



BISHAM TOGETHER

The Monthly Newsletter
from All Saints Bisham
July 2026

How on earth did we get to July so quickly?! It only seems five minutes since we were talking about Easter, and now here we are with strawberries, sun cream, rain clouds, recent heatwaves — and quite a lot of sport!

Whether you're following the cricket, enjoying the tennis from Queen's, Eastbourne or Wimbledon, or perhaps keeping half an eye on the FIFA World Cup, there's something lovely about this time of year when life seems to spill outdoors a bit more — although preferably with a bit of shade and a cold drink nearby!

We meet in gardens, linger a little longer over coffee, chat by the river, catch up at the school gate or on the sidelines, and generally enjoy the gift of being together. And that feels very much part of church life too.

Jesus so often met people in the ordinary places of life — by the lake, at meals, on the road, in the middle of everyday conversations — and perhaps July is a good reminder that God is not only found in the quiet and holy moments, but also in the laughter, friendship and gentle conversations that make up ordinary life.

Carol

Team Vicar



Church Life

Worship & Events:

- Every Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints Bisham
- First Sunday of every month: 8am Book of Common Prayer Service
 - **Next BCP service: 2nd August**

Sundays at All Saints...

In July we will be coming to the end of our journey through the story of Joseph, as we continue thinking about **Hope in the Mess of Life**. Joseph's story has taken us through family conflict, betrayal, waiting, disappointment and unexpected twists — all the sort of things that real life is made of!

As we finish the story, we will be reflecting on reconciliation, hope for the journey home, and the deep encouragement that, even when life feels confusing or messy, we can still trust in the goodness of God.

Then, from **26th July**, we will begin a new sermon series looking at some of the **Psalms**. The Psalms are such a wonderful part of the Bible because they give voice to the whole range of human life and feeling — joy and thankfulness, fear and sadness, frustration and hope, doubt and trust, praise and longing. They remind us that we can bring our whole selves to God, not just the neat and tidy bits!

Members of all four congregations in the Benefice were invited to suggest some of their favourite Psalms, so do come along as we explore them together — and find out whether any of our favourites have made it into the series!

...And in other news this month:

Giving Thanks for Our Churchwarden



In June, our Churchwardens' Visitation Service was led by Associate Archdeacon Chris Bull and Archdeacon Cassa Messervy, at All Saints, High Wycombe on 22nd June.

A Visitation Service is the annual service where churchwardens are formally admitted to their role for the year ahead, having been elected by their churches.

It is a chance to recognise the important responsibilities they carry — caring for the church building, supporting the clergy, helping church life run smoothly, and generally knowing where everything is when the vicar doesn't!

It was lovely to give thanks for the faithful work of churchwardens across the deanery, and to encourage them as they begin another year of service. We are especially grateful for our own Churchwarden, Mark Garrad, who is fantastic — hardworking, wise, practical, endlessly patient and wonderfully supportive.

All Saints benefits enormously from all that he does, much of it quietly behind the scenes, and we are absolutely delighted that, after only the gentlest twisting of his arm, he is continuing in the role for another year!

A Wonderful Supporters' Evening!

At the end of June, we held our Supporters' Evening at All Saints, and it really was a wonderful occasion. The evening was an opportunity for the wider community to come together, to enjoy being in the church, and to hear a little more about how we can all partner together in supporting All Saints — practically, financially and spiritually.



We are hugely grateful to Sean Wheeler and some of the Bisham Church Friends, who helped us put the evening together so beautifully, and to everyone from the Bisham Church family who welcomed, served, chatted, poured drinks, provided food, washed up, and generally helped the whole evening feel so warm and relaxed. It was lovely to

see so many conversations happening over drinks and a buffet; the church looked beautiful, and there were lots of lovely talking points around the building, including the chance to have a thumb through one of our burial register books dating back to 1849!

We were very grateful to Sheila, who gave a fascinating talk about the history of worship at All Saints and its links with the local community over the past 900 years. Tim then helped us think about what it is like to run a church today, including some of the very real costs involved in caring for the building and keeping everything going. I then spoke a little about the future, and how each generation has, in its own way, had to decide that places like All Saints matter enough to be carried forward for those who come after us.



Our history is incredibly precious, but we must never lose sight of why we are really here: at its heart, the church exists to remind people that they are loved by God, never forgotten, and never beyond hope.



Perhaps one of the loveliest things about the evening was the sound of the church so full of noise, conversation and laughter. We welcomed familiar faces, faithful supporters, regular coffee morning attendees, some of our wedding couples, and even a few people who simply happened to be passing by and were drawn in!

It felt like a real glimpse of what All Saints can be at its best: a place of welcome, warmth, friendship and hope at the heart of the village.

The evening has given us lots of food for thought about how we continue to grow those connections and gently reach out into the village in the months and years ahead.

Come and See: Bible Study at All Saints

Bible Study Group – All Saints Bisham

The Parables of Jesus





Come and join us for a gentle and relaxed Bible Study group as we explore the Parables of Jesus together.

You don't need to know lots about the Bible, and there's no pressure to read aloud or say anything unless you want to. Just come as you are, enjoy coffee and refreshments, and share the journey of faith together as we discover how Jesus' stories — full of warmth, humour, wisdom, surprise and hope — still speak into ordinary life today.



We will meet fortnightly from **10am to 11.30am**, beginning on **Thursday 16th July** and running until **Thursday 24th September**.



It would be great if you took the plunge and came along — you might be surprised by how much you enjoy it!



Most sessions will take place on Thursdays, with just one small change to note: one session will be on **Wednesday 26th August** instead of the Thursday.

⇒ Go on! You might be surprised by how much you enjoy it! ⇒

We are delighted to be starting a new, gentle Bible Study group at All Saints Bisham, beginning on Thursday 16th July, from 10am to 11.30am. It will run fortnightly mainly on a Thursday, with one exception in August.

We'll be looking together at different parts of the Bible, starting with some of the stories Jesus told, known as parables, and thinking about what they might still be saying to us today.

You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and there will be no pressure to read aloud or say anything unless you want to.

There will be coffee, cake, and time to chat and connect with others as we share the journey of faith together.

Do come along — you are very welcome!

Caring for Our Church



A huge thank you to everyone who helps care for All Saints in so many practical ways. Recently, a number of repairs and jobs have been carried out around the church, including Mark and Hamish cutting the hedge, and John repairing and refitting the door closer.

These things may not always be noticed straight away, but they make such a difference to the life, safety and welcome of our church. We are also very grateful to all those who clean the church so faithfully, arrange flowers, serve tea and coffee after services, and quietly help in many other ways.



All these acts of service, large and small, are deeply appreciated.

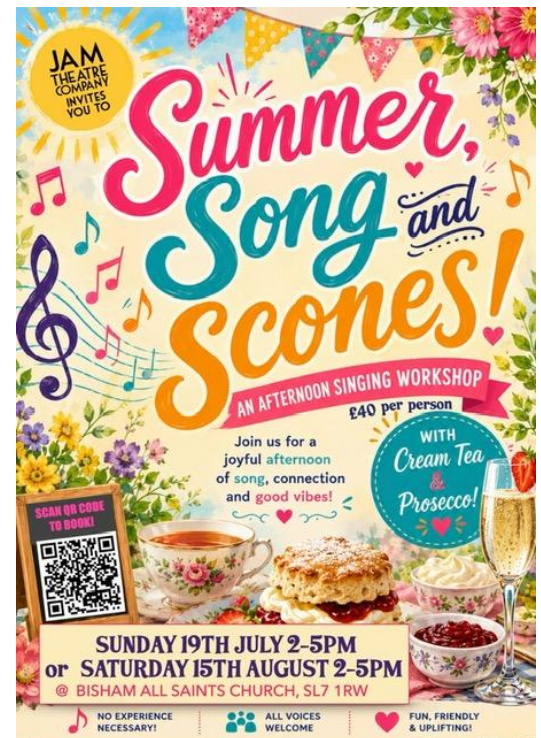
Summer, Song & Scones

Come and have an afternoon of Singing and Cream tea with friends!

Singing has been proven to be good for mental health providing oxytocin and endorphins to make you feel great!

Your Singing Coach for this workshop is Jo Carter, who has worked extensively in the TV, Music and Theatre industry working with names including Spice Girls, Lionel Richie, Shania Twain, Mariah Carey, Sting, and more. She will get you singing fabulous well loved pop songs - and half way through, we'll stop for a cream tea and glass of prosecco sat outside the beautiful church by the river Thames enjoying the glorious sunshine!

This really is a fabulous treat that you deserve! You don't have to read music or even be good at singing! Just come along and we guarantee you will enjoy yourself!



Two dates to choose from Sunday 19th July 2-5pm or Saturday 15th August 2-5pm

Book now £40 for the 3-hour workshop with lyric book, cream tea, coffee, tea, prosecco and water included.

Bisham Church Friends

Community Connections at All Saints Bisham

Our monthly History Coffee Morning took place in the middle of the recent heatwave, so we were especially grateful to the 20 brave souls who ventured out to join us, along with special thanks to Sheila for all her hard work with History Coffee mornings, and tours of the church.

Those who came were rewarded with another fascinating and engaging talk from Sheila, along with the usual coffee, conversation and warm fellowship.

Our next History Coffee Morning is on 24th July.



Afternoon Tea at All Saints



We're trying something new this summer with an Afternoon Tea at All Saints, on 9th August from 2-4pm.

There's no charge to come along, but donations will be welcome on the day. This is very much a trial, so if it proves popular, we hope it may become something we repeat in the future!

Do come and spend a relaxed afternoon with us — enjoying tea, cake and good company in our lovely cool church, if there's a heatwave, or outside by the river if the weather is kind.

Bisham CofE Academy

Bisham Academy: Back Together Again

Following the flood at Bisham School during the May half term, we are very pleased to share that the school is now back up and running.

It has been lovely to continue welcoming the children into church during this period. Early in June, they joined us for a special Ascension Day assembly, and we look forward to welcoming them again for their Prizegiving Assembly and Leavers Assembly on 17th July.

Essential repair works are still continuing at the school, so two temporary classrooms have been delivered to help support staff and pupils during this transition period. We continue to hold the whole school community in our prayers and are grateful for all those working so hard to keep school life running as smoothly as possible.

A couple of upcoming events for the school are the School Fayre on Sunday 5th July, and the School Show on Tuesday 7th July. Do go along and support our village school if you can!

Community Notices

Upcoming Dates:

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| • 5th July | School Summer Fayre | 2pm |
| • 7th July | School Summer Show | 7pm |
| • 16th July | Bible Study | 10-11.30am |
| • 19th July | Summer, Song and Scones | 2-5pm |
| • 24th July | History Coffee Morning | 10am-12noon |
| • 26th July | Open Church Tour | 1-3pm |
| | please see website for booking details. | |
| • 30th July | Bible Study | 10-11.30am |

Contact us:

Parish Office (Marlow)	01628 481806	parish.office@4u-team.org
Rev Carol Cooper	07774 061944	carol.cooper@4u-team.org
Mark Garrad (Churchwarden)	07738 029086	garrad.mark@gmail.com
Daphne Dru (Safeguarding)	07717 441437	Daphne.dru@4u-team.org

Community Gallery

A few moments from the life of our church and community this month.....



Supporters Evening!

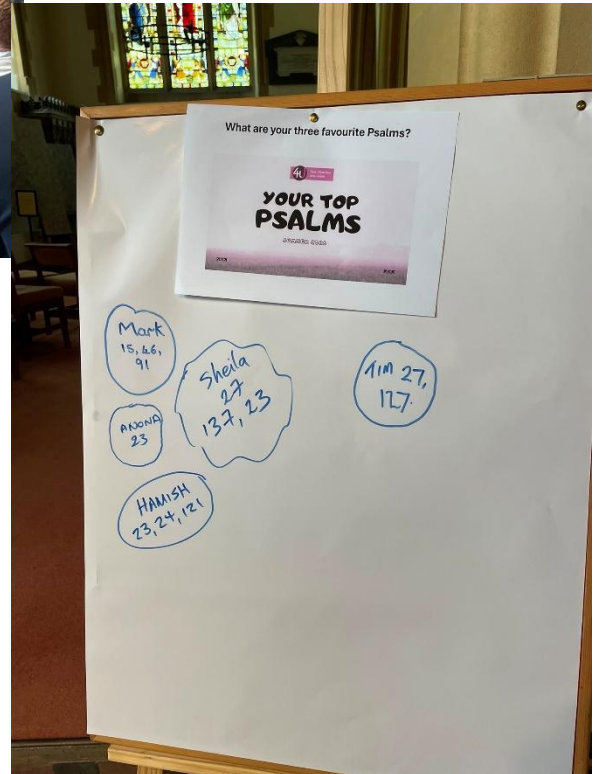




Fixing the door fixer!



Supporters Evening!



**Bisham
takes up the
“Three Favourite
Psalms” challenge!**



English teacher needed – apply ASB!