



NEWSLETTER – July 2026

PCCs Awayday

On Saturday 11th July the PCCs of all three churches in our Benefice met at Tisbury. The day consisted of time to pray together, to discuss our work, to break bread together and to share Holy Communion. There was also the opportunity to explore the beauty of St John's Church with its ancient yew tree in the churchyard and the River Nadder flowing by. Breakout groups met by individual church and talked about mission and vision. Each church is aware of its worries (practical and financial, mainly) but is looking forward with optimism. Thanks are due to Revd Becca for organising this day and for providing lunch.



The formal part of the meeting took place in the Hinton Hall, Tisbury, which is the hall of St John's Church, and located immediately next door (see above).

The day closed after the service in the church – the photo left shows Revd Becca preparing the altar. Above her is the very beautiful and impressive new east window completed in 2024 as a memorial to the many people who contributed to its cost. The designer is the leading stained glass artist Thomas Denny, whose work can be seen all over England. This window has recently been declared winner of the Art and Christianity Award 2025/26 in the category 'For a permanent art commission within the building or grounds of a place of worship in the UK.'

For more details, see <http://www.tisburyparishchurch.org/ewindow/>

Gillingham Rising

This initiative, recently launched by the Gillingham Town Council, is a "community-led initiative bringing more life, footfall and community spirit into Gillingham through events, local ideas and town pride." Unfortunately, the date of the opening event on the Town Meadow clashed with the PCCs Awayday. Nevertheless, St Mary's was represented by a popular Messy Church table with children's activities organised by Kate Wickson and Lea Root. They shared a table with Gillingham Community Cinema which screens in the Vicarage School Room.

Buildings Update

The vaulted tomb discovered during the churchyard paths work remains fenced off for safety reasons. The structural engineer's report has arrived, proposing a way to make it safe. The Town Council (who have responsibility) will now approach the Diocesan Advisory Committee about getting Faculty permission to carry out the work and will then have to find the finance. Work on the Chancel roof project is proceeding behind the scenes. More news when there is any!

Cakes for the Show

Please could all bakers start thinking what they are going to make for this year's Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Church Tent (August 19th and 20th). We prefer tray bakes, loaf cakes or small cupcakes for children. Nothing creamy, please. For information, contact Kate Wickson 01747 833663.