



Wykeham Benefice News

August/September 2025



A reflection from our Rector

We have experienced one of the dryest spring seasons on record here in England.

I do not even need to look out of my window to know how brown my lawn is looking and I am sure those of you reading this will have similar looking gardens. So far, it has been just the North-West of England living in declared drought conditions, but now (15th July), the Environment Agency has added the West and East Midlands to this list with hosepipe bans on the way. In addition to a very dry Spring season, the month of June saw 20% less rain than usual across England. This, coupled with high water demand due to multiple heatwaves, means our country's water storage levels are significantly down. We desperately need rain – and lots of it!

As humans, we rely upon water for survival. Its presence is of course vital for life. But for some people who live in countries where water sanitation is poor and a daily struggle, water can also become a cause of death, especially in the case of water borne diseases. A shortage of water can also be associated with death because severe droughts can result in famine, and a lack of drinking water which can increase mortality rates.

For Christians, water is an important symbol in our faith. Throughout the Bible, many stories give water an important role, from rivers, to seas, to wells, to floods, and, of course, drought.

One story featuring water that is important in helping us understand our relationship with God is when Jesus sits by a well in John's Gospel (4. 6-42). There he meets a Samaritan woman who has come to draw water, and tells her to give him a drink. In the time of Jesus, Jews did not share things in common with Samaritans (as the story tells us) and so the woman questions why he is asking her, a Samaritan, to give him a drink. Jesus said to her, *"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."* (John 4. 13-14)

It is likely that the 'living water' Jesus mentioned refers to fresh flowing, running water like that from springs. However, we know that if we drink, even from streams of flowing water, we will become thirsty again. In this passage Jesus is telling us that the water of life offered to us by God means we will never be thirsty again. That water of life gifts us with eternal life. We will always thirst for physical water, but it is our spiritual thirst that will be quenched when we drink of the water of life given to us by God.

That living water, ever moving, flowing, bubbling and powerful, weaving through the earth also gives us an insight into the nature of God. God is ever flowing, ever moving, always at work in us and through creation, and wishes, not just for our flourishing, but the flourishing of all creation too. We may lack water upon the earth, but through our faith in God we will never thirst for the living water Jesus offers.

P.S. As I finish this letter, it is now pouring with rain! (19th July).

Emily

Parish News

BROUGHTON WITH NORTH NEWINGTON

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Church Fete on Saturday 21st June. It was such a hot day but thankfully cool in the church for those wanting to try their luck at the tombola, buy a new book to read or indulge in the delicious cakes. Thanks to your support, we raised just over £400 which is a fantastic amount; thank you once again.

Neil Howarth writes:

The Strawberry Tea on Saturday 5th July made a profit of £210. Thanks go to Margaret Howarth and Margaret England for organising it, Sarah Crawley for the raffle and Paula for the lovely sponge cakes. Thanks to everyone who supported this fund-raising event for St. Mary's House.

The day after the Strawberry Tea, the benefice service took place at St Mary's on Sunday 6th



July. It was a wonderful event, not only to have worshippers from across our churches here at Broughton, but we were delighted that Grayson's baptism was part of the service. Welcome to the church family Grayson. In addition, we were delighted to enjoy a talk from Alan who told us all about his work in Sierra Leone in West Africa where he has visited numerous times to provide help and support in building classrooms and accommodation. Thank you Alan for your inspiring talk and for all you have done and continue to do to raise funds to help the communities in Sierra Leone. If you would like to find out more about Alan's work or you wish to make a donation, please visit www.alansafrika.co.uk. Thank you.

And finally, we wish all the schoolchildren at Bishop Carpenter CofE Primary School a wonderful end of term service at St Mary's

and hope you a wonderful summer and exciting return to school in September.

SIBFORD

The Churchwarden baton has been handed on by Diana Thompson and Barbara Foster to Mike Bowden. Mike is a long time and well known member of Holy Trinity who will receive the ongoing support of the PCC and our congregation.

Jazz in the Field, was enjoyed by all who came, bringing picnics, chairs and tables, joining in with friends and family. The rain held off which was a blessing and we raised a modest sum for church funds.

The **Sibford Tots** Group are planning a Teddy Bears Picnic at Holy Trinity on August 8th with a Teddy Parachute Jump, a Picnic and other fun things.

The Coffee Stop meets on a Tuesday morning in the church, offering a warm place to parents who have delivered their children to school, a chance to chat and have refreshments,. Occasionally a passerby calls in and they are welcomed. We will continue throughout the summer and the rest of the year. Everyone welcome.

Ride and Stride 13th September. Plans are being made to raise money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches. The church will be open as usual and a rota of volunteers will be there to meet and welcome visitors offering refreshments. OHCT have been firm supporters of Holy Trinity church, recently awarding us £8,000 towards our reordering project.

Harvest Service 28th September, Holy Trinity Church 11am. The Harvest offering of food, tinned and packets will be taken to Polly Preedy as she continues to daily feed the homeless and needy in Banbury. The Harvest lunch/supper is in the planning stage. The Pew Sheet in September will have details.

SHUTFORD NEWS

The annual Christian Aid Appeal raised £510 plus £106 in Gift Aid. Donations, outside Christian Aid Week, can be made at any time via the website <https://give.christianaid.org.uk>

A church team organised teas at the Shutford Village Fete in June which raised funds for the church and Banbury Young Homeless Project. Many thanks to the fete organising committee and everyone who made the event a great success.

As usual there was plenty of tea and homemade cakes to be enjoyed, in addition to other refreshments and the usual money making stalls.

Shutford PCC will meet shortly to discuss a church building inspection, worship and outreach, and plans to allocate an area in our churchyard for the interment of ashes.

We are grateful to everyone who supports St Martin's Church in various ways including the team of florists who donate and arrange flowers all year, many of which are grown locally.

Our Harvest Festival will be on 28th September, details will be shared nearer the time.



SWALCLIFFE

Concert for Ukraine

A packed church recently welcomed back the Kyviv Classic Accordion Duo of Igor and Oleksii, who are celebrating their 20th anniversary together this year. We enjoyed a variety of classical music masterpieces for two accordions, designed to show off the flexibility and versatility of these incredible instruments. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which raised £2,300 to support victims of the war in Ukraine.

Farewell to Maurice Cooling

On Monday 7th July the village came in large numbers to the church and then the village hall to celebrate the life of a dearly loved and respected Swalcliffe resident, Maurice Cooling, who has died at the age of 87. Maurice and his family moved to Swalcliffe in 1962 and Maurice

soon became involved in establishing Swalcliffe Park School. He continued to be active in the school and village life after retirement. He will be sadly missed and long remembered.

Church and grounds working party

Over a dozen volunteers met on Saturday 12th July for a tidy up of the church and churchyard. We polished the brass and silver, dusted, and swept the church, did some strimming and weeding in the churchyard and cleared drainage channels. Afterwards the team was rewarded for its hard work with a BBQ and a well-earned beer or glass of wine. Thanks to all involved.



Upcoming concert

THURSDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2025
AT 7P.M. (Bar from 6.30p.m.)

We will be privileged to welcome *The News*, a terrifically talented close harmony group drawn from the choral scholars of New College Oxford. This internationally renowned group will

The News
of New College,
Oxford

*Close harmony
singing from the
Medieval to the Beatles*

Swalcliffe Church - 25th September 2025
6.30pm Bar opens, 7pm Concert

In support of church restoration works <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-news-oxford>

NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

perform a concert in the church comprising a varied programme of music, ranging from medieval to The Beatles. It will be an entertaining treat of musical excellence. New College Oxford is a patron of Swalcliffe church, with a long history interwoven with our village, including the creation of Swalcliffe Barn.

Tickets are now on sale for £12.50 (with

concessions for young people) plus booking fee and can be purchased online.

Any queries please call 07768 773933.

And finally

Save the Date for **Swalcliffe's Christmas Market**, Saturday 6th December from 12 – 3.30pm in the church.

TADMARTON

What a very hot summer we have been experiencing. Some love it, others not so much but as usual our churchyard looks lovely as always, thanks to everyone involved.

We would like to thank Lindsey and Rolf Smith for cleaning the church carpets. Well done great job!

Pet Service. We are looking forward to our pets service on the 27th July , really hoping to seeing some of our animal friends or at least picture of them if it's not possible to bring them. It will be good to give thanks for the joy and comfort they bring to so many.

We are holding a sponsored walk on the 8th August, it will be 8.5 miles starting at Great Rollright and ending at St Nicholas church. Please let Angie Dean know if you would like to join. Sorry no dogs allowed.

Our Harvest Festival will be on 12th October at 6pm followed by the Harvest Supper in the village hall. I hope Mike Hillman is ready for the auction of produce after the supper which always raises a vast amount of money for charity.

Chris had a phone call from someone in Germany whose Great Great Great Grandfather was buried in our churchyard in 1839. As we know gravestones weather a great deal but we were able to locate it and he is coming to visit on the 18th July. We wish him well and hope that he will be pleased to be able to pay his respects to his relative.

We would like to thank Emily and John for all their continued hard work over the summer supporting many of the events that have taken place around the Benefice.

EPWELL

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Father's day service in June.

Although we couldn't provide bacon butties this year there was a plentiful supply of sausage rolls and breakfast pastries to go round.

Making the most of the beautiful weather in July, Carolyn and Peter kindly hosted an outdoor lay led service amongst the fragrant lavender in their garden prior to it being harvested.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Benefice service in Epwell on Sunday 3rd August at 10.30am, with refreshments to follow the service.



The Lenten alter cloth repaired with its new black velvet hem, by Jackie White, Jills Hilroyd and Carolyn Koch de Gooreynd

Epwell said a sad farewell to Jill Hilroyd.

Jill was an active and well regarded member of our community. If there was something going on, Jill would be there to support and participate. She invariably bought along one of her infamous Guinness and Chocolate Cakes which were hugely enjoyed by countless villagers. A recipe so delicious but never to be revealed.



Parishioners and friends lined the village to say a final farewell

We knew Jill had worked at the Fair Lady Bakery in Banbury for 30 years but most of us didn't know how influential she became in her career. It was Jill who came up with a new healthy loaf that was taken on by Sainsbury's, nationally, and helped to continue the success of the company which it still enjoys today. She retired only a few years ago.

Jill's friendships spread throughout the village. She was always there to help, baking and assisting with stalls at the Christmas Fair and many other village events.

I got to know Jill better through upholstery classes and asked her and another from the class, Jackie White, if they would help me mend the Lenten altar cloth. The hem had frayed terribly. The altar cloth was originally designed and made by Alison Binns, 1985, Shiela Hoy's mother. It took time to repair because there are several layers under the front cloth which hold all the heavy embroidery even so it doesn't droop. Fortunately, Jackie was quick to advise us to sew markers for all the supporting threads as our first job, while we unpicked the backing. This then had to be married up after sewing on a new black velvet on the bottom to replace the threadbare purple cloth hem. Sewing it all back together was therefore time consuming. Jill kindly finished off the last part of stitching the backing layer to hide the work underneath and delivered it to the church in time for Lent this year.

Jill will be missed by many in our village.

Carolyn Koch de Gooreynd



Jackie and Jill making a start



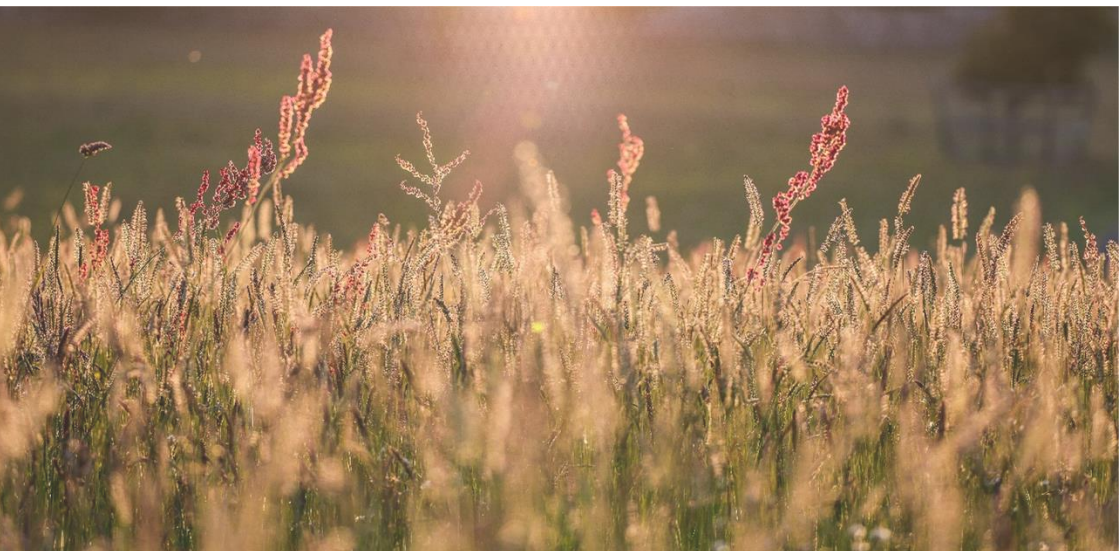
Above, Jill putting the final touches to the repairs

Rev'd Emily with Susie, Jill's dog



Thoughts for your prayers - for the rest of the Summer.

- You will find daily prayers posted each week on the Diocese website.
- The Christian Aid website follows their projects around the world dealing with the poor, sick, famine crisis's, and youth work.
- The Church of England website has podcasts of daily prayers.
- Finding the right, new Archbishop of Canterbury to lead our church and ministry and uphold the purity and goodness of Jesus's teachings.
- We need 'youthful' Christians throughout this country. It is their generations that will be keeping our benefice churches vibrant in the future. Successful leaders for successful youth camps this summer could inspire young Christians. Our rural churches are finding it hard to encourage young people to attend our regular church services so please also pray for us to be inspired to evolve to inspire them.
- For parents to find time and enjoy time with their children in the holidays.
- For young and old to take action to restore our planet.
- Try praying for your neighbours, and in doing so, mend bridges and bring harmony to the world.
- Peace talks and agreements is needed in all areas of conflict. Escalation of war around the world must be quashed and world leaders need to make the right decisions.
- Continue to pray for the starving, the enslaved and those persecuted or deprived of human kindness.
- Make time to reflect and gain a renewal of Spiritual energy.
- Think of those who are challenged by this being their busiest time of the year.
- Consider farmers around the world on land and sea trying to providing food and being challenged by the climate and rising costs.
- Pray for growth in the numbers of people being open to experiencing the 'light' of Jesus Christ in their lives and the Good News that Jesus has brought into the world.



AUGUST SERVICES

Sunday 3 rd Trinity 7	Epwell	10.30a.m.	Benefice Service	ES	Green
Sunday 10 th Trinity 8	Sibford	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	Green
	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP	JT	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Sibford	10.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Epwell	10.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
Sunday 17 th Trinity 9	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	ES	Green
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Shutford	11.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Swalcliffe	6.00pm	Evensong BCP	ES	
Sunday 24 th St Bartholomew	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion	ES	Red
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	GE	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	BF	
	Broughton	11.00am	All Age Family Service	JT	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
Sunday 31 st Trinity 11	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Green
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	GE	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Shutford	6.00pm	Evensong	ES	

Assisting Priests:

The Rev'd Brian Fairbank (BF), The Rev'd Allan Doig (AD), The Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE),

The Rev'd Graeme Arthur (GA); The Rev'd Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd John Smith (JS),
The Rev'd Prebendary Olwen Smith (OS)

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 7th Trinity 12	Sibford	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	ES	Green
Sunday 14th Holy Cross Day	Sibford	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	Red
	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	JS	
	Sibford	10.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Epwell	10.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	BF	
Sunday 21st St Matthew	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Red
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	GE	
	Shutford	11.00am*	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JS	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Swalcliffe	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	JT	
Sunday 28th Trinity 15	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Green
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Sibford	11.00am	Harvest Festival	ES	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Broughton	4.00pm	Harvest Festival	GE	
	Shutford	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	ES	

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AUGUST READINGS

3 rd	The seventh Sunday after Trinity	Eccles ch.1 v2,12-14 ch.2 v18-23	Colossians 3 v1-11	Luke 12 v13-21	Green
10 th	The eight Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 15 v1-6	Hebrews 11 v1-3, 8-16	Luke 12 v32-40	Green
17 th	The ninth Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23 v23-29	Hebrews 11 v29-ch12 v2	Luke 12 v49-56	Green
24 th	Bartholomew the Apostle	Isaiah 43 v8-13	Acts 5 v12-16	Luke 22 v24-30	Red
31 st	The eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Proverbs 25 v6-7	Hebrews 13 v1-8,15-16	Luke 14 v1,7-14	Green

SEPTEMBER READINGS

7 th	The twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 30 v15-end	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14 v25-33	Green
14 th	Holy Cross Day	Numbers 21 v4-9	Philippians 2. v6-11	John 3. v13-17	Red
21 st	St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Proverbs 3 v13-18	2 Corinthians 4 v1-6	Matthew 9 v9-13	Red
28 th	The fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Amos 6 v1a,4-7	1 Tim. 6 v6-19	Luke 16 v19-end	Green

Articles for the next edition of the WBN need to be in by 12th September 2025. Please send them to carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk

