Three in One

News and views from the Parishes of Badgeworth, Shurdington and Witcombe with Bentham



PROCESSION OF A GUY.

Price £1

November 2026

Issue number 362

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Contents
November

	page		page
Pastoral Letter	4	Bentham churchyard	21
Listening team	7	Simple Holy Communiom	22
Useful Phone Numbers	9	Quiz night	25
Shurdington Organisations	10	Advent Sunday	26
Badgeworth Organisations	11	Remembrance	27
Witcombe & Bentham Organisations	11	Christingle	28
Open Mondays	12	Christmas card competition	29
Books and Banter	13	Carol services	30
St Paul's church	14	Christmas Wreaths	31
Coffee Morning	17	Gardening Society	32
Coffee and chat	18	1976	33
Greenway choir	20	Being ECO Church	37
		Christmas Crafts	39





Contributors please note: material for the December/January 2026 issue to John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com by Wednesday 18th November 2026



Pastoral Letter

Susan writes





December 2026

My dear friends,

In November, we think about the season of remembering, that follows hot on the heels of our harvest celebrations. As I look ahead to those special events of All Souls' and Remembrance services, I find myself drawn to remembering words associated with autumn. The first thing that came to my mind was this:

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;

It's the beginning of a famous poem that I had to learn at primary school, written by John Keats, entitled "To Autumn". Around the same time, we would sing, both in church and in school:

We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land
But it is fed and watered by God's Almighty hand.

A more recent harvest hymn is this one – ask your teenagers about this!

Cauliflowers Fluffy and cabbages green
Strawberries are sweeter than any I've seen

Beetroots purple and onions white
All grow steadily day and night!
The apples are ripe, the plums are red.
Broad beans are sleeping in a blankety bed.

Poems and hymns help us to reflect. The poem and songs allow us to mark the season of autumn and to acknowledge the harvest. The hymn reminds us to thank God for the beauty of this earth, but in particular for the gifts of God's creation.

As I write this letter, the sun is setting with a beautiful golden light that enhances the beauty of the green leaves upon which it falls. In this season of autumn and of remembering, I am drawn to wonder and awe at the natural world. As a singer, I am drawn into prayer and praise, through old and new hymns and songs.

I wonder what you are grateful for? Recognising the good gifts in our lives and practising gratitude is highly recommended. When I was little, this might have been called "counting your blessings". Perhaps sometimes, your gratitude might be expressed as a prayer of thanks to God, the creator of everything.

Whether you are a person of faith or not, I commend an attitude of gratitude in this season.

Blessings, Susan

Benefice Diary

November			
Sunday	1	All Souls'	27
Saturday	7	Coffee and Chat	19
Friday	13	Books and Banter	14
Saturday`	14	Quiz Night	25
Thursday	19	Gardening Club AGM	32
Saturday	21	Coffee Morning	22
Wednesday	25	Julian Meeting	10
Thursday	26	Holy Communion	26
Saturday	28	Coffee Morning	18
		Bingo and Fish'nChips	24
Sunday	29	Advent/Christingle	26/28

December			
		Carol-singing etc	30
Saturday	5	Coffee and Chat	19
Saturday	12	Christmas Crafts	39
Friday	11	Books and Banter	14

Every Monday

(except Bank Holidays) Greenway Gifts 20

Open Mondays 13

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday Community Choir



LISTENING TEAM

Do you need someone to talk to?

Someone to pray with or for you?

We have a small, dedicated team of people ready to listen, and if you would like,we can pray with you or for you.

Our support is for anyone, if you go to church regularly, occasionally, used to or have never been. We are here to help.

Please contact our Churchwardens to arrange a visit.

Holy Trinity, Badgeworth - Paul Stanfield 01242 512926

St Mary's, Witcombe - Sue Padfield 01452 862509

St Paul's, Shurdington - Rev'd Susan Cooke

Greenway Benefice Churches

How to find us:

Holy Trinity Badgeworth
Church Lane
Badgeworth
Gloucester
GL51 4UL
(Registered Charity number 1209315)

St Paul's Shurdington
School Lane
Shurdington
Cheltenham
GL51 4TF

St Mary* the Virgin Witcombe with Bentham
Great Witcombe
Gloucester
*GL3 4TS**
**turnings off Ermin Way or Birdlip Hill*

You can also see more information on A Church Near You.
Simply type "A Church Near You Badgeworth" or "A Church Near You Shurdington" or "A Church Near You Witcombe" into your search engine.

Useful Phone Numbers:

Furniture Recycling Warehouse	01452 331333
Removal of Bulky Waste	01684 295010
Glos Highways	0800 0 514 514
Faulty Streetlights	0800 0 514 514
Police (non-emergency)	101
101 is 15p, the local call number is	01452 726920
Fire/Police/Ambulance (emergency only)	999
NHS 'Out of Hours'	08454 220220
NHS Help line	111
Adult social services and District nurses	01452 328224
Samaritans	116123
Citizens Advice	01452 527202
Children's social services	01452 328213
CARE direct	0800 444000
Electricity Power Loss	0800 328 1111
Water Services & Emergencies	0800 783 4444
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Emmaus*	01452 413095

*at Chequers Road, Gloucester:
Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

**at Chequers Road, Gloucester:*
Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

Julian Meeting

Meeting in silence with God

Please do join us for 30 minutes of silent prayer followed by a cup of tea together.

Time: 2:30pm Wednesday November 25th

Place: 52 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington. GL51 4ST

Ian & Wendy Davies (01242 861293)



Shurdington church and village organisations

Churchwarden	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mark King	(01242) 862505
Gift Aid Officer		
Sacristan	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
Church Flowers	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
Mothers' Union	Mrs Janet Holmes	(01242) 862989
Church Hall Lettings		
Verger		
Parish Council Clerk	John Kay	07841204404
Shurdington Pre School	Kelly Clifford	07867813627
Gardening Society	Mr. G. Woodruffe	07792269353
Scout Group	Mrs Louise Slee	
	15thcheltenhamscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Shurdington Sports Club	Mr J Barnfield	(01242) 862826
Friendship Club	Mrs Maureen West	(01242) 863991
Children's Society	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505

In time of illness if you would like a visit and / or to be remembered in prayer, or to a refer a patient to the hospital Chaplaincy, please contact Sue Padfield (01452) 862509.

Three in One Magazine
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Witcombe & Bentham church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07747 630047
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer	Mr Jon Frewin	07808 912217
Verger	Mrs Jane Bell	(01452) 862558
Captain of Bells		Vacancy
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lynne Cooper	07747 630047
Magazine Coordinator	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
Village Hall Enquiries Custodian		07518 137635
Witcombe Social Fundraisers	Mrs Christine Dyer	(01452) 862399



Badgeworth church and Village organisations

Witcombe Under 5s	Kyla Hill	thevictoria@btinternet.com
Churchwardens	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Antoinette Wilson	(01452) 856907
PCC Treasurer		
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
Sacristan		
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	07771882475
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs H.L. Jones	07840073143
Village Hall	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Church Flowers	Mrs Diana Brown	07887791230

Open Mondays at Shurdington Community Centre

Century Hall from 11am – 4pm
Open every Monday.
Refreshments
No charge and all are welcome.

Newspapers, jigsaws, table tennis, charge your phone or just have a chat.

Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system.

Play facilities for children and on the last Monday of the month, an **NHS run Baby Hub.**

All welcome



Supported by: Shurdington Parish Council, Tewkesbury Warm Spaces
Community Fund, Gloucester Thriving Communities, National Grid Community Matters
Gloucestershire Community Foundation

BOOKS & BANTER

Shurdington book club

Where: in Beauty and the Teacup

When: 6pm

SECOND Friday of the month

13th November 11th December

New members are always welcome.

If you'd like to join, please email revsusancooke@gmail.com
or ask Wendy Lovett in Beauty and the Teacup or just come along!

All welcome! *Susan & Wendy*.

St Paul's Shurdington your Parish Church

Here for everyone for over 700 years.

The church is usually open daily as a place for quiet reflection. Whether it's just an escape from the busy world, or somewhere to feel closer to God, *everyone is welcome*. Services are held at least three Sundays every month, more during special seasons. Whether you attend regularly or not, the church is here for all your big events in life - **Weddings, christenings and funerals.**
The churchyard is open to all. As well as a sacred space for burials, it is a haven for wildlife, and a quiet place to enjoy nature.
It's more than just the building – **people are important too** - we try to be a **welcoming** community, and a source of **support** for all. We still organise regular coffee mornings, a **community choir**, and other **social events**, open to everyone. Our clergy and some members of the congregation provide a **Listening Team** for anyone who needs it. As a benefice (with Witcombe and Badgeworth churches) we set up a weekly non-referral **foodbank** during Covid which is still needed by local people. St Paul's provides the hall and storage space for this at no cost, so all donations and grants can be spent on food.

But now St Paul's needs your help.

Our regular congregation is small, and we are no longer able to meet our annual costs – **last year we made a loss of over £10,000** on running the church and churchyard, and we have only limited reserves – our auditor has warned that these will be exhausted in a very few years. We are part of **the Church of England**, but they **do not provide us with financial support** -on the contrary, we are asked annually to contribute substantially towards the cost of the

diocese as well as paying for the maintenance and running cost of the church itself.

Last year the cost of keeping the church open and running was £38,336 – an average of £105 per day.

How can you help?

At the last census there were just under 1000 households in the village - **just £10 extra *per year*** from each of those would go a long way towards solving our problem, though we recognise that many people may be already giving as much as they can afford

We would also value your help in other ways.

Many of the maintenance tasks that used to be carried out by volunteers now have to be paid for, as our main congregation is getting older.

Could you:

-Join a cleaning rota for the church

-Be part of a regular maintenance work party for the churchyard

-Organise fundraising events with us

-Other ideas welcome!

Please get in touch if you'd like to help us:

email greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com
Have a word with Revd Susan
or Revd Daniel (contact numbers in the parish magazine and on our achurchnearyou pages)

Scan this barcode to make a one off or regular donation:

St Paul's, Shurdington Churchyard

In order to protect this important and beautiful churchyard we politely request that everyone adhere to the following principles.

- All waste should be disposed of in the bins provided.
- Kerb stones, fencing, stone chippings and statues are not permitted.
- Artificial flowers are not permitted.
- Flowers may only be placed in a non-glass removable container that has been sunk into the ground.
- Trees, shrubs, or bushes are not permitted to be planted in any grave.
- The Parish priest, Churchwardens or whoever is authorised by the PCC to look after the churchyard is permitted to remove unsightly flowers and any items not permitted.

Please be aware that we will have to remove items that are not permitted under these regulations.
If you have any of these items in the churchyard please could you collect when you are able.
We will be clearing any remaining items on 25/07/2026.
They will be stored for collection until 09/01/2027

Thank you

Churchwardens & P.C.C.

A full copy of churchyard regulations can be obtained by application to the Churchwardens or the Benefice office.

They are also available on the Diocese of Gloucester website or by following the QR code.

4th SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL

10am to Noon

28th NOVEMBER

RAFFLE, BOOKS, PLANTS, COFFEE, CAKE, BRIC-A-BRAC

IN AID OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE CHURCH HALL



Sat 7th Nov

Sat 5th Dec

10am-12noon
Badgeworth Village Hall

Coffee and home-made cakes, good company,
a raffle & the morning papers.

Please bring items for the
Foodbank box.



A community event
organized by
Holy Trinity Church
and sponsored by
Badgeworth Village Hall

Greenway Gifts Food Bank

If you need some help with groceries, please come along to our non-referral food bank, every Monday, **except Bank Holidays**, between 9am and 10am, at St Paul's Church Hall. This is for Shurdington, Witcombe, Bentham and Badgeworth, and those associated with Shurdington School and Shurdington Preschool.



Cake and Chat

Every 3rd Monday of the month we have cake and chat. Free & all welcome!

If you would like to support the Food Bank, you can offer long dated items by leaving them in our churches, dropping in on a Monday morning, or you can donate directly to Shurdington Parochial Church Council using the QR code below. Please use the references GIFTS. Thank you!

GREENWAY COMMUNITY CHOIR



If you enjoy singing and would like to sing with others, why not come along to this local choir?

2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm, for one hour, in the Church Hall, School Lane, Shurdington

There is no charge, although donations towards running the choir would be welcome, if you feel able.
This choir is for everyone and anyone, whether you can sing or not, whether you can read music or not, all voices. Singing is great for our physical and mental health, and a lovely way to make new friends. Under 18s are welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Enquiries to revsusancooke@gmail.com, or just come along!

MEETING DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026: 10th Sep, 24th Sep, 8th Oct, 22nd Oct, 12th Nov, 26th Nov, 10th Dec, AND *17th Dec* - *choir bring a friend carols party!*

BENTHAM CHURCHYARD

CAN YOU HELP?

The PCC of St Mary's Church is responsible for the upkeep of the Churchyard at Bentham, where many local people have relatives buried, and it is important to keep it looking good.

We should be very grateful for some help with mowing – we have a rota with some generous volunteers, but we could do with more to lighten their load. If you think you could help or would like more information, please contact Sue Padfield (Churchwarden) on 01452 862509 or suepadfield@btinternet.com

Simple Holy Communion

We will be offering a simple Holy Communion service

On the 4th Thursday of the Month

2pm at St Paul's church, Shurdington

Everyone is welcome



Greenway Benefice,
Holy Trinity, Badgeworth
St Paul's, Shurdington
St Mary's, Witcombe with Bentham

Vicar:
Rev'd Susan Cooke,
Mobile: 07510227854
Email: revsusancooke@gmail.com

Assistant Curate:
Rev'd Daniel Newman,
Mobile: 07928299244
Email: rev.daniel.newman@gmail.com


A COMMUNITY MUSIC EVENT
FEATURING LOCAL PERFORMERS
AND CHOIRS
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
JANUARY
JOLLY
Local Music, Good Food
and a Warm Welcome
THIS IS A FREE EVENT
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
INCLUDING SOUP AND SMORES
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2027
2PM – 6PM
SHURDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
GL51 4TG

ALL WELCOME at
ANOTHER FUN EVENING at WITCOMBE



BINGO & FISH'nCHIPS

Witcombe with Bentham Village Hall GL34TB

on Saturday, 28th November, 7pm

CHRISTMAS-THEMED PRIZES ✶ RAFFLE ✶ BAR

Tickets £13, £8 under 12, £38 Family (2+2 under 12)

Contact Christine 01452 862399
christinedyermmx@btinternet.com

N.B. ADVANCE BOOKING is ESSENTIAL

*Please note: the Hall is licensed meaning that alcohol may **not** be brought in*



Quiz Night and Raffle
in aid of Holy Trinity Church funds

on Saturday 14th November '26
7.30pm
at Badgeworth Village Hall

Light snacks (crisps, biscuits & cake) will be provided during the break, along with tea and coffee.
Please bring any other drinks you would like.
£10 per person, pay on the door.
Ticket includes refreshments and 2 strips of raffle tickets.

Please contact: Paul Stanfield on 07989358683 pauljstanfield@gmail.com

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICE

29th November 10am

Please come along to a service to celebrate the start of Advent.



Singing traditional Advent carols, lighting our first candle on the Advent Wreath, and thinking about our journey towards Christmas. *Music will be supported by Greenway Community Choir.*

All are welcome to Shurdington Church of England Primary School, for worship, with good access for buggies and wheelchairs, and refreshments afterwards.

Hosted by Greenway Benefice (Church of England), Chapel, Shurdington Church of England Primary School and other local Christian friends.

Season of Remembering

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

Sunday 1st November at 3pm

St Mary's, Witcombe for all three parishes

All welcome as we remember those we have loved and lost, recently or in years past.

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8th November

8am St Mary's Holy Communion

9:30 St Paul's Service for Remembrance Sunday

**10:50am* Holy Trinity Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance

**10:55am* St Mary's All-Age Worship with Act of Remembrance

*PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIMES FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ONLY
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A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTINGLE

Sunday, 29th November, 3pm

WITCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

ALL WELCOME

Suitable for all ages, good access and facilities for buggies and wheelchairs. Seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Christmas Colouring Competition 2026

Closing date 10th November 2026

Please join in the competition and share it with your family and friends. There are small prizes for every entry and winners from each community will win a special prize.

Open to children from 3-18 years.

We need a colourful Christmas picture that we can use on this magazine or our church Christmas card; something about the birth of the baby Jesus, rather than Father Christmas. After all, Jesus is the reason for the season...

TO ENTER: Fold an A4 sheet of paper in half (landscape mode), ask children to create their art work on one half of the paper, and write these details on the other half:

Child's name (please make sure we can read it)
Child's age
Name of their group (school, preschool, Meadows, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, chapel etc)
Name of parent/carer/group leader to confirm that it is all their own work.
If the child is not part of a group, but lives in one of the villages, please include contact details so we can notify prize winners.

Their picture needs to be with me by **Tuesday 10th November**. Late entries may not be included in judging. You can place entries in the post box at the church hall on School Lane. You can give entries to Revd Dan or me. Entries from school and nurseries will be collected on 10th.

Thank you and get colouring/drawing/creating! Revd Susan.

Carols and more! Sunday mornings continue as usual.

Public Christmas Carol events confirmed at the time of printing. Please check online and in the December magazine for additions. All welcome!

Fri 4th	7-8pm	The Bell	Carol singing
Fri 4th	9pm	St Mary's	Night Prayer by candlelight
Thurs 10th	12:30pm	Beauty & the Teacup	Carol singing
Fri 11th	9pm	Online*	Night Prayer

**Link available from greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com*

Sun 13th	6pm	Holy Trinity	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 14th	6pm	School	Community Carols
Wed 16th	7pm	Cheese Rollers	Carol singing
Thurs 17th	7pm	St Paul's Church Hall	Choir Carol Singing non-members welcome
Fri 18th	9pm	St Mary's	Night Prayer by candlelight
Sun 20th	4pm	St Paul's	Carols by Candlelight
Sun 20th	6pm	St Mary's	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 21st	6pm	Holy Trinity	Blue Christmas

****

Christmas Eve:

2pm	Holy Trinity (church tbc)	Holy Communion
4pm	St Paul's & St Mary's	Crib Services
11:30pm	St Paul's	Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion

Sun 27th:

10:30am	St Paul's	Benefice Christmas Communion



CHRISTMAS WREATHS

ST PAUL'S FLOWER GUILD

£9.50 EACH

PLEASE ORDER FROM HELEN KING

01242 862505





SHURDINGTON & BADGEWORTH GARDENING SOCIETY



The gardening year is coming to the end, although it is not yet finished. There are still plenty of jobs to do, such as protecting tender plants from frost and planting bulbs for the spring. The birds still need feeding, and bird baths kept clean.

After the year we have had we need to ensure we can collect as much rainfall as possible.

Our final meeting of the year is on the 19th November and is our AGM followed by a Colour and Texture in the garden talk by Duncan Coombs.

Stay safe keep gardening

Janette Willis (Secretary)

Some Quotes

Love cannot survive without a sense of humour. Laughter is the spark that keeps relationships alive and can create lasting memories. Famous writers and historical figures have left us with many statements about love that will leave you smiling.

Helen Gurley Brown

"Love doesn't drop on you unexpectedly; you have to give off signals, sort of like an amateur radio operator."

Albert Einstein

MEMORIES OF 1976 - CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH'S 3in1.
As remarked on in last month's 3in1, although 1976 is mainly remembered as the year of heatwave and drought it also encompassed many other memorable events and activities. In deed, 1976 left an imprint that still resonates today.

Politics and Economy Harold Wilson (remember him?) unexpectedly resigned as Prime Minister on 16th March and James Callaghan took over the office on 5th April. Jim Callaghan had an avuncular, calming manner that seemed appropriate to the summer lull. Voters called him Sunny Jim.

The 1976 sterling crisis was a currency crisis in the United Kingdom. James Callaghan's Labour Government had to borrow $3.9 billion (equivalent to GBP £36.4 billion today) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while implementing significant spending cuts, At the time this was the largest loan ever to have been requested from the IMF.

The Labour chancellor, Denis Healey, was not one of the worriers. In the summer of 1976, after several exhausting months trying to defend his economic policies and the value of the pound, he went on holiday for most of August. He left sticky London behind and drove to Ullapool to relax. "Not a drop of rain," he wrote in his memoirs, "even in the Highlands." That first night, he was repeatedly woken by phone calls from Whitehall - the pound was collapsing again. The hotel had only one phone, so the chancellor stood in a hallway with a coat over his pyjamas, authorising the Bank of England to spend "up to $150m" (about £750m now) to buy sterling. The
intervention worked: the pound stopped falling. Healey went back to bed and continued with his holiday.

Less serious events ….. On 5th August Big Ben suffered internal damage and stopped working for over nine months. On 2nd February, the Queen officially opened the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. On 5th September The Muppet Show premièred on ITV, quickly becoming a family favourite. Other new British TV shows included Rippng Yarns, (Michael Palin & Terry Jones) Open All Hours (Ronnie Barker & David Jason) and I, Claudius (Derek Jacobi).

Births in 1976

21st January – Emma Bunton, pop singer (Spice Girls)
8th February – Abi Titmuss, television presenter and model
23rd March – Chris Hoy, Olympic gold medal-winning cyclist
8th May – Ian "H" Watkins, pop singer (Steps)
14th May – Martine McCutcheon, actress and singer
6th June – Ross Noble, comedian
14th June – Alan Carr, comedian and broadcaster
8th July – Ellen MacArthur, yachtswoman
14th July – Geraint Jones, cricketer
19th July – Benedict Cumberbatch, English actor
23rd October – Cat Deeley, television presenter
12th December – Dan Hawkins, rock guitarist (The Darkness)

British publishing.

Richard Dawkins released "The Selfish Gene", a work that would go on to influence scientific thought for generations. Jeffrey Archer published "Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less).
Kingsley Amis published "The Alteration."
Terry Pratchett released his first novel, "The Dark Side of the Sun".
1976 also marked the publication of "Sleeping Murder," the final Miss Marple story by Agatha Christie, released posthumously.

Sport

British driver James Hunt won the 1976 Formula One World Championship by a single point from Austrian driver Niki Lauda.

World Events

Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak on April 1, 1976. That was the time to buy their shares - if only we had known …… !

Microsoft was officially registered as a company on 26th November 1976.

United States bicentennial celebrations culminated on Sunday, July 4, 1976, with the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Jimmy Carter defeated incumbent Gerald Ford on 2nd 37 November to become the 39th U.S President

Death of Mao Zedong, the longtime leader of China, Chairman of the Chinese Communist party and founder of the Peoples Republic of China, died on 9th September 1976 at the age of 82, following a period of ill health.

Tangshan Earthquake: A massive earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5, hit Tangshan, China, on 28th July1976, causing catastrophic loss of life. The death toll, thought to be one of the largest natural disasters in recorded history , was officially reported as 242,000 persons, but it may have been as high as 655,000 according to Wikipedia. Most of the fatalities resulted from the collapse of unreinforced masonry where people were sleeping. homes

South Africa: A series of police crackdowns took place as protests against apartheid erupted in Soweto, a township just outside Johannesburg, where black students and adults were protesting against the segregated educational system in the country. At least fifty people were killed, and hundreds more wounded, when police opened fire.

Raid on Entebbe: An Air France flight from Tel Aviv to Paris was hijacked on 27th June when Palestinian and German militants di-

verted the plane to Entebbe, Uganda. Non-Jewish and non-Israeli passengers were freed but over 100 Israeli and Jewish passengers remained trapped on board. Israeli commandos flew over 4,000 km to Uganda neutralising the 7 hijackers and successfully rescuing the hostages on 4th July 1976 .
NASA's Viking 1 spacecraft successfully landed on Mars on July 20, sending back the first clear pictures of the planet.

Do you have any memories of 1976 or other years ? Share your memories in an article for the 3in1 magazine. The editor will be delighted to receive any contributions !
Geoff Pilgrim-Morris.

BEING ECO CHURCH
Winter Homes for wildlife

This month's topic from A Rocha is homes for wildlife. As winter creeps in, homes are really important for all of us. God calls us to give nature a home, too.

Here are some ways to help - even if you don't have a garden, you might consider a bird feeder on a windowsill or balcony.

Start feeding the birds again

The RSPB recommends feeding birds seasonally and safely to reduce the spread of trichomonosis. Put out bird food and water on a regular basis through autumn and winter. Birds need high-energy, high-fat foods during cold weather. Seeds and peanuts should only be fed between November and April. Always adjust the quantity given to the demand, and never allow uneaten foods to build up. Food in feeders should be eaten in one to two days, and suet balls eaten within seven days. When refilling, remove any old food first.

Help hedgehogs prepare for hibernation

Hedgehogs are one of the UK's most loved animals, but numbers are dropping as we build on more land. Efficient winter nests are essential if hedgehogs are to survive hibernation. In the wild they begin to collect dry leaves, grass, bracken, reeds etc. in the autumn and use these materials for building their own nests at the bottom of hedgerows, fallen logs or piles of brushwood. These hibernacula prove to be surprisingly waterproof and good insulation against the cold.

Most gardens have a supply of the materials mentioned above and suitable sites for nests – gaps under sheds, compost heaps, shrubs and piles of leaves or behind stacks of logs and under spare building materials. In these circumstances, if hedgehogs want to spend a winter here, they should be able to get on and build their own shelters. However, you may like to provide a ready-made hedgehog house, especially if your garden is more formal.

Make a log shelter for insects

Putting together a log pile will create a village for all things creepy and crawly. In turn, this busy community will attract birds, hedgehogs and frogs looking for food. You can scatter individual logs around the garden, but concentrating the logs together will attract more wildlife.

Plant a tree

All trees will create a whole ecosystem for wildlife, but fruit trees are particularly good. One apple tree can become a vital part of your garden ecology, providing homes for earwigs, spiders, moths, beetles, birds and much more. Fruit trees develop hollows and crevices, decaying wood and fungi earlier than other trees (around 50 years compared with 300 for an oak), which means they're also a 'priority habitat' for rare species.

Introduce a water feature

Autumn and winter are great times to introduce a water feature to your garden. Amphibians like newts, frogs and toads use water as shelter and breeding grounds when spring arrives. Butterflies get valuable minerals and salts from slightly muddy water, and birds use water to bathe and remove parasites. It is important to keep the water topped up during the chilly winter months as sources of water can become frozen and more difficult to find. To make it as appropriate as possible, ensure your water source is shallow with gradual and rough-textured edges. This will mean that anything that climbs in can get out again.

Find more details at

https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/feeding-birds-near-you
https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-homes/
https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/help-wildlife-cold
https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/
https://www.bbowt.org.uk/actions/how-make-log-shelter
https://mycoronationgarden.org/blog/alice-whitehead/15-reasons-plant-fruit-tree-0

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2026 Benefice Worship Pattern

1st Sunday of the month

8am	St Paul's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11am	St Mary's	Worship

2nd Sunday of the month

8am	St Mary's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

3rd Sunday of the month

9:30	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	BCP* Morning Worship
11am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

**These services use the Book of Common Prayer as their basis*

4th Sunday 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

January, April, July, October at Holy Trinity Badgeworth

February, May, August, November at St Mary's Great Witcombe

March, June, September, December at St Paul's Shurdington

4th Thursday at 2pm Said Holy Communion at St Paul's

5th Sunday Benefice Service at 10am "Let's Worship"
usually in Shurdington Church of England Primary School

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