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Church and Community News



October
2026

The monthly magazine of
St Blasius Old Parish Church

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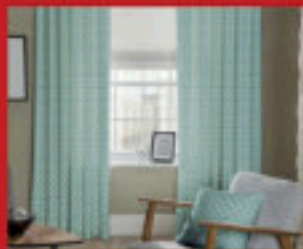
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Shanklin & District History Society



Meetings with a speaker and archive display are held at the Falcon Cross Hall (next door to the library) on the first Thursday of the month at 7.25

Visitors are welcome

For details of talks and other events please see our website
shanklinhistory.net



CAN YOU HELP US by adding an item from our most needed items in your nearest supermarket collection basket?



To find out what and where to donate or to make a financial donation, please visit our website:

isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk

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Today on the Isle of Wight there are families struggling to put food on the table. No money + no food = crisis. Isle of Wight foodbank provides 3 days worth nutritionally balanced emergency food parcels to local people in crisis.



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We are a registered Island charity that supports care home residents without family and friends or those suffering isolation and loneliness.

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rebecca@embracingage.org.uk or Tel. No 07419338066



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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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Magazine Editor:	Mrs. Erica Hall editor.shanklinchimes@gmail.com	Tel: 884529
Magazine Advertising:	Miss. Pam Dana.	Tel: 863189
Electoral Roll Secretary:	Ms Emma Broome	
Children's Society:	Mrs. Charlotte Coppin	Tel: 07724 852024

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

What are your thoughts on Halloween?

As I write this article in mid-September, the shops are already filling up with witches' hats, Halloween decorations, chocolate eyeballs and other spooky items.

When I was at primary school I remember looking up into the sky to try to spot a witch on a broomstick, but in those days Halloween was very low key and nobody I knew would ever have held or attended a Halloween-themed event. But if they did, they would have been a child, certainly not an adult. And Halloween seems to be a season now, rather than a day. For instance, in London there is a 'Month of the Dead' that starts on 1st October....

Many Christians feel very strongly about Halloween, because of its historical associations with the occult and because it focuses on death, darkness and evil. For this reason some churches hold 'light parties' for children as an alternative activity on Halloween.

Halloween is marked on the day before All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows Day), hence Halloween.

All Saints' Day is traditionally observed on 1st November in many Western Christian communities and commemorates the faithful believers, historical and modern, who have finished their earthly lives and entered the presence of God. But All Saints' Day is not just about the dead, because the saints are all God's people of all times and all places who confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

All Souls' Day occurs on 2nd November and has a different emphasis. It is a day on which to thank God for the recently departed – those we have known and loved, but who have gone before us. We thank God for all they have taught us, and for the precious gift of memory, through which we can share in the good times of the past.

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

For Those Who Walked with Us

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.

For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.

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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



OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER



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



Sunday 4th October - HARVEST FESTIVAL

Holy Communion

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

*Followed by a Bring and Share Harvest Lunch
at Shanklin and Godshill Cricket Club Pavilion*

Sunday 11th October - Nineteenth after Trinity

Matins

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 18th October - Twentieth after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

Sunday 25th October - Last Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion

Reverend Karen Crowhurst

PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

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

4th October – HARVEST FESTIVAL

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being...

11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

18th October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life...

25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity - Bible Sunday

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ...

FESTIVALS IN OCTOBER

From the Church of England Calendar

- 1 Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533*
- 1 Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885*
- 4 Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226***
- 6 William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536***
- 9 Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250*
- 9 Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253*
- 10 Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644***
- 10 Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674*
- 11 Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675*
- 11 James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century*
- 12 Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709***
- 12 Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845*
- 12 Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915*
- 13 Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066***
- 15 Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582***
- 16 Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Reformation Martyrs, 1555*
- 17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107***
- 18 Luke the Evangelist***
- 19 Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812***
- 25 Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287*
- 26 Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899***
- 26 Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664*
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles***
- 29 James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr in Uganda, 1885***
- 31 Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546*



The Isle of Wight Walking Festival

This autumn, discover the truth of the Island's motto:

'All this beauty if of God'

Go to the Walking Festival website for a list of all the walks available and to book your place:

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

The gentlest, suitable for those with limited mobility, is being run by Julie from Shanklin URC. ***The Lost Crypt Walk*** is a history stroll around Ryde, costing £5 per person, with every penny going to Aspire Ryde.

Pre-booking is essential:-

Tuesday 6th October, 3.00 pm

Wednesday 7th October, 5.30 pm

Friday 9th October, 3.00 pm

Saturday 10th October, 10.00 am

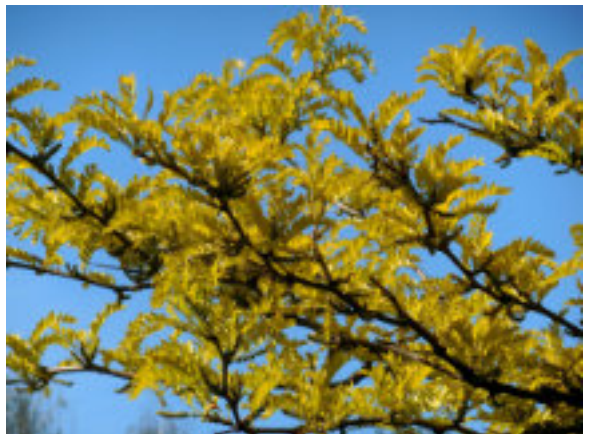
Eco News...

This summer has been very challenging for all sorts of environmental projects. However, one local project continues to bring some hope and good news. The old concrete paving outside County Hall allowed rainwater to run straight into the sewer system. The existing trees had been planted to absorb water but couldn't cope with such large amounts of rainwater. This water was contributing to flooding and storm overflows during heavy rainfall. The growing tree roots had begun to lift the paving slabs, causing a trip hazard.

So, planning began to improve the appearance of the area by redesigning the paving, improving the drainage and reducing the flooding. Southern Water and the Isle of Wight Council worked together on the project to protect and preserve the local environment.

The team at Southern Water replaced 252m² of impermeable concrete with permeable paving and installed four tree pits. A tree pit is a specially prepared underground space designed to allow trees to grow well in urban environments. Tree pits include root containment channels to stop the roots from disrupting the paving again, and an irrigation system so the trees can be easily watered during the drier months to keep them healthy and resilient to the weather. The storage underneath the permeable paving is capable of holding 28,000 litres of rainwater, which will be soaked up by the trees and naturally evaporated. This will help protect homes and businesses from flooding, and help reduce storm overflows, by slowing the flow of surface water which typically runs straight off roads and into the combined sewer network. Almost half the water in our sewers comes from roads, pavements and car parks.

*The trees that were planted are **thornless Golden Honey Locust**, a tree with attractive foliage that thrives in urban settings.*



Natasha Dix, Service Director Waste, Environment and Planning commented:
"Not only do the trees planted provide excellent drainage solutions they will also contribute to urban cooling and attract bees and other pollinators, enhancing our local biodiversity."

This project has provided a long-term solution to excess surface water and reduced the flood risk at Coppins Bridge, the busiest junction on the Island.

The cost was jointly funded by the Isle of Wight Council and Southern Water. The project cost a total of £233,000 as opposed to the millions that would need to be spent on a storm tank to manage this water at a local treatment works.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/media/3223/Case-Study-County-Hall-SuDS-Scheme/pdf/Case-Study-County-Hall-SuDS-Scheme.pdf?m=1774457066183>

Copy Deadline for the November Magazine
14th October

A Good Yarn

Monday 19th October at 10.00am

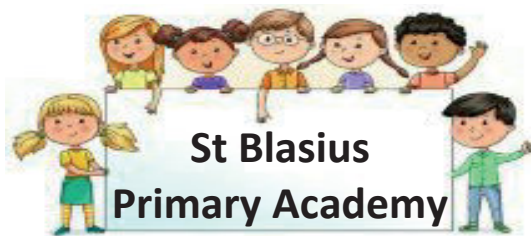
**Come and join our informal and friendly monthly
knitting and crochet group in the Parish Room at
St Blasius Church, Church Road, Shanklin.**

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.



Extracts from recent School Newsletters:

Welcome Back to a brand new School Year!

It has been fantastic to see our school buzzing with excitement once again as we begin another year of learning, friendship and adventure together. The children have returned with smiling faces, positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm for the year ahead. We are especially delighted to welcome our new pupils and families who have joined our school community this term. We hope you already feel part of our school family.

We are delighted to share our new vision and values with you. Carefully developed alongside our children and staff, they reflect who we are as a school community and our aspirations for every child. Our vision and values will guide everything we do, helping us to nurture confident, compassionate learners who flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We are excited to embark on this journey together and look forward to seeing our vision come to life each day through the actions, attitudes and achievements of our school family.

Our Vision

*At St Blasius we strive to create a family community to foster a life-long love of learning. Motivated by our Christian values, we endeavour to nurture a school where every child flourishes through **Love, Courage and Friendship**, to reach their god given potential.*

“Dear children, let us love, not in words or speech, but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

LOVE

“Love one another, as I have loved you.” – John 13:34

We show **kindness, compassion and respect to all**. Through **acts of love**, we build a community where **everyone feels valued, supported and safe to learn**.

COURAGE

“Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you.” – Joshua 1:9

We encourage children to be **brave in their learning, resilient in challenges** and **confident in who they are**. We celebrate perseverance, hope and the courage to do what is right.

FRIENDSHIP

“Encourage one another and build each other up.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

We foster strong, **positive relationships** built on **trust, empathy** and understanding. **Friendship strengthens our community** and **reflects God’s love in action**.

We are delighted to introduce some new members of the St Blasius team this year...

A warm welcome to Mrs Gardner and Mrs Dell, who have joined our EYFS team and are already making a wonderful contribution to the children's learning and development. We are also excited to welcome Miss Cheek, our new Forest School Lead, who has been inspiring children through engaging outdoor learning experiences and adventures in nature. In addition, Miss Richardson has joined us and will be working across the whole academy, supporting children and staff throughout the school.

We feel incredibly fortunate to have such talented, enthusiastic and caring individuals joining our school community, and we know they will be a fantastic addition to the St Blasius family. We are very lucky indeed!

This year promises to be filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences, educational visits, sporting events, performances and celebrations of achievement. We cannot wait to see all that our children will accomplish as they continue to grow in confidence, develop new skills and shine in their own unique ways. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Working together helps us create the very best opportunities for our children to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with learning, laughter, friendship and success!

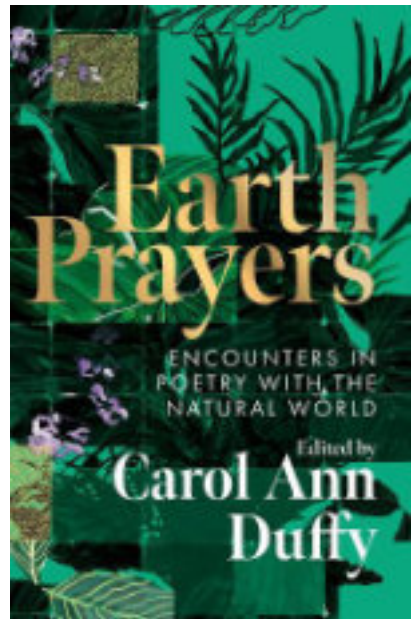
“Every child can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way.” George Evans

Let's make this our best year yet!

Book Review

Title: Earth Prayers
Collated by: Carol Ann Duffey
Publisher: Pan Macmillan
ISBN: 9781035048151

***Earth Prayers:
Encounters in poetry
with the natural world...***



It is always exciting to unwrap birthday presents and this year I was given a very special gift. A beautiful book of poetry about the beauty and fragility of the natural world. One hundred poems that express the concern of poets for the welfare of the planet, collated by former Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom, Carol Ann Duffy.

Some of the poems are challenging and are not easy to read. Many are pleas by the poets of the past for us all to take action to protect the world that we love.

Poets have been inspired by nature for centuries and these poems call us to “*Cherish and defend the planet while we can.*” Contemporary poets are now echoing the ideas expressed long ago.

The first poem in the book, *The Walkers*, ends with the line, “*We didn’t travel all this way to break your hearts. We came to ask if you might heal the world.*”

The poem by Jorie Graham: “The earth said remember me. The earth said don’t let go, said it one day when I was accidentally listening. . . “

So, are we listening to the earth and the pleas of the poets that we must cherish and defend, protect and heal the natural world?

**News from the
Mothers' Union at St Blasius**

*Suzanne Cook
Branch Leader, St Blasius Church*

Members gathered on a warm and windy day in August for their fund-raising Strawberry Cream Tea. Such a lovely occasion enjoyed by everyone.

On Saturday, 5 September Mothers' Union members came together from across the island and the mainland for a special service to celebrate the MU's 150th Anniversary. Kindly conducted by the Reverend Chris Bradish, Rector for The Minster, the service of Holy Communion was led with warmth and sensitivity. Preaching with enthusiasm, Reverend Bradish spoke about the life and work of Mary Sumner, the MU's founder, and of the dedication and compassion of MU members working within the UK and worldwide. Our collection was given to the Mountbatten Hospice. Following the service, members were able to catch up with each other over a delicious buffet lunch. *(See picture below, showing MU members in Newport Minster).*

The October Mothers' Union meeting is on Monday 26th October at 2pm, when we will be planning our 2027 programme and also welcoming a speaker from the Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat.

If you would like to know more about the of the Mothers' Union go to:
www.mothersunion.org, to Wikipedia or call me on 01983 867887.





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FIND AN ALZHEIMER CAFÉ near you

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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