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**

Cherwell Valley

Catch-up

NOVEMBER 2026



Dear Friends

November has arrived, we have changed our clocks, the sunlight is shrinking away fast in the late afternoon, and the evening darkness is creeping forward increasingly faster. I am reminded of the Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer Collect “Lighten our Darkness we beseech thee O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night”.

Picture that we are in the middle of the countryside as we have all around us, in the middle of the night and in the pitch-black dark. All we see is the black sky. But looking closer we are surrounded by stars, hundreds and hundreds of them, and the moon waxing in one corner.

That helps us spiritually for this season in the Church’s year. We are now in Remembrance and Saints. On the first Sunday of the month, we remember All Saints and then All Souls, those who have left us as starlights of themselves and of their love and memories for the dark times in our lives. Their memories of the light of encouragement and support shine around us. And then we remember the fallen in wars and conflicts from World War One onwards. They have left us their lights of the supreme sacrifice of their lives for us to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Then on the last Sunday of this month we have Advent Sunday, the wake-up call that Christmas is on its way. It is the waxing moon in the dark sky, with its light bold and strong, but not of the quality of the full sunlight of the day, rather reflecting it. The spiritual light of Advent heralds the fuller light that is to come.

The night will give way to the bold new full light of the sun seeking to burst on to the new day ahead. The incarnation of our Lord at Christmas and its full light of life is not so very far away either. It’s just under the horizon at the moment.

Every Blessing
Revd. Andrew

AROUND THE BENEFICE

St James, Somerton

A crafty morning in aid of the Church



A Crafty Saturday Morning was held in Somerton Village Hall when a group of villagers spent a creative morning trying their hand at printmaking and producing a wonderful array of botanical prints helping to raise much needed funds for the Church. Our warm thanks go to Ana Cavey for organising the morning, and to everyone who came along, took part and gave so generously.

Half-term holiday club



Building on the hugely successful experience of the previous school holidays, St James' once again provided the base for a thoroughly enjoyable autumn half-term holiday club. A group of children from the village were royally entertained (and educated in a rather unconventional way) with crafts, painting and plenty of fresh air and adventure in the fields around the village. It is a particular joy to see our ancient building so full of life, noise and colour, and we are grateful to all those who gave their time to make it happen.

The Heyford Park Chapel,





An amateur theatrical production of 'STAGES' was held in the Chapel at Heyford Park recently. The main hall of the Chapel is the ideal space for performances, events and parties as well, of course, for baptisms, weddings, and services.

St Mary's Lower Heyford

After many years of duty, the bell ropes at St Mary's need to be replaced so that the bells can continue to ring out. The LH church are starting a fund to cover the cost of this. Any donations (after costs have been covered) at the Carols in the Square this year will go towards this – or donations at any time would be very welcome.

Would you like to sing in the choir at the LH Christmas Carol Service?

Why not join the small informal choir that sings at the Christmas Carol Service? It is a lovely way to celebrate the season. We rehearse on various Sunday afternoons mid-October onwards, in my house, at a time agreed with the singers. Being able to read music would be helpful, but no auditions. Contact Philip Boxall, email: philipb013@outlook.com for an informal chat and more information.

SAVE THE DATE

St Mary's Church Ardley

Friday 4th December 6pm 'Choose your favourite Carol'
with mulled wine and refreshments
Sunday 20th December 4pm 'Nine Lessons & Carols'
with mulled wine and refreshments
Thursday 24th December 7pm Christmas Eve Communion

St James Church Somerton

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 28th November, 11am – 4pm
Do come along and get the festive season off to a cheerful start
All are most welcome. St James' Church is a beneficiary of the proceeds from the event, so every mince pie counts. We look forward to seeing you there.

St Mary's Church Lower Heyford

Sunday 29th November 6pm Advent Carol Service
Friday 18th December 7.15pm Carols in the Square
Sunday 20th December 6pm Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 10th January 11am Christingle Service

ABVM Church Souldern

Saturday 19th December 6pm Carol Service
with mince pies & mulled wine
24th December 3:30pm *Carols in the Churchyard*

Would you like to sing in the choir at the LH Christmas Carol Service?

Why not join the small informal choir that sings at the Christmas Carol Service? It is a lovely way to celebrate the season. We rehearse on various Sunday afternoons mid-October onwards, in my house, at a time agreed with the singers. Being able to read music would be helpful, but no auditions. Contact Philip Boxall, email: philipb013@outlook.com for an informal chat and more information.

November Services

Sunday Worship	1st Nov	8th Nov	15th Nov	22nd Nov	29th Nov
Ardley w Fewcott	9.30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Family Service	
Fritwell		10:45 Remembrance Service	9.30am HC 10:30am Wild Worship	6pm Evensong	
Lower Heyford and Caulcott	11am BCP Holy Communion (1662)		11am Family Worship	11am Family Communion	9:30am Benefice Service @ Ardley
Somerton	4pm All Souls Service		11am Matins with BCP Holy Communion (1662)	9.30am Family Service with Communion	
Souldern	10.30am Wild Worship			10.30am Family Church	
Upper Heyford	9.30am Family Communion	9:30am Communion 10:15 Remembrance Service 6pm Evensong		9.30am BCP Holy Communion (1662)	6pm Advent Carol Service @ Lower Heyord
Heyford Park		4pm Remembrance Wreath Laying at the Gatehouse	4pm Heyford Ark	3pm Taize	
MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES Wednesday 11th & 25th November @ HPC					



VISIONS OF THE KINGDOM

in the Gospels of Mathew, Mark & John

(based on previous Sunday's Gospel Reading)

Alternate Mondays *next meetings* November 9th & 23rd 7-8:30pm

The Rectory, Heyford Park

For more details or to sign up please contact Rob

MORNING PRAYER in our Churches

Mondays 9am at St Mary's Lower Heyford

Thursdays at St Mary's Upper Heyford

Tuesdays - 3rd Nov - Souldern
10th Nov - Fritwell
17th Nov – Ardley

Mid Week COMMUNION SERVICES

10:00am at Heyford Park Chapel
Wednesday 11th & 25th November

Friday Recorded MORNING PRAYER

to receive the link email
barbara.mcgarry@cherwellvaleychurch.org.uk

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@cherwellvaleychurch.org.uk
Rev Andrew Foran	07753 677 470	andrew.foran@cherwellvaleychurch.org.uk
Administrator	01869 233687	barbara.mcgarry@cherwellvaleychurch.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

