



NEWSLETTER – August 2026

New Team Vicar for the Benefice

We are delighted to announce that on Sunday 26th July Revd Becca was able to tell the congregation in St Mary's that Revd Philippa Sargent (*right*) is being appointed Team Vicar to the Benefice. She is, of course, very well known and loved here already, having held Permission to Officiate for a number of years.

This is a half time appointment and the days on which Revd Philippa will work are still being decided.

A Licensing Service will take place as soon as it can conveniently be arranged, possibly in September.

The appointment comes after advertisements and a thorough interview process involving representatives of all our churches, the Archdeacon Penny Sayer and the Bishop of Sherborne, Karen Gorham.

Revd Philippa is keen to become more involved in the life of the Benefice, improving links with young people and with the whole community.



Cakes for the Church Tent



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.

Ride and Stride 2026 – Saturday 12th September

Do consider joining us for a walk round the bounds of Gillingham – and sponsoring the team.



Gillingham Community Cinema in the Vicarage School Room

After the summer holidays, the Community Cinema will be adding streaming from the Royal Ballet and Opera and from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to its offering. Look out for details nearer the time.