

Cherwell Valley

Catch-up

SEPTEMBER 2026

St Mary - **Ardley with Fewcott**

St Olave - **Fritwell**

The Chapel - **Heyford Park**

St Mary - **Lower Heyford & Caulcott**

St James - **Somerton**

The Annunciation - **Souldern**

St Mary - **Upper Heyford**



September has arrived and our thoughts turn to Harvest!

But it has come a little sooner this year following the long hot dry summer and the early harvesting of the crops . One Church – Somerton – has brought forward their Harvest Festival as a result this year. They start our 'round' of Harvest Festivals on Sunday 6th September. Full details of our Harvest Services are elsewhere in these pages.

More than ever now the Harvest Festival is an important celebration. We decorate our Churches with the rich ripe mature colours and aromas of fruit and produce of our localities. They add a stunning admirable beauty. In our ever-changing world with its many factions and divisions in all walks of life the Harvest Festival stops us in our tracks and reminds us of the abundance, goodness and generosity of God in His creation and of our part in it

Climate change is adding a further importance to this Festival. We are forced to look at the way we respect our relationship in God's creation and our responsibilities for its sustainability of it, and confess our lack of doing so. The Church of England has recently been looking at how our Orthodox Church brothers and sisters have always kept September as a month of the celebration of Creation. It has just added a new Feast Day for the first Sunday in September: the 'Festival of Creation in Christ' and has produced a series of readings and prayers to continue to use through the course of the month. The traditional Harvest Festival is of course part of this and together they offer greater opportunities to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, also to reflect on our responsibility to care for the natural world.

Psalms 104 is one of the suggested readings, and it is a magnificent hymn of praise to the wonders and mysteries of God's creation. Against the backdrop of climate and environmental crises, it offers us words and reflections with which to pray on God's abundance, generosity, renewal, sustainability, and hope in Christ.

May this Harvest season help us to rejoice in God's gifts, to cherish the world entrusted to us, and to renew our commitment to live thankfully and responsibly within God's good creation. "*When you send forth your Spirit, they [the Lord's works] are created, and you renew the face of the earth*" (Ps 104 v 32).

Rev Andrew Foran

AROUND THE BENEFICE

Farewell to Kath, Phil and Paddington



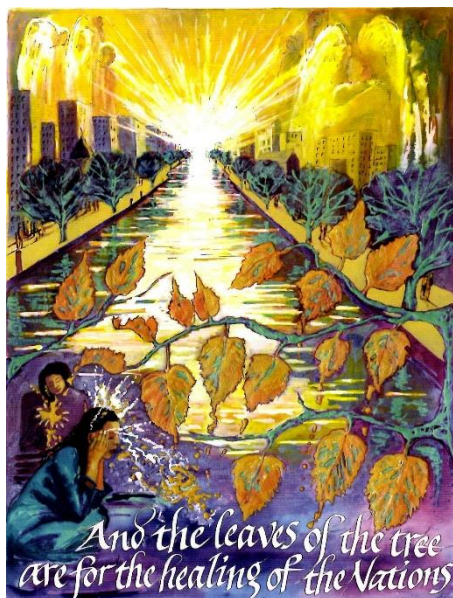
A lovely Benefice service was held at ABVM, Souldern followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch at St Olave's, Fritwell to sadly say farewell to Kath & Phil on their last Sunday with us here in the Cherwell Valley as they move to their new Parish in Formby.

We thank them for all that they have been and everything they have done to help us grow as a church and the friendship they have given us. They will be very sadly missed and we wish them both every Blessing in the next phase of their ministry.



This lovely Prayer
Tree,
Was gifted to
churches of the
Cherwell Valley
Benefice
By Rev Kath and
Rev Phil Cooke
At their last service
on
30th August 2026





30.8.26
To
All our friends in Cherwell valley
Benefice,

Thank-you so much for all
you have given to us during
our time here. Your kindness,
care, warm welcome and
much good humour has meant
a lot to us. You are very
special people in a beautiful
valley and we'll continue to
pray for God's rich blessing for
you all. With love,
Kath + Phil xxxx

The Prayer Tree will be rotated round the churches of the Benefice on a monthly basis. Please write your prayers on the leaves provided and they will be collected regularly for prayer.

Order of rotation: Week commencing Monday 14th Sept – Fritwell;
Monday 21st Sept – Souldern; Monday 28th Sept - Ardley; Monday 5th
October – HPC Chapel; Monday 12th October – Upper Heyford;
Monday 19th October – Lower Heyford.



Sunday 13th Sept

11:00am: Service

(non-perishable food gifts
please for Heyford Park Pantry)

12:30pm Lunch

**Bring & Share, finger food +
puddings**

2:00pm parish walk

Length & duration shaped by turnout

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday Worship	6th September	13th September	20th September	27th September
Ardley w Fewcott	9.30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)	9:30am Family Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Family HARVEST Service
Fritwell		8:30am 1662 HC	9.30am Family HARVEST Communion 10:30am Wild Worship	6pm Evensong
Lower Heyford and Caulcott	11am BCP Holy Communion (1662)	11am HARVEST & LUNCH	11am Family Worship	11am Family Communion
Somerton	6pm HARVEST Evensong	9:30am Sunday Club	11am Matins with BCP Holy Communion (1662)	9.30am Family Service with Communion
Souldern	10.30am Wild Worship	11am Sung Communion		10.30am Family Church HARVEST
Upper Heyford	9.30am Family Communion	6pm Evensong		9.30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)
Heyford Park Chapel	HEYFORD ARK Sunday 20th September 4pm MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES Wednesday 2nd & 16th September @ HPC			

What's on at
The Chapel
Heyford Park



DURING THE WEEK

VISIONS OF THE KINGDOM

in the Gospels of
Mathew, Mark & John
*(based on each Sunday's
Gospel Reading)*

Alternate Mondays starting
7th September
7-8:30pm

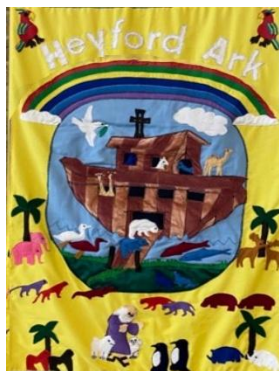
**NB: at The Rectory,
Heyford Park**

Mid-Week COMMUNION

alternate Wednesdays
2nd & 16th September
10am

followed by

Bible Study at 10:45



SUNDAYS

HEYFORD ARK

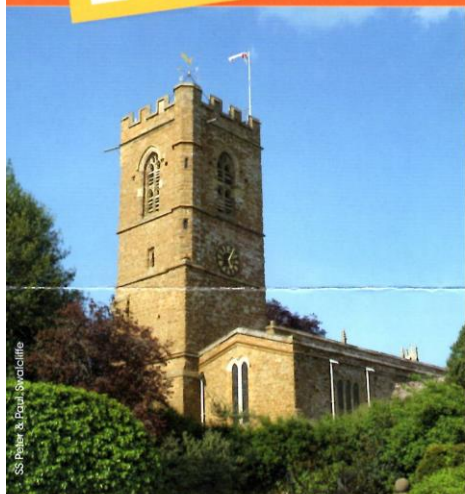
All -Age Church
songs, story, activities & refreshments
3rd Sunday of the month
(Sept 20th 4-5pm)

12TH
SEPT
2026

RIDE+STRIDE

for Churches

Many of the churches and chapels in Oxfordshire will be open.



Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

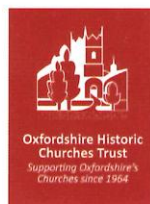
All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice.

join us

Many ways to take part, cycling, walking, horse riding, bell-ringing, with a mobility aid or contact us to check out your plan!

Sign up with our online fund-raising partners GoodHub.

Email: rideandstride@ohct.org.uk



For full details including sponsorship forms, link to and list of churches www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride

MORNING PRAYER in our Churches

Mondays 9am at St Mary's Lower Heyford

Thursdays at St Mary's Upper Heyford

Tuesdays - 8th Sept - Ardley

15th Sept - Fritwell

22nd Sept – Somerton

29th Sept - Souldern

Mid Week COMMUNION SERVICES

10:00am at Heyford Park Chapel

Wednesday 2nd & 16th September

Friday Recorded MORNING PRAYER

Children's Church Around the Benefice



Fritwell Wild Worship
3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30am
Outside (weather permitting)
Crafts for the children
*Coffee and a chat
for the adults*

Souldern

Wild Worship (Outside) – 1st Sunday
Family Church – 4th Sunday
both at 10:30am
Crafts for the children
*Coffee and a chat
for the adults*



Somerton Sunday Club
2nd Sunday of the month at 9:30am
Short Family Friendly Service
Followed by
Crafts for the children
*Coffee and a chat
for the adults*

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

Rev Rob Gilbert	01869 222625	rob.gilbert@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk
Rev Andrew Foran	07753 677 470	andrew.foran@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk
Administrator	01869 233687	barbara.mcgarra@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk

Parish Churchwardens & Contacts

Ardley	Rebecca Bazeley	07931 698 046
Fritwell	Jane White	01869 345396
Heyford Park	Cath Mullineux	01869 225764
Lower Heyford & Caulcott	Philip Boxall Diana Boxall	07721 556 199 07792 390 755
Somerton		
Souldern	Clive Smith	07783 367 258
Upper Heyford	Sally Anne Mildenhall	07778 431 165

