



# CHURCH LIFE MATTERS

June 2026

## A word from Andrew

At the beginning of Acts, Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit, who will baptise them and empower them to carry Jesus' Kingdom to the ends of the earth and to be his witnesses (Acts 1:4-8). Then he ascends into heaven to take his throne with the Father. Ten days later, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit rushes over Jesus' followers like wind and fire, filling them with the promised power. We too need to wait and pray for God's Spirit to fill us anew so that we can continue to spread God's Kingdom. I believe that there are two important ingredients to Spirit-filled fruitfulness:

1. **Live as close to Jesus as you can.** Jesus is the true branch and the true vine. He is the one who was totally faithful and fruitful beyond any human being (even Joseph in the Old Testament or Paul in the New!). He now invites you to be part of his vine, to stay close to him and to bear much fruit – fruit that will last (John 15:8,16).

Lord, I want my life to make a difference. Thank you that you have made that possible. Keep me close to you, faithful and filled with the Holy Spirit, bearing fruit that will last.

2. **Depend on Him.** When the Holy Spirit comes to live in your life he brings you into a relationship of knowing the Lord – the one we depend on, the one we obey. For me, it was only when I experienced the Holy Spirit that the expression 'the Lord' became among the most precious expressions in the world.

Jesus has made it possible for you to know God. The same Spirit of the Lord who rests on Jesus is given to you. He will give you wisdom and understanding, counsel and power so that your life can have a huge impact.

I understand, that for those who have been taught to make themselves 'Lord' this is a difficult ask, but it's worth taking it to the Lord and asking him to teach you how you can walk through life, depending on him. 'Trust and Obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey' as the old chorus says. This has been the topic for our May Revival Meetings. Why not listen to the talks online?

With Every Blessing,  
*Andrew*



# St Katharine's Church, Holt

# SUPPER EVENING



SAT 27 JUNE

18:15 ARRIVAL

## REBECCA PETERS

Rebecca has been a pastor and church leader for over 20 years and has been led by the Holy Spirit in many different situations, from enabling people to know Jesus from a Hindu community in North London to starting a young families fellowship in Oxfordshire.

Rebecca has a passion for people to encounter Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit. She loves to share stories of all that she has seen God do in her life. How God has transformed people's lives, how Jesus has provided, healed, restored and overcome difficult circumstances.

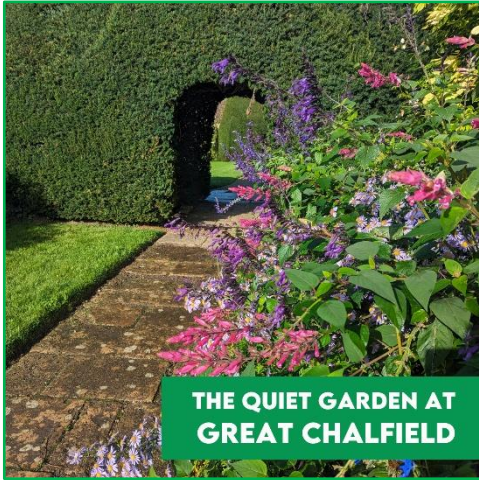
Rebecca is currently vicar at St Mary's Church, Cholsey, Wallingford.

**Come along to hear more!**

To help with numbers for catering please email [united.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:united.benefice@outlook.com) by Tuesday 23 June 2026 if you would like to attend.

# News from All Saints – Great Chalfield

## Quiet Garden Experience



In May I heard our invited speaker talk about an attitude of gratitude. In the garden I was able to cherish the growth of plants, with a wonderful display of colour, the beautiful sounds of birdsong, still water and moving water. I was able to value the structure of buildings, ducks on the lake, maintained borders and lawns in contrast to areas left to grow wild. I sensed a nearness to God and his peace. The opportunity to slow down was marvellous.

## The Quiet Garden – a time for personal reflection

### **Do you need?**

Time to reflect,  
Space to be alone,  
Somewhere to pray,  
Someone to listen,  
Or a quiet place?

### **We offer**

Peace and stillness,  
Solitude, a beautiful garden,  
Someone to talk to, if you wish,  
Shelter from the elements in the  
medieval parish church.

## Invited Speakers 2026

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Revd Jenny Nelson FRSA, Rector of Bradford on Avon  
Holy Trinity, Westwood & Wingfield

July 7<sup>th</sup>

Jenny Davis, retired Priest & spiritual accompanier

Everyone is welcome on the first Tuesday of the month ten times a year, from 09:30 to 14:30. We invite people to be in the church for 12:45 prior to a reflection being shared at 13:00.

We look forward to welcoming you for as much of the day as is possible for you.

*Anthony Matthew*

## News from St. Mary's

I suppose that in these difficult times one could say that no news is good news and that is almost the case in Broughton Gifford. Some of us have been going through the necessary rigours of training to recognise abuse, and whilst this is certainly necessary, it often seems remote to us. Because of our close relationship with the school, we fall under two overlapping regimes. This can present problems, for example, to the Open the Book team. We try to give the children as many performing roles as possible, but when the text calls for Joseph to hug one of his brothers, this has to be at arm's length if we have an adult Joseph.

Our congregation may only be small, but it comes from a broad area. We have regular members who come from Bradford on Avon, Holt, Melksham, Trowbridge and Corsham. Often, they outnumber the Broughton Gifford residents present. In many ways we are fortunate to live in a benefice where the three churches are close to each other, but each offers a different style of churchmanship.

We are happy also to have regular visitors from Holt to our monthly Coffee Mornings. With the last one falling on a Bank Holiday weekend, the numbers present were lower than usual, but, nevertheless, we raised £150 for Christian Aid. This was largely due to the cakes made for the event by Sarah and Annette.

We are now finding that our regular mums for Call in for Coffee are, for one reason or another, unable to come along but we will keep advertising through the school that we are in the church from 08.45 – 10.30 every Friday during term time. We are there for parents and everyone so please come along if you can. We serve excellent coffee, biscuits and are there for a chat.



*Christopher Fielden and Annette Stone*

**Prayer meeting dates for St. Mary's @ 13:45 in Church**

Tuesday 16 June & Tuesday 21 July.

## Youth and Children's Workers report . . .

Thank you for the warm welcome we have received since starting in our roles. Over the past couple of months, St Katharine's has truly begun to feel like family to us, and we thank God for that. We are really enjoying getting to know you all - especially meeting the children and their families - and we are incredibly grateful to Harvey, who did such great work in this role and has left a thriving ministry among children, young people and families for us to build on.

We are also hugely appreciative of our committed volunteer team, who have helped us to settle in and who make such a valuable contribution to the life of our groups and activities.

Sundays are, of course, a busy day for us, with Outdoor Church (families worshipping all together) and Café Church (where children head to the Coach House for activities and fun around a Bible-based theme). Our focus this term has been the Fruit of the Spirit, with a different "fruit" each week - as we explore who God calls us to be and grow in our understanding of Jesus' character. We particularly enjoyed our Easter Sunday service - a wonderful occasion that included many children and ended with a very successful Easter egg hunt.

During the week, Sandra has been developing a home group alongside Heather and Abbie, particularly for parents connected to the church and Tiny Tots (our toddler group). This has been well received, meeting weekly and alternating between daytime and evening sessions to offer flexibility for families. It has been wonderful to see new connections forming and to provide a warm, welcoming space to share Jesus and support one another. Tiny Tots itself continues to go from strength to strength, offering a supportive Christian environment where families can chat, play and connect.

Tom has also been busy leading assemblies at Holt and St Mary's (Broughton Gifford) Primary Schools, as well as joining the Open the Book team to share Bible stories through drama at Holt Primary.

At SKY (our youth group), we have taken a whistle-stop tour through different parts of the Bible; some have completed "The Mark Challenge", and many are looking forward to heading to Exeter for the SPREE Camp in June.

Over the coming months, we will be working to grow our team to support the increasing number of children, young people and families connected to St Katharine's. We will also be planning ahead, praying for new ideas and initiatives, and continuing to develop existing ones such as the annual Holiday Club and Light Party.

*Tom & Sandra Bullock  
Youth and Children's Workers*



Here is a reminder for you. Candles (new and part used) can be taken to Melksham Town Hall which is open 10:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday. These are sent to Ukraine. They also have a bra bank.

Thank you for using the recycling boxes at St. Katharine's for empty pill sleeves and used ink cartridges I continue to take the pill sleeves to Superdrug in Trowbridge each Monday.

Let's all continue to do our bit.

*Thank you, Lynnette Baston on behalf of St. Katharine's ECO group*

## **Donations**

To set up a standing order or make a donation to any of the three churches in the Benefice please find all the information below:

<b>St Katharine's PCC of Holt</b>	Sort code: 30 98 75	A/C: 01525597
<b>Broughton Gifford PCC</b>	Sort code: 40 44 33	A/C: 51168657
<b>PCC of Great Chalfield</b>	Sort code: 30 98 75	A/C: 02075099

Donations towards the Coach House should be referenced "Coach House".

Donations towards the weekend away at Lee Abbey should be referenced "Lee Abbey".

# Coffee Morning

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2026  
10:00 UNTIL NOON



ALL WELCOME

# Café Church

## FATHER'S DAY

SUNDAY 21 JUNE | 10:30  
WORSHIP, COFFEE AND FOOD



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH,  
HOLT



# REVIVAL

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY  
14 & 21 JUNE | 18:00



JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR

# OPEN WORSHIP

ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH  
THURSDAY 18 JUNE  
19:45 ONWARDS

REFRESHMENTS SERVED  
EVERYONE WELCOME



**Could you serve on our refreshments team? (No Barista training required!)**

To help keep our Sunday services at St. Katharine's running smoothly, we will be introducing a refreshments rota. Rotas are already in place for the Prayer Ministry and Welcome Teams, and it works brilliantly — no crossed wires, and no “Who’s on this week?” moments!

We would also love to **welcome some new volunteers** to the team. If you think you could help, let us know and someone will happily take you through what we do.

Alongside the three-monthly rota, we'd also like to set up a new WhatsApp group for the refreshments team. That way, if you suddenly find you're unable to do your slot, you can easily arrange a swap with someone else.

To help us prepare the rota and set up the “St. K's Refreshment Team” WhatsApp group, please could you email Dawn at the church office on [united.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:united.benefice@outlook.com) to confirm:

- that you're happy to **continue** helping with refreshments or
- **you would like to join the refreshments team**
- your availability for **June, July and August**
- your mobile number for the WhatsApp group

Thank you,  
*Caroline*

**Prayer meeting dates for St. Katharine's @ 19:30 in Church**

Monday 1 June & Wednesday 1 July.

## West Wiltshire Good Afternoon Choir – concert 25 April 2026

On a gloriously warm and sunny Saturday afternoon it was 'A Perfect Day' for the Good Afternoon Choir to sing that and other songs to an appreciative audience of over fifty people. Music choices ranged from the likes of Leonard Cohen, John Lennon, Sting, and the glorious 'Look at the World' by John Rutter.



Matt Finch led the choir who meet each Friday afternoon in Holt Village Hall, and he also accompanied his friend the gifted professional trumpeter Mike Daniels who played a mixed bag of tunes from upbeat jazzy ones to a wonderful trumpet voluntary by John Stanley played on a piccolo trumpet (no, I hadn't heard of one either)!

There was a retiring collection for the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance represented by some of their volunteers, who provided a short talk about the amazing work the service provides to this county, and how they are totally dependent on voluntary giving and fundraising. To donate visit their website:

<https://www.wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/>

On the afternoon of the concert **£437.11** was donated.



The choir provided an array of cakes for the interval which was washed down by gallons of tea and coffee.

If you fancy joining a choir you can go along and see if this one suits you. Or you can find further details at [www.goodafternoonchoir.org](http://www.goodafternoonchoir.org)

*Terri Dauncey*

### Note for your diary

The **Encountering the Father's Love** school is returning to St Katharine's church on the 27 – 31 July. More details to follow soon.

# United Benefice of Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine

## Services June 2026

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
7 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
14 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Parish Communion  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
21 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity  <b>Father's Day</b>	10:30 Café Church  18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
28 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Outdoor Church  10:30 Morning Worship  16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion

Church Office – The Coach House, 386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ

E: [united.benefice@outlook.com](mailto:united.benefice@outlook.com)

W: [faithinourvillage.org](http://faithinourvillage.org)



## United Benefice of Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield & Holt St Katharine

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Ruth Mecredy Associate Priest	01225 783197	rmecredy@gmail.com
Anthony Matthew Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 782082	anthony55matthewfcn@gmail.com
Rachel Firth Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01380 871464	rachel.firth@btconnect.com
Marilyn Stubbs Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	01225 753118	marilynistubbs@yahoo.co.uk
Tom & Sandra Bullock Children and Youth Workers		ChildrenAndYouth @stkatharinesholt.org
Elizabeth Bennett Retired Priest	01225 783119	revelizabeth1@gmail.com
Jacque Bennetts Parish Safeguarding Representative	07738 763951	safeguarding@stkatharinesholt.org
Ben Jarvis Director of Music		benjaminjarvis@hotmail.co.uk
Dawn Farmer Administrator and Lay Worship Leader (LWL)	01225 782717	united.benefice@outlook.com

**Please send content for the July issue of Church Life Matters  
via email to Dawn by Friday 19 June.**