

CHURCH LIFE MATTERS



JUNE 2025

**Please send content for the July issue of Church Life Matters
via email to Dawn by Friday 20 June.**

A word from Andrew

I recently preached on the scripture from John 10 where Jesus says, 'My sheep listen to my voice'. When you think about the concept of Jesus speaking to you, you might think of the way that Jesus spoke to St Paul on the Damascus road and imagine that you'd be blessed if Jesus spoke to you once in a lifetime. That particular story is a dramatic one. Paul was 'breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples', and Jesus dealt with him in a decisive way because he wanted to stop Paul in his tracks, to reveal truth to him and to set him on a different course. Paul's life thereafter was one where Jesus spoke to him all the time to give him instructions and revelation to enable Paul to carry out his Christ-given task to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

In John 10, Jesus is likening himself to a shepherd, the good shepherd, and we are the sheep in his flock. In the understanding of this imagery, a shepherd would be speaking to his sheep all through the day as he led them to pastures and cared for them. I think this should be our expectation of Jesus' desire to connect with us. I want to encourage us to put some effort into hearing Jesus speak, so that we are sure of his voice. Then we can be obedient to his voice. Outside me at present, there are a number of large trees with rook colonies in them. Rooks are very noisy birds and drown out the other bird sound. However, it is possible to tune out from the rooks and to hear the sound of the smaller birds round about. You have to stay focussed and give the matter your full attention, or you will soon just be hearing the rooks again! The rooks are not bad. They are just very loud! If you didn't tune out from the rooks, you might easily say of this location, that the rooks are the only birds speaking! In listening to Jesus, I wonder what we need to tune out from? Our devices, certainly! But there may be other distractions in our lives that are big noises for us. How can we tune them out and listen to Jesus. We might hear him speak in prayer. We will certainly hear him speak if we read scripture.

I think many of us know that we hear important things from Jesus, but we receive so much information from various sources all the time, that we don't stay with that important thing long enough to let it sink in. Information overload will dilute what Jesus is saying to us.

Yesterday we clambered down a steep set of steps to a beach. It was lovely and we had it to ourselves. It was a sunny day and there was so much to see and enjoy. We didn't rush away, but instead we lingered. The tide was on the way out and over about an hour, the beach opened up to be a much larger beach with pools and rock formations to explore. And then we were delighted

to see two seals in the water. If we hadn't lingered, we would have felt connection with the place because it was so beautiful, but by lingering we had so much more connection. I think that says something about 'My sheep hear my voice'. We can hear Jesus speak but there is a time for lingering in his presence, when we will hear so much more, and connect more fully with him.

Blessings, Andrew

PENTECOST



SUNDAY 8 JUNE | 10:00
ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
HOLY COMMUNION



We are gathering our three churches for a very

SPECIAL SERVICE

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, GREAT CHALFIELD

Sunday 29 June at 10:00

ALL WELCOME

News from All Saints – Great Chalfield

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 2025

June 3rd

Revd Jake Eggertsen, Rector of St James' Trowbridge
& St Leonard's Keevil

July 1st

The Right Revd Robert Atwell, Honorary Assistant
Bishop in the Diocese of Salisbury

August

No quiet garden in August



The Quiet Garden at Great Chalfield provides a welcoming space in which we can leave our normal lives behind for a while. Here we can pray, rest in God's presence, hear from Him and have an encounter with Jesus in this beautiful place.

Although the Quiet Garden is a Christian organisation, we welcome everyone. A donation to cover our expenses is greatly appreciated. Hot drinks will be available and served on the day, though you may still bring your own, plus please bring your lunch.

Anthony Matthew

News from St. Mary's

Our Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of each month continue to amaze me. We have a small, but solid, band of supporters who enjoy coming for a chat and rock cakes. Somehow it seems that the children present always manage to win a prize in the raffle. Everyone goes home happy and on the latest occasion we raised £140 for Christian Aid.

Our next quiz in the Village Hall is on Saturday 7 June, with the questions being set by Ian Smart. Last time we had a full house with twelve teams and we hope to repeat that on this occasion. Again this is seen to be a very relaxed social event, with teams coming regularly from outside the village.

In July we have our Patronal Festival one week and our 820th anniversary celebrations the next. This has presented a challenge to our team of flower ladies, which they have accepted eagerly. It will be blue and white for the former and a monastic theme for the latter.

The 820th celebrations are being held in conjunction with the whole community, so on Saturday 12 July, St. Mary's Church will be open from 10:00 – 16:00, welcoming all to admire our Grade I listed building, have a cup of coffee and hear what it means to the community as a whole. At the same time the Village Hall will be open with people showing different aspects of life in the village from 820 years ago to the current day. The church will be represented here also.

On Sunday 13 July there will be a service of Holy Communion at 10:00 taken by Bishop Andrew of Ramsbury. It is hoped that we will fill the church with people that we may not normally see.

After the service, at noon, there will be a bring and share lunch in the Village Hall, at which all will be welcome. This not just for church members, but for the community at large. There are no official invitations to this lunch but as the number of places is limited, it is essential to book your places in advance. Please see poster for details of how to book.

Thanks to the generosity of Fine Wines Direct UK of Cardiff, there will be wines on offer at the lunch. At this stage I cannot reveal what they will be, but they are of real quality.

We hope this weekend will strengthen our congregation.

Christopher Fielden & Annette Stone

Coffee Morning

ST MARY'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2025
10:00 UNTIL NOON



THE QUIZ

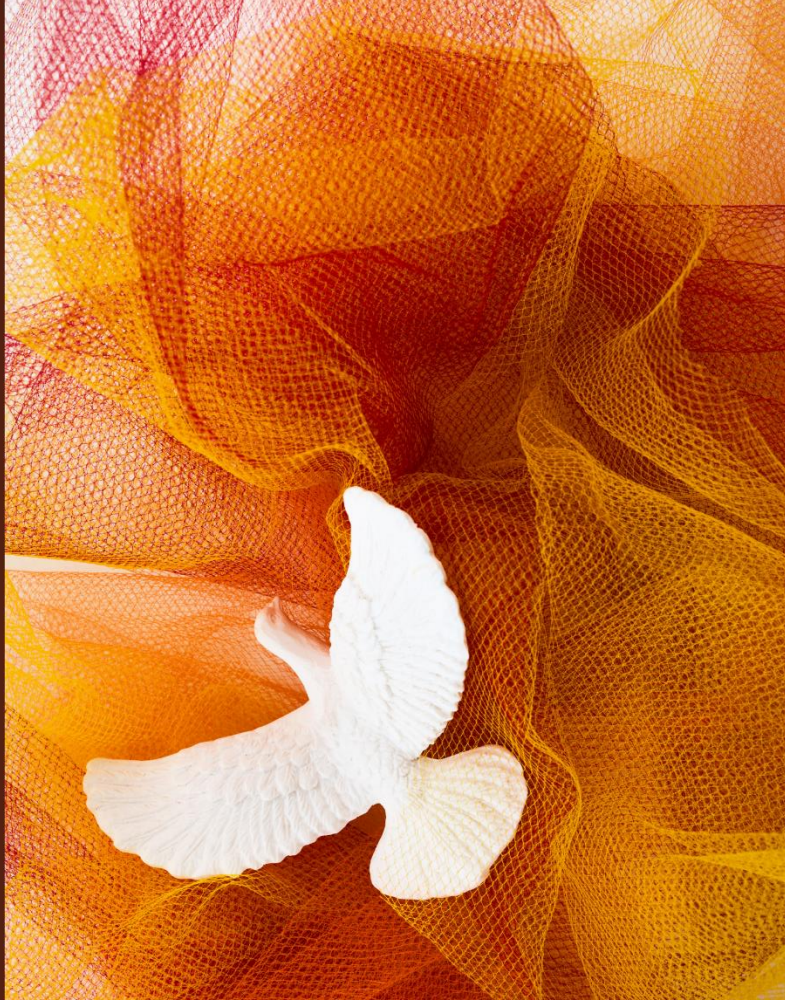
**SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2025
7:30PM**

**BROUGHTON GIFFORD VILLAGE HALL
£7 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE
PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
(PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINK AND GLASS)**

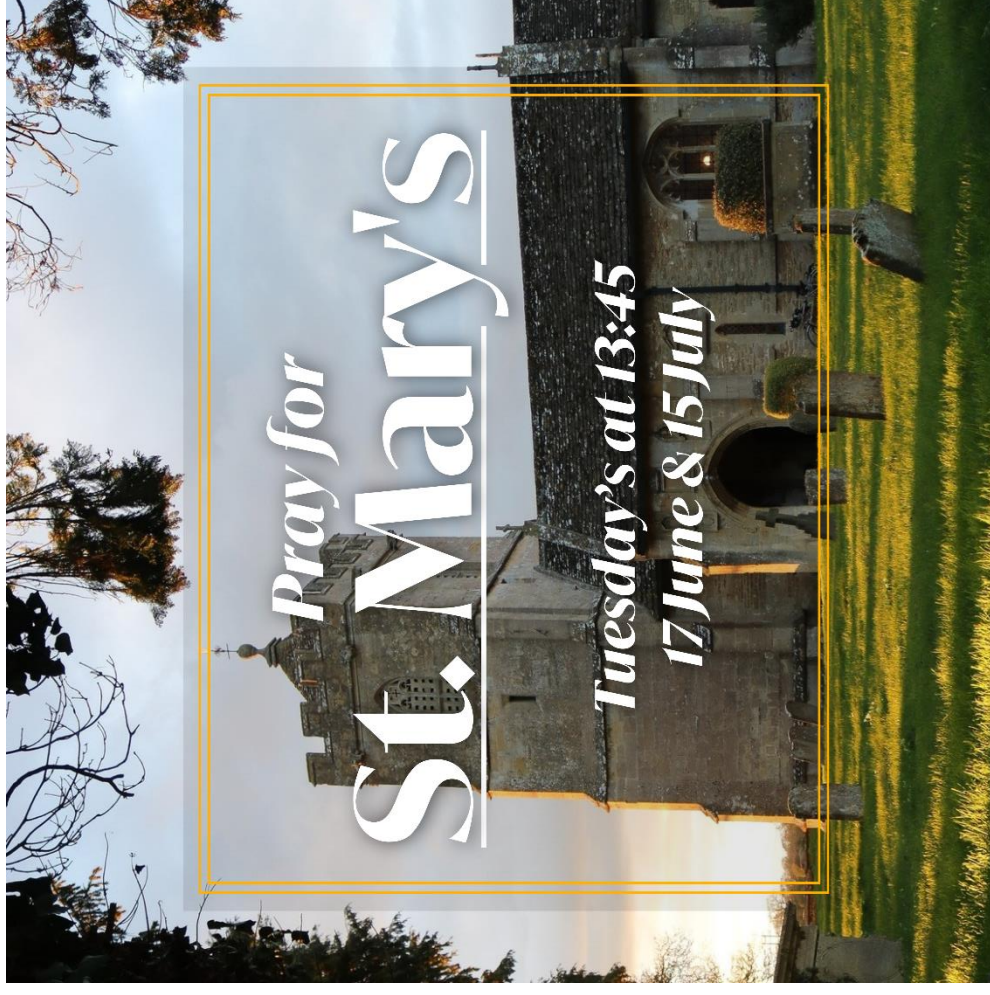
**BOOK YOUR TEAM WITH ANNETTE
01225 782610 OR
ANNETTESTONE7A@GMAIL.COM**

PROCEEDS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PENTECOST



SUNDAY 8 JUNE | 10:00
ST MARY'S CHURCH
MORNING WORSHIP





CELEBRATE 820 YEARS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Exhibitions to commemorate
the first mention of the
Parish of Broughton in 1205

The Village Hall and St. Mary's Church will
be open on Saturday 12 July
from 10am to 4pm to display artefacts
and memorabilia. Refreshments available.

**Come and see the history of your village
of Broughton Gifford.**

Holy Communion

CELEBRATION OF 820 YEARS OF THE PARISH
OF BROUGHTON AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 13 JULY | 10AM

LED BY THE BISHOP OF RAMSBURY



BRING AND SHARE LUNCH IN THE VILLAGE HALL
FROM 12 NOON. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE
SERVICE AND LUNCH PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

ANNETTE STONE: ANNETTESTONE7A@GMAIL.COM

SARAH CHANDLER: 01225 782241

CHURCH OFFICE: UNITED.BENEFICE@OUTLOOK.COM

Pray for St. K's

*Monday 2 June &
Monday 7 July @ 19:30
St. Katharine's Church*

Morning Prayer online!

When: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday mornings
(not on Bank Holidays)

Time: 08:15 – 09:00

Zoom Code:

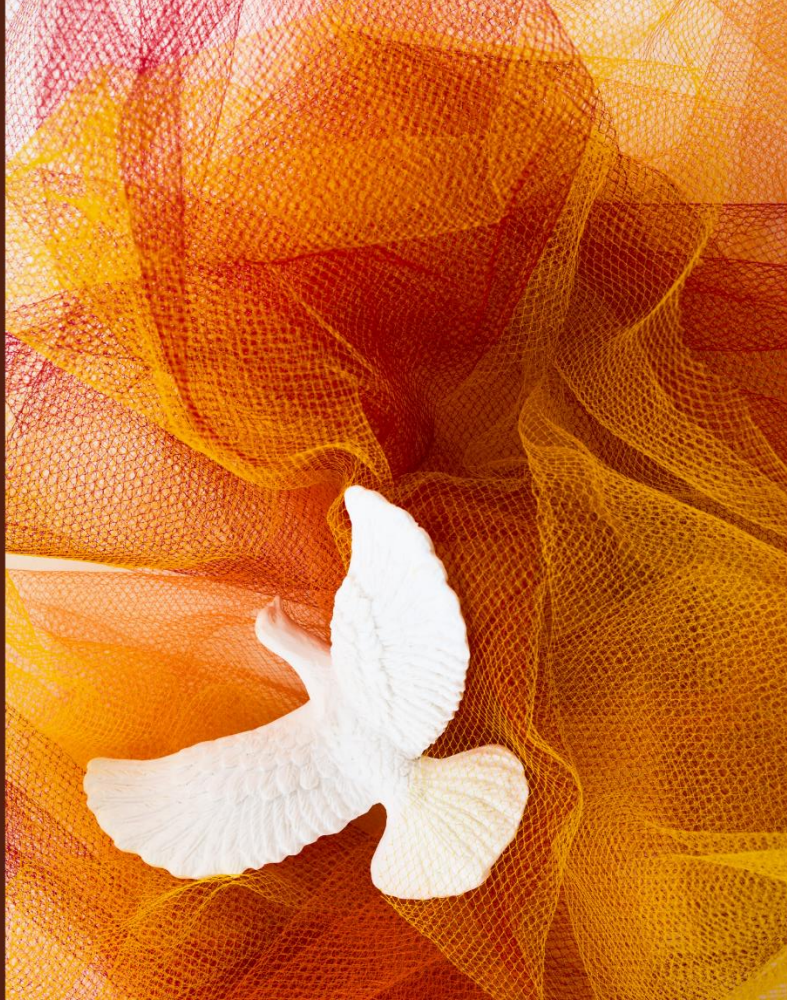
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299304685?pwd=T05SYzZmeG1odnBNRTdPVnJ5OVlwZz09>

Meeting ID: 929 930 4685

Password: vgy987

How about coming and joining together for readings and prayers to get your day off to a great start? You are welcome.

PENTECOST



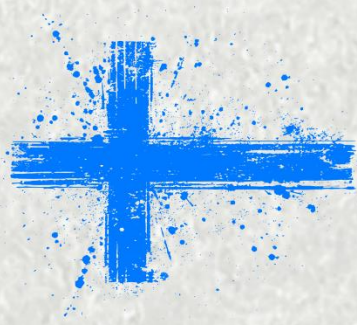
SUNDAY 8 JUNE | 10:30
ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH
PARISH COMMUNION



REVIVAL

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

PENTECOST
SUNDAY 8 JUNE @ 18:00
WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY



REVIVAL

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, HOLT

TRINITY SUNDAY

SUNDAY 15 JUNE @ 18:00

WORSHIP, TEACHING AND MINISTRY

JOIN THE ST. K'S WORSHIP TEAM FOR



OPEN WORSHIP

**ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2025
19:45 ONWARDS**

**HOT DRINKS SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME**



Holt is a tidier village since our litter-pick on Saturday 17 May. With equipment and hi-viz jackets borrowed from Wiltshire council, groups covered seven areas and collected a mixture of items, small and large, including batteries which can be life threatening or lethal if ingested by animals. Afterwards Tim and Joy provided a free BBQ in the churchyard for all helpers.



Sunday's service was a beautiful celebration of the wonder of creation and what can be done to help it survive and thrive, with input by Robert Floyd from Great Chalfield. In Genesis 2:15 we read that man was placed by God in the garden of Eden to 'work it and take care of it'. Rachel also challenged us to think about what small things we could do to take care of it.

Jars of wild flowers bought to our tables by the children helped us to study what we often overlook. Maybe next time you go for a walk, slow down, look down, up, and around you. Listen. God's creation is not silent - hear the birds, the wind, the rustle of the leaves. Notice the small and the big signs of our creators' handiwork. Be awed by the beauty, and thankful that we are placed here to take care of it all.



St Katharine's Church, Holt

SUPPER EVENING



SAT 5 JULY

18:15 ARRIVAL

BOB HARTMAN

Bob was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and now lives in Wiltshire. Over the past thirty years, he has had over one hundred books published, most of them for children. Bob's Storytelling Bible is used in schools across the UK as part of a Bible project called Open the Book. He loves telling stories, and helping children find their own voice. Come and hear how God has been present in Bob's life during his storytelling career.

To help with numbers for catering please email
united.benefice@outlook.com
by Tuesday 1 July 2025 if you would like to attend.

Coffee Morning at St. Katharine's Church

The May coffee morning, raising money for the Spree weekend for our youth, coincided with the Holt litter pick on St. Katharine's Creation Celebration weekend.

Quite a number of our regulars weren't able to come but it was a joy to see new visitors who filled the tables and the chat was as loud as usual. The beginning was frantic at the cake stall as some of the young people 'fuelled-up' ready for the litter pick, it was a struggle to keep up with demand! How many came? Who knows! With all the coming and going it was impossible to count; around 22 went out with their Hi-Viz jackets and litter picking gear (a great turn out), but I do notice and count dogs - 10 this time, not all at once.



Harvey sold tomato and cucumber plants, the raffle is always well supported and all the cakes went before the end which says a lot about the deliciousness of what is on offer; large quantities of tea and coffee were consumed too.

Thank you to all who came to support the youth work in the church, and those who tidied up the village. A total of £415.16 was raised towards the Spree weekend in June.

Our next monthly coffee morning is on Saturday 21 June we look forward to seeing you then!



The St. Katharine's Coffee Morning Team

VE DAY WITH POPPIES AT ST KATHARINE'S

Looking around the village this evening (Sunday 11 May) after a busy day collecting all the poppies to return to storage, it looked so bare and lacking in colour.



Over 8,500 poppies were on show for VE Day with new ideas on the green and in private gardens and poppies on the way in and out of the village on the verges.

What a relief it must have been 80 years ago when finally the war was over in Europe, but we must not forget that fighting continued in Burma and Japan.

We have been asked to remember VJ Day by someone in the village whose father died as a result of his time in Japan and also there are others with family connections wanting to remember peace in Burma so we will do a small display on Ham Green with stories about the relatives on the railings.

The photographs show the 80 and the 40 poppies on sticks representing the 40 names on the war memorial. Remembering those who could not rejoice when peace came.



There are still poppies being made which is wonderful and we will be selling broaches in November as before, and we hope you will be thrilled to know that the display will be back at St Katharine's in November for Remembrance Day.

We hope you enjoyed seeing the poppies in the sun and a huge thank you to St K's for all the continued support we get to make it all possible.

Helen Gray

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

Services June 2025

Date	Sunday	Holt St. Katharine's	Broughton Gifford St. Mary's	Great Chalfield All Saints
1 st		10:30 Café Church	10:00 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
8 th	PENTECOST	10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Parish Communion 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Morning Worship	10:00 Holy Communion
15 th	TRINITY SUNDAY & FATHER'S DAY	10:30 Café Church 18:00 Revival Meeting	10:00 Parish Communion	10:00 Matins
22 nd		10:30 Outdoor Church 10:30 Morning Worship 16:00 Evensong	10:00 Morning Service	10:00 Holy Communion
29 th	FIFTH SUNDAY			10:00 Benefice Service

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

St Katharine's PCC of Holt
Broughton Gifford PCC
PCC of Great Chalfield

Sort code: 30 98 75
Sort code: 40 44 33
Sort code: 30 98 75

A/C: 01525597
A/C: 51168657
A/C: 02075099

Church Office - The Coach House
386a Ham Green, Holt BA14 6PZ
T: 01225 782717
E: united.benefice@outlook.com
W: faithinourvillage.org

Follow us @faithinourvillage



Andrew Evans Rector (Day off Friday)	01225 782289	goodevansitsandrew@gmail.com
Ruth Mecredy Assistant 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
Harvey Bennett Children's and Youth Worker		ChildrenAndYouth @stkatharinesholt.org
Ann Fielden Retired Priest	01225 782509	fieldenann@gmail.com
Jenny Davis Retired Priest	01225 866479	gardenview36@gmail.com
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