

Cherwell Valley

Catch-up

OCTOBER 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**



It was a privilege and pleasure to be with Rev'd Andrew at Kath Cooke's licensing as the Vicar of her new parish on September 24th. We were there as friends, as former colleagues and representing the Cherwell Valley in wishing her well. The churches in Formby and Altcar seem full of life-giving energy and opportunity for Kath and those working with her.



Teamwork is how parishes and benefices thrive. Kath is going to be leading quite a large team which includes a significant number of Lay Ministers. Teamwork is what I have been so delighted to encounter myself in Cherwell Valley – with the core team working across the benefice but equally with the teams to be found in each of the seven churches. We are, literally, blessed to have such committed, generous, faithful teams providing local leadership in and for each church.



There are additional opportunities we can and should be exploring, though, to develop our teams and to develop the ministry of individuals within them. As I said at our morning in August on Lay Ministry, I try to avoid using the word “Lay” when I can because it just refers to “people” and we are all that, we are all God's people! We are all God's people, and each one of us has a vocation, their own gifts and talents to share and use, their own distinctive role to play. It's the whole church of God that is involved in delivering worship and service, all of us together wherever we find ourselves, and whole church ministry is what I believe we must be working to sustain and grow.

There are some opportunities coming up in the next few months to explore ways in which the ministry that is already provided within and by our teams might be further developed. It may be that one of the Diocesan courses available would be of interest (session with Phil Cooke on 20th October), or it may be that further developing a role in distribution of Communion would be something to explore (session with Andrew and me on 14th October). Together with the Bible Studies we have running my hope is that these are the beginning of what could be called a Learning Community here in the Cherwell Valley. Just as we're all already involved in ministry, we are also all part of a learning community already: but it's something we have the opportunity to explore more intentionally, and who knows how that may help and develop the life and work of our churches?



Whole-church ministry: each person has something different to give

Opportunities to explore faith, and contributing in new ways in our Parishes:

- Assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion, whether at a church service or during home visits. Initial meeting: Wednesday 14th October, 7.30pm at the Rectory.



- Opportunities for new learning or for training to support aspects of parish ministry: come and hear from Phil Cooke on Tuesday 20th October, 7.30pm at Heyford Park Chapel.

To find out more contact please Rob: 01869 222 625 / rob.gilbert@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk.

VISIONS OF THE KINGDOM

in the Gospels of Mathew, Mark & John

(based on previous Sunday's Gospel Reading)

Alternate Mondays *next meeting* 5th October 7-8:30pm

The Rectory, Heyford Park

For more details or to sign up please contact Rob
rob.gilbert@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk



Join us for a

COMMUNITY HARVEST SUPPER

at
FRITWELL VILLAGE HALL

17th October : 7.00pm

£15.00 per person

Tickets available by Text and WhatsApp from
Helen 07875 404824 or Janet 07768 490076



Proceeds to go to the New Village Hall Fund and Church Roof Repair

OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday Worship	4 th October	11 th October	18 th October	25 th October
Ardley w Fewcott	9.30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)	9:30am Family Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Family Service
Fritwell		8:30am 1662 HC	9.30am HC 10:30am Wild Worship	6pm Evensong
Lower Heyford and Caulcott	11am BCP Holy Communion (1662)	11am Morning Prayer	11am Family Worship	11am Family Communion
Somerton	6pm 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
Upper Heyford	9:30am HARVEST Family Communion	6pm Evensong		9:30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)
Heyford Park			4pm Heyford Ark	3pm Taize
MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES Wednesday 14th & 28th October at The Chapel, Heyford Park				

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
5th & 19th October
7-8:30pm

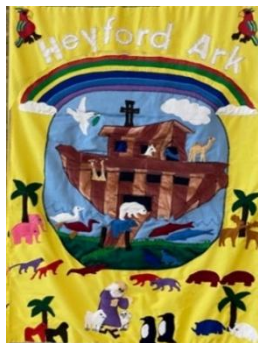
**NB: at The Rectory,
Heyford Park**

Mid-Week COMMUNION

alternate Wednesdays
14th & 28th October
10am

followed by

Bible Study at 10:45



SUNDAYS

HEYFORD ARK

All -Age Church
songs, story, activities & refreshments
3rd Sunday of the month
(Oct 18th 4-5pm)

MORNING PRAYER in our Churches

Mondays 9am at St Mary's Lower Heyford

Thursdays at St Mary's Upper Heyford

Tuesdays - 6th Oct - Ardley

13th Oct - Fritwell

20th Oct – Somerton

27th Oct - Souldern

Mid Week COMMUNION SERVICES

10:00am at Heyford Park Chapel

Wednesday 14th & 28th October

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

