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Church and Community News



August
2026

The monthly magazine of
St Blasius Old Parish Church

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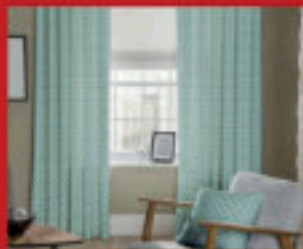
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St. Blasius Old Parish Church

Magazine

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL
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TOGETHER**

— CHURCH SERVICES —

We warmly invite you to join us - See details on Page 3

For enquiries relating to Banns and Marriage services, Baptisms and Funerals
please contact: Revd. Karen Crowhurst (details below)

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Electoral Roll Secretary:	Mrs Annette Richards	Tel: 863607
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Cost of Magazine: £1.00 DONATION

St Blasius Old Parish Church, Church Road, Shanklin, PO37 6QY

website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16793/



Thought for the Month

At the time of writing there has been no significant rain since early June and there is now a hosepipe ban in place. Drought causes not only inconvenience for us, but can cause terrible damage to our environment and make life very difficult for farmers.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the old song "Dem bones Dem bones, Dem dry bones". The song is inspired by a passage of text written by the prophet Ezekiel (*Ezekiel 37:1–14*). The prophet Ezekiel is given a vision by God. He is carried by the Spirit to a valley filled with dry bones — completely lifeless, scattered, and without hope.

God asks Ezekiel: "Son of man, can these bones live?". Ezekiel replies, "O Lord God, you know." God then tells Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones, and as he speaks, the bones rattle, come together, and are covered with sinews, flesh, and skin. Finally, God breathes life into them, and they stand up as a vast living army. God explains that the bones represent the people of Israel, who say: "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost."

Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian exile, around 593–571 BC. He was part of the first group of Jews taken from Jerusalem to Babylon in 597 BC, along with King Jehoiachin and many skilled workers, priests, and leaders. So Ezekiel is not speaking from the comfort of home — he is preaching from captivity, among a people who feel defeated, displaced, spiritually broken and cut off from their land, temple, and identity.

This sense of national despair is the backdrop for the "dry bones" vision. But God promises to restore the people of Israel, bring them back to their land, and put His Spirit within them so they may live again.

'Drought' isn't always a physical thing. There are times when our lives and even our relationship with God can feel dry and dusty, lifeless and dull. At times like these we need to seek our spiritual sustenance where we can, trusting that God is still there for us, and can bring our "dry bones" back to life. In the same way that the physical drought will eventually end, and we will probably be complaining then about the rain, as that's what British people do, periods of spiritual dryness will end; but we need at these times to dig deep and struggle through so that our "dry bones" can come to life again, with God's help.

**Lord, You led Ezekiel to a valley dry and bare,
Where scattered bones lay silent in the sun-bleached air.
Yet even in that lifeless place Your voice was heard,
Calling hope to rise again through Your restoring word.**

**You spoke, and bones awakened, finding strength once more;
Sinews formed, flesh returned, life gathered at Your call.
Your breath moved through the valley like a healing wind,
Reminding every weary heart that new life can begin.**

**So breathe on us today, O God, wherever we feel worn;
Revive our tired spirits and restore what has been torn.
For nothing is too broken for Your love to make it whole,
And nothing is too dry for You to water with Your soul.
Amen.**

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Articles for the Magazine are always welcome!

We are always pleased to include poems or articles written by a readers of the magazine. Have you read a good book, or been to an interesting place or event and would like to share your experience with others? The editor would be very happy to receive written contributions by email: editor.shanklinchimes@gmail.com

If you are not online, we can accept paper copies - telephone the editor to arrange this on: (01983)884529



Choral Evensong

Sunday 9th August
5.00pm

at St Blasius Church, Shanklin

with the
St Blasius Church Choir

All Welcome

*During the Summer months
Evensong will also be held
instead of the morning service*

OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST



*You are warmly invited to join us for
our Sunday Worship
at 10.15am unless otherwise stated*



Sunday 2nd August - Ninth after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Tony Richards

Sunday 9th August - Tenth after Trinity

Please note - there will be no morning service

5.00pm Choral Evensong

With the St Blasius Church Choir

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 16th August - Eleventh after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 23rd August - Twelfth after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Barry Downer

Sunday 30th August - Thirteenth after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Janet Hallam

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PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

*The Sunday and Special Collects for this month
(with endings omitted)*

2nd August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace...

9th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you...

16th August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure...

23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

30th August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you...

FESTIVALS IN AUGUST

From the Church of England Calendar

4 Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859

5 Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642

6 The Transfiguration of our Lord

7 John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866

8 Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221

9 Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

10 Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258

11 Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253

11 John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890

13 Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down & Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1667

13 Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910

13 Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912

14 Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941

15 The Blessed Virgin Mary

20 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153

*20 William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army, 1912
and 1890*

24 Bartholomew the Apostle

27 Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

29 The Beheading of John the Baptist

30 John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688

31 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

For Reflection - The Love of God

In his sermon on “The Love of God” (also called “On Loving God”), St. Bernard of Clairvaux (who is commemorated on 20th August) wrote that love is essential for the knowledge of God. He outlined four stages, or degrees of love that a person must journey through for spiritual growth. The four stages in their order of progress are:

*love of oneself for self's sake,
love of God for self's sake,
love of God for God's sake,
and love of oneself for God's sake.*

A Good Yarn

Monday 21st September at 10.00am

**Come and join our informal and friendly monthly
knitting and crochet group in the Parish Room at
St Blasius Church, Church Road, Shanklin.**

Refreshments will be available.

From beginners to experts everyone is welcome.

**Just bring along your knitting, crochet or needlework, no need
to book a place. Come and meet new people or old friends
and take time out to relax and enjoy a chat, learn new hints
and tips or get started on that new hobby.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Copy Deadline for the September Magazine - 19th August



SUMMERTIME COFFEE MORNINGS

at St Blasius Church, Shanklin

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From 10.00 am until 12.00 noon**

ALL WELCOME

3rd August

7th September

Book Review

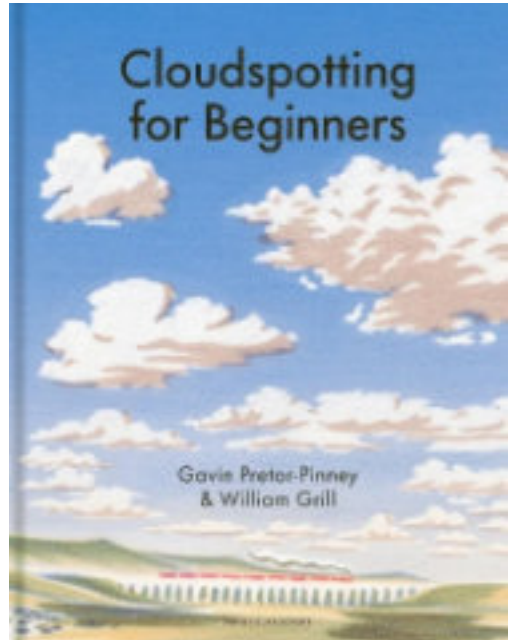
Cloudspotting for Beginners

Author: Gavin Pretor-Pinney

Illustrated by: William Grill

Publisher: Penguin Books Ltd

ISBN: 9780241632543



This book is perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about the science behind clouds. The information is presented so it is easy to read. There is a cloud spotter's guide with details on the different types of clouds and their characteristics.

William Grill's beautiful award winning illustrations bring to life the ten main types of cloud. It explains the science of cloud formation, as well as other atmospheric phenomena, like rainbows and storms. The history of this classification system is explored, before explaining how clouds are formed. Gazing up at the clouds can be fascinating and this is the ideal guide for anyone seeking a new hobby to bring calm and mindfulness into their life.

The Met Office now has a Space Weather section and the last part offers a quick glimpse into clouds on other planets in our solar system.

This book is suitable for children or adults and would make a very gift for anyone with an interest in clouds, the sky or who just likes looking up from time to time!

August Eco Tips



During this hot, dry weather it can really help to put containers of water in the garden for bees and other insects to drink from. A shallow container with some small stones or gravel will make a perfect place for bees and other insects to drink safely. Take care when filling bird baths, because deep water in a bird bath can cause problems. When a bird lands on the edge of a bird bath it needs to decide quickly if it is safe to go down into the centre of the water. Birds can drown if the water is too deep and the sides are steep and they can't get out. Birds will drink or bathe more confidently in a shallow bird bath. If the water is too deep, or the slope too steep, laying clean, flat shaped stones in the base of a bird bath will create a safer place to bath and drink. The water in a bird bath should be changed daily to avoid the water becoming a breeding ground for germs, leading to infections.



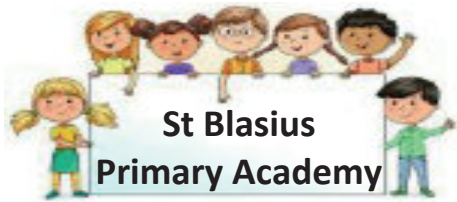
August Night

*by Elizabeth Madox Roberts
(1881 – 1941)*

We had to wait for the heat to pass,
And I was lying on the grass,
While Mother sat outside the door,
And I saw how many stars there were.
Beyond the tree, beyond the air,
And more and more were always there.
So many that I think they must
Be sprinkled on the sky like dust.
A dust is coming through the sky!
And I felt myself begin to cry.
So many of them and so small,
Suppose I cannot know them all.

*Photography by Dave Hall -
The Milky Way over Cuckmere Haven
and the Seven Sisters, Sussex*





Extracts from Recent Newsletters

By Jemma Powell, Assistant Principal

As we move ever closer to the end of another wonderful school year, it has been lovely to see so many exciting learning opportunities, educational visits and community events taking place across the school. Our pupils continue to demonstrate our values of Wisdom, Endurance and Friendship in all that they do, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Year 1 Visit Amazon World

Year 1 enjoyed a fun-filled trip to Amazon World, where they had the opportunity to see a wide variety of animals up close. The children were fascinated by the different creatures they encountered and showed great curiosity throughout the day. It was a fantastic experience that brought their learning to life and created many happy memories.

Summer Reading Challenge Launch

We were delighted to welcome Rachel and June from the library service this week to introduce the Summer Reading Challenge. They shared exciting information about how children can take part over the summer holidays and encouraged everyone to keep reading throughout the break. We look forward to hearing about all the books our children enjoy over the summer months.

Transition Day Success

This week our pupils took part in Transition Day, providing them with a wonderful opportunity to spend a day in their new year groups and meet their teachers for September. The children approached the day with enthusiasm and excitement and thoroughly enjoyed experiencing what next year will bring. Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils visited their new secondary schools, helping them prepare for the next stage of their education. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and confidence they continue to show as they get ready for this exciting new chapter.

Naturezones Artwork Project

Year 5 were delighted to welcome Diana Gates from Naturezones, who visited to share the final pieces of work that the children have helped create. The artwork will now be displayed, allowing others to enjoy and celebrate the pupils' creativity and hard work. The children were extremely proud to see their contributions come together in the finished project.

DART Club Celebration

Our DART Club welcomed their grown-ups to join them for their final session. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to share in the activities and celebrate everything the children have achieved throughout the programme. There were plenty of smiles, laughter and memorable moments, and great fun was had by all!

EYFS Visit Blue Reef Aquarium

Our youngest learners enjoyed an exciting trip to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Southsea. The children loved exploring the exhibits, discovering marine life and learning about creatures that live beneath the waves. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience and a real highlight of the week.

Year 6 Enjoy Fame at The Bay Academy

Year 6 had a wonderful afternoon visiting The Bay Academy to watch students perform the stage production of Fame. The performance was inspiring, and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed seeing the talent, dedication and confidence displayed by the secondary students. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and perhaps inspire some future performers of our own!

Cherry Godfrey Ad-Mazing Success!

Huge congratulations to Dotty, Jesse, Amelia, Lily and Rhys, who were awarded certificates and medals for creating fabulous artwork as part of the Cherry Godfrey Ad-Mazing Campaign, showcasing Island businesses. Their creativity, imagination and artistic talent impressed the judges and helped St Blasius achieve an amazing third place overall in the competition. As a result, the school was delighted to receive a £250 cheque! We are incredibly proud of our talented young artists for representing our school so brilliantly. What a fantastic achievement! Well done, everyone – a wonderful example of creativity, perseverance and pride in our school community!

The big question next week is:

How can kindness change a community?

With warmest wishes,

Jemma Powell, Assistant Principal

News from the Mothers' Union at St Blasius

On the 29 June we were delighted to welcome Jo McGrath, the Support Manager and her colleague Tessa Glynn, the Early Years Family Engagement Practitioner from the YMCA Mother and Baby Lodge in Shanklin.

Jo and Tessa gave us a very informative talk about their work with young women and how the Lodge operates as the home for ten young women and their babies. The purpose of the Lodge is to give the mothers a home; to teach parenting skills and life skills such as budgeting and cooking. Jo and Tessa also give emotional and psychological support as needed. These life skills help prepare the young women for independent living. Jo is required to produce regular assessments to the trustees of the YMCA to ensure the service meets the needs of the mothers, their babies and the staff. Every mother has a Personal Support Plan which is reviewed every six months. The mothers are also helped with applications for benefits and writing CVs for employment applications.

The Lodge are required to submit to the Local Council and the YMCA, monthly Key Performance Indicators, a measure to quantify and evaluate the success of the organisation through certain objectives and targets. Case studies are also required for presentation to the Board of Trustees. Jo and Tessa also work closely with various external organisations such as Paragon Domestic Abuse, Children's Services, Employment Advisers and Sovereign and Southern Housing.

The Lodge have a number of projects they would like to achieve; several members of MU will be getting involved with helping to choose garden plants for their new garden, cake making and crochet. We have been invited to a Tea Party later this month to meet the mothers and talk about how we can help in the future.

MU members will be enjoying lunch together at Quarr Abbey on 27 July – a joint gathering with members from Sandown. On 24 August we are holding a fundraising Strawberry Cream Tea. If you would like to become a member of the Mothers' Union, please call Suzanne Cook on 01983 867887. We are always happy to welcome new members.

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A business card for JMW ELECTRICAL. The top half has a dark blue background with a circuit diagram featuring a lightbulb, a plug, and a lightning bolt. The text 'JMW ELECTRICAL' is in large orange letters, followed by 'Electrical Contractors' and the email 'jmwelectrical.iow@gmail.com'. Below a horizontal line, it lists 'Jason Whitehead Director' and '20 Nunwell Street Sandown PO36 9DE'. The phone number '07968 335159' is in a large orange box at the bottom. On the right side, there are three logos: ECA Registered Member, Isle of Wight Trader Approval Scheme, and Trustmark. The bottom of the card has a light blue background with the text 'Complete Electrical Services' and the ELECSA logo.

**Complete
Electrical
Services**



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An Alzheimer Café is a meeting place that gives informal education and advice about dementia and offers guidance and signposting to other services. We welcome people with dementia, their families, carers, professionals, and people with an interest in dementia.

EAST COWES

1st Tuesday of the month
2pm - 4pm
Town Hall, York Avenue
East Cowes
PO32 6RU

COWES

2nd Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
Football Club
Reynolds Close
(off Park Road)
PO31 7NT

TOTLAND

3rd Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
St Saviour's
Holy Family Centre
Weston Lane
Totland
PO39 0HE

SANDOWN

4th Weds of the month
2pm - 4pm
The Broadway Centre
1 Broadway, Sandown
PO36 9GG



ACE7 (under 65s)

1st & 3rd Tues of the month
10am - 12pm
Castlehold Baptist
Church Hall
High Street, Newport
PO30 1BH

🌐 www.alzheimercafeiow.org.uk
✉ info@alzheimercafeiow.org.uk
📞 01983 220200

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