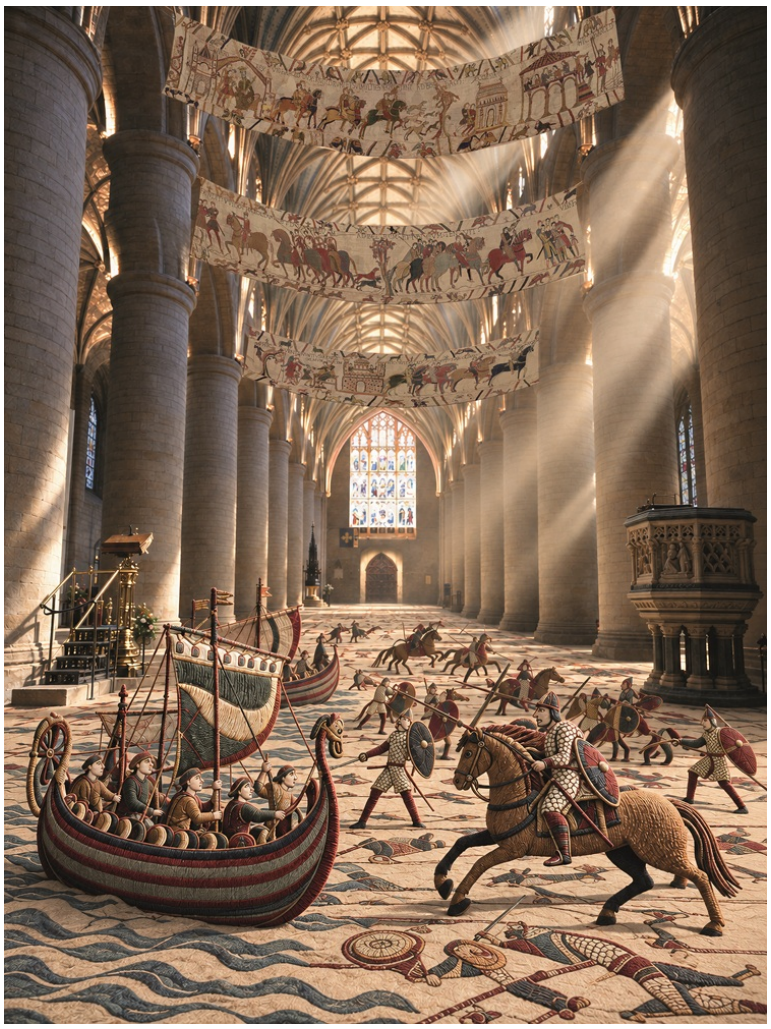
TWYNING PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

The Bayeux Tapestry and Norman Heritage Trail

22 October 2026 to 11 July 2027

From Conquest to Kingdom: The story of 1066 and Norman England comes to life at Tewkesbury Abbey.



Experience a **full-scale 70-metre reproduction of the Bayeux Tapestry** and step inside the world it created, in the extraordinary setting of one of Britain's finest surviving Norman buildings. Presented as part of Bayeux Around Britain, supported by WorldQuant, a British Museum partnership, from Conquest to Kingdom explores the story of the Norman Conquest and its lasting impact on England. But the tapestry is only the beginning…

The Abbey is part of the story

The exhibition begins with the extraordinary story told by the Bayeux Tapestry itself, then takes you on a journey through the **Norman Heritage Trail**. Discover how the Normans built a new medieval kingdom and reshaped England's landscape, culture and society. Founded within decades of the Norman Conquest, Tewkesbury Abbey is one of the most remarkable surviving expressions of the world created after 1066.

Beneath **Europe's largest Romanesque tower**, explore the Abbey's Norman architecture & discover the monks, craftsmen & communities who shaped this extraordinary building.

From monastic life & pilgrimage to architecture, fashion and music, the Norman Heritage Trail reveals a vibrant medieval world whose influence can still be seen nearly a thousand years later.

Experience the Bayeux Tapestry. Discover the Norman world.

Plan your visit:
The Abbey is open to visitors Monday to Saturday – 9.30am-4pm and Sunday 12.30-4pm
The exhibition is FREE, entry to Abbey is by voluntary donation e.g. £5 adults, £10 family
Exhibition and trail guides are available at the welcome desk for a small fee. A free map and Bayeux trail sheet for younger visitors is available at no charge.
There is NO TIME LIMIT to your visit: explore the tapestry and exhibits at your leisure, stop at the Abbey Garden Café, or pop into the Abbey Shop, and revisit the exhibition as you choose.

The tapestry in its Christian context
One can hope that renewed interest in the history of England through the Bayeux Tapestry can help people see how Christianity has played a major part in shaping some of the cultural values and conscience of today's society. People could take it one step further, and dare themselves to consider whether the source of these values, Christianity, might even be true. Maybe this 'secular' embroidery can enlighten a murky Christian history that helps people discover a more complete and true Christianity that sits at the root of progress, flourishing and humanitarian values.

Gracious God,
we thank You for the gift of history, woven into threads
that tell stories of courage, conflict & faith.
May our hearts be open to the lessons it holds —
reminding us of the fragility of peace, the cost of division,
and the enduring hope for reconciliation.
Bless all who visit with curiosity, respect & wonder.
May this tapestry inspire us to cherish truth, seek understanding across cultures,
and weave our own lives into patterns of kindness & justice.
Guide us to see not only the battles of the past,
but also possibilities for harmony in our present & future.
Amen.

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Baptism anniversaries

This month we celebrate the anniversaries of Baptisms of

Samantha May Angelina on 6 November 2022
James Harry on 20 November 2022

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

'People were bringing little children to Jesus. And he took them in his arms, laid his hands on them and blessed them.' Mark 10.13, 16

Contact us on:

Vicar:	Rev'd Canon Nick Davies	01684 850 959
Reader & Parish Lay Minister:	Angela Cole	01684 294 325
Churchwarden:	Chris Cole	01684 294 325
Hon. Treasurer:	Richard Bailey	01684 298 268
Benefice Administrator	Claire Redstone	01684 850 959

Churchyard Volunteers THANKS

Hello Volunteers, Twyning PCC would like to thank you all so much for the efforts you have put in last year, for doing the regular mowing of your 'patch' and/or for joining us at the Working Parties. Many visitors to the Churchyard have commented most favourably on the condition of the Churchyard.

The Churchyard Working Party on Saturday 10th October was very successful with ten of us volunteers and two young boys ! People said how much fun it was 'like a family' working together. The churchyard looked great before Harvest, which always brings many visitors.

If you know anyone who might like to join our team, please ask them to contact us. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, please let us know.

Ron Hesketh	01684 299 773	ronhesketh@gmail.com.
Richard Bailey	01684 298 268	RABailey@btinternet.com

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest on Sunday 12th October was an all-age celebration led by our vicar, Canon Nick, followed by a shared lunch in the Ann Townend Hall. As usual, donations of harvest produce and groceries were welcomed in Church. The non-perishable gifts were donated to the Tewkesbury Food Bank. The Harvest-tide collection was again sent to two charities that support those in great need: **Gloucestershire Farming Friends** (see below) and **Mary's Meals**, a charity which sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities. Thank you so much for your generous contributions.

Gloucestershire Farming Friends

OUR AIM is to provide help and emotional support in complete confidence to anyone in the rural community. For the last 26 years a constantly evolving team of 15 volunteers has been trying to do just that (farmers, farmers' wives, and some industry professionals).

Below is a list of some of the tasks we have been asked to help with. It is not complete because, owing to our policy of compete confidentiality, some things are too sensitive to mention. In no particular order:

Talking to a dedicated DEFRA helpline in cases of severe economic or mental need.
Mediating in disputes between neighbours.
Visiting isolated or lonely people.
We have been involved with "Horsey" disputes.
Benefit awareness and access, divorce, mental health, cash flow and suicide.

We often point out the way to professional help, especially if we are not experts in that particular field. We work closely with the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), the Farm Community Network (FCN) and the Addington Fund.

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Nov 1st **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION**
remembering loved ones + **Refreshments**

Nov 8th **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
9.30 short parish communion in Church
10.45 service at War Memorial

Nov 9th Monday 1.30pm **Open the Book** Twyning School

Wednesday 11th Nov 10am -12noon **PARISH COFFEE MORNING**
- venue to be confirmed later

Nov 15th **Sunday** 9.30am **MORNING PRAISE**

Nov 22nd **Sunday** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION** + **Refreshments**

Nov 29th **ADVENT SUNDAY** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION**

Nov 30th Monday 1.30pm **Open the Book** Twyning School

Dec 6th **Sunday** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION**

Dec 9th Wednesday 10-12noon **Parish Coffee Morning**
with Richard Bailey, Birds Farm

Dec 13th **Sunday** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION**
with Acorns Stall and Refreshments

Dec 14th Monday 6pm Twyning School Carols in Church

Dec 19th Saturday 4pm **CAROLS FOR THE VILLAGE** in Village Hall

[Dec 20th ***Sunday*** 4pm ***Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols***
N.B. Date and time to be confirmed]

Dec 24th Thursday Christmas Eve - **CHRISTINGLE** 5pm

Dec 25th *Christmas Day Family Communion* 9.30am

Dec 28th **Sunday** 9.30am **PARISH COMMUNION** + Refreshments

Services, Readers & Hymns

9.30am unless time given	readings [small lectionary]	1st & 2nd readings	hymns NEH unless stated
1st November *All Saints Day* Parish Communion	Rev 7.9-17 p370 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	Arthur Storey	236 (JP) The day thou gavest 215 (JP) Seek ye first 341(NEH) Blest are the pure 197(NEH) For all the saints
8th November *Remembrance Sunday* Parish Communion	Amos 5.18-24 p380 1 Thess 4.13-18 Matthew 25.1-13	Muriel Russell	15 The Lord will come 408 Love divine 443 Rejoice the Lord is King 485 Thy hand O God 489 National Anthem
15th November *Morning Praise*	*contemporary* 1 Thess 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	tbc	86 I am trusting you JP 188 One more step along 259 To God be the glory
22nd November *Christ the King* Parish Communion	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Ephesians 1.15-23 p388 Matthew 25.31-46	Dorothy Williams	457 The King of love 352 Crown him with many crowns 295 Let all mortal flesh 338 At the name of Jesus
29th November *Advent Sunday* Parish Communion	Isaiah 64.1-9 p393 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37	Robert Cockrell	9 Lo he comes 5 Hark! A herald's voice 11 O come, O come Emmanuel 272 All for Jesus
6th December Advent 2 Parish Communion	Isaiah 40.1-11 p396 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8	Vera Hesketh	7 Hills of the north rejoice 9 Lo, he comes with clouds 408 Love divine 55 Hail to the Lord's anointed
13th December Advent 3 Parish Communion	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 p399 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28	Nicola Marples	12 On Jordan's bank 339 Be thou my vision 388 Jesus shall reign 495 God is working his purpose
20th December *4pm CAROL SERVICE*	to be confirmed	tbc	
24th December *5pm Christingle*	Matthew 1.18-23	Cubs / Scouts	Carols on Christingle sheet
25th December *CHRISTMAS DAY*	Isaiah 52.7-10 p20 Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14	Pam Dell	*The Bethlehem Carol Sheet* 8 See amid the winter's snow 12 O come all ye faithful 2 In the bleak midwinter 10 Hark the herald angels sing
27th December St John, Apostle and Evangelist Parish Communion	Exodus 33.7-11a p1029 1 John 1 John 21.19b-25	Chris Cole	*The Bethlehem Carol Sheet* 19 Once in royal David's city 16 God rest you merry 1 O little town of Bethlehem 38 Ding dong merrily on high

Everyone is always welcome at all our services and events.

See our website: http://www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene

NB An **induction loop** for those with hearing aids is available at all services in Twyning Church

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

On **All Saint's Day, Sunday 1st November**, we shall be remembering our loved ones and names will be read out. The list of names used previously has been augmented with those who have recently died. The sheets were in church from Sunday 18th October for any amendments you wish to make - please print in capitals.

The Eco Silver Award

arocha.org.uk

Several years ago, Twyning Church gained the Eco Church Bronze Award, which has been displayed in the porch ever since.

As we strive to care for creation, Eco Church is a way integrate action for God's earth into our churches. It is an ecumenical programme run by A Rocha UK to equip churches to care for creation. It provides a framework to support churches and their leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, through the Eco Church survey. *[See a General Synod report below: Hope for All Creation - Carbon Net Zero & related matters]*

At the PCC's invitation, Prof. Nicola Marples has spent a great deal of time analysing the requirements for the Silver Award for an Eco church. This is assessed in five categories:

1. **Worship & Teaching** – integrating creation care into services and discipleship.
2. **Buildings & Energy** – improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon impact.
3. **Land & Nature** – managing church land to support biodiversity.
4. **Community/Global Engagement** – engaging the wider community in environmental action.
5. **Lifestyle** – encouraging sustainable living among church members

Under the self-assessment scheme, Nicola showed that we do indeed do sufficient to be granted the Silver Award, and Angela Cole has confirmed this.

See our Silver Award certificates in church and on the notice-board at the gate.

The reach of Eco Church continues to spread, and there is now a community of over 6,000 Church of England churches registered and 3,2559 churches with Eco Church awards.

Our Silver Award represents a significant step in embedding long-term, practical care for creation within church life.

The PCC was asked if even more could be done and after long discussion it was decided to pursue the following actions:-

Carry out a butterfly count
Take part in the Bird Watch
Fit a water butt to a roof down-pipe
Fit bird boxes
Fit bat boxes
Strim instead of using 'Roundup'
Support Food Bank cash donations
Reduce our own individual carbon footprint
Fit a bike rack
Consider supporting the School Nature Club.

The PCC express their sincere thanks to Nicola for her valued support in gaining this Eco Silver Award.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S GENERAL SYNOD 2026

As the current Synod ended, the process for elections to the next one began. The last session of the present General Synod was a busy one with items from all aspects of Synod's business. You may be interested to read some of these summaries - here is a selection. All the reports can be found on the Church of England website and relevant report numbers are shown below:
https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2026

Archbishops' Council Annual Report for 2025 (GS 2453)

- a regular item of business covering its work, priorities and finances. The report recorded income of approximately £230 million and the distribution of more than £192 million in grants to dioceses, parishes and partner organisations. It also highlighted increased church attendance and work towards the Council's objectives, including revitalising parishes, developing younger and more diverse congregations, safeguarding and sustainability.

[A delegate] welcomed the new financial arrangements agreed in 2025 but drew attention to the serious position of diocesan finances, with 37 of the 42 dioceses budgeting for substantial deficits in 2026 [totalling £80 million]. He argued that the National Funding for Diocesan Ministry Project should be radical and urged the Council's reporting to focus more fully on measurable results, rather than simply describing investments and positive activity.

[A delegate] made the case for financial planning and funding allocations to operate over much longer horizons. This closely echoed Gloucester's own DSM on *Financial Modelling for the Future Funding of Ministry*. Synod voted to take note of the Annual Report.

Hope for All Creation - Carbon Net Zero & related matters (GS 2450, 2418, 2461)

One of the Marks of Mission, often referred to as the fifth mark, is to treasure – that is to strive to safeguard – the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Being stewards of the earth is an integral part of our faith in our Creator God. The importance of God as creator, and of the world created, were echoed primarily in four items at Synod.

The Festival of Creation in Christ is to be added to the church calendar on the first Sunday in September. In early work on this, the festival had been God the Creator, but this revised name aligns with its ecumenical adoption and identifies Christ's presence at creation.

Hope for all Creation is a teaching document from the House of Bishops presented by the Faith and Order Commission. The holistic approach adopted in the document encourages engagement with the reality we face and discernment of a new future. Its message is powerful as it seeks to understand the climate crisis through the lived experience of those most badly affected.

Synod received a Net Zero Carbon Programme Progress Report 2023-2025. This was a commentary on progress made since the challenge of the church becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030, and the subsequent adoption of a Route-map to achieve that target. Progress to the end of 2025 has been particularly encouraging at parish level, with over one-third of churches now engaged with eco-church and two thirds submitting their annual energy data. Progress in other areas has been more challenging, but the rate of emissions reduction is said to equate to 3.7% per year indicating that aiming for 2030 is still ambitious. However, there is a realistic possibility of achieving the target reduction by the Government's Climate Change target date of 2050. Synod noted the good progress being made.

Synod debated a Private Members Motion: **Protecting Nature on Church Commissioners' Land** in line with the scale and urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises. There was an engaging presentation and lively debate, with much of the emphasis being on one of the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework: '30 by 30', aiming to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030. Important considerations raised were the other uses of land, such as food production, housing and renewable energy, and the trustee responsibilities of the Church Commissioners to maintain the value of assets. There was, however, significant sympathy and support for the principle of treasuring God's creation

and an amended motion, supportive of positive actions and requiring reports on activities and outcomes, was passed.

National Church Governance Measure (GS 2360W)

This report of the Legislative Committee arose from Parliament's Ecclesiastical Committee finding the National Church Governance Measure "not expedient" ie they were not willing to recommend its approval to parliament. The Ecclesiastical Committee had raised concerns about delegated powers, financial accountability and the proposed charitable objects of the new Church of England National Services body but its principal concern was to see further progress in the independent structure and funding of safeguarding before the more general structure of the church was agreed. As these points were very complex to address, the Legislative Committee has withdrawn the Measure which Synod had approved in July 2025. The Committee had also noted that, to preserve momentum, some governance improvements could proceed without legislation, including changes to the Archbishops' Council's membership and committee structures, greater Synod involvement in spending plans, and strengthened scrutiny arrangements. The motion that Synod take note of this Report was carried.

Update from Lead Safeguarding Bishop (GS 2460 and 2467, GS Misc 1466)

Bishop Robert's presentation was supported by two reports: an update from the *Makin Review Task and Finish Group* and the *National Safeguarding Team (NST)general update*. The Makin group monitors progress in implementing the many recommendations from that review. The Group has found substantial progress with 14 of the 27 recommendations complete and active work continuing on the remaining 13. The NST report covers a wide range of its substantial workload. A GS Misc report was also available on progress with new safeguarding structures.

In presenting the reports and wider safeguarding issues, Bishop Robert referred to the church's commitment to victims and survivors and to the Nolan standards of conduct in public life and how these are implemented in our safeguarding work. There was a lively Q and A session covering a range of issues including different views about how potential mandatory reporting of allegations of abuse relates to the practice of individual confession.

Synod also approved the Abuse Redress Rules, which is the final stage to enable the implementation of the Abuse Redress Scheme.

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Tewkesbury Benefice

We are part of the Benefice of Tewkesbury with Walton Cardiff &Twyning with Revd Canon Nick Davies as our vicar.

Sunday Services at the Abbey (please check with the abbey bulletin)

Sunday	7.30am	Morning Prayer
	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	High Mass
	5pm	Evensong
Monday	9am	Morning Prayer
	5.30	Choral Evensong*
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer
	12 noon	Holy Communion
	5.30	Choral Evensong*

*Choral Evensong sung by Schola Cantorum in term-time, otherwise said Evening Prayer 4pm

Wednesday	9am	Morning Prayer
	4pm	Centering Prayer
Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer
	11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	5.30	Choral Evensong*
Friday	9am	Morning Prayer
	5.30	Choral Evensong*
Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer
	4pm	Evening Prayer

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The annual Christmas Fair is back at the Abbey on Saturday 29 November from 10am till 4pm. It's a perfect place to get into the spirit of Christmas!

WHAT ELSE IS ON:

until 11 July 2027 **The Bayeux Tapestry and Norman Heritage Trail**

21 November 2026 at 7pm
Stroud Choral Society: George Dyson's The Canterbury Pilgrims

25 November 2026 at 6pm
Mr Handel's Christmas Story

Monday 7 December 2026 at 6pm and 8pm
The Christmas Orchestra

Saturday 12 Dec 2026 at 6:30pm & 8:45pm
In The Dark – HUSH

Monday 14 December at 7:30pm
Mediaeval Baebes
Buy tickets online.

CONTACT US on 01684 850 959

Rev'd Canon Nick Davies vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk
Benefice Administrator Claire Redstone info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk

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November's Notions

One-liners that might amuse you:

- What did the firework say to the match? *You light up my life!*
- Why don't fireworks ever apologise? *They think everything they do is brilliant.*
- What's a firework's favourite kind of music? *Anything with a big bang.*
- Why was the sparkler so popular at parties? *It was a genuinely bright spark.*
- What do you call a firework that refuses to light? *A damp squib with commitment issues.*

Your contributions are most welcome for the next issue – by the 21st December please

Peace and blessings to you all,
Angela

Reader, Parish Lay Minister 01684 294325 angelacole135@hotmail.com

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To book please email completed booking form to: anntownendhall@gmail.com

Or if you would prefer to speak, please call Becky Hallett on 01684 275128.

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Booking Secretary: Delta Ferguson To request a booking please use this link:

https://www.twyningvillage.co.uk/village-hall

Email: bookings@twyningvillagehall.org.uk

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