

HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

Including news from The Good Shepherd, Furnham

Outlook



May 2026

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FR JULIAN WRITES...



May 2026

Well, this is it. My final letter to you after more than 31 years. It is difficult for me to write, as obviously it is a time of very mixed emotions for me and for Jane. It's happened a couple of years earlier than I was expecting, but happening it is. It would be very easy for me to become maudlin and emotional, and no doubt those feelings will emerge in the coming weeks. But I recall a maxim by which I have tried to minister: it's all about the gospel, stupid'!

The gospel, read, experienced, lived, is what makes sense of our lives, gives us purpose, gives us real life. The 'gospel' isn't just the first four books in the New Testament, but the truly good news revealed in Christ's birth, death and resurrection. The 'gospel' is the announcement of God's kingdom revealed in Christ, and encompasses the entire bible.

As we continue to celebrate Easter, all fifty days of it, we look forward to the next events in the history of our salvation: the Ascension and Pentecost. Like as with the disciples, Jesus takes his leave to return to his Father, his earthly ministry triumphantly completed. For a further 10 days, we wait in expectation for the promised Holy Spirit. And when it arrives, we witness the creation of the Church and the beginning of evangelisation of the world, the bringing of the gospel to all people.

In this we are all involved. We are all gifted with the Holy Spirit at baptism at whatever age. Just a few hours old at baptism, I could hardly be expected to burst out of the hospital and proclaim the good news! However, I hope I have done so since. Maybe we don't don't do 'bursting'. Jesus' final words in St Matthew's gospel – go and make disciples of all nations – may fill us with fear, but we need to remember that we should understand the Greek verb not as a direct imperative, an order, but as a gentle wish – as you go... living the gospel as witness to our faith.

The disciples watched the Ascension with a variety of emotions. They didn't know how Jesus' promise to be with them until the end of time was going to be fulfilled. It was a time of uncertainty, and without being sanctimonious or presumptuous maybe some of you may feel these things when I leave – and the anxiety is two-way. Yet in a short period of time, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter descended upon them, providing hope and purpose, and confidence in the providence of God.

I shall be leaving for a new life, into the unknown, and you will begin a new life as well. God willing, a new priest will be called to serve Holy Trinity with different gifts and a different vision. Life will not be the same, and although there is always comfort in the familiar, not all change is for the worst, particularly if we are empowered and guided by God, which we are through Pentecostal events.

It is fitting (and co-incidental!) that my last Sunday will be our Feast of Title, the Feast of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity (there I've used the full title of the church's dedication, not just 'Holy Trinity' or even 'Trinity'!). Then we shall worship the God who finally reveals himself as three Persons yet one God, beyond us yet one with us, all-powerful yet vulnerable, divine, yet willing to share our humanity to be enfolded in his divinity. The whole gospel.

As Jane and I prepare for a new life in a new area, so you will also be preparing for a new life at Holy Trinity. A life, which I pray, will be characterised by the love we have as members of Christ's body in this place. A life which is lived in the confidence and obedience of our faith. A life which is filled with hope and purpose. A life which is the gift of God revealed in the gospel.

My sincere prayers and love to you all and my apologies for the ways I may have failed you. Pray for all those who will be looking after the parish in vacancy, lay and ordained.
In the strength and power of the Gospel

Fr Julian

News from our Crafters...



Holy Trinity crafters meet every Thursday afternoon to knit/sew and chat with a very important tea and biscuit break at 3pm when we often have guests popping in.

Recently we have completed over 30 kneelers, a set for St Mary's chapel depicting the emblems of the apostles and the others are to be found mostly

around St Michaels Chapel and chosen for their more intricate designs and colours. Apart from one donation we have funded them ourselves but if you would like one stitched in memory of a loved one or just for yourself, we would be happy to do this for you. They cost in the region of £60 to £90 pounds depending on design.



The group have also completed lots of premature baby hats and booties for Musgrove baby unit.



A couple of us have made jumpers for a small fee that we donate to church funds.

Most of us also

make things to sell on the craft stall at the Christmas and Summer fairs.

There is always room for more crafters and a very warm welcome awaits.



Helen Jordan.

OUTLOOK



After almost 30 years this is the first edition of *Outlook* that has not been guided and nurtured by Jane Laurence. We are sure you will join us in thanking Jane for all her hard and dedicated work over the years and know that we all will miss her faithful guiding hand.

We would ask a favour of all our readers. Lacking the experience and skill of Jane we will do our best. There will be errors and typos despite our best efforts, and all we ask is your patience and understanding. Learning a new skill is never easy, and after all, 150 years of *Outlook* is one extremely hard act, to follow! We hope you will continue to enjoy our Parish magazine and that Jane is not too horrified by what we may manage to produce as the months go by!

Please help us by sending your articles, recipes and stories to either Pauline or Jenni via the church email holytrinity01@outlook.com or in person. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Pauline & Jenni

**The deadline for the May edition is
Wednesday 20th April**

How to get rid of squirrels



Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and

the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels on Christmas and Easter.

(From the Parish Pump).

CALENDAR FOR MAY

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days for May are listed below.

1 Fri S Joseph the Worker

2 Sat S Athanasius, Bishop, Teacher (373)

3 EASTER 5 *Theme: Our Royal Priesthood*

Readings: Acts 7. 55-60; 1 Peter 2. 2-10; John 14 1-14

4 Mon English Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era

7 Thu S. John of Beverley, Bishop of York (721)

8 Wed Mother Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer (1416)

10 EASTER 6 *Theme: The Spirit of Truth*

Readings: Acts 17. 22-31; 1 Peter 3. 13-22; John 14. 15-21

12 Tue S. Pancras, Martyr (4th C) SS. Nereus & Achilleus, Roman Soldiers, Martyrs (2nd Cent.)

14 Wed Ascension Day *Theme: The Ascension of our Lord*

Readings: Acts 1. 1-11; Ephesians 1. 15-23; Luke 24. 44-53

17 EASTER 7 *Theme: The Spirit of Prayer*

Readings: Acts 1. 6-14; 1 Peter 4. 12-14; & 5. 6-11; John 17. 1-11

19 Tue S. Dunstan, Monk, Reformer, Archbishop of Canterbury (988)
S. Beuno, Abbot (640)

20 Wed S. Alcuin of York, Deacon (804) S. Bernardino of Siena,
Franciscan Friar (1444)

21 Thu S. Helena, Empress, Protector of the Holy Places (330)

22 Fri S. Anselm of Canterbury, The 'Father of Scholasticism'

23 Sat S George, Christian martyr

24 PENTECOST *Theme: Come, Holy Spirit*

Readings: Acts 2. 1-21; 1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13; John 20. 19-23

25 Mon S. Bede the Venerable, Monk, First English historian (735)

27 Wed S. Augustine, 1st Archbishop of Canterbury (604)

28 Sat Lanfranc, Monk & Archbishop of Canterbury (1086)

31 TRINITY SUNDAY *Theme: God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit*

Readings: Isaiah 40. 12-17 & 27-31; 2 Cor. 13. 11-13; Mt. 28. 16-20



Holy Trinity Church, Taunton

SUMMER FAIR

Preparations are well underway for this year's Summer Fair which will be held in the Church grounds next month. We hope you will be able to support it in any way you can to make for a successful fundraiser for our church.

A list will be placed shortly at the back of the Church of the Stalls and Stall holders. Please take a look at the list for any donations or help that you can give. If donating an item please indicate which stall your item is for. New Stalls and ideas are always very welcome.

A lot of work is involved not only on the day but leading up to the event itself, so any help is much appreciated.

On the day itself help is required in setting up for the Fair and clearing away at the end. If you are only able to help for 1 hour it would make a lot of difference to people who will be there all day.

Raffle tickets will be available soon to purchase, please let us know if you would like to take some to sell to your friends and family before the day.

Posters for display will also be available shortly at the back of the Church, and will include all the details.

For further information please contact John Godley, or Cheryl Grindle. Thank you.

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11am – 2pm



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Spotlight on...

Pat Deal



I popped in to see Pat Deal today. Pat is the wife of our past Sacristan Peter, and not only was she responsible for over fifty years of making sure our altar linens were spick and span but she used to assist Peter in laying them out and setting out the candles for services.



Pat, thank you for talking to me today tell me, how long have you lived in Taunton, do you have any family and what brought you to where you are today?

I was born either in Creech St Michal or East Reach Hospital; I am not sure which! Our family, comprising painter and decorator dad, housewife mum, my older brother and sister and my younger brother, born on my birthday four years after me, lived in Ham with my grandfather. I went to Creech school until we moved to our own house in Wellsprings. It was a new house and had all the latest mod-cons such as central heating. The country was still subject to rationing but I remember a mobile shop coming around and from there you could buy your sweet ration – it wasn't much - but a treat we looked forward to nonetheless.

At first I then went to St James' school and then when my little brother was ready for school they opened Wellsprings so we both went there. During my time we celebrated the Queens' Coronation and I remember a special tea held in her honour. All children received a little box with a sandwich and a cake in it – I remember this box very clearly but not sure if there was anything else in it!

When I was seven or eight my mother passed away and I remember staying with grandfather in Creech and an aunt in Langport. When the family were able to reunite, we were looked after by my father and my oldest sister. When I was eleven I moved on to Northtown Girls School and during this time my father re-married and I had step sisters and brothers and a new step mother. We moved to her house and I followed my step siblings and moved to Asquith School which stood

where Holy Trinity School now stands. There I met Sylvie who is still my best friend to this very day.

I stayed at Asquith until I left school when I sought employment with the Co-op on Greenway Road, I was in the grocery department. In order to get to work I needed a bicycle and this was purchased for me. My wage was £2 19s a week and after this I had to give £2 to my step mum for my board, 11s to pay off my bicycle and the remainder was mine! It was quite a ride from Outer Circle to Greenway Road and I started work at 8am and finished at 6pm. We worked all day Saturday but had Thursday afternoons off.

During the years I lived with Silvie's family for a while and then moved onto the YWCA at the top of High Street. There were some very nice girls living there and we became very good friends, some of which I am still in touch with today. We used to go dancing to Staplegrove Village Hall and walked there – and back – and it was here that I met Peter. He was seeing a friend of mine at the time but she moved away which left Peter and I a free reign! During our courting he would come and pick me up at the YWCA sometimes on his Lambretta. We would take trips to the coast and having nowhere to store them took our leathers and helmets onto the beach alongside our swimming costumes.

After a few years I left the Co-op and moved onto M&S where Sylvie worked. I was in the men's shirts departments and we had to keep the counter drawers impeccably tidy!

In time I left M&S and went to work for the Ministry of Agriculture as a clerical assistant. I had always wanted to work in an office and I finally got there; I looked after the livestock officers and assisted in planning their route cycles with pins placed onto a large map on the wall. The Ministry was situated in Wheatleigh House and later moved to the 5th floor of Quantock House – I was very happy there and stayed there until my first son was born. I was still riding my bike to and from work!

Peter had been a communicant at Holy Trinity for many years, he introduced me to the church and I have attended ever since. The vicar at that time was Fr George Raynor but we were married in 1965 by the then vicar Fr Ronald Lewis. Our first home was a flat in the attics of the Rectory; it was a large flat but we hardly had any furniture so it seemed even bigger.

After two years we purchased the house in which I still live.

Our two boys were born, one three and a half years after the other, and when the eldest was ready I would take him to the Mount Playgroup still riding my bicycle with a child seat on the back. When the second was ready to go the first was ready for school so I would sit one on the seat and walk the first to school and the second to playgroup. With both children happily occupied I would help out at the Playgroup two to three days a week. Later on, I would help care for an elderly lady who had been in our choir until the time came for her to go into a care home. I also served for some time as a School Governor at Holy Trinity School.

I would relish accompanying Peter on some of his work trips. He was a Planning officer for the County Council and his work took him all over to places like Llandudno, York, Whitby, Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh where we saw inside the Royal Yacht Britannia. I was amazed at how tiny the Queen's berth was! In later years I would be fortunate to meet and shake the hand of Prince Charles when he was on a visit to Padstow. He came to open the Lobster and & Fisheries Hatchery and when he spoke to me, he asked if we were staying in a hotel. He was most surprised to learn that we stayed in our mobile home not far from the harbour!

What do you do in your spare time, what are your hobbies?

I was really happy being a mum and a housewife and I used to enjoy looking after my grandchildren and these days am an active member of Holy Trinity Craft Group.

What would you say is important to you and what does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?

Holy Trinity has been a large part of my life for a great many years and I don't know quite what I would do without it. Like most people I find Holy Trinity to be an extension of my family and even more so since the death of Peter.

Thank you {Pat, it's lovely to speak to another true Taunton-ian and someone who is part of the very fabric of Holy Trinity.

Pauline Holt

Jewellery/Items for Scrap



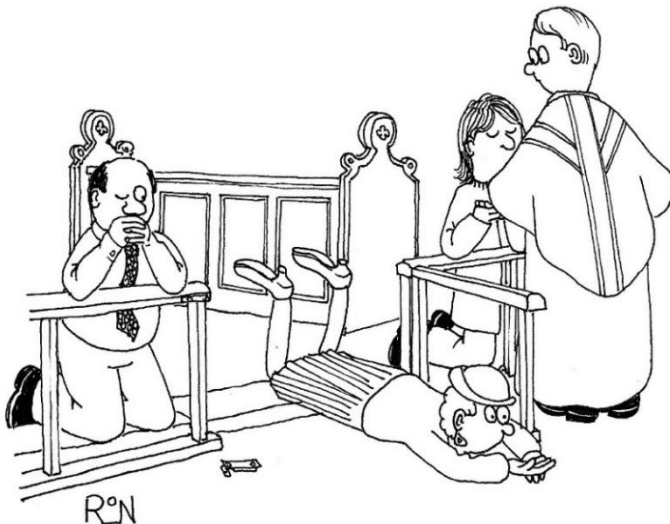
I am continuing to collect any unwanted broken and damaged Silver, Gold and Platinum items to be weighed in for scrap. This has generated a tidy sum for Church funds in the past.

As well as the usual chains, rings and earrings, any items of precious metal will be accepted. Past donations have included thimbles, napkin rings and photo frames.

If you have any items you would like to donate, please let me have them anytime or leave them at the Church for me to collect.

Many thanks

Cheryl Grindle



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

(From The Parish Pump)

WHY AND WHAT...?

At the end of this month, the parish will be in vacancy, for the first time in 32 years. No longer is the old title 'inter-regnum' used as it means 'between the reign', not necessarily scripturally appropriate! I thought it'd be helpful for you to have a broad overview of the why and what of vacancy – few of you have experienced it at HT!

The Parochial Church Council, to be elected this month, is responsible for all the practical, day-to-day matters of the church; its chair will be elected after the APCM. It also works with the clergy and ensures that the mission of the church, not just its maintenance is continued.

The Church Wardens are the Bishop's representatives in the parish. Theirs is an ancient office and their role is not just to do whatever anyone else doesn't. They are a bridge between the Bishop(s) and parishioners.

Parish Representatives will be appointed – not necessarily church wardens; it's the PCC's decision – who will represent the parish in the appointment process. Usually, a vacancy will last several months, perhaps even a year, and there will be discussions concerning the new Vicar, based around the 'parish profile' which will be drawn up by the PCC. As a Society Parish, the Bishop of Oswestry will be fighting our corner in the light of inevitable union of separate parishes. 4 central Taunton parishes will be vacant at the same time! Shortage of money and clergy will determine staffing; we are in a favourable position in that we already have good links with the Good Shepherd, Furnham.

The parish will be supported in the vacancy by the Archdeacon, the Ven Simon Hill, as well as the Bishop of Bath and Wells and Bishop Paul. The frequency of services will depend on need and the availability of clergy; The ministries of Bishop Michael and Fr James should not be taken for granted; there may well be other clergy from time to time.

I hope the Vicarage will be kept; it's a good one. The diocese will ensure that it is ready for the next incumbent if it is.

Fr Julian

Pentecost



We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

A RECIPE FOR MAY

CARROT AND CHEESE SALAD

This salad is quick and easy to do and is suitable for all seasons. It serves 2 people.

Ingredients

70g Grated carrot
50g Grated cheddar cheese
1 tsp (heaped) Desiccated coconut
1 tsp Chopped parsley



Method

- Mix all ingredients together.
- Cover.
- Store in fridge until needed.

The salad makes a tasty accompaniment to a cold meal. However, any one of the following may also be added (chopped): a few pineapple pieces, 2 or 3 mandarin segments, 2 or 3 grapes, or a few sultanas (whole!).

June Roberts (from the Good Shepherd, Furnham)

Coffee Morning



On 16th March Father James hosted a coffee morning at his home in Holway, generously supported by those who donated cakes for the raffle. An amazing £210 was raised for Church funds.

A big thank you goes to Fr James for a super event, and to all those who supported him on the day.

ANGUILLA, WEST INDIES - VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

In 1974/75 Anguilla was in a unique state of political limbo operating separately from St Kitts and Nevis. Following the Anguillan Revolution of 1967 and the subsequent British military invasion in 1969, the island was placed under direct British administration. Anguilla was suffering from extreme neglect. It lacked basic modern amenities such as a central electric grid, piped water and paved roads.

Knowing this I volunteered my services as a teacher to the island. I was briefed in London before my departure on the proposals for a “New Status and a New Separate Constitution for Anguilla.”

I travelled to the Caribbean with an electrical engineer and water engineer with the island’s Public Works Department. We flew BOAC via Antigua and Saint Maarten to Wall Blake Airport, Anguilla.

We lived on top of a cliff overlooking Sandy Ground, the salt lagoon and the Commissioner’s Residence which was near the beach. No concerns therefore of flooding from tidal waves or tsunamis on top of the cliff. I swam daily after school in the Caribbean before darkness fell, often seeing rays. Barracuda, jelly fish and coral were the main dangers.

The economy relied on fishing, salt and remittances from Anguillans working abroad. This money was used to fund house building, room by room as money was sent home.



The Bottom

I was not provided with any vehicle so I built a bicycle from parts I was given or bought on my travels. The result can be seen outside Castle House. I planned cycling from Miami to Canada at the end of my teaching on Anguilla. However, I didn’t fulfil my goal and ended up flying to Detroit and spending a month cycling around Southern Ontario.

I was fortunate to go twice to the uninhabited Island of Sombrero, a flat-topped rocky island in the middle of the Anegada Passage, a deep and crucial shipping lane connecting the Caribbean with the Atlantic. Both voyages on 'Warspite', an Anguillan trading schooner, were to exchange the lighthouse keepers. Leaving Anguilla at day break the round trip took all day with a couple of hours on the island. Anguillans earned a living with their vessels by delivering cargo-salt and phosphates to other islands and returning with cargoes of bananas, oranges, grapefruit, rum and tinned foods. No fresh food as no schooner had refrigeration.

The school day was from 8am to 3-15pm and I taught in a classroom with low partition dividing the classes. I was offered an iguana to buy and a barracuda to fillet and eat! Many students had staked out their goats before school and would fetch them after school. I did experience both an earthquake (evacuate the house!) and hurricane (stay inside). As a form of endearment I was known as 'Teach'. The pupils had wonderful names such as Francieta and Carmencita. One had the magnificent name of Gentle Hannibal!

I was required to give the 5 students field study techniques as part of A-level Geography. Sainte Maarten was a 25-minute ferry crossing, developed and offering a complete contrast both in its physical and human geography to Anguilla. Scrub Island which lay 1 mile off Anguilla provided another visit. The pupils caught and cooked fish for lunch.

To go any further afield would entail air travel. Barclays Bank International offered to pay the cost of hiring an aeroplane to fly us to Saba, a volcanic island belonging to the Dutch. Saba Airport holds the record for the shortest commercial landing strip in the World, 400m. Built on a cliff edge, flights in and out were always in De Haviland Twin Otters which are still used today.

The capital of Saba is The Bottom with a population of 470 (1970). We were shown around the island by their teacher and pupils. During the afternoon we climbed Mount Scenery (825meters).

The mountain for its small size is organised into distinct vertical vegetation zones. Starting at sea level there were salt-tolerant shrubs.

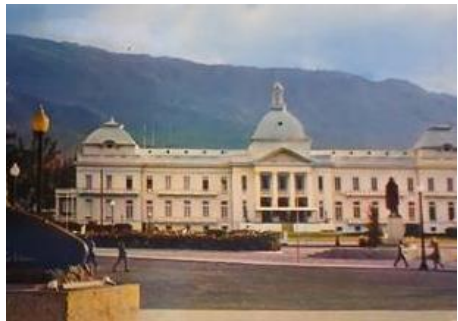
Followed by Dry Tropical Woodland with human settlement. This was the most endangered ecosystem.



*The Airport, Mount Scenery
in the background*

The next was Sub-Montane Forest- Redwoods, Fuchsia. Higher still - Rainforest, lush evergreen environment with trees, ferns, plantains, wild raspberries and begonias. Finally, located at the summit above 825 metres Cloud Forest (highest point of the Netherlands!) mountain mahogany stunted by wind or hurricane.

I was privileged to be able to travel to Haiti and Puerto Rica. The visit to Haiti was an eye opener on development in the Caribbean. Haiti was the first independent country to abolish slavery however, what resulted is an affluent elite and a majority who live in abject poverty. Outside of Port au Prince, the capital, there were no paved roads. As a result, I flew to the north of the island to visit The Citadel and the Sans Souci Palace, the royal residence of Henry 1, King of Haiti who constructed it in a free Haiti after the Haitian Revolution. The Citadel was built at an elevation of 910 metres to protect the newly independent Haiti from a French invasion.



The Royal Palace Port au Prince

Destroyed by the earthquake

Today Anguilla has become an exclusive holiday destination with American money building de-salinisation plant and generators for island electricity. The BBC produced a series 'An Island Parish' 9 years ago which gave a contemporary view of Anguilla which is well worth watching however only in short clips.

Taunton has a link with Anguilla as Omari Banks; a West Indian spin bowler played for Somerset 2008/2009. How surprised when I

introduced myself as a friend of his father, a teaching colleague, when I met him in St. James's Street!

John Clarke

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John Clarke



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

10 May	Pickeridge Golf Club
21 June	Pickeridge Golf Club
12 July	The Greyhound, Staple Fitzpaine
9 August	Pickeridge Golf Club
13 September	The Merry Monk, Monkton Heathfield
11 October	Pickeridge Golf Club
8 November	Rumwell Farm Shop
13 December	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15 except for 10 May which is 12.30. Please sign the list at the back of Church if you would like to join us. If you need a lift please ensure you arrange this before signing up.

Wendy Burge

HOLY TRINITY ²⁰⁰ Club WINNERS

April 2026

1st	Wendy Burge	£61.25
2nd	Liz Hathway	£36.75
3rd	Rosie Clarke	£24.50



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The Old Coach House, Crescent Park, Taunton, TAI 4ED.

Poetry Corner - *Ozymandias*



Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792 - 1822) Shelley was born in Horsham, the eldest of seven children. He was expelled from his school (for expressing atheistic views), but later went to University College Oxford. He eloped to Scotland with Harriet

Westbrook where they married, but the marriage did not last. He became friendly with William Godwin (an atheist journalist) and later married Mary his daughter (author of the book 'Frankenstein'). The Shelleys moved to Italy where he drowned at the age of 29, when his sailing boat was wrecked in a gale off Livorno. His body was washed ashore and cremated on the beach. His ashes are interred in the Protestant cemetery in Rome. I met a traveller from an antique land, who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone Stand In the desert. Near them on the sand, Half sunk. A shattered visage lies, whose frown And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command, Tell that the sculptor well those passions read, Which yet survive stamped on these lifeless things, The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed: And on the pedestal these words appear: 'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings: Look on my works, ye mighty and despair!' Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare the lone and level sands stretch far away 14 Lines of driving poetry, that sums up autocratic authority, power and control, where one man has it all, the power of life and death over his subjects. But where is it now? Gone. Time has triumphed. I can think of people alive today who deserve to have a framed copy of this poem on their desk. It won't happen, of course, their egos would not permit it!

Pat Hitchcock

Seize the day

Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

From the Parish Pump

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, FURNHAM

Easter Assembly at Avishayes School

As a Governor at Avishayes it is a joy and a privilege to attend the end of term Easter Assembly, where classes prepare and present readings, poems, prayers and songs. Children are invited to make Easter gardens and to display them in school. This year there were in excess of 50 gardens; these were judged according to merit, creativity, effort and ingenuity.

A strong Christian theme was present throughout and many of the gardens depicted the Easter story, enhanced this year by a stunning display of artwork from year 6.

Barbara Dale



Saturday 20th June 2026 At the Good Shepherd Church...

“Lord, teach us to Pray”

A day of teaching on prayer has been designated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells as a year of “especial focus” on prayer and there are events and activities taking place across the diocese to mark this. On Saturday 20th June, between 10am and 4pm, the Good Shepherd will be hosting a day of teaching on prayer coordinated by Fr James Finnemore and Alison Cruickshank. We hope that this will bring together members of all of the Society parishes in Bath and Wells – but it is open to anyone who might be interested.

The day will begin with Mass, and the remainder of the morning will be taken up with whole group teaching sessions on prayer and the psalms,

and prayer within the context of the Mass. Following the midday office, we will enjoy lunch together. In the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to take part in workshops with topics including the Jesus Prayer, praying with icons, praying with beads, and contemplative prayer. Among our teachers will be Bishop Michael Langrish, and Frs Ben Rabjohns and Alex Honey from the parish of Heavitree in the Diocese of Exeter. As Bishop Paul was keen to stress at the recent Chrism Festival, catechesis is a fundamental part of our Christian discipleship so do please come if you are able. There is no charge for the day, but we ask that you bring a packed lunch. There will be a plentiful supply of tea, coffee and cake to help the brain-cells function! Full details and a booking form coming soon.

(Please keep Alison and Fr James in your prayers as they finalise the programme for the day).

Alison Cruickshank.

Come to the Pentecost Picnic



Sunday May 24th at Forde Abbey. Bring a chair and your tea – chat, sing and enjoy great fellowship with members of other churches within

CHARD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Précis PCC Minutes -The Good Shepherd

08/04/2026 - (to be approved)

1. Finance – The bill for the work carried out to the southside of the church has been paid. The cost was approximately £8000, a large amount although less than was estimated. A financial contribution has also been paid for the windows; the majority of the cost being met by the insurers. The Calvary has gone to the restorers and although the cost of this will be covered by the insurance claim, as it is a 'like for like' claim we will need to find the money to pay for the stainless-steel shoe. This might be approximately £4000. We may need to consider using some legacy money to cover this, once received, or approach the War Graves Commission or Royal British Legion to see if any financial assistance can be provided.

- The position regarding the late John Dunstan's legacy is that the executors have now provided an updated set of estate accounts to include the fee for adding John's details to the head stone. It means that there will be a small reduction from the legacy we are due to receive, which will be approximately £25,000.

- The church has also been left a legacy of £2000 by the late Sadie McMillan.

- The recovery of tax from previous year's gift aid schemes should be received shortly.

- Jason and Lisa Stevens have jointly agreed to take on the role of treasurer

2. Deanery Synod - The last meeting was a talk on end-of-life care. The next meeting will have a prayer focus and take place on 7 May.

3. Safeguarding – We have now reached level 3 on the dashboard. There are still a few things that need to be addressed -

– GDPR needs to be updated.

- terms of reference need to be written for the Bereavement Café.

- Information notes are being prepared which will be left on the pews regarding GDPR and the streaming of services.

- Alison Cruickshank will take charge of all social media content.

4. Health and safety – A risk assessment needs to be carried out.

5. Chard Churches Together – Some members went to the recent workshop at Combe St Nicholas Church and found it very productive.

Various ideas on future projects were discussed but nothing has yet been decided. The Walk of Witness went well on Good Friday with approximately 130 people on the walk. The next meeting is on 5 May, May,

6. Building and Fabric – the application for the font repositioning has been submitted to the DAC and it is hoped that it will be presented at the next meeting, in May. The drying out process on the south side of the church is still ongoing. The pew removal has been parked for the time being, as there is insufficient money to remove all the pews and fully replace them. This will be reviewed at a future PCC meeting. The windows have been replaced.

7. Social and fundraising – please see poster of planned events for 2026 in this magazine. Thanks were offered to all members of the fundraising committee for all their hard work and efforts. A new banner has been purchased to advertise future Saturday craft fairs.

8. Mission, worship and evangelism – there were services held each evening from Monday to Thursday in Holy week; the Last Hour service on Good Friday, The Vigil on Easter Saturday and a joyous Easter Sunday service.

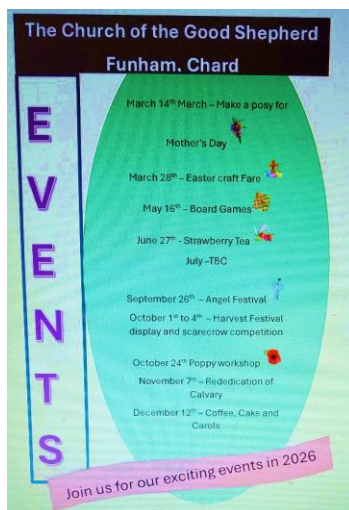
- A day of prayer has been organized to take place at the Good Shepherd on 20 June between 10 AM and 4 PM. (See earlier article)

Laura Wishart.

In Gethsemane Jesus yielded Himself in complete surrender to the will of God and gave Himself up to the cross for our redemption.

The pattern is a divine one, and there comes a time in the life of a disciple of Jesus when they realise that there is no other way into the deep places of prayer and love, but to allow this pattern to repeat itself in their own life.

Brother Ramon



SAFEGUARDING



At Holy Trinity we take safeguarding very seriously and are committed to the safety of all our members.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer by email htsafeguarding@outlook.com, or through the dedicated Safeguarding Line

All contacts are confidential unless you give us permission to share it, or unless someone is at immediate risk.

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References available

For a friendly, professional service call Nick
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Time to say Au Revoir

To Julian and Jane Laurence, Holy Trinity Church, Taunton. 2026

After 32 years at Holy Trinity, we have reached this point, where we look back upon all the things that have taken place during that time. And there are so, so many. Some good, some humorous, some not so good, but all in all, a very memorable time, in all of our lives, at Holy Trinity. Many are still able to recount on some of those things and there are even more who have gone on before us, with so much to recall and be proud of, in those years. Some have even survived, albeit with various degrees of input, output and even tolerances, of various kinds! On both sides! Never a dull moment.....!



Fr Julian, and in supporting role, Jane, have given us all an era that will probably take some matching, if not at all, with their commitment, dedication and even determination, to ensure their time at Holy Trinity, Taunton, is remembered for many years to come.

More than three decades, involving so many people! It is hard to know where to start the story. We are all very grateful for everything that Fr Julian and Jane have given us and we most sincerely hope for them, all the very best, for the next part of their journey. With all the very Best Wishes

John Godley & Jenni Llewellyn, Church Wardens

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY

It was:

- *400 years ago, on 4th May 1626 that the Dutch explorer Peter Minuit arrived on the east coast of what is now the USA. He negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for \$24 worth of cloth and buttons. (Equal to about \$1,150 today.)*
- *300 years ago, on 25th May 1726 that the world's first Circulating Library (lending library) was launched by Scottish poet and bookseller Allan Ramsay at his bookshop in Edinburgh.*
- *175 years ago, from 1st May to 15th October 1851 that the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.*
- *100 years ago, on 4th to 12th May 1926 that the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.*
- *90 years ago, on 7th May 1936 that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town. And on the 27th May 1936 the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.*
- *80 years ago, on 11th May 1946 that the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre, to help people who were starving after WWII.*
- *75 years ago, on 9th May 1951 that the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park.*
- *70 years ago, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.*
- *65 years ago, on 31st May 1961 that Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).*
- *10 years ago, on 31st May 2016 that Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died. Best remembered for creating the sitcoms The Liver Birds, Butterflies, and Bread.*

From the Parish Pump

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Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 6.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am

Friday 12.30pm

Saturday 6.00pm

All services are streamed on Facebook except
Saturday 6pm & Sunday 8am.

Service times may occasionally vary – please see
weekly notice sheet for details.

To access streamed services:



@ Holy Trinity Taunton



Holy Trinity Taunton

Fr Julian can be emailed directly: Ffrjulianssc@gmail.com



Please use this QR code if you would like to make a
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