation, we are asked to take time to become more aware of the environment around us, the local wildlife and plants, and our impact on the planet.

This month we are encouraged to take part in a citizen science project. Citizen science is a way for ordinary people get involved in scientific research, data collection or increased awareness of nature.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PROJECTS RUNNING IN JUNE:

#30 days Wild in June Organised by The Wildlife Trusts

The family resource pack is full of ideas to help you find out more about nature, help nature in your local area and celebrate all things wild.

World Refill Day 16th June 2026

This is a Global Day of Action that asks people to reduce single-use plastics by switching to reusable and refillable options. It highlights how small everyday changes can help cut waste and protect the environment.

Simple ways to get involved:

- Carry a reusable water bottle or coffee cup
- Reuse containers for takeaways and lunches
- Choose products with less packaging
- Reduce single-use plastics at home
- Check what can be recycled locally

18th June 2026 Clean Air Day

The UK's largest air pollution campaign. Download resources to find out how more, learn how to reduce your exposure and perhaps write to your MP about the issue.

April-October – Sunset Survey for bats

No experience needed for this fun Sunset Survey from the Bat Conservation Trust. All you have to do is take a walk in your local area, watch from your window or balcony, or spend an hour in your outdoor space at dusk (or dawn, for the early risers) and keep a look out for bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Year round - The Big Hedgehog Map

Spotted a spiky visitor in your garden or local area? Add it to the Big Hedgehog Map! Your sighting will help the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society map how these beloved mammals are doing, plus you can see where else hedgehogs are being spotted near you.

Want to do this again?

There are plenty more ongoing projects, taking place at different times of the year. In early spring you can even Count Walruses from Space!

Find out more details of the highlighted projects at:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>

<https://www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/>

<https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/getting-started/sunset-survey>

A Quiet Treasure in Badgeworth

Approaching the church feels less like visiting a monument and more like stepping gently into the long continuity of English village life. The churchyard, edged with old gravestones and mature trees, has the hush that only ancient parish churches seem able to hold. Beyond it rises Holy Trinity itself: modest in scale, but rich in history.

At first glance, the building appears unmistakably medieval, and indeed much of what we see today dates from the early fourteenth century. In fact, the first step into the church is believed to be a medieval tombstone. The south aisle is particularly beautiful, adorned with delicate “ballflower” stone carving, tiny ornamental motifs fashionable during the Decorated Gothic period. Such craftsmanship feels surprisingly refined for a small rural church, and architectural historians have long considered Badgeworth’s examples among the finest in Gloucestershire.

Inside, the church possesses that rare atmosphere created not by grandeur but by survival. Centuries have accumulated here gently rather than dramatically. Medieval masonry sits comfortably alongside Georgian memorials, Victorian repairs and wood carving, and always the quiet practicalities of a living parish church.

Among the church’s historic furnishings survives an Elizabethan Commandment Board, a wooden inlay panel displaying the Ten Commandments, dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth. To modern eyes it may seem a simple object, but it represents one of the great turning points in English religious history.

Following the upheavals of the Reformation, churches under Elizabeth I increasingly replaced medieval imagery with scriptural texts in English. Commandment boards became visual statements of the new Protestant settlement: teaching tools as much as decoration, intended to place scripture plainly before parishioners.

Many such boards disappeared over the centuries. Some were destroyed during later church restorations; others were painted over or discarded when fashions changed. That one should survive in a small Gloucestershire village church is quietly remarkable.

Standing before it, you can't help but wonder how many generations have worshipped beneath the same words, Tudor farmers, Civil War parishioners, Georgian families, Victorian labourers, wartime congregations, and today's villagers alike. Holy Trinity does not merely preserve history; it carries it continuously.

Outside once more, the churchyard returns the visitor to stillness. Birds move through the trees, rabbits run around the churchyard. The stones lean gently with age. The countryside presses close around the church, as though protecting it, an island of calm in a world filled with activity.

Daniel Newman

Hall availability

Are you looking for a lovely village hall for your meeting or activity session?

From Easter, we have availability at **Badgeworth Village Hall** for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, 8am -1pm, for the bargain hire charge of £25. We also have current availability for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons each week (1-6pm), again at £25 per session.

The hire charge includes use of the car park, all kitchen facilities, heat and light.

If you are interested, please email badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com to make a booking or to arrange to see the hall.

<https://www.badgeworthvillagehall.org.uk/>

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What is the moon and how does it work?

By Jocelyn Newman (Age 9)

If you are curious about space and the moon, this text is for you. The text tells you about who went to the moon, is the moon made of cheese? And the phases of the moon too. If you are interested, please read more.

The Moon's phases

Get ready, let's go on a journey of a lifetime round the moon's amazing phases, so get your camera ready for some pictures you'll never forget. Let's start with the first phase, the new moon, it disappears like a ghost. Next, we have the smiling moon, it always makes me smile, it's the waxing crescent. After this there is the last quarter, it is like a cherry split in half.

What is the moon made of?

On the outside of the moon the surface is like bumps all around it. The moon gets its light from reflecting the sun, isn't that interesting. The moon is made up of rock, dust and minerals not cheese. But I have something more interesting, did you know that the moon has always light parts and dark parts and there is water on the moon surface in ice. Under the surface of the moon is the core and so it is not empty or made of gas.



Who went to the moon?

Let's carry on our adventure with wondering who went to the moon. Have you heard about Neil Armstrong? He is a very famous person because he was the first man on the moon, how amazing is that? I'm sorry that is short but I haven't got much time because our adventure is almost over.

This journey has come to an end, we

have seen the many phases of the moon. We have answered the question is the moon made of cheese, who went to the moon. I'm sad our journey has ended but if you like the amazing facts you can join on another journey.

Below is a transcript of a booklet compiled by Mrs. Stella Adams with information gleaned from many sources especially Mr. Ken Twinning. The booklet was sold for 30 pence for fund raising for the new Social Centre. It gives a short history of the birth of the first Village Hall in Shurdington.

A POTTED HISTORY - THE OLD VILLAGE HALL IN CHURCH LANE

After the first world war the people of Shurdington (then a much smaller population) began to realise that there was no place in the locality where any community activities could take place. An informal committee of well-intentioned persons established itself to discuss ways and means to remedy this situation.

A lady of rather strong character, who was a member of that group, became impatient when things did not move forward quickly enough, and took matters into her own hands!

In 1925 Miss Rose Herbert Morris (known locally as Miss Byng Morris), received a gift of twenty pounds from a relative. She seized the opportunity to buy the Old Malt House, which was a half-derelict building in Church Lane, situated on the opposite side to the present police station. Other members of the committee felt that this was very high handed, as she had not consulted them about the purchase!

Obviously this was a lady who preferred actions rather than words. She was ready to commit her own money when she would demonstrably make no monetary profit.

If she were my relative I should be proud to have her as an ancestor.

The story has been told that Miss Byng Morris kept two goats. On

one occasion she had to go to a funeral in Gloucester. Rather than allow her charges the discomfort of not being milked when they should have been, she took them on the train in the guards van. After the funeral she milked them in the corner of the churchyard before going about her business.

The conveyance of the Old Malt House was in her own and two other names, which meant that they could dispose of the premises without prior consultation, and the village would still be without a hall.

She levelled the ruined walls, and caused the upper half to be built with white asbestos sheeting. The roof was of corrugated asbestos. Windows and doors were obtained from army surplus from the 1914-1918 war. There was an army surplus depot at Quedgeley.

It was several years before a proper floor could be put in. A central heating system was constructed from an old iron stove and large iron pipes were at shoulder level all round the hall. A small stage was constructed at one end and Miss Pat Hitch's mother ran a concert party. There were also other efforts at entertainment and social activities. In 1931 and 1932 the village began to extend along the main road towards Cheltenham.

In the early 1930s there was evidently some concern over the informal conduct of affairs, and finally there came into being a Voluntary Deed of Trust, dated 5th June 1935, which established a constitution and rules for the management of the Village Hall. Amongst other things, it named the first provisional committee, and set out the procedure for the election of the future management committee.

In 1950 a small piece of ground behind and adjacent to the hall was purchased for £48 with a view to extending the hall, but this never came to fruition..

It is interesting to note from this constitution that the management were required 'to pay the trustees, six pounds per annum for repairing the exterior of the premises and insuring the same against fire' .
(To be continued)

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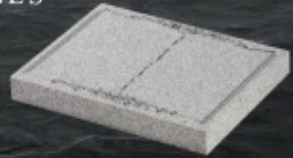
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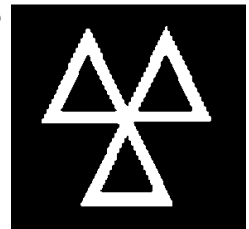
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