

August / September 2025



See how the wild flowers grow! They don't work to earn, or craft their own clothes, but even King Solomon with all his wealth was not dressed as well as they are. Lk 12:27-28

WEST MOORS
PARISH MAGAZINE

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Magazine contributions for OCTOBER 2025

By or before Sunday 14th September

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com



Fish and Chips on a summer evening

**What could be
better!**



FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Louise Collins, Stuart Stebbing

Church Wardens

Debbie Brown, Paul Brealey, Christine Nutland

Assistant Wardens



Loving God, Loving West Moors

Brothers, sisters let me serve you. Immortal words from a familiar hymn. In keeping with a recent event at Wimborne Minster, well documented in the last magazine. Louise and myself attended the Visitation service, an annual event for church wardens. A joyful and meaningful service.

As a “newbie” I was reminded of the responsibilities towards the church and parishioners we serve. We are blessed with a loyal and faithful band of parishioners, willing to worship in a church beholden with beauty and a sense of belonging.



The visitation service was well supported by Rev'd Lizzie and members of our church family. A joyous occasion to celebrate as Louise Collins and Stuart Stebbing were officially confirmed as Church Wardens for the parish of St Mary's West Moors.

Just a few weeks ago eight of us enjoyed participating in a First Aid Course. The practical element is so necessary as the current certificate will soon expire.

Looking ahead. August is traditionally a quiet month in the church calendar. The Patronal Festival takes us out of ordinary time to celebrate a saint. At St Mary's we celebrate St Mary the Virgin given the full title of our church. Next will be our Harvest Festival Sunday 28th September. The last Harvest service was when Rev'd Lizzie joined us. Come ye Thankful Vicar Come !! Brothers, sisters let me serve you.

There will be Tea@3 in August but no Saturday breakfast as the team enjoy a well earned break, They will be back 20th September. Harvest Fayre is Saturday 27th September 10-12 noon. Posters and notices will be given throughout September.

Enjoy your summer holidays both home and abroad. The next magazine will be October 2025.

In the meantime , brothers, sisters let me serve you.

Blessings

Stuart

FROM THE VICARAGE

Celebrating 1700 Years of the Nicene Creed

This year, the Nicene Creed turns 1700 – a birthday no human can ever hope to reach! Yet, this remarkable text has been the bedrock of Christian worship for seventeen centuries, and here at St. Mary's, we believe that's something truly worth celebrating!

What Exactly Is a Creed? A creed is a statement of belief. In the Nicene Creed, we begin by proclaiming, "We believe." So, it's not just a handy document to refer back to, but a public and interactive way for us to commit ourselves each week to the faith we share. You'll notice we say "We believe" instead of "I believe." That's because the Christian faith is lived out in community. We support one another through belief and doubt, walking together on our journey of faith.

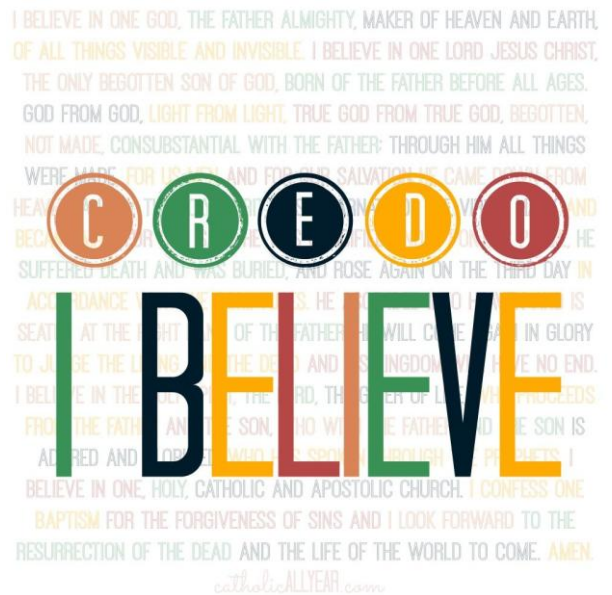
The Nicene Creed has four main parts: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Church. The first three lay out the three persons of God within the Trinity: The Father who creates us. The Son who became incarnate and saved us through his passion and resurrection. The Holy Spirit who animates and motivates us in the faith and works of a Christian life.

The last part reminds us that we are part of a church that is both of heaven and of earth. Even with the earthly church's problems, scandals, disappointments, and divisions, there is an eternal, universal, and perfect Body of Christ – a church that transcends all of our earthly struggles. It's to that family we will be called at the time of our death, and in which we will live our resurrection life.

So Why Mark This Anniversary? Well, if you're anything like me, you intone the creed once or several times a week and never really think deeply about the words. Spending time prayerfully with this creed could open up new questions and new spiritual depths for us as we look deeper into the fundamentals of our faith..

Join Our Celebration!

To mark this significant anniversary, we're launching a special preaching series on Sunday mornings at church, each member of our clergy team is going to preach on a different part of the Nicene Creed. On top of this, our home groups will be delving into the Creed in more detail throughout September. If you're interested in joining a home group, please get in touch with Rev. Lizzie, and she'll help you find a group that suits you.



Questions to Start Your Reflection:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Here are some questions to begin exploring the Creed's meaning for your life:

- What makes you wonder at the marvels of creation, the vastness of space, and the variety of life on Earth? How does this help you connect with God?
- The Apostle Paul's letters often use phrases like 'in Christ' and 'in him.' What might living 'in Christ' mean for you individually and for our community of faith?
- Can you think of ways the Spirit is guiding you in your life or the Church today?
- How does the promise of resurrection influence the way we live now?

I pray that during this time of considering the Creed, you find new ways to encounter God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

With Blessings,

Rev. Lizzie



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MU theme for 2025 – “Join US and JOIN IN”.

Meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.

Upcoming events -

Saturday August 9th Strawberry tea at 13 Arnold Rd 2pm- 4pm.

Saturday September 6th Coffee Morning Church Hall 10am - 12pm.

September meeting on Monday 15th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall

I love to visit beautiful gardens and admire the hard work that is needed to keep them neat and tidy. My Dad was a keen gardener but his generation were sometimes by necessity growers of vegetables rather than flowers and shrubs. Sadly his ‘gardening ‘ gene did not come my way but skipped a generation onto my daughters.

I am very aware that there are some very keen gardeners amongst our membership and at this time of year we have a chance to visit one or two of their gardens. In June our meeting was an outdoor event. Some of our members went for a walk led by Revd Alan while the rest of us enjoyed the tranquillity of Liz and Mike’s garden. On return of the walkers we enjoyed our picnic suppers.

In August we are having a Strawberry Tea in the garden of Alyson and Chris. Do come along and enjoy, not only the tea but their pretty and immaculate garden, and of course there will be a Raffle.

As September comes round we are holding a Coffee morning, with a Raffle and Cake Stall. Please come along and join us at these events so we are able to support MU projects. The last coffee morning we held in June was really well attended and although it was a dreary day outside, in the Church Hall there was a really convivial atmosphere, so Thank You to those who supported us.

I hope you are all enjoying your summer breaks

Love to you all

Mary Hurdley

God of peace, give a sense of hope to your people
Who live in countries where there is conflict.
May they receive the love and nourishment
they deserve, and may they strengthen each other
through circumstances we cannot begin to imagine.
Encourage those who work for peace and reconciliation,
give them understanding and patience
and a resolve not to give up.
May they know the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

A.M.H

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MARY SUMNER – FOUNDER OF THE MOTHERS’ UNION

On 9th August we remember Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers’ Union. The Mothers’ Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector’s wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary’s father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of “faith, charm and sympathy” – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal ‘mothers’ meetings’ at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary’s later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George’s uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband’s ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary’s eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers’ Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers’ Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers’ meetings on Sumner’s pattern. Soon, the Mothers’ Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in



The Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.
Amen.

1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

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FROM BISHOP STEPHEN

September is always a month of endings, as well as new beginnings. As the bright colours of summer fade into the oranges and browns of autumn, shiny new school shoes make an appearance, along with fresh notebooks as we head back to our desks after a break over August. We start again, carrying with us the feeling of a new year beginning.



September then is always a month of change, and because of this it can be unsettling. We reflect on or maybe grieve for that which is drawing to a close, and can feel a mixture of anticipation about what is new or next. It is likely that we feel this even more acutely this September, living in a world which feels increasingly insecure from the perspective of fast-changing global politics and conflicts around the world that show no sign of abating. All is changing; all feels very fragile and deeply uncertain.

One of this country's much-loved hymns is 'Abide with Me', famous for being sung at every FA Cup Final since 1927. The words are based on Luke 24: 29 and were written by the Reverend Henry Francis Lyte, with one of the stories about this suggesting that he wrote them in September 1847 – just after he had conducted his final church service and when very ill with tuberculosis. He died two months later.

Putting aside questions of when Lyte wrote these words, the fact remains that they capture the constancy of God's presence and love, even as the seasons change, our lives change, our world changes; in life and in death:

Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

This then is a beautiful reminder that even though we, and indeed our world, pass through times of change and can feel unsettled as a result, God goes with us. God in Christ abides with us, his presence and love unchanging in our ever-changing world:

“Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. (*Luke 24: 29*)



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Susan Yates (07759 151201) Susanyates1603@icloud.com

The Summer Fun Day at Westival – took place on Saturday the 12th July. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us, either with the tombola or the bring and buy. We had over 90 prizes. Many thanks to everyone who generously donated good quality prizes beforehand. A big thank you to our helpers on the day who worked in extremely hot conditions. Special thanks to Stuart and Nick who saved the day at the beginning of the morning sorting our tables. We raised the grand total of £226.55 (£122.50 on the tombola and £104.05 on the bric a brac).



Our next fundraising event:- Wimborne Minster Coffee Morning (for the Minster Boxes) Saturday October 4th 10.00am – 12.00 midday. at Church House, Wimborne, with our usual stalls:- refreshments, raffle, bring & buy, cards and cakes. Your support beforehand with any raffle prizes, bring and buy or cakes would be appreciated. If you are able to come and support us on the day that would be terrific.

Loving God, we thank you for your love for each of us.

Thank you that we are each individually and uniquely known by you,

so that even all the hairs on a head are counted.

We pray that all children and young people would know of their incredible worth.

That they are loved and cherished by you.

We pray for the work of The Children's Society

as they show the incredible worth of every child and young person.

Thank you that our worth is not in what we have or do but in who we are, children of God.

Help us build a society where all are valued and cherished, all are known and loved.

May politicians and leaders see every child and young person,

not as numbers on a spreadsheet but unique, beautiful, loved children of God. Amen

With love and God's Blessings

Geraldine Cole/Rosemary Dunning/Julie Hardman/Susan Yates

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CHATTY CRAFTERS

Gillian Clarke

I was delighted this week to visit Bournemouth Hospital to hand over the Comfort Hearts which had been knitted by our Chatty Crafters group.

It was good to meet the lead chaplain, Rev James Taylor, who showed me round the beautiful new Chaplaincy Centre. This is now situated in the brand new **BEACH** Building (Births, Emergency, And Critical care, children's Health).



The suite of rooms, including a chapel, quiet room and offices has a calm, peaceful and welcoming atmosphere, offering support and a quiet space for those who need it. It was a Friday when I visited and, being a multi-faith area, it was good to see preparations under way for Muslim Friday prayer.

The Centre is situated at the entrance to the hospital – next to Costa and the small supermarket – it really felt like church being taken right into the heart of the hospital community to be accessible to all and to serve all.



Rev James told me how valuable the Comfort Hearts would be in the Chaplaincy's work; so often something to touch and hold can bring comfort and a point of contact between a sick person and their loved one.

I left feeling pleased that we at St Mary's had been able to help in such a small way with the wonderful work being done here – and thankful for the blessing of hospital chaplaincy!

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Lectionary for August/September

Sunday 3 August

Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14, 2.18-23

Col 3.1-11

Luke 12.13-21

Sunday 10 August

8th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 15.1-6

Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16

Luke 12.32-40

Sunday 17 August

Patronal Festival (WHITE)

Isaiah 61.10-end

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 1.46-55

Sunday 24 August

Isaiah 43.8-13

Acts 5.12-16

Luke 22.24-30

Sunday 31 August

Fifth Sunday

Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16

Luke 14.1,7-14

Sunday 7 September

‘We Believe in one God’: Preaching series on Nicene Creed 1700th Anniversary

Sunday 14 September

‘We believe in The Father - Maker of all things visible and invisible’:

Preaching series on Nicene Creed 1700th anniversary

Sunday 21 September

‘We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ only Son of God’

Preaching series on Nicene Creed 1700th anniversary

Sunday 28 September

Harvest Festival

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Philippians 4.4-9

John 6.25-35

Sunday 5 October

‘We Believe in the Holy Spirit’

Preaching series on Nicene Creed 1700th anniversary

Sunday 12 October

‘We believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church’

Preaching series on Nicene Creed 1700th anniversary

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FUND RAISING NEWS

Chris Wilson

HARVEST FAYRE Saturday 27th September

This is a major fund raising event and it's time to be thinking about the stalls and how you could help please:

Calling all jam, marmalade, preserves and pickle makers!

We would like to run a stall with homemade jam, marmalade, chutney and pickles, so please think about making any of these which would be much appreciated

As usual, we would like your help in providing goods for some of our stalls such as Raffle, Tombola, bottle stall, plants and cakes please

PETS' BLESSING SERVICE Saturday 4th October

We are having a pets' blessing service on Fryer Field in the afternoon to be conducted By Rev Lizzie

So, please bring your pet if you can and tell everyone about it as we would like to make this a service for the whole community.

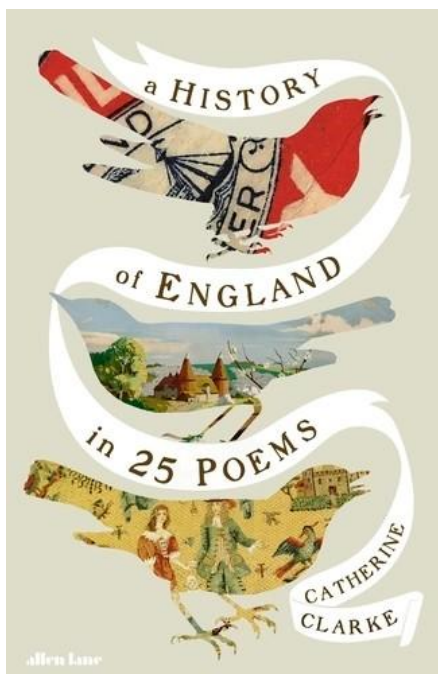
BINGO NIGHT Friday 24th October

FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Bazaar Saturday 29th November

A HISTORY OF ENGLAND IN 25 POEMS

Some of you will know or remember Catherine Clarke, a very active former member of this church. You might be interested in looking out for news of her book to be published by Penguin in September. And listen out for coverage on the airwaves and in other media too.



“This is the history of England told in a new way: glimpsed through twenty-five remarkable poems written down between the eighth century and today, which connect us directly with the nation’s past, and the experiences, emotions and imaginations of those who lived it.

These poems open windows onto wildly different worlds – from the public to the intimate, from the witty to the savage, from the playful to the wistful. They take us onto battlefields, inside royal courts, down coal mines and below stairs in great houses. Their creators, witnesses to events from the Great Fire of London to the Miners’ Strike, range from the famous to the forgotten, yet each invites us into an immersive encounter with their own time.”

TRANSFIGURATION

Canon Paul Hardingham

'There Must Be More to Life Than This'. These words from Freddie Mercury of Queen will resonate with many of us, when we are looking to get more out of life, even as Christians. At a deeper level, we want to see and hear more clearly what God is doing in our circumstances. The Transfiguration of Jesus, which we remember this month, helps us to consider this issue (Luke 9:28-36).



Jesus was transfigured alongside Moses and Elijah, 'As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' (29). To understand our circumstances, firstly we need to see Jesus as God wants us to see Him. The disciples' eyes were opened to see Jesus' divinity. The presence of Moses and Elijah confirmed Him as God's promised Messiah. By helping us the grasp who Jesus really is, this event powerfully calls us to entrust our lives into Jesus' hands to experience His presence and power.

Secondly, if we are to make sense of our circumstances, we need to hear what God says about His Son. A cloud covered them and 'a voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him.'" (35). God affirmed His love and call on Jesus as His beloved and chosen Son. Do we hear God speaking these same words to us? When we know that we too are loved and accepted by God, this transforms our understanding of our lives.

Whatever our circumstances, they can be transformed by what we see and hear. Open your eyes to see a transfigured world. Open your ears to hear a transfiguring voice. Open your heart to become a transfigured life.

'No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same.' (Philip Yancey)



Sunday 21st September 2025

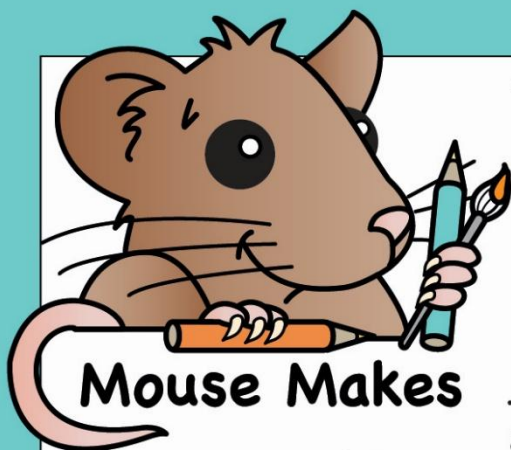


Forget-me-not Service

3pm

Everyone is welcome.

**This is a short gentle service
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Mouse Makes

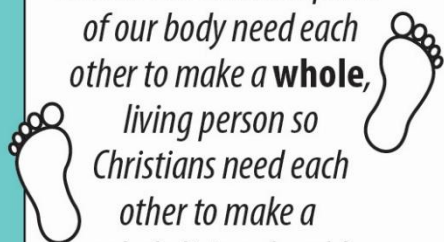
"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



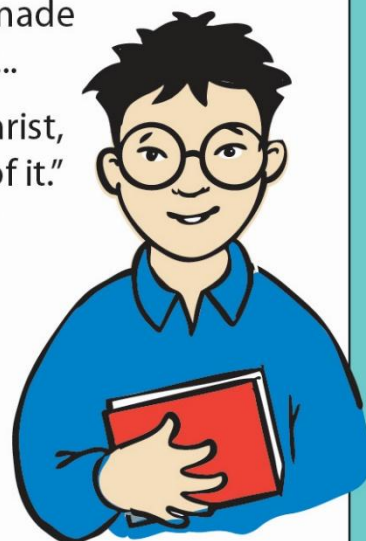
Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



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K E T L R L M V Y D
B W S L E G S Q E B

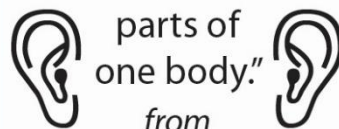
Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."

from Romans 12:1-7





St Mary's CE First School & Nursery

Believe in better... be more AWESOME ~ for anything is possible with God

As we reach the end of a fantastic summer term at our school, we're delighted to share some of the highlights that have made this term so special. Our Year 3 and 4 children wowed audiences with their incredible performance of *Alice – The Musical*. Their hard work, confidence, and enthusiasm shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

Our annual summer fair was also a great success, bringing together families, staff, and the wider community for a fun-filled day. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event!

As our Year 4 children prepare to move on to their chosen middle schools, we wish them every success in the next stage of their learning journey. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming our new starters in September.

We still have spaces available for September, including in our nursery. If you'd like to find out more, please contact the school office – we'd love to hear from you!





Loving God
Loving West Moors

St Mary's Church

Harvest Fayre

Sat 27th September

At St Mary's Church

Station Road, West Moors

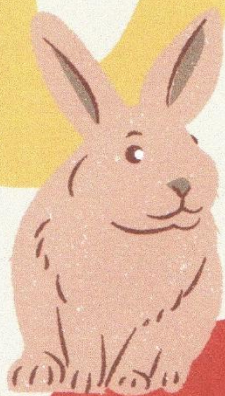
10am - 12 noon

Refreshments, cakes, raffle,
tombola and stalls



Free entrance





St Mary's West Moors



PET BLESSING!

Fryer Field, Bond Ave, West Moors

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 3PM

A JOYFUL GATHERING TO CELEBRATE AND
BLESS OUR BELOVED ANIMAL COMPANIONS

All well-behaved pets welcome!
Bring your furry, feathered, or scaled friends
for a short outdoor service with sing-a-long
favourites, a warm welcome, and plenty of
friendly faces.



contact
vicar@stmaryswestmoors.org.uk
for more information

