

Sunday Worship

8.00am.	Holy Communion	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10.30am.	All Age Worship	1st Sunday
	Mattins	2nd Sunday
	Parish Communion	3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
6.30pm	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong Arley Chapel	3rd Sunday

Week-day and other activities

Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday in month at 10.30am

Celtic Evening prayer 1st Thursday in month 7.00pm in the Lady chapel

Play & Praise 1.30pm 2nd and 4th Thursdays (apart from School holidays)

Forest Church 4th Sunday in month 2.30pm (but not August or December)

Vicar:	The Revd. Alec Brown, The Vicarage, Great Budworth Tel: 01606 891324	
Associate Minister:	The Revd Christina Westwell 42, Runcorn Road Barnton	07870687304
Churchwarden:	Mrs Pauline Ridgway, 16, Pickmere Lane Wincham	01565 733494
P.C.C. Hon. Secretary:	Miss Bev Harding, 11, Thistle Close, Pickmere	01565 734880
P.C.C. Hon. Treasurers:	Kevin Davies & Lynne Potts	kevin_davies7@sky.com
Sexton:	Mrs Shirley Humphreys 9 Westage Lane Gt Budworth	01606 891204
Wedding Vergers:	Mrs Linda Platt	01606 46425
	Mrs Susan Ollier	01565734242
Tower enquiries:	Mrs Annette Jones, Sunridge 40 Hough Lane, Anderton	01606 781968
	robnetjones@btinternet.com	
	or The Vicar	
Old School booking secretary:	Mrs Pauline Ridgway 16, Pickmere Lane, Wincham	01565 733494
Church teas:	Mrs Margaret Cross, Wadesley House, Dark Lane, Marston	07732324001
G.B. School Head:	Victoria Davis-Hilliard	01606 663690
Friends of Great Budworth Church:	Sarah Rosevear s.rosevear2014@gmail.com	07718984295
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Andrea Jones	07799519842
	safeguardingstmarysbudworth@gmail.com	
Parish Magazine Editor:	Mr Robert Cross Wadesley House, Dark lane, Marston	01606 48036
Parish Website:	www.greatbudworthchurch.co.uk	

The Parish Magazine of

Price £1.00p

September 2026



We at Saint Marys are a designated Pilgrim Place

St Mary & All Saints

Great Budworth

Serving Arley, Aston-by-Budworth, Comberbach, Crowley, Great Budworth, Lower Wincham, Marbury, Marston, and Pickmere.

September services and events

Wednesday 2 nd	10.30am	Holy Communion followed by coffee
Thursday 3 rd	7.00pm	Celtic Evening Prayer
	7.45pm	Discussion group with refreshments
Saturday 5 th	1.00pm	Wedding in church
	3.00pm to 8.00pm	AUTUMN FAIR IN CHURCH & CHURCHYARD
Sunday 6 th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	All Age Worship we will be blessing school backpacks as pupils return to school
	1.30pm	‘Walking with a purpose’ Barnton this month. Meet at Great Budworth
Monday 7 th	7.00pm	PCC meeting in the Old School
Wednesday 9 th	10.30am	Craft & Natter in the Old School
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Matins
	2.00pm	Manchester Historic Car Club visiting for Church Teas
	6.30pm	Holy Communion
Monday 14 th	7.45pm	Deanery Synod meeting at St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Appleton to discuss Diocesan proposals for the “revitalisation” of the Deaneries – this is an open meeting and all will be welcome.
Sunday 20 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service in church
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel
Wednesday 23 rd	10.30am	Craft & Natter in the Old School
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Forest Church returns in the Quiet Garden at Gt Budworth
Wednesday 30 th	12.00pm	Trip to Christ Church Oxford
October		
Thursday 1 st	7.00pm	Celtic Evening Prayer
	7.45pm	Discussion Group with refreshments
Sunday 4 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Animal Blessing Service (bring your pet along for a blessing)
	1.30pm	‘Walking with a purpose’ Antrobus this month Meet in Great Budworth

Sponsored Sleep Out

In the light of the new Prime Minister’s resolve to end rough sleeping across the country, please watch out for news of a possible sleep out in the Churchyard sometime in the autumn.

Sidespersons Rota – September 2026

1st Sunday **6th September TRINITY 14 - proper 18**
8.00am **Holy Communion BCP** **Robert & Marian Steele**

10.30am **All Age Worship** **Anne O’May**
Rebecca Brierley

2nd Sunday **13th September TRINITY 15– proper 19**

10.30am **Matins BCP** **Margaret Cross**
Robert Cross

6.30pm **Holy Communion CW** **Shirley Humphreys**

3rd Sunday **20th September TRINITY 16 – proper 20**

8.00am **Holy Communion BCP** **Pat Hart**

10.30am **Harvest Thanksgiving** **Anne O’May**
Robert Cross

6.30pm **E. Prayer at Arley Chapel BCP** **xxxxxxxxxxxx**

4th Sunday **27th September TRINITY 17 – proper 21**

10.30am **Parish Communion** **Margaret Cross**
Maggie Earl

OCTOBER

1st Sunday **4TH October TRINITY 18 - proper 22**

8.00am **Holy Communion BCP** **Robert Steele**
Marian Steele

10.30am **Animal Blessing Service** **Anne O’May**
Rebecca Brierley

Pauline 01565 73494 Margaret 07732324001

Rota for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & Intercessors September 2026

Year A

1st Sun	<u>6th September 14th Sunday after Trinity (Green)</u> <u>8am HC BCP</u> Ezekiel 33. 7-11 SL315 LL353 Romans 13. 8-end SL316 LL355 Matt. 18. 15-20 SL417 LL355 <u>10.30am All Age Service</u>	<u>No Evening Service</u>
2nd Sun	<u>13th September 15th Sunday after Trinity (Green)</u> <u>10.30am Matins BCP</u> Genesis 50.15-21 SL321 LL359 K .Arlitt Psalm 103. 1-13 L.Entwistle Matt.18.21-35 SL323 LL362	<u>6.30pm HC CW</u> Genesis 50. 15-21 Psalm 103. 1-13 Romans 14. 1-12
3rd Sun	<u>20th September 16th Sunday after Trinity (Green)</u> <u>8am HC BCP</u> Ezekiel 33. 23,30-34.10 Acts 26. 1,9-25 Mark 8.27-end <u>10.30am Harvest Festival</u> Special service sheet	<u>6.30pm EP BCP Arley</u> Psalm 145 Acts 26. 1,9-25 Mark 8.27-end
4th Sun	<u>27th September 17th Sunday after Trinity (Green)</u> <u>10.30am HC CW</u> Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-end SL332 LL372 S. Gray Philippians 2.1-13 SL334 LL374 J. Martin Matt.21.23-32 SL335 LL376 INT Officiant EM S. Gray	<u>No Evening Service</u>

From the Vicar

“A very warm welcome to you all” has, I’m sure everyone would agree, taken on quite a different meaning over most of July and August as we, and countless others across the country and the world, have “basked” in unprecedented temperatures. More recently it has been a real pleasure to welcome people “on this lovely cool and wet morning/evening”!

Later this month we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival, and we will be thinking about and praying for our farming community and everything they’ve had to go through over these last few months. We will give thanks for their resilience and determination, and will be praying for all those who, across our world, are being affected by climate change in its many and different manifestations. We are also thinking in this Parish, and across the whole Church of England, about the ways in which we can play our part in reducing the effects of climate change. To this end, and as part of Eco-Church, some members of the congregation attended a workshop in August about sustainability and Church flowers – a small thing perhaps but, in the words of a well known supermarket “every little helps”.

God’s world is in our hands – we are the stewards of God’s creation, and this stewardship involves responsibilities and decision making which we are all only just beginning to grapple with seriously. “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.....look at the birds of the air, who neither reap nor sow and yet are fed.....” asked Jesus of the crowds who came to listen to him on the mountain-side beside the Sea of Galilee, and he asks the same of us today, 20 centuries later, as we consider our place and role and responsibilities within the natural world.

And so as we gather across the country to give thanks this month, and next, for the work of the farming community we need also to reflect on our part in God’s creation, and to exercise wise and careful stewardship in all our dealings with the natural world – for our good but especially for the good of all those who will follow us.

May God’s blessing be upon each and every one of us in this coming month.

The Revd Alec Brown.



St. Mary & All Saints Craft and Natter Group

Calling all crafters! Do you have craft resources left over from your projects and don't know what to do with them? St. Mary And All Saints Church, Great Budworth are holding a craft fair to sell surplus craft items on Saturday 17th October 2026, 2 – 5pm in church.

Why not book a table for £10 to sell your surplus items. Donations of surplus items for the 'church table' will be welcome.

For further details or to book a table, please contact:

Anne O'May (01606 891156) or Pauline Ridgway (01565 733494)

From the Registers

Baptism – welcome to Noah Street-Copeland and Nathania Street who were baptized on 16th August.

Marriage – congratulations to Madeline Schofield and Jacob Roberts whose Service of Blessing took place at St Mary's Chapel, Arley Hall on 1st August; and to Sarah Jayne McKeegan and Simon Wood-Brignall who were married in Church on 1st August, and to Alex Cornwell and Harry Williams whose Service of Blessing took place in Church on 21st August.

Funerals – rest in peace Victoria Morris whose funeral took place at Vale Royal Crematorium on 6th August.

Your feedback and snippets you send are important, if there are any comments on the parish magazine or if you would like anything particular in the issue then please let me know.

The views of our contributors are, of course, entirely their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the P.C.C., the Editor, members of the congregation or parishioners in general.

Articles for October 2026 edition send to Rob Cross:

*robcross43@gmail.com by **18th September** please*

We are available by phone or email if you want to talk to us. We can offer a chat or prayer or both. If you have Facebook, have a look at the church page, @greatbudworthchurch where Christina posts prayers and reflections

We keep you all in our prayers. Stay well.

The Rev Alec Brown (Vicar)

01606 891324

alecGbrown@gmail.com

don't forget the "G"

The Rev Christina Westwell (Associate Minister)

07870 687304

ckbwestwell@gmail.com

Mrs Pauline Ridgway (Churchwarden)

01565 733494

pauline_ridgway@hotmail.com

Mrs Margaret Cross

07732324001

margaretcross42@gmail.com

All phone calls etc. will be treated with confidence, but may need to be shared with somebody else on the team.

If you don't wish this to happen, please let the person you speak to know at the time of first contact.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

Fame in great Budworth answers to last month

Across	Down
2 Martin bell	1 Margaret Rutherford
5 William Shakespeare	3 Hilda Bracket
8 Murder most foul	4 Paranoid
10 Ipcress file	5 Woking
11 Indian dream	6 Upton
	7 Bill Grundy
	9 Alick Hayes

St Mary & All Saints
Great Budworth
Autumn Fair
In the church & churchyard
Bring your chairs or rug
Saturday 5th September
3pm – 8pm
Heritage talk, organ recital (in church)
Bar from 3pm
Bangers/burgers £10 - from 6pm
Music by 'Calico' from 5pm
Tea & cake
Stalls, raffle, games
Tower trips £5
Teddy Bear Zip line £2
(bring your cuddly toy along – not too big though)!
Info: Margaret 07732324001 Maggie 07970 927161
Pauline 01606 733494

Back to School - facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.

Village Macmillan Coffee morning

Friday 25th September

Parish Hall

10.00am to 12.00 noon

About 50,000 coffee morning events are held around the country each year.

The first Coffee Morning happened in 1990. It was a small affair with a simple idea: guests would get together for coffee and donate the cost of their drink to Macmillan. It was so effective that Macmillan did it again the next year – only this time nationally.

Since then, the tradition has grown, until now an estimated 1.2 million coffee mornings have been held since the tradition first began.

Would be great to see everyone there

Info Anna Lee or Lynda Flynn



How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don’t affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don’t want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don’t have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let’s encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

TRIP TO CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER



“You are warmly invited to a Corporate Communion at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on the evening of Wednesday 30 September. The service will be preceded by tea and a talk by the Reverend Canon Professor William Whyte, Professor of Social and Architectural History, and will be followed by dinner in the Great Hall. Christ Church holds the right of presentation for some eighty livings across the country and is extending an invitation to the congregations of them all for an evening of collective worship, fellowship and hospitality. There will be a small charge of £17.50 towards the cost of dinner but the afternoon and evening are otherwise free of charge. Margaret Cross is kindly liaising with Christ Church. Please speak with them by Sunday 6 September if you wish to join the trip.”

We have organised a coach, which we will be sharing with a Runcorn Church leaving GB around midday. Cost per person will be £25 + the cost of the dinner in the Great Hall £17.50 Total £42.50/person.

Please note if we can’t fill the coach the fare will increase. 7 spaces left

Payment must be with Margaret by Sunday 6th September please, either cheque made payable to Margaret Cross in an envelope or cash in an envelope with your names on, or bank transfer (ask Margaret for details).

Please inform Margaret if you have any dietary requirements asap, as once booking has gone in, it will be too late to change.

Itinerary for the afternoon/evening

16:30 – 17:00	Arrival and Tea, Great Hall
17:00 – 17:40	Talk, Great Hall
18:05 – 19:00	Choral Eucharist, Cathedral
19:05 – 19:25	Drinks Reception, Cathedral Garden (or Cathedral, if wet)
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner, Great Hall
21:15	Carriages

the church bells

From an article by The Revd Michael Burgess

‘Summoned by Bells’ is the title of John Betjeman’s poetic autobiography, where he describes how bells summoned him to school and to church. Bells announcing the joy of weddings and Sunday services; and also marking out times of sadness and the death of loved ones.

One of the strangest bell-towers is at St Augustine’s Church, Brookland in Kent, north-east of Rye. It was originally built in the medieval period, and now stands as a triple coned, wooden, octagonal tower detached from the church, and clad with shingles in 1936.

The story is that the tower looked down at a beautiful bride about to marry an unpleasant groom: it was such a surprise that the tower jumped off the church in shock. The truth is that the church was built on marshy ground, and a stronger foundation was needed for the bells. And so the tower was built north of the church.

Like all belfries and steeples, it is an impressive witness to the place of bells in human life and work: as time-keepers, announcing both festive occasions and emergencies, and calling people away from more worldly pursuits to worship. That is why bells have always been blessed at their installation for their true function is to ring out the harmony of heaven.

The tenor bell at Warburton Church in Cheshire is inscribed with the words,

*‘I bid you to the house of prayer. St Werburgh’s hallowed name I bear.
Good folk draw near and humbly pray, as prayed that saint in olden day.’*

As a little boy, John Betjeman would listen to the bells with his teddy bear, Archibald.

‘I heard the church bells hollowing out the sky, deep beyond deep, like never-ending stars.’ For him, for the people of Brookland, and for all of us, the bells were like stars lighting up the sky with faith and joy and praise.



credit: ‘Ad Meskens, Wikimedia Commons’

“AI can act for the common good, but only if Governments remain sovereign”

The Bishop of Oxford has backed calls for the right of Governments to set policy and regulate big tech as he warned of the risks posed by rapid technological change.

Making his recent valedictory speech in the House of Lords, Bishop Steven Croft said there were ‘many gains’ from new technology but there were also risks to society in areas such as mental health, social cohesion, truth, and patterns of work and distribution of power.

Speaking of advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), he said the risks posed were partly a product of its accelerating speed of development.

“The speed of change, and the significant power unleashed, make this revolution distinct from other technical developments in the past, because there is a risk that the speed of change will itself undermine the very benefits that change brings,” he said.

“There is simply no time for public trust and confidence to grow, and you have heard of the growing public awareness of risk and the desire that something be done.”

Bishop Steven said there was an urgent need for a ‘clear standard and statement of intent’ from the Government, asserting sovereignty for Governments over the implementation of new technologies, that was “ethically shaped and in the interests of our whole society”.

He added that there also needed to be moves towards drawing together the “combined and collective power of nation states” to act on this issue for the good of all.

“The most important part of a building is its foundation, the most vital part of a boat in a storm is the keel giving stability in the water,” he said.

“As the world navigates the transition to the age of AI, we will need more than ever before the values and ethics of our common tradition, rooted in centuries of Christian faith and practice. AI can be a tool for the common good, a source of great benefit, but only if Governments remain sovereign.”

Bishop Steven was making his final speech after nearly 13 years in the House of Lords.

Recently, a friend at church told me of her Sunday school session. It was for primary-aged children and focused on Elijah on Mount Carmel. The teaching material she had seemed uninspiring, so she turned instead to ChatGPT which she was already using at work:

“Write a song to the tune of ‘Twinkle twinkle’ based on this passage, that young children will enjoy singing and will make this story memorable,” she asked.

.... A few seconds later out pops a song.

And then: *“Suggest a craft activity based on this passage that they will enjoy doing – we have 25 minutes and basic craft materials.”*

Her verdict afterwards? “Amazing! Our kids loved it!”

Just one example of how AI is making inroads into church life. But it also raises important questions:

Is it OK to use AI in church?

How do we use it well?

And what areas of church life should AI not be involved in?

Used well, AI could be a great asset for Christian ministry, used badly it could leave us with fast-food ministry – great on the outside but lacking humanity and depth on the inside.

To help churches think through these issues, the AI Christian Partnership has published *AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry*, a practical guide for church leaders and volunteers. The Guidelines were piloted in churches from four denominations and reviewed by UK experts.

Among its recommendations are:

Use AI to critique, not create

We need to maintain our own skills and dependence on God – so do the work yourself but use AI for suggestions, alternative perspectives or constructive criticism.

Use AI as an assistant not an expert

AI can be an excellent research assistant, but it doesn't know your church or your community. Always treat its answers as advice that needs careful human judgement.

The Guidelines explain the benefits and risks of AI, offer practical guidance for everyday use, and include a simple Church Statement that congregations can adapt to start their own conversations about AI.

Download *AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry* free at www.aichristian.org/guidelines.

Government consultation on weddings proposes greater flexibility and cheaper options

Couples will soon be able to marry almost anywhere, including forests, beaches, cruise ships at sea, canal boats, and at home, under Government proposals that “shift the focus from bricks and mortar to people and promises”.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is to consult on plans to allow “authorised officiants” of any religion or belief to conduct weddings, in what are being described as the most radical changes to marriage law in England and Wales since the 19th century.

The Government says, however, that the “permanence” of marriage will be strengthened by enabling more questioning of candidates before their weddings.

“To protect against forced, predatory and sham marriages, couples must complete a two-stage process, including in-person interview, to verify their identity and demonstrate eligibility to marry.”

Anglican banns of marriage would continue “as an important part of the established Church”, the document says.

It continues: “The Government agrees with the Law Commission’s recommendation that Anglican weddings should continue to be conducted as they are now. It recognises the unique role of the Church of England and the Church [in] Wales in relation to marriage and has no plans to alter . . . these roles.”

The MoJ says that the proposals will reduce costs. The average wedding in England costs more than £20,000 and venue hire alone typically costs around £6,000 - before any food.

About 470,000 people marry in England and Wales each year. Anglican weddings are generally required to take place in a church or chapel, although they can take place in a private home by special licence.

Music is given us with our existence. Above other arts it can be possessed without knowledge. – *Yehudi Menuhin*

Equinox

22nd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

New pilgrimage route for Conwy Valley

A new 22-mile pilgrimage route linking five churches in the Bro Celynnin Ministry Area has opened, as interest in walking spiritual paths continues to grow.

Llwybr Celynnin is a figure-of-eight trail that follows existing footpaths between Conwy and Llangelynnin, where it joins the North Wales Pilgrim's Way.

Walkers can collect a stamp at each church in a specially designed pilgrim passport, creating a record of their journey through the valley.

The route has been developed amid renewed interest in pilgrimage, including the BBC series Pilgrimage: The Road to Wild Wales, which followed seven celebrities along the North Wales Pilgrim's Way.

The route begins or ends at St Mary's Church in the centre of Conwy, which contains surviving parts of Aberconwy Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded in the 12th Century.

It continues through the Conwy Valley to Llangelynnin Church, an ancient church overlooking the valley and already visited by walkers following the longer North Wales route.

Churches included in the route are St Mary's Conwy, St Mary's Caerhun, St Benedict's Gyffin, St Peter's Llanbedr-y-Cennin, and Llandelynnin Old Church above Henryd.

<https://bangor.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk>

Sustainable Church Flowers



'Grown, not flown'!

Three of our congregation went along to a talk about sustainable church flowers at Hurdsfield Church Community Hub, Macclesfield, on Sunday 23rd August. The afternoon had been arranged by Jill Elston, our Diocesan Environmental Officer.

The guest speaker was Rachel who owns and runs HOMEstead GROWN; as it says on her business card 'beautiful, scented, seasonal British flowers grown sustainably and locally in Macclesfield, Cheshire'.

Rachel is passionate about using only seasonal flowers in her floristry and encouraged us to consider this when using flowers in church. Try to source sustainable flowers locally, maybe from your own garden, or ask a neighbour if they have any to share

Rachel is also a member of '**FLOWERS FROM THE FARM**', and on their website, you can find growers who live locally to you, mostly on farms, but not all. Rachels

are grown in her own garden.

She also encouraged us to look at what we arrange our flowers in, trying to manage without floral foam, which contains microplastics and is therefore bad for the environment. The idea is to phase the floral foam out and use the many other items available.

Flowers can look just as beautiful placed in an interesting jug/vase. Chicken wire, metal frogs, jam jars, wooden boxes to name a few items that can be used. Raid granny's cupboards for old vases, glass ware, dishes, anything that could be used to hold an arrangement of flowers. It was certainly inspiring and our imagination started to run away with us at what we could do! A lovely afternoon, giving us food for thought. Thank you Jill and Rachel.

ps. There were lovely cakes to eat too!

pps. Rachel had the honour of supplying some of the flower arrangements at King Charles III Coronation; not a piece of floral foam was used!

Rachel has a website if you would like to have a look at what she does
Byhomesteadgrown.com