

## **Curate's Chronicles – August 2026 (Riding High or Revved up Rev!)**



*“Four wheels move the body, but two wheels move the Soul”*

*- Lani Lynn Vale*

There is even an old joke that King David in the Old Testament was the very first biker - how do we know this, well the Bible tells us that "his Triumph was heard across the land!"

But back to my reflection, having endured yet another hour-long tail-back on the A14 heading towards Cambridge, I sat in my car envious of the motorcyclists zooming by. "I'm sure it can't be that difficult to learn" I thought.

Shortly after, I read about Elspeth Beard, the British architect who in 1982, at just 23 years old, became the first British woman to ride a motorcycle solo around the world on a 1974 BMW. That was the final push I needed. I booked my lessons. My sons thought I had gone completely bonkers, but I took to it quickly. Soon, I was happily swooshing along our Suffolk country lanes, discovering picturesque villages and then onto exploring the beautiful Norfolk coast.

However, it took me a good while to brave the A14 and find the confidence to "get a wiggle on" in the fast lane. To face the dual carriageway, I said goodbye to my 500cc Suzuki and hello to a 750cc Moto Guzzi Café Classic. With its drop handlebars, inverted forks, and gleaming chrome, it looked lovely. Crucially, it was the only bike with a bigger engine that actually allowed me to put both feet flat on the ground! Suddenly, the dreaded daily commute was transformed. I started arriving at work with a smile on my face, finding the journey energising, economical, efficient, and thoroughly fun.

One of the best parts of biking is the wonderful camaraderie. Just the other day, I was having breakfast in the beautiful village of Finchingfield—a well-known biker destination—when two riders asked to join my table. They were absolutely delighted to discover that the local Rev was eager to see their bikes and hear all about their route for the day!

You can imagine my delight, then, when I recently learned that our very own Server at Clare Church, the lovely Susie Thompson, is no stranger to two wheels either! It seems the biking bug is catching in the benefice.

You have probably heard of the Hell's Angels, but did you know we have "Heaven's Angels" here in the UK (OK, they are actually called the Christian Motorcyclists' Association (CMA) but they are really nice

*people, and I am sure Heaven would approve!)* Their members believe that "as motorcyclists there is nothing more exciting than riding our bikes, and as Christians we have discovered that there is nothing as fulfilling as knowing Jesus personally."

See you on the road—or in the pews!

**With every Blessing,**

**Revd Dr Karen Smith**  
**Curate**