

July
2026



WEST MOORS PARISH MAGAZINE

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St Mary's Parish Church of West Moors BH22 0JF

**Magazine contributions for
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2026**

By or before Sunday 12th July

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com



FROM THE TEMPORARY VICAR

Let me be clear, I'm a rubbish gardener! Having visited several homes in and around West Moors now and seen what a talented group of horticulturalists there are in the locality, I must confess a touch of envy when I see immaculate shrubs and lawns. My own garden looks like something that can only be described as an arboreal Armageddon.

But I do try! After that recent brief dry spell my grass just withered and died. I wanted to help it, and once the rains started falling I went to a garden centre and bought some generic grass feeding product which had those classic before-and-after images on the box which guaranteed rapid transitions from meagre meadows to sumptuous sward. When I believed the conditions were just right, I merrily set to scattering the precious lawn food and waited for miraculous results.

Except, within a couple of days not only was none of the grass looking greener but patches of it were looking distinctly greyer. It looks like that the grass that I had tried to "help" was too just too young. On reflection most of it was seeded in the autumn of last year and the roots hadn't had a chance to go deep enough. So rather than being gently fed the lawn food, the shallow roots sucked up a concentrated dose and became scorched. Whoops.

We use the language of being "rooted" today as a link to the things that we draw strength from, perhaps it won't come as a surprise that as a society we borrow this language from the Bible. Given the agricultural context of the biblical Israelites, it's understandable that there are many metaphorical references to plants and seeds simply because it was the everyday language of the first hearers of the scriptures.

In his famous parable of the sower in Matthew, Mark's and John's gospels, Jesus talks about how those seeds of his teaching which land on rocky ground die quickly because they lack deep roots, much like my tatty turf. Paul also uses the root metaphor in his letter to the Church in Ephesus and says, "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ". It's one of my favourite verses in the whole Bible and one I love to use as a blessing to others.

The questions for us all is what is it that we are rooted in? Where do we draw our source of life from? I believe being deeply rooted in Jesus's love can and does sustain me in the things that life throws at me. But whatever we draw life from, we need to let the connections run really deep, so that our inner lawns are able to survive life's storms and droughts.

And I promise not to try to "help" my grass in the same way again until its roots have grown. **Rev Jeff**

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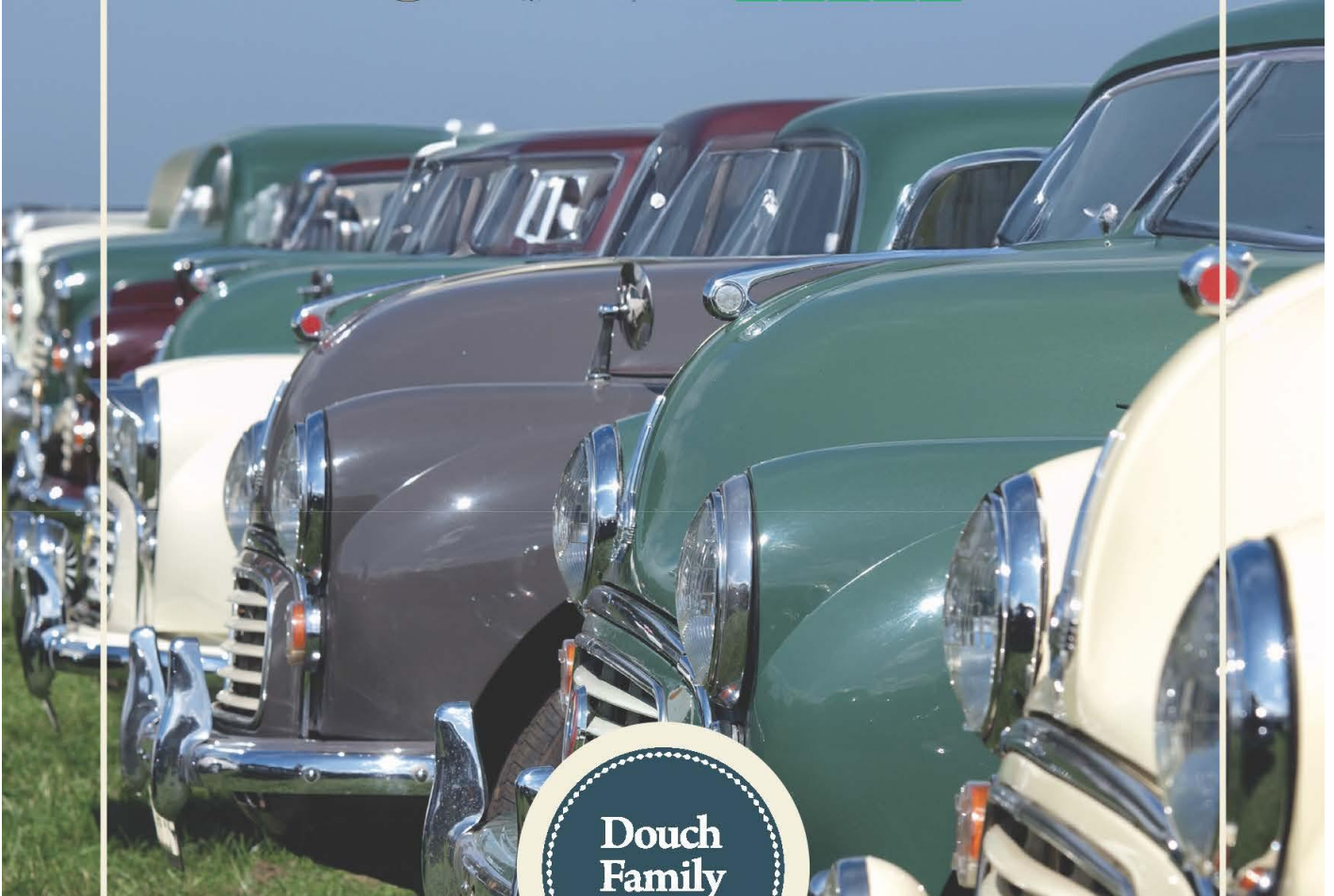
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PENTECOST – the power of the Holy Spirit



At our Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday we celebrated the Power of the Holy Spirit.

We remembered the moment when God's Spirit came upon the early followers of Jesus empowering them to speak in different tongues and proclaim the Gospel with boldness.

Chris Scott helps Rev Jeff demonstrate the importance of having the power switched on!

(NB All H&S covered!)

DEANERY SYNOD - A NEW TRIENNIUM



Lovely to welcome Bishop Karen to St Mary's to preside at our Deanery Eucharist.

We were inspired by the example of Barnabas on his feast day and Bishop Karen urged us to think about different stages in our life of service, asking, "What does God want me to do next?"



Rural Dean

Rev Canon Andrew Rowland

thanks

Canon Gillan Clarke stepping down after serving 16 years as Deanery Lay Chair and Romey Schofield after 23 years as Deanery Secretary.

MOTHERS' UNION CELEBRATION

There was a national service to celebrate 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union at St Paul's cathedral on June 10th in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Lighting the way for generations to come



*'I am the Light of the World.
Whoever follows me will never
walk in darkness but will have
the light of life.'
John 8: 12*

On Saturday June 13th there was a service for the Salisbury Diocese at the Cathedral with a 'Service of the Word' led by the Rt Rev'd Dr John Inge KCVO. Six of our members were in attendance and we took the St Mary's Mothers' Union banner.

We held our branch Service here at St Mary's Church on Sunday June 14th, when Mothers' Union members took on roles during the service and we chose the hymns. Of course there was a celebratory cake made by Alison Butler.

There has been a MU in West Moors since 1920.

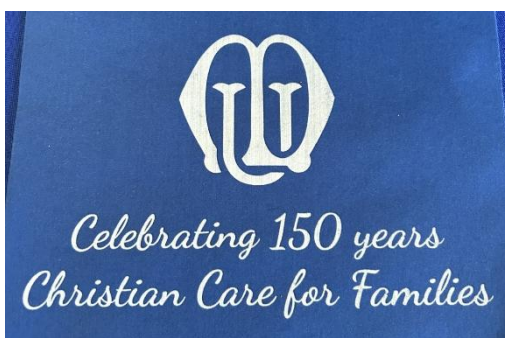
We have 23 members in our branchDawn Beek has been a member for 60 years and was leader of the afternoon group which closed some years ago; we now just meet in an evening.

Pam Prendergast and Mary Keegan have been members for 50 years.

Alyson Scott a member for 45 years; Jan Cribben, Geraldine Cole, Liz Bowler Gill Moss Holland and Christine Dunscombe 35 years. Alison Butler and Mary Hurdley 30 years, Mary Saunders 20 years; Mike Bowler, Eileen Moore and Karen Short 10 years. Veronica Morgan, Jane Adams and Jackie Howells are Indoor members Chris Long, Maureen Lambert, Jan Munn, Sue Voysey and Lizzie Duckhouse have joined in the last 10 years.

Certificates, signed by the Diocesan President Sandra Gamble, were presented at this service.

Mary Hurdley







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MU theme for 2026 – “Join US and JOIN IN”.

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

The next meeting is on Monday July 20th when we are visiting Cherry Tree Farm at 11am.

In August we are having a Strawberry and Cream tea in the garden of 3 Ashhurst Rd at 2.30 pm on Saturday August 15th

I belong to other groups as well as MU. At the beginning of each month it can be heard from the members, mostly of a certain age, ‘Where has this year gone?’ And ‘Yes’ suddenly summertime is upon us.

This is a time of much activity in families, young children enjoying end of term events, sports days and trips out, and in some cases the anticipation of going ‘up to big school’, older pupils have been studying hard for exams which will hopefully lead them onto higher education or training programmes, and of course the chance to dress up for ‘Proms’. At universities more exams which will result in Graduation and stepping out into the wide world. So please remember all these young people in your prayers at this time.

Many of these young people will be looking forward to a holiday away with family or friends and perhaps taking time out to travel and see more of the world. In many families this is a worrying time, needing extra child care and new school uniforms. So going away is not possible; this where the Mothers’ Union project ‘Away from it All’ can step in to help provide holidays for families with financial constraints. Here in the Salisbury Diocese we have a caravan at Rockley Park, a Haven holiday site near Poole, which offers many activities and is near the sea. We, at West Moors provide Welcome Packs for the caravan twice a year. These provide basic food stuffs and a few luxuries for the families.

A Prayer for Away From It All

Oh, Lord let our thoughts be Holy, our Acts be Holy and may we always love what is Holy. Father God, we give thanks and praise for the AFIA team from Mothers’ Union who have made it possible for families to enjoy time away together. We pray that the families may have a relaxing experience in a safe environment, making memories which will last a life time. We also give thanks for all the Mothers’ Union members who have been generous in giving their time, talents and money to make it possible for AFIA to be able to offer either days or weekends away or supporting projects within their communities. In Jesus’ name, Amen

Love and Blessings **Mary Hurdley**

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Summer extravaganza at Westival – taking place on Saturday the 11th July between 12.00pm and 4pm. As written in last month's magazine we shall be having a small Tombola and Bring and Buy stall for The Children's Society. Prizes gratefully received. Please contact anyone of us on the committee or they can be placed in the box provided in our Church Hall. Very many thanks.

Please also read article written separately in our magazine concerning the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the special garden designed and entered into the competition and winning a Gold Medal. It certainly gave The Children's Society much needed publicity on a wide spectrum and I was so impressed with the garden itself centring young people's experiences, Young Creative Partners worked alongside Patrick Clarke the Designer to help shape a garden grounded in their experiences. The result is a space where teenagers can feel seen, safe and connected, reflecting the emotional support The Children's Society provides to young people across the country.

Wimborne Minster Coffee morning Saturday 26th September 2026 10.00am – 12.00midday, Church House, Wimborne. Stalls to include refreshments, raffle, bring & buy, cards & cakes. You are warmly invited to attend and support this event if you are able.

Also we are always grateful for greeting card fronts to be given to us to make cards for our stalls. Please no Christmas cards as we always order these at Christmas direct from The Children's Society. Many thanks.

A Prayer written by Andrew Moran Head of Supporter Experience:-

Loving God, You send us out with courage, even when the road is hard. We pray for children who face rejection or feel unheard. Thank You for The Children's Society, Empowering young voices and nurturing confidence. May their work open doors and hearts, So that every child is welcomed and valued. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With love and God's Blessings
Geraldine Cole

A.M.H

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THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SHOW GARDEN AT RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

The Children's Society were lucky enough to be nominated to enter a Charity Design Show garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The garden was designed by Patrick Clarke who is one of the UK's most experienced landscape and garden designers, with over thirty years' practice. It was Co-Sponsored by The Children's Society and Project Giving Back and indeed it was awarded with a gold medal at the show. It shone a spotlight on the growing crisis in teenage wellbeing across the UK. Inspired by the philosophy of wabi-sabi, it celebrated the resilience and potential of young people while highlighting the importance of early support.



Created as a nurturing reflective space, the garden offered a moment of calm in the heart of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Carefully chosen layouts created places for pause, reflection and quiet connection.

"The garden highlights the growing crisis in young people's mental health and wellbeing. Nothing short of a happiness recession is facing teenagers and their wellbeing must now be a national priority (as stated in the leaflet given to me at the show garden by Mark Russell Chief Executive of The Children's Society)"

The lovely thing which is happening to the garden once it has been moved from Chelsea is it is going to provide a lasting legacy and will be relocated to the Central Bedfordshire Council's Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre where the Children's Society Youth Club is based, creating our first outdoor wellbeing space for young people.

I was lucky enough to receive two complimentary tickets from The Children's Society inviting me to the Show Garden where I was given a tour of the garden and I was able to talk to the Children's Society team about the creating and designing of the garden.

Geraldine Cole

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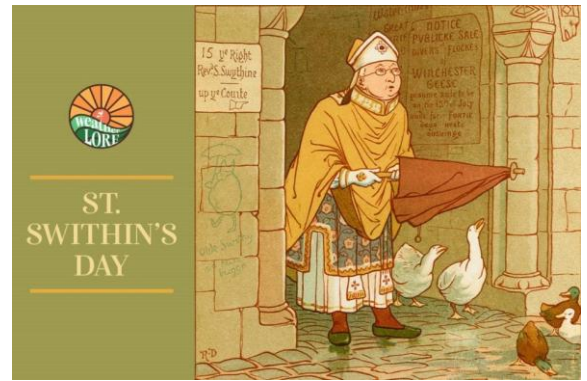
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ST SWITHUN – saint for a rainy day!

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.



During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.



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THROUGH THE ROOF - ROOFBREAKERS - OUR DISABILITY POLICY IN MORE DETAIL

Rev Lynne



This month is Part 2 of 3 from our church's recent disability policy, agreed by the PCC.

Here are a few more (abbreviated) key pointers it contained.

Part 1 looked at what we believe and are.

Now we look at our **aims**.

We aim to:

- **Develop** a culture of listening and consultation so that we can learn from people with disabilities and carers. All disabilities are different. Always ask. Never assume
- **Listen** to the experiences of disabled people and create space and opportunity for friendships to develop and grow.
- **Reflect** on theological issues of disability: what it means to be made in the 'image of God.'
- **Explore** as a 'whole church' how we can be a place of welcome, participation and belonging in which disabled and non-disabled people are equal partners as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Include** disabled people in many roles and encourage all who welcome people to our building and services to join in disability awareness training (available to everyone).
- **Encourage** disabled people to explore their calling, abilities and gifts where they are valued for who they are and the gifts and abilities they have; identifying and supporting vocation and training for all people regardless of any disability they experience.
- **Ensure** that disabled people are visible and play a full part in our corporate worship, making what changes are necessary to make this possible. To make sure there are opportunities for everyone to take part, that activities are accessible and that any selection processes accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.
- **Access** Diocesan or 'Through The Roof' training to help us provide disability awareness training for all, including people with disabilities, and carers, in all our activities.

Next month, the final part, we will look at practical concerns.



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West Moors Horticultural Society

OUR NEXT TALK 'Entering a Show: Answers & Questions'

Friday 31st July 7pm to 9pm at West Moors Memorial Hall.

Looking at the spring bulbs you might want to plant this Autumn to exhibit at next year's Spring Show.

And with the Summer Show a month away, a Q&A about show entry. More details and to book, email Jo at wmhorticultural.society@gmail.com.

All welcome. Non-members £3.00



Another great Saturday Breakfast!

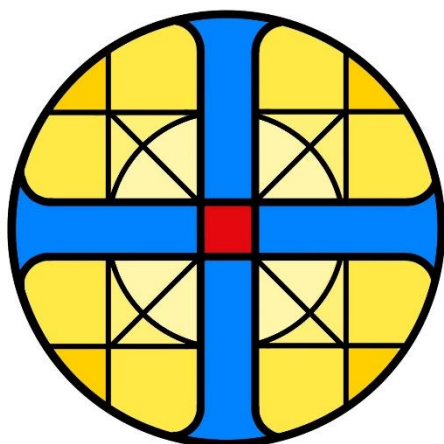


HOLIDAY SOOTHIES

For dealing with motion sickness, ginger capsules are your new friend. Available from any health store, they do a wonderful job in calming upset tummies.

For fever or frayed tempers, take some camomile tea bags with you. Camomile tea doesn't just calm your nerves; cooled down, the tea also soothes sunburn.

For banning mosquitoes & insomnia, take some essential oil of lavender. Mosquitoes hate the smell, so if you put a few drops around your pillow at night, you can help keep them at bay – and help yourself drift off to sleep.





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THE OTHER MARY

Revd Canon David Winter

As the traditional Easter story is remembered again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus but Mary of Magdala, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being, male or female, actually to meet the risen Christ. That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils'. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman', a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. And while there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman', the contrast is sublime: Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity and Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

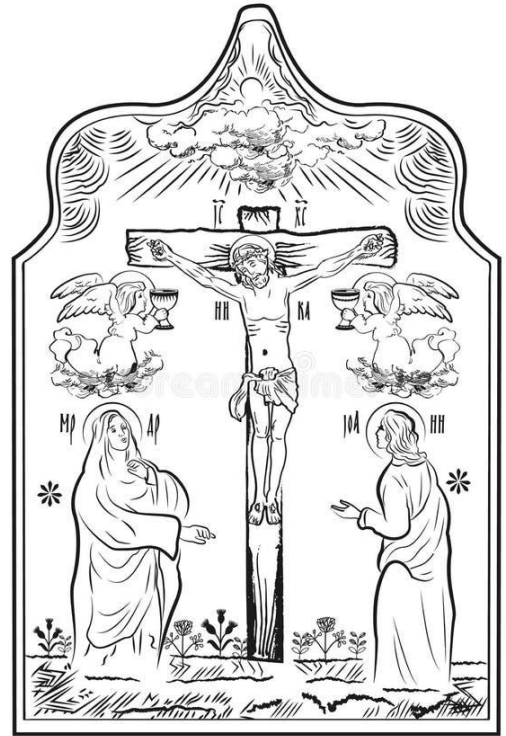
What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.



The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they couldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.



FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Louise Collins, Stuart Stebbing

Church Wardens

Debbie Brown, Paul Brealey, Christine Nutland

Assistant Wardens



Loving God, Loving West Moors

The last couple of months have been particularly busy, both at work and at home. As many of you know, my role as a Data & Exams Manager means that this is one of the busiest times of the year, and the exam season is always demanding.

Family life has also provided its share of challenges. In April, Luc broke his kneecap and then, not to be outdone, Marc broke his foot in May. As a result, I seem to have resumed my former role as family taxi driver, ferrying everyone to appointments and social activities. We are all looking forward to a more normal routine once the exam season is over and the boys (or should I say young men!) are fully recovered.



Within the life of the church, we have now entered Ordinary Time, following the busy seasons of Easter and Pentecost. This period gives us the opportunity to reflect, grow in our faith and continue the regular rhythm of worship and service within our parish community.

On 16th June, Stuart and I attended the annual Churchwardens' Visitation at St Mark's, Talbot Village. It was good to meet with churchwardens from across the deanery and to share in the service of admission and blessing for the year ahead. These gatherings are always a valuable reminder that we are part of a wider church family, supporting one another in our ministry and service.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and encouragement. As we move into the summer months, I hope you can find time for rest and refreshment, and I look forward to all that God has in store for our church community in the months ahead.

Looking further ahead, there are plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fun in the months to come. We have our Barn Dance on Saturday 12th September, a Harvest Lunch following the 10.00am service on Sunday 4th October, Bourne2Sing on Saturday 10th October and a Two Together Talk on Dylan Thomas on Saturday 31st October. Then, for those who enjoy an evening of numbers, prizes and good company, there will be another Bingo Night on Friday 13th November. While some may think Friday the 13th is unlucky, we hope it will prove lucky for many of our bingo players! Please make a note of these dates in your diary and look out for further details nearer the time.

Finally, all the Churchwardens wish you and your families a fun filled, happy and restful holiday, a safe journey and a great time.

Loving God, Loving West Moors.

Louise

Wednesday 1st Amos 8 : 4-7

Gospel : Matthew 11 : 25-27**Sunday 5th**

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49 , 58-67

Romans 7: 15-25a

Gospel : Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Wednesday 8th Genesis 28: 10-17

Gospel Matthew 10: 7-15

Sunday 12th Genesis 25: 19-34

Romans 8: 1-11

Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Wednesday 15th Isaiah 55 : 10-13

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-9

Sunday 19th Genesis 28:10-19a

Romans 8:12-25

Gospel Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Wednesday 22 2Corinthians 5: 14-17

St Mary Magdeline Gospel : John 20: 1-2, 11-18

Sunday 26th Genesis 29: 15-28

Romans 8: 26-39

Gospel : Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

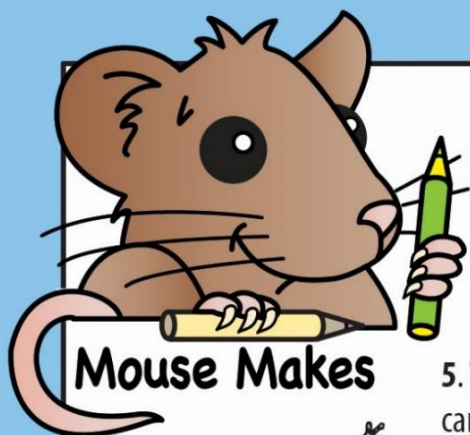
Wednesday 29th 1 Kings 3: 5-12

Gospel: Matthew 13 : 44-46

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Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

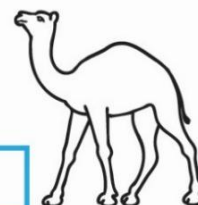
7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.
What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



10. What insect
would God send
to destroy
the enemy?
Deut 7:20



11. What animals
eat crumbs from
under the table?
Matthew 15:27



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



B I B L E

CREATURES

