

INSPIRE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026



**The monthly magazine
for the Parish of
St John The Baptist, Frome**

**The parish of Frome Selwood
in the Frome Local Ministry Group**

Vicar	Rev. Seamus Hargrave rev.seamushargrave@stjohnsfrome.com	01373 433933
Reader	Janet Caudwell	01373 461176
Reader	Rosemary McCormick	01373 451055
Group Clergy	Revd Liz Dudley (CC/SM)	01373 473249
	Revd Ian Snares (HT)	01373 462586
Administrator	Karolyn Curle Email: admin@stjohnsfrome.com	01373 462325
Safeguarding officer	Steve Smith Email: smith.steve.71@icloud.com	01373 454083 / 07548 250805
Churchwardens	Neil McCormick	01373 451055
	Sky Dale	07464 603571
Lay chair	Peter Connew	01373 474158
PCC Secretary	Andrew Barr-Sim Email: pccsec@stjohnsfrome.com	07887 643973
PCC Treasurer	Christine Holland	01373 461604
Choir Leader	Rosemary McCormick	01373 451055
Sacristy Team	Margaret Veakins	01373 473031
Tower Captain	Matthew Higby	07971 441042
Flowers	Elaine Gilburt	01373 466072

August / September 2026



Detail from 'Animals of the Sea and Sky' at Frome Festival

The Vicar's view

Now I don't want to paint my time in Taizé as a pure penance. Yes, there was one moment, on the day that I escaped to Cluny, that I found myself staring intently with avaricious eyes at a bottle of sweet white wine as the condensation gently rolled off it, parched tongue hanging out in thirst. Yes, my quarters were in a building where absolute silence – not even being allowed to use a hair dryer – was enforced. And yes, I ruined my pedicure and hands in the relentless plate washings that were enforced upon me every day! But there were also moments of immense joy, I had the opportunity to join with approximately 2,000 other people a day in prayer and worship, I had the opportunity to study the bible with people from numerous countries and faith traditions and finally I could enjoy the ecstatic vindication that comes from participating in services that go on for even longer than mine!

By chance, my time in Taizé coincided with the release of a national CofE study on what is currently drawing young people to the Church. The report, *Understanding Young Adult Journeys to Faith in the Church of England*, is available online and contains many interesting insights. One thing that resonated with my experience in Taizé was the person



who said *"I started going to a few low masses, speaking to the clergy, and the impression I got was, well, this is how you do it here, and this is the theology you're going to get here, but also if you disagree on any of it, you're kind of free to do so, and it's not putting you outside the bounds of communion."* In Taizé we all explored and questioned faith together, zealous Orthodox Christians debated with ardent Calvinists, but we were all able to pray and share communion together, and that must, I think,

illumine some of the immense appeal of Taizé, that the strength of our discussion seemed in no way to diminish our Christian fraternity. Indeed, Taizé is one of the few places where people of all denominations may receive Roman Catholic communion and participate fully in the sacramental life of all churches.

Yet, though surrounded by unity, there were moments when, particularly looking out at the altar, there seemed an uncomfortable bleakness about this portrayal of ecumenism: the



sanctuary's religious imagery seemed largely to consist of candles and coloured tiles, with all overt references like cross and tabernacle very abstractly portrayed, almost hidden. In some ways I can understand this need to reduce the peculiarities of a particular Christian tradition until at last you reach something that everyone can agree on and feel comfortable in, but again, coming back to our recent study, I was struck by the person who said *"I made my own daily office, which is a Book of Common Prayer, but with the rosary in it, basically. I think Thomas Cranmer would have a fit, but he's dead, so ... I do that in the morning quite often."* I found this fascinating as, rather than needing the Christian faith to be pared down to its most basic essentials, what this young person was able to do is find a holistic way in which one of the most overt elements of Protestantism – the BCP – and the most stereotypical form of Catholic devotion – the rosary – enhanced and deepened the other. In some ways ecumenism no longer seems to be about how much we must give up to find unity but about how much we can blend together to enrich the Christian expression.

This, for me, gets to the core of the elusive path to unity in the Christian Church today. For many there can be a real anxiety about what we say and do, or how we say and do it, in case it puts people off; for many this leads their Christianity to retreat into a realm of

silence or unwillingness to take a clear and decisive view, yet what most people have reported is that *“there’s just more of a longing for truth, particularly in young people”*. If we believe Christianity is true, with power and potential to change the world, then we must be willing to say so, and not to be afraid if what we say is challenging. Yes, we might at times say things that contradict the desires or experiences of others, but that doesn’t necessarily mean it turns them away. The person who is able to combine the Holy Rosary with the Book of Common Prayer is also going to be more than capable of taking the clear truth claims of our faith and working them into their own world view and life, no matter how opposed we might fear these things appear at first.

Taizé does have a very clear root: it is sacramental – we took communion every day; it is intense – you spend at least three hours in prayer each day; it is studious – with two hours of bible study and optional lectures. And yet it is packed with young people from across the globe and seems to inspire faith, perhaps because it is uncompromising in its expression of Christian faith. Christianity is not homeopathy – it will never become stronger the more we dilute it. It will, however, become stronger the more we lean into its richness, history and diversity. The claim in our report which best matched what I heard in Taizé was *“We’re realising the dissatisfaction that comes with the world, particularly a secular world.”* In the Gospel for this coming Sunday (2 August) we will hear how Christ, seeing the hunger of his people, turns some very meagre offerings into an overwhelming abundance. Jesus is not scared to overwhelm with the richness of his Church. Are we, as a Church, ready to feed the dissatisfaction of so many young people with the living bread? To not dissect our faith of its rich culture and traditions but proudly display them to a world too ready to cut off and abandon its own? Are we ready to take a people who despair of the world as it is and point to the Christ who uses the depths of despair as the furrows in which new life is planted and in whom the world as it is, is just a shadow of the world that is to come?

Rev Seamus Hargrave



Having already built the campfire and sourced enough fish to feed the entire group, our Victorious Vicar singlehandedly puts up the Churchwarden's tent using some of his many outdoor skills.



THE CATHOLIC CARTOON BY JOSHUA MASTERSON



"No, Mrs. Hodges, I don't believe my cat would be interested in your cat --- he's taken a vow of celibacy."



Photo: Chris Gil-

Frome Festival 2026

The duty sheets were spread across the dining room table, to be crossed off daily; emails reminded us each morning of the things to be done. Yes, it was the Festival: bring-your-bed-to-St John's-time again!

It was a cruel irony that the funeral of Martin Bax, the well-loved founder of the Festival, had to take place during the week before the Festival. This meant that the noble people of Frome Floral Art, together with our own Flower Team, had only a day and a half to prepare the exhibition, instead of their usual four days.

The miracle happened! By Friday the church was filled with amazing works of art depicting 'The Wonders of Creation'. Using flowers, plants, model animals, globes, even a moving orrery, each day of the Genesis Creation account was explored.

As ever, each display was thoughtfully and skilfully constructed so that every time you stood and looked at it, you noticed another detail. And, of course the overall effect was one of great beauty and fragrance.



I had sent my usual plea to St John's School and Selwood Academy, and they had responded with promises of some art work to complement the Wonders of Creation theme, but just before I was about to mount the exhibition, Trinity School offered some artwork. So our schools' display was much fuller than usual, with many wonderful depictions of flowers, trees and insects and also clay landscape tiles and some intriguing creatures in jam jars!



Over 1750 people came into the building during the Festival, dutifully counted in by the loyal stewards who welcomed people in. Some



stewards were in friendship pairs, but some found themselves sitting with people they had previously only nodded to across the pews. Some new friendships were forged! We were so pleased that all those duty rotas were filled, and we are especially



grateful to those who did multiple duties. Alongside the welcomers were the refreshment stewards serving drinks and cakes – these were particularly appreciated by our visitors.

Our friends from Frome Art for Wellbeing held their annual exhibition in the south aisle. I always use this opportunity to buy my supply of blank cards for the next year.

And the ever-popular bookstall proved a magnet for all visitors.

When the day time exhibition ended, each day there was another event, and another squad of openers and closers and stewards moved into action to welcome artistes: some individuals and small groups but also large choirs and orchestras (who needed feeding).



Photo: Angela Pater

Barry's talk

Our own in house presentations included Barry's talk on the history of Penguin books, which proved very popular and sent me home to look carefully at the elderly Penguin books on my shelves; Choral Evensong when the combined choirs of St John's (the familiar faces and voices

Photo: Rosemary McCormick



Handbells in the Lady Chapel

of our Sunday morning choir joined by the 'occasional' choir who meet for our monthly Evensong) really excelled themselves singing praise to the Wonders of Creation; and finally St John's by Candlelight when more characters from St John's rich history moved out of the shadows to tell their fascinating stories, and the evening ended with Compline. The 'candlelight' proved particularly effective this year thanks to the 'veil' which Peter, Matthew and Tony had heroically put in place in the West Window. I use the word heroically deliberately: pause to imagine the ladders involved in this operation.

The floral exhibition which had been put in place in record time, was dismantled equally swiftly to make space for a wedding on the last day of the Festival.

But the Fabulous Faith exhibition was equally swiftly put up for Sunday, and although the Catwalk didn't take place there were plenty of visitors, including an influx of hot families taking refuge in the

church while they waited to take part in the walk through town to Welshmill Woods.

Our thanks to everyone who played their part in the success of all this: to those who came and supported, to those who added their

name to the rotas, perhaps for the first time,

to those who kept us organised, to those who were in church all day and every day, setting up, watering, taking down. Thank you all.

The Festival, The Heat, together with four funerals, one wedding and Arthur Fery – the week was something of a roller-coaster!

Janet Caudwell



Photo: Angela Pater

St John's by candlelight

Hymn books!

You will have noticed that some of our hymn books are now in very poor condition, so we are very grateful indeed to St Huberts of Corfe Mullen for the donation of 50 hymn books in really excellent condition.

Special thanks to Revd Lesley Jones and Wardens.



St John's Gardening Group - Autumn bulb planting

If anyone would like to donate spring bulbs for planting this September/October in St John's churchyard, the Gardening Group would be very grateful.

Please contact Tony, Lydia, Morag or Kathryn G.
Thank you!





Two Sundays in August

Bring and Sing

Sunday 16 August at 5.00 pm in St John's

– an opportunity to come and sing your favourite hymn,
perhaps one that you seldom or never hear in church.

Songs of Praise

**Sunday 30 August at 5.00 pm
in St Katharine's East Woodlands**

– an opportunity to join St Katharine's in their annual service.
(there will be no 5.00 pm service in St John's on this evening)

We have settled into a pattern of Sunday evening worship usually at 5.00pm:

- 1st Evening Prayer
- 2nd Benediction
- 3rd Choral Evensong
- 4th Lay led (which has become 4th@4pm but which is currently under review)
- 5th 'Flexible fifth'

During August there will be some changes as outlined above. There will be no Choral Evensong, as Rosemary who leads the occasional choir – and is one of the providers of the essential cake – will be away. Instead, we thought we would take the opportunity to invite members of the congregation to choose some hymns for a 'Bring and Sing'. I provided a blank sign up sheet at the end of this month's Evensong, and to my amazement it rapidly filled up with suggestions from the choir – so I'm not sure that other members of the congregation are going to get a chance to choose!

But do put the date in your diary. We shall be in the Chancel, and I can't tell you how wonderful it is to join in hearty singing in that wonderful space. Paul will be playing the organ. We will let you know if we need any more hymn requests.



This month's 'Flexible Fifth' will be our now traditional visit to St Katharine's for their Songs of Praise, probably preceded by a Cream Tea in the Village Hall. Look out for further details, including offers of transport to Woodlands.

Janet Caudwell

And if you haven't experienced one of our monthly Choral Evensongs, do come along—the one in September promises to be extra special!

Chaplains

You have seen the poster; you have read the requests for support. But you may still be wondering what this all means.

You may have observed, when visiting cathedrals, that there is usually someone distinctively different from the official guides, someone who is available to listen to people, to pray with them, to remind them of the true, deep purpose of the building. That person is engaged in Chaplaincy.

A small group of us have started providing this Chaplaincy, in pairs, in St John's throughout the summer months from 12 noon to 1.30 on a Thursday.

I think that all of us are good at engaging with the visitors we encounter whenever we pop into church. But the simple act of donning the black gown gives us a little more visibility and signals a willingness to do a little more than give a potted history of the church, if it is needed. Because we profess to be no more than someone with whom to sit in silence, to light a candle and say a prayer, we always have access to one of our priests if we feel we need more spiritual support.

Janet Caudwell

Glazed doors for the West End entrance

– a progress report and a request

Many of you reading this will be aware that back in 2025 the PCC were finally given faculty permission by the Diocese to replace our inner wooden doors at the main entrance with full height glass doors to provide a more welcoming aspect to people entering church while keeping the wind, rain and cold outside.

The permissions have been a protracted affair with the Victorian Society in particular voicing concerns. We were finally able to resolve these by explaining that the plans for the original doors in the mid-19th century were actually for part glazed doors.

Our architects had recommended a Bristol-based company, Specialised Glazing Projects Ltd (SGP), to undertake the work, and we had commissioned the design and bespoke glass. Unfortunately, just when we were within a week or so of having the doors fitted and with significant sums paid against progress, SGP went into administration with no funds to reimburse the payments made to them.

We were able to identify to the administrators our glass doors in course of construction, and they agreed in principle to release them to us. We asked a local glass fitting team if they would complete the installation, and we had hoped that this would be the way to go forward.

However, in reviewing the drawings and the toughened glass, a flaw was found with the positioning of the hinges. Where they were positioned would not support the weight of the glass properly, allowing the doors to sag inwards with the two leaves quite quickly overlapping each other in the middle.

We explored the possibility of using a stronger, heavier-duty hinge, but unfortunately none were compatible with the existing hole positions. The challenge with toughened glass is that, once the hinge holes have been cut, the glass undergoes a heat-treating process. After this treatment, no further cutting or drilling is possible, as any attempt to modify the pane would cause the glass to shatter.

The PCC considered halting the project and putting back the original wooden doors instead. However, it believed that the statement made by the glass doors was an important expression of our mission and ethos. At its most recent meeting, the PCC therefore agreed to fund a new contract, despite the fact that doing so would mean those funds would no longer be available for other projects.

We have now engaged ION GLASS of Haywards Heath to provide new glass with a different hinge arrangement and complete the installation. We expect to sign off the revised drawings during August and forecast the installation to be in mid October – hopefully before the weather becomes damp and cold.

As the funds paid to SGP are considered unrecoverable by the company's administrators—with creditors such as HMRC, in respect of VAT, National Insurance contributions, and other statutory liabilities taking priority and not themselves expected to recover the full amounts owed—we have unfortunately lost that four-figure sum.

I therefore end this progress report with a simple request, that if anyone feels able to make a contribution towards the cost of the new doors, we would be deeply grateful for your support. Every donation, however large or small, will help. You can:

- Do a bank transfer – email amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk for the details.
- Hand in a cheque or cash in an envelope marked 'doors' to a sidesperson
- Use the donation station – select 'other' when asked and type in 'doors' before selecting your amount to donate.

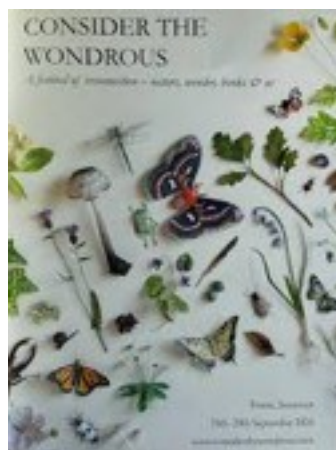
Thank you very much.

Peter Connew on behalf of the PCC



Consider the Wondrous – From Devotion to Delight A month of Festivals!

September is already shaping up to be another exciting month for Frome and St John's church, with two festivals to entice visitors in quick succession.



Consider the Wondrous is the result of a collaboration between Tina from Hunting Raven and Gareth Howell Jones, an author from Hay-on-Wye, and will be a celebration of nature and the environment. Howell-Jones has written two short books with the intriguing titles – *Do not call the tortoise* and *Your lowly hedgehog knows* – in which he reflects on the verse from the book of Job 37:14 *Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God*. Over the weekend of 19–20

September there will be a series of events, including talks and walks, as well as our choral evensong on Sunday 20 September, which will take the same theme, and I am hoping that Gareth will be our guest at that service. There is a brochure at the back of the church in which you will find full details of the Festival, and Tina has more information.

Then two days later we welcome back Max Todes with his Cavatina Orchestra, as he launches what he hopes will become an annual festival event: **From Devotion to Delight**

Those of you with long memories may well recall an exciting concert that took place in St John's back in March 2023. As we prepared for Easter we were treated to a 'pop-up' concert given by local musician Max Todes, then in his final year as a music student in Cambridge. He brought a group of his friends to perform Bach's St John's Passion: '*St John's in St John's by students from St John's*'. Since then Max has gone on to study conducting in Glasgow, and is now embarking on a musical career – not easy in the current economic climate, but he has

big aspirations and plenty of talent. He is keen to establish an annual music festival in Frome and the surrounding villages, and would like to make St John's his Festival Home.

Earlier in the year he brought a group of singers to Mells for an enchanting evening of music and poetry readings, *'Tallis and Sassoon'*, and his next project will involve a series of three concerts, Tuesday 22nd September in Mells, Thursday 24th September at Rye Bakery, culminating at St John's on Friday 25th September, when the programme will comprise a rarely heard song cycle by Mahler and Beethoven's 7th Symphony.

Details of this festival can be found at: <https://preview.mailerlite.io/emails/webview/2391692/193424998559384768>.

Do put these dates in your diaries and support these events.

Rosemary McCormick



Eileen Wilkie

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Eileen, one of our longest-standing and loyal members of the Zoom congregation. Until the pandemic Eileen had been a familiar face at St John's, as part of our



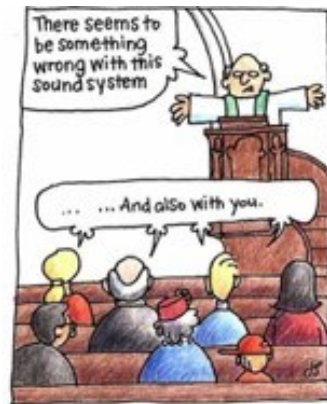
congregation and as noble supporter of Mandy on the book stall. She and Mandy joined us, virtually, Sunday by Sunday, and it was especially poignant for us all to wave to Eileen at her last service, the day before she died.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Janet Caudwell

Whatever your task, work heartily. Col 3: 23

Part 4 – A time to speak and a time to be silent



Have you ever wished you could hear the vicar more clearly? Or wanted to block the choir out during their anthem? – The power could be yours, if you join the Sound Team, those privileged people who control the sound desk, the microphones and the CDs of music for special services. It isn't as difficult or as complicated as it sounds, and you are guaranteed a seat even when the church is packed for the carol service.

What does it involve? Getting to church a bit earlier, about 30 mins before the service – time for a chat and a quick coffee before the rush. The microphones need putting in position, and then you sit at the sound desk turning the volume controls up or down. Training is available but it doesn't need a degree!

Or if that part of worshipping life at St John's doesn't appeal, have you thought about joining the sacristy team? That is a very elite team who have the responsibility of looking after all the magnificent vestments that we usually only glimpse when they are brought out for special events. On a more mundane level, it means making sure the Lord's table is laid and cleared away, with the correct linen and vessels – a bit like at home, although personally we don't drink from gold goblets! There are also the candles to look after and the altar frontals to change – from Green to Red to Gold (a bit like traffic lights really, although much more beautiful).

All these, and more, opportunities are there if you are interested – see Mandy or Rosemary for more details.

Or if you just fancy wielding a mop or feather duster look out for details of our next 'clutter busting and church cleaning' morning. There's always something for everyone at St John's.

Rosemary McCormick

July 4th adventure

Eds: Thank you to Sheila and Anne for sharing their unforgettable trip.

My daughter Anne, her friend Tina and I flew to New York on July 1st to join Queen Mary 2 on a day to remember, celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence.

After a couple of exciting days in NY (World Cup fever plus Taylor Swift's wedding!), we boarded the ship in Brooklyn on Friday 3rd and sailed overnight to NY harbour, where the ship anchored in prime position. QM2 is the only transatlantic ocean liner in the world; it has high standards in everything, but it's not stuffy or snobbish – just offers old fashioned courtesy and service – nothing is too much trouble.

July 4th dawned bright, hot and sunny, and there was great excitement from the American passengers we talked to. Breakfast TV was being presented live to the nation by Jenna Bush, one of President Bush's twin daughters and apparently quite a celebrity. A large model of Liberty carved in ice was melting steadily in the heat – the previous days had been 39 degrees, but it was much cooler on water, of course. Loud music played, stately tall ships from all over the world floated by and then there was a spectacular fly past of military aircraft, including the stealth bomber (not heard until seen) and a stunning finale from the Red Arrows. Macy's fireworks finished the day, brought forward by an hour due to storm warnings, Nature providing a stunning finish to an unforgettable evening.

The Americans were intent on having a great time – certainly



Anne on the cliff-top walk, Newport



loud but very happy, friendly and generous. Anne admired a necklace of red, white and blue stars worn by a lady we sat beside, immediately to be given it without a second thought. They were delighted the Brits were sharing their special week, though there were no takers for the offer from Seamus via us that they are welcome back anytime – in fact, they were puzzled and somewhat concerned about our political shenanigans.

The next day we went ashore at Newport, Rhode Island, the smallest US state, where there was much evidence of great wealth, with beautiful detached mansions and

swimming pools etc., reminiscent of the film *High Society*. A sea day followed, with a fascinating talk by Captain Jeff Skiles, co-pilot of the plane that ditched in the Hudson River in 2009 (Tom Hanks played the pilot Captain Sullenberger III in the movie *Sully*). A more understated, impressive speaker would be hard to imagine. The whole drama lasted 6 minutes (yes, just 6 minutes!) from take off to crisis landing, including hitting the Canada geese, losing both engines and with the left wing on fire 3 minutes before landing in the freezing water. Not a single soul was lost – the only casualty was a stewardess who was bleeding badly, injured in the thigh by debris, and who has never flown again. A passenger on the flight whose wife had been diagnosed with breast cancer had made a pact with the Almighty the previous day that if one of them had to die, it should be him. During the crisis, he remarked that although he intended to keep his promise, he hadn't expected Him to call quite so soon.

The next two days were spent in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with a huge drop in temperature – down to 16 degrees. Apparently the Labrador current meets the Jet Stream there, often resulting in cool conditions and frequent fog. An excursion to the Titanic cemetery proved to be as poignant as you would expect.

The grave stones are arranged in two lines which converge at the top to resemble the bow of a ship. Each stone had a number on, equating to the order in which they were pulled from the sea, a stone minus a name on top meant an unknown body. A name added below meant that relatives had provided the name after receiving personal items or that DNA had solved the puzzle. An upright column known as the Unknown Child marked the grave of a youngster originally thought to be one of four children under 8 years old of a Swedish woman who perished with her brood, but recently the little one has been identified as a 2 year old British boy. Back at the ship we were piped aboard by a splendid kilted piper.



A Titanic victim, identified after

Curious Fact 1: Canada has legalised cannabis, and shops selling it abound.

Curious Fact 2: We saw no flies anywhere in North America: none in NY, none in the hotel and none on the ship – perhaps it's the air con.

Curious Fact 3: Across the Pond, they pronounce Cunard as Coo Nard, with the accent on the second syllable. As Samuel was born in Nova Scotia, perhaps they are right?

Sheila Page and Anne McDonald

Café & Mini-Market – the first Sunday of the month

The next dates are:

Sunday 2 August, Sunday 6 September, Sunday 4 October

11.15am to 2pm

Refreshments and light lunches. Cakes, bakes and preserves.



News from other churches

St Katharine's, East Woodlands

Sunday 30th August at 5pm: Songs of Praise

Do join us for this special annual service.

Village Hall, East Woodlands

Pop-up Pub on first Friday at 7pm in August and September.

Cream Teas every Sunday throughout August 3pm -5pm. Make a note in your diaries - such a popular feature of our summer!



Something to take into consideration ...

when taking a Memorial Service at St Katharine's!

As usual I aimed to arrive an hour before the service began, but when I reached the old pub, the road ahead was blocked by a land rover. I really should have noticed the blue agricultural twine stretched across all the openings, I really should. But instead I went into panic mode imagining the road ahead impassable, going through alternative routes to church.

A man approached the car, and I explained where I was going. He made no reply but simply went back to the land rover, reached inside and fetched out his phone. I really should have realised the significance of the blue string.

His phone call over, he came back to me and explained that the road ahead would be clear: 'We're only moving heifers.'

Ah, the blue string –stretched across all openings (including to Christine's garden!) to ensure that skittish heifers only go to the field they are intended to enter.

It did give me my opening words at the beginning of the Memorial Service, for a local farmer, David Wills. I was able to tell the congregation that I nearly didn't get to church because they were moving heifers –something David would appreciate. **Janet Caudwell**

Lunchtime concert

A musical kaleidoscope

performed by



Helena Todd (violin) and Paul Eyre (piano)

Saturday 5 September, 1pm

At Christ Church

William Grant Still, Suite for Violin and Piano

Amy beach Romance

Béla Bartók Romanian Dances

George Gershwin Summertime

Music by Claude Debussy and Frederic Chopin

Tickets £8 available on the door

50% proceeds to Christ Church

Refreshments available

Frome Dissenters' Cemetery

Open Day

To celebrate its 175th anniversary

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th

September 2026



- Exhibition of Burial Registers, minute books, deeds and plans etc:
Sat 5th, 10am to 4.30pm and
Sun 6th, 2pm to 4.30pm
- Walk'n'Talk guided tours: Sat 5th at 11.30am and 2.30pm
- Service on Sunday 6th at 3pm to commemorate and remember all those for whom this is their last earthly resting place. In particular the first person buried here, on 7th September 1851, ALFRED WHEELER, the 10 week old son of William Wheeler, a tailor who lived in the Butts.

SERVICES at ST JOHN's – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

Regular weekly services

Sundays

- 8.45am Online service via Zoom – contact admin for link & code
- 10.00am Choral Eucharist*
- 5.00pm Evening worship in the Lady Chapel:
 Week 1: Evening Prayer
 Week 2: Benediction and Evening Prayer
 Week 3: Come and Sing Evensong
 Week 4: Let Us Pray; Week 5: Flexible Fifth

Mondays

- 8.45am Morning Prayer in the Ken Chapel

Fridays

- 12.30pm Eucharist in the Lady Chapel (Fri 25 Sep in the Vicarage)

Saturdays

- 5.00pm Evening Eucharist in the Lady Chapel

Additional services in August/September

Mon 10 Aug: 8.45am Mattins 12.30pm Eucharist St Lawrence	Mon 14 Sep: 9am Mattins 12.30pm Eucharist: Holy Cross Day
Tue 11 Aug: 8.45am Mattins Clare of Assisi	Mon 21 Sep: 12.30pm Eucharist St Matthew
Sat 15: 9am Mattins Blessed Virgin Mary	Sat 26 Sep: 9am Mattins St Cosmos and St Damian
Mon 24 Aug 8.45am Mattins 12.30pm Eucharist St Bartholomew	Tue 29 Sep: 9am Mattins 12.30pm Eucharist: St Michael and All Angels
Sat 29 Aug: 8.45am Mattins 'Lessening' of John the Baptist	

DIARY DATES – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

August

Sat	1	9am	United Prayer at St John's
Sun	2	11.15am -2pm	Café & Mini Market
		3pm	Cream teas every Sun in Aug at East Woodlands Village Hall
Wed	5	6.30pm	Book Club
Sat	8		Baptism
Tues	11	2pm	Memorial Service
Sat	15	12.30pm	Wedding
Sun	16	8am—1pm	Frome Marathon; road closures
		5pm	Bring and Sing (instead of Choral Evensong)
Thurs	20	2pm-4pm	Craft and Conversation
Tues	25	11am	Julian Meeting
Fri	28	2pm	Hospital Service
Sun	30	5pm	Songs of Praise at St Katharine's

September

Wed	2	6.30pm	Book Club
Sat	5	9am	United Prayer
		10am-4.30pm	Dissenters Cemetery Open Day (see p 21)
		1pm	Violin and piano recital (CC) (see p 21)
Sun	6	11.15am -2pm	Café & Mini Market
		2pm-4.30pm	Dissenters Cemetery Open Day (see p 21)
Wed	9	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Christine's
Thurs	10		Laurel work in forecourt
Sat	12		Frome Cheese Show
Sat	19		Wedding
Mon	21	7pm	St John's Women's Group: Talk
Fri	25	1pm	Wedding
		Evening	Concert - Max Todes
Sat	26	1pm	Wedding
			Frome Carnival
Tues	29	11am	Julian Meeting

Nominations for 'Wonders of the World'

As part of our Wonders of Creation display at Frome Festival, we asked visitors to nominate their 'wonder' of the world. We had 45 nominations in all – here I've picked out three that hadn't been on my radar before.

Ngorongoro crater, Tanzania – the cradle of life



The world's largest inactive, intact and unfilled volcanic caldera. This area is considered to be the seat of humanity after the discovery of the earliest known specimens of the human genus *Homo habilis* as well as early hominidae such as *Paranthropus boisei*. Apart

from humans (Maasai since 1800), approximately 25,000 large animals, mostly ungulates, buffalo, gazelle, eland, wildebeest, hippo, zebra, flamingos and lions live in the crater.

Chimborazo, Ecuador

Chimborazo is a stratovolcano in Ecuador and the Cordillera Occidental range of the Andes. Measured from the Earth's centre, its summit is the highest point on Earth. Its last known eruption is believed to have occurred



around AD 550. Although not the tallest mountain in the Andes or on Earth relative to sea level, its summit is the farthest point on Earth's surface from the Earth's centre due to its location along the planet's equatorial bulge. Chimborazo's height from sea level is 6,263m (20,548ft), well below that of Mount Everest at 8,849m (29,032ft).

Dettifoss waterfall, Iceland

The Dettifoss waterfall is the most powerful (defined by its water flow multiplied by its fall distance) waterfall in Europe: 200 cubic metres of water per second plunge over the edge. Dettifoss is 45m high and 100m wide. It is



located on the Diamond Circle, a popular tourist route around Húsavík and Lake Mývatn in North Iceland. Iceland's geysers also received a nomination.

Of the other nominations, a few have me puzzled: Bayn + Panal? Boulder? The SRY? And one made me smile: St John's Frome flower show! Maybe three more wonders next month?

Elaine Gilbert

St John's School Farewell to Mrs Gilbert

Eds: Mrs Teresa Gilbert left St John's at the end of the summer term. In the last newsletter of term she wrote:

From September, Mrs Nicole Simenton will be the full-time Head of School, and Mr Beament will be the Executive Headteacher, supporting the school in this role for two days a week.

Although my time at St John's hasn't been for as long as I had originally planned, this end of term marks 32 years working as a teacher and headteacher. St John's is my fifth school, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside staff, governors and families to support the wonderful children here. I will miss being part of the school community, and I want to thank everyone for the support given to me. I wish the children, staff, governors and parents well as I move on to explore new opportunities whilst having much valued time to spend with my mum and family. Thank you to you all.

Mrs Teresa Gilbert - Headteacher

Bridge lessons this autumn

Would you like to learn to play Bridge, or improve your skills at the game? If so, Frome Bridge Club's forthcoming teaching year beginning in October provides the ideal opportunity. Taught by experience bridge players in relaxed and friendly surroundings, lessons are available for complete beginners, improvers – including those returning to the game – and intermediate level bridge players.

Bridge is a fun and social game that appeals to all ages, providing a perfect balance of entertainment and logic. It's great for the brain, and is not difficult to learn, just requiring practice to become familiar with the basic rules.

The weekly teaching sessions at Frome Bridge Club's HQ – Wesley Methodist Church Hall, BA11 1HA – will take place on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings, depending on the level of interest. Teaching will provide a comprehensive introduction to the game for those who've never played it before, as well as top-up lessons for those with some previous knowledge. No card game experience is required and the sessions – including play practice – are an opportunity to meet new people whilst acquiring a skill that provides an excellent mental workout. Ten weeks of teaching up until

Christmas costs just £50 and lessons will continue in the New Year at £3 per lesson. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided!

Frome Bridge Club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union. We are holding an *All about Bridge* day in Frome Library on Saturday 5 September between 10am and 2pm. Do come along if you'd like to find out more.

For more information, either: call **John Perry** on **01373 467508**; email frome@bridgewebsmail.com or visit www.bridgewebs.com/frome



Simple PC Help
Est. 2003
technology problems, fixed. 

**Struggling with technology?
I can help**

Over 20 years' experience helping local people with their technology

- Friendly help with PCs, Macs & laptops
- Help with phones, tablets & email
- Internet, Wi-Fi & printer problems fixed
- Stay safe online (scams & passwords)
- At-home visits & remote support
- No problem too small

Call Richard
01985 33 00 73
07979 25 25 73
richard@simplepchealth.co.uk
www.simplepchealth.co.uk

Frome Bridge Club

**Friendly lessons and
play for all standards**

Beginners, improvers and returners
to the game all welcome

Teaching sessions Tuesday evenings
and Thursday mornings

Competitive play Monday evenings
Just £3 per session

Contact:
John 01373 467508
Elaine 07809 163705

 www.bridgewebs.com/frome

The Gentleman Painter & Co

**Specialising in the exterior and interior decoration
of period properties**



- Sash window renovation, reglazing, puttying and replacement of rotten wood, freeing up of stuck windows
- Careful, traditional time served methods
- Interior decoration with discounts on the best quality paints available
- All female team apart from me!
- No smoking – no swearing – no Radio One

marc@marcpeel.com
www.thegentlemanpainter.com

Andrei Rublev's Icon of 'The Trinity'



Six hundred years ago, a Russian monk called Andrei Rublev painted one of the most famous icons of all time. It is called simply 'The Trinity' or 'The Old Testament Trinity' or 'The Hospitality of Abraham'. Rublev had been asked to create a holy image of 'One God in Three Persons' for a monastery just outside Moscow. He had to show the faithful who would pray in front of the icon how Christians experience the same God in three different ways: as Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Rublev turned to the story in Genesis 18, where three mysterious strangers appear before Abraham at the Oak of Mamre. He feeds them and in return they tell him that his wife, Sarah, although old and past the age of childbearing, will have a son. The icon is a meditation

on mystery, prophecy, revelation, the nature of God, and on hospitality and miracle: a powerful mix. It also exudes peace, perhaps as an antidote to the terrible world outside the walls of the monastery, for it was painted during the trauma of the savage Tatar invasion of Russia.

Like so many icons, 'The Trinity' is full of symbols. On the left is a house, which can be read simply as the home of Abraham, or as the House of God, that is, the Church. To the right is a mountain, which in the Bible is a sign for the meeting place between God and humanity: for the place where revelation occurs. And in the background at the centre is a tree. This is both the Oak of Mamre and the Tree of Life and the tree from which the cross on which Christ was crucified was made. It makes the viewer think of Golgotha. It is typical for one symbol to be multi-layered.

We will come to the figures in a moment, but first look at the table around which they are sitting. It is not a domestic one, but a Russian altar table upon which the priest would place the bread and wine of the Eucharist. The bowl represents the holy vessels used in the Eucharist, and it contains a calf's head, representing both the meal offered to his guests by Abraham and the sacrifice of Christ.

Very cunningly Rublev has used something called 'inverted perspective'. In ordinary perspective there is a vanishing point in the background of a picture which tricks the eye and mind into thinking it is looking into the distance. In inverted perspective the vanishing point is in front of the picture. It is another trick, this time drawing you, the viewer, into the picture. You are being invited to enter the scene, sit down at the table and to eat and drink with the three heavenly visitors. You are invited literally to commune with God through the sacrament of the altar. God is welcoming you into his presence. 'Come, dine with me.'

That 'God is one' is expressed in a number of subtle ways. All three have pairs of wings (read 'heavenly beings'), the same hairstyle and the same facial expression. All three wear an under-tunic and an over-mantle. All three have blue somewhere in their clothing, suggesting the blue of the sky and thus of heaven. That is, divinity is present in all

three. There is a circular movement of gazes and gestures around the table showing the three distinct 'persons' as one whole bound in the relationship of love. There is also an underlying geometry: they are three sides of an equilateral triangle. We are before a consummate image of divine unity and harmony.

That 'God is three persons' is expressed by subtle points in the colour of the clothing of the three figures. The colours have faded over time, masking what would have immediately struck the first viewers. The figure on the left is God the Father, who was originally clothed in an outer garment shimmering with an almost transparent gold sheen suggesting heavenly glory. The figure in the middle is God the Son, who was clothed in a reddish-brown inner garment which suggested his earthly life (the Incarnation) and the sacrifice of his blood on the cross. The figure on the right is God the Holy Ghost whose green outer garment suggested life and renewal, the vivifying power which keeps the universe in being.

Mark Golder

RELIABLE & TRUSTWORTHY LADY

AVAILABLE FOR

**Plumbing, Tiling,
Decorating, Gardening, Dog walking,
Shopping
And Domestic Duties**

**Experience In Helping The Elderly
And Those Who Need Extra Help To
Remain In Their Own Home**

References Available

For More Details Please Call

Jeanette

07856 042644

nts 
COMPUTING

Computer & Laptop Repairs

Upgrades	Sales
Virus Removal	Broadband
Networking	Wireless
Data Recovery	and much more ...

01373 302901

www.ntscomputing.co.uk
help@ntscomputing.co.uk

| windows | apple | tablet | phone |

Based In Frome | Established in 2000

Female Masters of Music Judith Weir and Errollyn Wallen

It may surprise some people to know that the last two Masters of the King's (or Queen's) Music have both been women. This is a big step forward from the time when all such appointments were of white males. The Master is an honorary appointment made by the Sovereign and is conferred on a musician of distinction who has added to the musical life of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. In the 21st century the appointment is limited to 10 years, but in the past it was generally for life. The post dates from 1625, and previous holders have been William Boyce, John Eccles, Sir Edward Elgar, Walford Davies and Peter Maxwell Davies.

The first woman appointed Master of the Queen's Music was **Judith Weir**, and she held the post from 2014 to 2024. Judith was born into a Scottish family in 1954; she started as an oboe player, performed with the National Youth Orchestra, and studied composition with John Tavener. She went to Cambridge University and then spent several years working in education in England; followed by a time in Scotland, teaching at Glasgow University and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



During this time she began to write a series of operas, including *King Harald's Saga*, *The Black Spider*, *A Night at the Chinese Opera*, *The Vanishing Bridegroom* and *Blond Eckbert*, and they have subsequently been performed in the UK, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium and the USA. The most recent opera is *Miss Fortune*, which premiered at Bregenz in 2011 and went on to the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in 2012. In collaboration with director Margaret Williams, Weir has created several opera films, including *Scipio's Dream*, *Hello Dolly* and *Armida*.

As resident composer with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the 1990s, she wrote several works for orchestra and chorus, including *Forest*, *Storm* and *We are Shadows*, which were

premiered by Simon Rattle. She has been commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra (*Music Untangled* and *Natural History*), the Minnesota Orchestra (*The Welcome Arrival of Rain*) and the London Sinfonietta (*Tiger under the Table*), and she has written concert works for notable singers, including Jane Manning, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw, Alice Coote, Ailish Tynan and Ruby Hughes. She has composed concertos for piano (William Howard) and oboe (Celia Craig). In later years, Judith Weir expanded her choral catalogue, with regular performances by choirs worldwide of music such as her Christmas carol *Illuminare* and *Jerusalem*, written for Stephen Cleobury and the choir of King's College Cambridge. As associate composer with the BBC Singers (2015-19) she completed two oratorios: *In the Land of Uz*, about the prophet Job and *blue hills beyond blue hills* to Zen-influenced verse by Scottish poet Alan Spence.

She has had a long association with Spitalfields Music Festival and has taught as a visiting professor at Princeton, Harvard and Cardiff universities. Honours for her work include the Critics' Circle, South Bank Show, Ivor Novello and Elise L Stoecker awards, a CBE and The Queen's Medal for Music.

Amongst her priorities in her role as Master were the support of school music teachers, of amateur orchestras and choirs, and of rural festivals. In this role she wrote music for national and royal occasions, including



the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the UK's official commemoration of the 1918 Armistice. She also created new music for many community groups and schools, including Burntwood School Wandsworth, Aberdeen Art Gallery, St Mary's Church Dover and Greenacre School, Barnsley.

Errollyn Wallen moved to London from Belize with her family when she was two years old. She and her three siblings (one of whom is the trumpeter Byron Wallen) were brought up by an aunt and uncle, and she was educated at a boarding school.

She credits her interest in poetry and music to her uncle who was responsible for her taking lessons in piano. Before studying music, she trained as a dancer in London and New York City and originally wanted to become a ballet dancer. She studied music at Goldsmiths' College, King's College London and King's College Cambridge, although she had begun composing professionally before that.

Her musical range is ambitious, eclectic, often immediately appealing and expressive. Her huge catalogue includes works for ballet, brass bands, orchestras, choirs, solo singers, duos, pianists, chamber ensembles; her 22 operas make her almost as prolific as Verdi and nearly twice as productive as Puccini. She was the first Black woman to have music performed in the Proms, in 1998. She is now among the most performed of living composers, and her album Errollyn Wallen Orchestral Works, played by the BBC Concert Orchestra, is a best seller.

Her obsession with music is borne out in her extraordinary catalogue of works. Her music is beautiful, communicative and instinctive, yet always underpinned by a sense of profound technical mastery. She is a recipient of an Ivor Novello Award for her body of work, and her music was commissioned for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games and the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees, while her bold re-imagining of *Jerusalem* took the BBC Last Night of the Proms by storm in 2020. As evidenced by her remarkable output, for Wallen composing is 'as natural as breathing'. Her cello concerto on YouTube gives a good idea of her abilities.

Her book *Becoming a Composer* was published in November 2023. It was described as 'a generous, warm-hearted book that all aspiring musicians should read'. Her message that very real difficulties can be best faced with kindness, consideration, and collaboration gives a blueprint for an optimistic future for classical music. Errollyn writes 'I am glad that I eventually gave myself the permission to write this book: there is endless treasure if we can but dare to walk the path that opens up for each of us.' She became Master of the King's Music in 2024 and does most of her composing in Orkney.

Chris Lewis

Links in a Golden Chain 23

Edward Pusey



Edward Bouverie Pusey was born in 1800 and died in 1882. He was Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1828 until his death, and he was one of the leading thinkers and personalities in the influential group in the Church of England which came to be known as the Oxford Movement in the earlier part of the 19th century.

They were also known as the Tractarian Movement, as one of their prime activities was the publication of a large series of theological pamphlets in a series entitled *Tracts for the Times*. They were intended to disseminate church principles 'against Popery and Dissent'. The first was written in 1833 by John Henry Newman, as was the last, Tract 90, which caused the controversy that led to his joining the Roman Catholic Church. Pusey's first contribution was Tract 18, an examination of the benefits of fasting.

He remained loyal to the Church of England and encouraged the rediscovery of the roots of Anglican thought and practice in Scripture and the early writings of the undivided church. In addition to his scholarship, his most influential ministry was through his preaching, and personal counsel. It was anchored in the writings of those early theologians known as the Church Fathers, and in the Christian mystical traditions. He was widely consulted by individuals who sought reassurance in matters of faith at a time when scientific discovery seemed a challenge to some. In maintaining the right of the Anglican Church to assert its catholicity, he earned the scorn of many who were suspicious of 'Popery', and the term 'Puseyite' was often directed at clergy who wanted to introduce such 'innovations' as altar candles or crucifixes in their churches. The movement also met with hostility and rejection from Roman Catholics in England, as he strove for the reunion of the separated churches. We had to wait over a

hundred years for the 2nd Vatican Council for the current good relations between our Churches to come to fruition.

His extensive collection of books became the nucleus of the library of Pusey House which remains a centre of Anglo-Catholic scholarship to the present day. A constant theme in his life and teaching was the centrality of the Eucharist and Christ's gift of himself to us in it. A fragment from one of his sermons:

For we can only dwell in God by His Dwelling in us. To dwell in God is not to dwell on God only. It is no mere lifting up of our affections to Him, no being enrapt in the contemplation of Him, no going forth of ourselves to Him. All this is our seeking Him, not His taking us up; our stretching after Him, not our attaining him; our knocking, not His Opening. To dwell in God must be by His Dwelling in us. He takes us out of our state of nature, in which we were, fallen, estranged, in a far country, out of and away from Him, and takes us up into Himself. He cometh to us, and of we will receive Him, He dwelleth in us, and maketh His Abode in us. He enlargeth our hearts by His Sanctifying Spirit which He giveth us, by the obedience which he enables us to yield, by the acts of Faith and Love which he strengthens us to do, and then dwelleth in in those who are His more largely, By dwelling in us, He makes us parts of Himself, so in that Ancient Church they could boldly say, 'He Deifieth Me', that is, he makes me part of Him, of His body. Who is God.

Kevin Tingay



The Bennett Centre
community space for Frome

The Bennett Centre
Vicarage Street,
Frome BA11 1PU

Bookings:
bennettbooking11@gmail.com
www.bennettcentre.com

Spaces available for hire

Muhammed and Olivia replace David and Susan

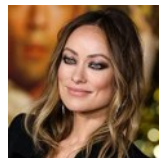
Some of the biggest changes in my lifetime have been in what people are called, the number of people that we are in touch with in some way, and with the way we use words. Let's start with looking at names.

The top boy's birth names in this country in the 1940s when I was baptised were David, John, Stephen, Michael, Peter, Robert, Paul, Alan, Christopher and Richard. This icon of St Christopher typifies the position in those days.



Most of the names were either after people in the Bible or names of saints. Most of my male relations had these names. The top girls birth names in the 1940s were Susan, Linda, Christine, Margaret, Janet, Patricia, Carol, Elizabeth, Mary and Anne. Again, many biblical names or saints' names. My female relations had these names but also other biblical or saints' names such as Judith or Hilda.

Today, in 2025 the top boys' names are Muhammed, Noah, Leo, Luca, Arthur, Oliver, George, Oscar, Theodore, Freddie: the 2025 names reflect the decline in Christian belief, the growth of communities of families who have settled in the UK recently and the growing spread of international culture. The top girls' names are Olivia, Lily, Amelia, Isla, Florence, Freya, Poppy, Elsie, Ivy and Isabella.



This picture of Olivia Wilde, the American actress, is an example of a well-known figure whose name is copied by many. There are many Muhammeds because many Muslims call their sons Muhammed, even though the names they actually use are something like Jacob or

Noah. It's rather like all Christians calling their sons Christian. I recall a Dutch friend telling me that most Dutchmen of his age were called Hans, but the name they used was different; eg Hans-Abel; Hans-Martin. Not a single top name is common to the 1950s and 2025 for either boys or girls. A 1950s vicar would notice that both baptisms and funerals used the same names. But a 2026 vicar is likely to hold a funeral for a Michael on Thursday and to baptise a Theodore the next day.

Then comes numbers: my road is full of octogenarians or above – there are about 1,700 in Frome, more than the number of pre-school children. Whereas the older folks got their education and employment almost entirely in Frome itself, the under-fives are likely to go to college or university outside Frome, marry or live with someone they meet there and find a job anywhere in the country or indeed in the world. Mixed relationships are now common, and amongst my contacts nobody cares about such things any more: my wife is a Buddhist; my daughter's boyfriend comes from Jamaica; my son's girlfriend is from a Jewish family. Common interests and intellects are more important.

In the past people tended to live in smaller communities: my 1940s birth village had 200 families, most locally employed farmers or quarrymen. I knew everybody. Now its population is over 2,000, and most work in Cardiff. The population of Frome was 12,200 as long ago as 1831 but declined to 11,000 in 1901 and remained under 12,000 until 1970. But now, only 50 years later, it is around 30,000, and when the current planned houses are built, we are likely to have close to 35,000 to 40,000 people living in Frome. My octogenarian friends will have seen the population more than treble in their lifetime.

Supporting infrastructure struggles to catch up.

There were no computers or the internet when I was born. Today, anyone can have extremely wide access to much religion without leaving home: prayer, the ministry of the word, challenging sermons, joining in general confessions and receiving absolution and blessings are all accessible at the touch of a keyboard. True, the Eucharist cannot be properly experienced remotely, but this just takes us back to the position at my birth when Mattins and Evensong, much better services for recruiting new Christians, made up more than 90% of what people went to church for, and few went to the monthly Eucharist. Remote access is especially useful for the growing number of the elderly.

The church aims to maintain belief in eternal, unchanging truths, which is fine but in great contrast to the continual changing world outside. For most of us that is an important point of churchgoing but,

unfortunately, the church has decided that using ancient examples and language are important parts of maintaining eternal truths.

For example, acceptance of authority is no longer a common belief, but we still talk of Almighty God. Feminine characteristics are now much more to the fore in everyday life, but our Christian language and examples are dominated by masculine thinking. Most of us live in towns and cities but the Bible is based on a rural environment.

Above all, Anglicans have not developed processes to learn from the positive aspects of other religions, many of which we have direct experience of from friends, family, foreign travel or the internet. Visiting preachers, for example, show us positive examples of religious behaviour and belief: the strict **discipline** of religious Muslims or Jews; the **personal searches** of Buddhists; the glory in the **diversity of creation** expressed by Hindus; or the feminine influence of the female saints and doctors of the Roman Catholic Church as typified by this icon of St Teresa of Avila. **Chris Lewis**



PEPPERS CATERING

For the Moments that Matter



FUNERAL CATERING

AFTERNOON TEAS

PARTY CATERING

WEDDING CATERING

HEAT & EAT AT HOME

CORPORATE & BUSINESS

www.pepperscateringofshepton.co.uk

info@pepperscateringofshepton.co.uk

OVER 35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

01749 346640 / 07484 809039



Inspired to Read:

Can you judge a book by a cover?

Have you ever stopped to consider just what attracts you to certain books, yet puts you off reading others? And why one person's favourite book leaves you unmoved? These were some of the questions we discussed at the July meeting of the Book Group. We didn't come up with any definitive answers, but we had an interesting and far-reaching discussion.

As a starting point some of us had previously had a go at an online quiz: (<https://readyourcolor.com>) which promised to tell us what category of reader we were (by colour!) and thence open the door to a whole world of exciting new possibilities. Unfortunately the assessment, which I had found quite thought-provoking when I first encountered it a couple of years ago, had changed drastically. My previous result revealed that I was predominantly a 'blue' reader, enjoying contemplative, philosophical books, and among the suggested books were *The Sea* by John Banville and *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson, both of which are among some of my favourite books of all time. So far so good! It had also shown that I had a strong leaning towards 'orange' –fantasy. Again I really enjoy Jasper Fforde's somewhat surreal story-telling, whereas I tend to avoid 'red': high adrenalin, thrillers/true crime books (Robert Harris or John Grisham) – my 'red' score had been correspondingly low. When I retook the assessment for our meeting I found that not only were the questions very different but also that I had flipped to being a 'yellow' reader, driven by character and relationships. From the list of ten suggested books I have read three: *Jane Eyre*, *Where the Crawdads Sing* and *Educated*, and while I enjoyed them, I wouldn't put them into my all-time top ten!

So how do we decide what books we are likely to enjoy and which ones we are likely to cast aside after twenty or so pages? When we walk into a book shop or library it is easy to be overwhelmed by the choice: Do we look at the ones that have been selected by the bookseller/librarian and placed prominently, probably with a label



nearby telling us that is it the 'latest best-seller by ...' or that it has been nominated for/won a prize (which we may not have heard of before!)? Sometimes it is hard to get past these enticing titles; we may not get as far as the book stacks themselves. Or do we make a beeline for a book by an

author we have read before and loved – maybe a sequel or an earlier book which we think, on reading the blurb on the back, should live up to the expectations we have of that writer? Or do we avidly read book reviews, in the paper or in magazines? There will be some reviewers we trust, and we quickly learn which ones to ignore. Or are we attracted by the cover? Book jacket design is big business in the publishing world – a good front cover can boost sales to the extent that if a book isn't selling as well as expected it is quite often re-released with a different cover.

Many people know that I cannot walk past an independent book shop without going in, and in the past few weeks I have managed to visit quite a few. Our short visit to Suffolk enabled me to visit one of my all-time favourite shops, The Aldeburgh book shop. One reason I like it is that it isn't over-stocked so I can have a thorough browse in about an hour and leave with my bag heavier and my wallet lighter. A few weeks earlier I fulfilled a long-held ambition to finally visit Toppings in Bath, and I have to say that I found the choice almost too much! My time was also limited that day, so I left with nothing – but I fully intend to go back. And of course there is no such thing as 'walking past' Hunting Raven – I sometimes have to take a detour to avoid being seduced by new titles, but the detour usually takes me past (into!) the Dorothy House bookshop.

So many books, so little time! I am currently enjoying the luxury of reading a series of books by one of my favourite authors, Kate Atkinson. Her contribution to my other favourite genre, the detective novel, is in the character of Jackson Brodie, with books including *Case Histories*, *One Good Turn*, and *Big Sky*. And yes, there is an element of my least-favourite 'red' books about them, but they are so much

more! Well written stories with a flawed central character who just happens to be a Private Investigator. One of the things I particularly like about Atkinson's writing is her ability to write complicated, multi-layered plots which she weaves together, with usually some unexpected twists and turns along the way. However, I also intend to get out of my comfort zone and read something different: I have an ever-growing pile of 'to be read' books, including *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, which my daughters keep telling me I should read, *The things we never say* by Elizabeth Strout, whose *Olive Kitteridge* books I read recently and thoroughly enjoyed, and *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, which was an impulse buy, based on its intriguing title and cover!

When the *Inspired to Read* book group next meets, on 5th August, it will be for more discussion about what books we each like to read and why/how we choose them, but it will also be an opportunity for a 'book-swap' – a chance to try out each other's recommendations, and our meeting on September 2nd will be to exchange our views about the book *There are Rivers in the Sky*, by Elif Shafak: *a rich, sweeping novel set between the 19th century and modern times, about love and loss, memory and erasure, hurt and healing, centred around three enchanting characters living on the banks of the River Thames and the River Tigris – their lives all curiously touched by the epic of Gilgamesh.* A book I have been looking forward to reading ever since it was published in 2024.

Rosemary McCormick

FOCUS FROME	AFFORDABLE, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING
	 St John's Cottage, 1, Church Steps, Frome, BA11 1PL, Tel: 01373 485051 www.focusbath.com Registered charity number 1108331

SERVICES ROTA FOR AUGUST 2026

Date/Week	Readings	Duties for the 10am Sunday service			
		Readers	Prayers	Sidespersons	Chalice
Sunday 2 August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55.1-5 Psalm 145 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21	S Caden N McCormick	Rev Seamus	A Barr-Sim B Essex	J Davies
Sunday 9 August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19.9-18 Psalm 85 Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33	C Harrison A Barr-Sim	J Caudwell	D Bardgett M Smitherman	A Crook
Sunday 16 August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 56.1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11.1-2a, 29 - 32 Matthew 15 (10-20), 21-28	C Holland E Gilbert	A Crook	M Veakins E Gilbert	C Holland
Sunday 23 August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 51.1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20	B Essex H Chapman	R McCormick	K Gurr A Crook	J Davies
Sunday 30 August Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 15.15-21 Psalm 26 Romans 12.9-end Matthew 16.21-end	R McCormick S Smith	L Bushell	C Holland J Davies	A Crook
Sunday 6 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 33.7-11 Psalm 119 Romans 13.8-end Matthew 18.15-20	N McCormick C Harrison	Rev Seamus	A Barr-Sim B Essex	C Holland
Vicar: Revd Seamus Hargrave Reader: Janet Caudwell Reader: Rosemary McCormick	Sundays at 5pm Evening Worship (Third Sunday - Choral Evensong) Mondays at 8.45am Morning Prayer, Fridays at 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist Saturday at 5pm Vigil Eucharist Tuesday 25th at 11am Julian meeting				

SERVICES ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Date/Week	Readings	Duties for the 10am Sunday service			
		Readers	Prayers	Sidespersons	Chalice
Sunday 6 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 33.7-11 Psalm 119 Romans 13.8-end Matthew 18.15-20	N McCormick C Harrison	Rev Seamus	A Barr-Sim B Essex	C Holland
Sunday 13 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 50.15-21 Psalm 103.1-13 [or 103.8-13] Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35	E Gilbert A Barr-Sim	J Caudwell	A Crook C Holland	J Davies
Sunday 20 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	Jonah 3.10—end of 4 Psalm 145.1-8 Philippians 1.21—end Matthew 20.1-16	S Caden H Chapman	L Bushell	D Bardgett M Veakins	A Crook
Sunday 27 September Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25—end Psalm 25.1-8 Philippians 2.1-13 Matthew 21.23-32	S Smith C Holland	A Henderson	K Gurr J Davies	C Holland
Sunday 4 October Harvest Festival	Deuteronomy 8.7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9.6—end Luke 12.16-30	B Essex R McCormick	Rev Seamus	M Smitherman B Essex	J Davies
Vicar: Revd Seamus Hargrave Reader: Janet Caudwell Reader: Rosemary McCormick	Sundays at 5pm Evening Worship (Third Sunday - Choral Evensong) Mondays at 8.45am Morning Prayer, Fridays at 12.30pm Lunchtime Eucharist Saturday at 5pm Vigil Eucharist Tuesday 29th at 11am Julian meeting				

SUMMER SUDOKU

7				2	1			3
		8	3	5				
		4						
	9	1			4			
	6						2	
			8			1	5	
						6		
				3	8	7		
3			2	9				4

YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM

Editors: Mandy Crook, Karolyn Curle

Printer: Karolyn Curle

ADVERTISING RATES

For a full year (10 issues – August and December are double-months)

$\frac{1}{8}$ page 4.3 cm (height) by 6 cm (width) £20.00

$\frac{1}{4}$ page 9 cm (height) by 6 cm (width) £30.00

$\frac{1}{3}$ page 6 cm (height) by 12.3 cm (width) £40.00

$\frac{1}{2}$ page 9 cm (height) by 12.3 cm (width) £60.00

Full page 18 cm (height) by 12.3 cm (width) £110.00

Safeguarding officer

Steve Smith 01373 454083 /
 07548 250805
Email: smith.steve.71@icloud.com



Inspire magazine

Editors Mandy Crook 01373 467828
 Karolyn Curle 01373 462325
 Email: amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk
Website www.stjohnsfrome.com

The Bennett Centre (St John's Hall)
www.bennettcentre.com

Bookings Lloyd Carey c/o Parish office: 01373 462325
Email: bennettbooking11@gmail.com

St John's Church School (Aided)

Headteacher Teresa Gilbert 01373 462251
Clerk to Governors Sam Nicol c/o school

