

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH TAUNTON

Including news from The Good Shepherd, Furnham

Outlook



August 2026

Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Taunton TA1 3JG

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BISHOP MICHAEL WRITES ...



August 2026

A Pilgrimage of Hope

Anthony Knight is a gifted young musician and a student at the Royal College of Music. On Sunday 9th August he will be visiting Holy Trinity and playing at Parish Mass as part of his 'Pilgrimage of Hope'. Back in 2022, while he was still at school, he was at the dentist in Minehead, Somerset.

"I was waiting with my dad, and I remember feeling very concerned for the situation of the war in Ukraine, and I was reflecting on it, thinking, God has given me this gift of music, and I wanted to use this gift that God has given me. So, I thought, it makes obvious sense that I should go around churches in my local area, just playing at the end of services, to raise money for Ukraine at the beginning."

Since then, he has toured hundreds of churches across the UK and Europe, playing the violin and raising funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine appeal and UNICEF. After touring 63 churches in Somerset, where he was surprised by the generosity and warmth of the congregations, and the money that he had managed to raise (at that point for the Disasters Emergency Committee and Ukraine), he then embarked, in 2023-24, on a tour of 12 countries around Europe in 12 months, travelling some 13,500 miles.

Then, in May 2025, his faith deepened after something of a religious experience on a pilgrimage to Assisi which, he said, "transformed my life" and was "a true moment of repentance". He was "glorifying God in this tiny little chapel", the Portiuncula, in Santa Maria de Angeli.

"I remember I was just glorifying God for the life he's given me. . . And then I felt these words from God . . . and I've always held this in my heart. It was, 'Go, child, your faith has renewed you.'"

"And, in these performances I do in these churches, I always finish my recital or my speaking by asking people to give thanks to God. After the two pieces that I play, I speak to them about uniting their sufferings to

Christ, and bringing their sufferings to the cross. But then, the final message that I have for all of them, is to . . . to recognise the blessings he's given you, to glorify him for it."

For this year's Pilgrimage he has chosen to raise funds for UNICEF because of the special importance of children who are going through sufferings of all kinds at such an early stage of life, and to help them. *"I think what really sticks with me is what Christ always teaches us: to be like a child. The importance of keeping the safety of children is of paramount importance for everyone."*

And why a 'Pilgrimage of hope'? *"Because there are so many dark things in the news that we're hearing lately, and one thing that's important is really to spread hope. Without hope, we have nothing. And, of course, our centre of hope is Christ."*

My hope is that as many of you as possible will be at Parish Mass on 9th August to listen to, and support, this gifted and generous young man in bringing that very much needed gift of Hope to others, especially among the young.

✠ Michael



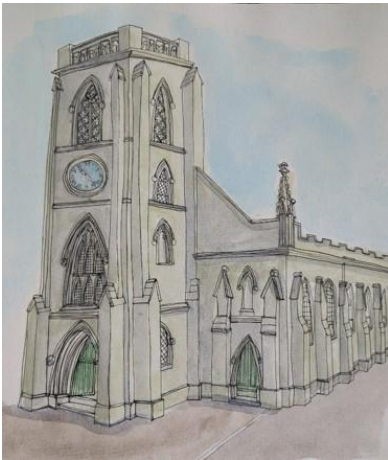
9th August
Holy Trinity Church,
Taunton

Anthony Knight plays
Meditation from Thais
by Massenet. In aid of
@Pilgrimage of Hope,
raising funds for
children in disaster
areas through UNICEF

Local History by John Clarke

Holy Trinity Church, Taunton – Tower Pinnacles

Holy Trinity was designed by Richard Carver and consecrated in 1842, when architects tried to imitate the verticality and spirituality of the Middle Ages (Perpendicular Style). The Grade II listed building is built of ashlar stone through the generosity of the first Vicar, Frederick Jeremiah Smith.



Holy Trinity Church tower stands tall against the Taunton skyline when driving across Obridge Viaduct from Priorswood. Holy Trinity is the oldest original church tower in view. A wonderful example of Victorian Gothic revival architecture. However, the four pinnacles-ornate spires crowning the tower that should give the church its “reach for the heavens” silhouette are missing.

(Drawing by B Martin Dec 2022)

The pinnacles of Trinity serve both a functional and aesthetic purpose. Without them the massive tower looks truncated or chopped off. The pinnacles gave it proportion. They are characterised by crockets-small bud-like carvings and finials-decorative toppers, ensuring that even from a distance the church appears delicate.

Taunton Skyline is defined by its towers-most notably St. Mary Magdalene and St. James’s.

However, Holy Trinity offers a different flavour. The pinnacles represented Victorian ambition representing the town’s growth and religious fervour of the 1840’s. It was built with a gallery accessed from the vestibule enabling Taunton Workhouse residents’ access to church. After consecration, the church served as a visual landmark for those entering the town from the south, a testament to the C19th

stonemasons who carved these intricate shapes. The land around the church was developed with terraced houses, silk factory and school.

They were taken down in 1961 as the spikes were rusting and the stone started to crumble and became dangerous. They are stored in the crypt or what is left of them.



Nowadays more viable options such as fibreglass are available and one day, it is hoped that funds can be raised and enthusiasm invigorated to put Holy Trinity back on the map of lofty towers!

John Clarke

Drawing by C Haseley (unknown)

Parish Vacancy Prayer

Prayer during this time of vacancy is very important: prayer that we may use the time well, and for all who will be involved in the appointment of a new parish priest. The following is for your use at any time, but it would be good if we could pray it together once a week. So, if you are able, each Friday when the bell is ringing for the start of Mass, please stop what you are doing and pray for Holy Trinity and its future.

Lord call to this your church and ours:

A man of faith and prayer, filled with the Spirit;

A man of vision, wisdom and sound judgement;

A man with a pastoral heart and a true love for people

And make us with him a church united in true worship, loving service, and a desire to grow in discipleship, through Christ our Lord.

✠ Michael

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Walking the Christian Year Together

**A journey through faith, season by season, in the life of the parishes
of Holy Trinity Taunton and The Church of the Good Shepherd,
Chard.**

Part 1: The Gift of Rest – Rediscovering Sabbath (August)

By the time August arrives, many of us are ready for a change of pace.

For some, it will be a holiday. For others, it may simply be a few quieter days as schools break up and familiar routines soften. Here in Somerset, there is a different feel to the month. The roads are busier with visitors, the coastline welcomes holidaymakers, and our countryside carries the rich colours of late summer. There is a sense that creation itself is taking a deep breath before the busyness of harvest begins.

Yet while the pace of life may slow a little, many of us find that our minds do not. Even on holiday, we can remain busy. We check our phones, answer emails, make plans, rush from one activity to another, and often return home wondering whether we have really rested at all. Perhaps this is one of the great challenges of modern life. We have become very good at filling our time, but not always at finding rest.

The Bible has a great deal to say about rest, not because God thought we would enjoy doing nothing, but because He knows how we are made. In the story of creation, we read:

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work." (*Genesis 2:2*).

Of course, God did not rest because He was tired. His rest was a declaration that creation was complete, good and whole. He then gave that rhythm of work and rest to humanity as a gift. Sadly, somewhere along the way, many of us have come to see rest as something we earn rather than something God commands. We tell ourselves that we will slow down once everything is finished. The difficulty is that everything is never finished. There will always be another email to answer, another job in the garden, another room to decorate, another commitment to fulfil.

Jesus understood this better than anyone.

Although crowds constantly sought Him, although people were desperate for His healing and teaching, He regularly withdrew.

St Mark tells us that Jesus said to His disciples:

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (*Mark 6:31*)

Notice that Jesus does not simply tell them to stop working. He invites them to be **with Him**. That is the difference between simply taking time off and truly finding Sabbath. Sabbath is not merely the absence of work. It is the presence of God. As Christians, we sometimes imagine that our relationship with God depends upon what we do for Him. We become busy in church life, serving on committees, singing in choirs, arranging flowers, maintaining buildings, visiting the sick, organising coffee mornings or fundraising events. All these things matter. But before God calls us to serve Him, He calls us to be with Him. Our worth is not measured by our usefulness. It is measured by His love.

That can be a difficult truth to accept, especially for those of us who like to keep busy. Perhaps August gives us an opportunity to rediscover that gift. Not simply by going on holiday, but by making space. Space to sit quietly with a Bible. Space to pray without looking at the clock. Space to walk through God's creation and notice its beauty. Space to worship without rushing on to the next appointment. Space simply to be. Here in our own parishes, we are blessed with places that encourage such stillness.

Whether sitting quietly in Holy Trinity or the Church of the Good Shepherd before a service begins, walking through Vivary Park, along the River Tone, or enjoying the peace of the Blackdown Hills, we can rediscover something that our busy lives often cause us to forget. God is already waiting for us. He is not asking us to achieve more. He is inviting us to draw nearer.

As Jesus himself says:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (*Matthew 11:28*)

Perhaps that is the invitation for August. Not to accomplish more. Not to become more productive. But simply to rest in the One who knows us, loves us, and calls us His own.

A Prayer for August

Heavenly Father, in a world that is always busy, teach us again the gift of holy rest. Help us to lay aside, if only for a while, the burdens we carry and the pressures we place upon ourselves. Draw us into your presence, where we may find peace for our minds, strength for our journey, and joy in simply belonging to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next month:

as the harvest season begins, we will reflect on GRATITUDE, not simply as saying “thank you”, but as a way of seeing the world through God’s generous eyes.

Dr Lindsay Edmunds

HOLY TRINITY WINNERS

July 2026

1 st	Lindsay Edmunds	£61.25
2 nd	Jason Stevens	£36.75
3 rd	David Gill	£24.50

Church Social - BBQ

Don't Forget to get your tickets to the BBQ on August 15th at 7pm. Cost £10 to Include food & 1 drink. Tickets £10 available from Liz Hathway.



NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, CHARD

I am sure that everyone who attended the Day of Teaching on Prayer on the 20th of June left with a deep sense of joy, peace and reconnection with God, and with a reinvigorated recognition of our ever constant need to pray to our Heavenly Father. The day started with Mass and thereafter ran



thought provoking and insightful addresses on the place of prayer in the Eucharist and the Psalms; followed by afternoon workshops on praying in silence, praying the rosary, praying with icons, praying the Jesus prayer and ending with Exposition and Adoration.

Place of Prayer in the Eucharist – Fr Alex Honey spoke on the Eucharist and its central place in the worship of the church. The Eucharist is, in itself, a prayer based upon the night before Jesus died. After the Reformation Thomas Cranmer placed it as the central worship of the Church of England, although it has not always occupied this place, but it was the Tractarian Movement in the 19th Century that restored it to its rightful place as the central act of worship within the church. In all its forms it has a prayerful quality and the sacrament leads us to a fuller and deeper understanding of our Lord and that is nothing more than prayer.

The Psalms - Bishop Michael Langrish spoke on the Psalms - how to use them as instruments of meditation and prayer in themselves. The Psalmist frequently expressed his love for the Lord in the form of prayer, and also his frustration and anger. Bishop Michael spoke highly of the benefit he finds in reading psalms from a prayer book rather than straight from the Bible, so that the meter can be studied, with a pause being applied at the end of each line, to better appreciate the second line, for enhancement and emphasis of the point being made and better our understanding of them.

The workshops -

Fr Mark Jackson gave an illustrated talk on the value of icons as a prayer conduit to our Lord. He showed various different icons and spoke about their creation and that as we look at them and their beauty, we are able to look through them.



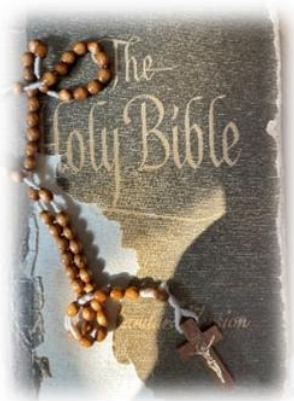
Those who attended this workshop also had the opportunity for practical application – to make our own icon by tracing the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Fr James Finnemore talked about the rosary and how it is used in prayer. The rosary of course is repetitive prayer, fingering the beads while saying, amongst others, The Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Creed. It does need time to apply oneself to the rosary and, of course, it is open to personal interpretation but the overriding motivation for it is the saving ministry of Jesus.

Fr Ben Rabjohn spoke on the Jesus Prayer which again is a repetitive form of prayer and allows us an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life with the simplistic words that are contained within it 'Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner'. These words take us to the very heart of repentance. This prayer can be used with a knotted cord tied with one hundred knots, each one being fingered as the prayer is said – so the rhythm of your fingers going through the knots keeps the prayer going on and on.

Jenni Llewellyn exhorted the merits of praying in silence. To find a quiet space and sit in a place and position that is comfortable, to offer unspoken requests and to listen for God's voice and direction. It brings calmness and a sense of oneness with God without the need of offering a 'shopping list' type of requests. As God already knows what we want before we ask it.

The day itself passed very quickly. Each speaker knew their subject and conveyed it splendidly to those who attended. And it was well attended, not only from within Chard and Taunton but also West Somerset, Bath and the Exeter Diocese. Let us hope that it can be repeated for more to attend and experience it.



July Ascent of Goat Fell

6.5 miles 2867 ft

Ascent 4.5 - 6 hrs

(We did it in 4 hrs – each way!)

But why would an 84 yr old do it ?

Good question!



Are you sitting comfortably? Well. ... 24th January 1991 - The 'Fraternity of Chard Churches (now CCT)' decided that the state of the orphanage my husband, Andy, and I had found was such that Chard must send a team to help them. No water in summer & 60 small children to look after. 35 years later the 'orphanage crises' are history but, sadly, the more remote rural areas of Transilvania still need help, & Project Romania has worked there ever since. But ... my husband died, & many other original members have grown OLD! We needed a plan of succession & found a Christian charity, The Smiles Foundation, who took us under their wing this Spring, formalising the amalgamation on June 1st. A celebration was required. I happen to have my son & family on the Isle of Arran, so a sponsored climb up their tallest mountain (almost a Munro!) was a good way to celebrate & help both charities. In Spring Kevin Hoy (CEO) went to see the people we serve in Seica Mare, & in June our wonderful manager, Florin, returned the visit. But he didn't go home empty-handed. Kevin had met Maria Pascu, supported by our Health programme. He was so shaken by her poverty & disability that he sent a wheelchair & a walking frame back from 'Smiles'. Florin sent me this photo & a video with Maria (whom I know) so happy & grateful sending a BIG thank you & blessings to us all. The Lord led us to Kevin without a doubt. He'd also worked in Romania since 1991 & knew what an uphill climb it was to get the villagers to where they are now. So, another 'uphill climb' was relevant. I had my 3 grandsons & Annie with me (they go up AND back in 4 hours!!) It was a tad harder than expected BUT so rewarding. 5 groups stopped me to ask why I was climbing – so we told them. I've since had £110 through Just Giving from complete strangers! God is amazing & folk so generous. They didn't know me & I don't expect to see them again – unless in heaven! We walked 4 days later than planned due to unsafe misty



weather on the Saturday. We had low cloud hiding the summit at times, but before we reached the summit it was a lovely sunny day with amazing panoramic views. I was 'pulled up' some steeper rocky boulder 'steps' by the boys (15, 13 & 11) & Annie guided me down. I used 2 Nordic walking poles which were brilliant, but the descent was tricky with many loose small rocks and deep steps to get down.



We picnicked on top & took in the views. Many people go to Arran for a day to 'do the mountain' so it was a busy path, but so friendly. We had to chuckle as we saw 2 tiny Dachshunds being popped into 2 rucksacks, just their heads out (& very smug expressions on their faces!). (I did think about Everest next whilst I was up there but decided against it as I went down.)

A BIG thank you to all who sponsored the effort – I think we will be over £1000 soon. Very encouraging, & very needed by Sponsored Families; our free Bread programme for the most impoverished villages; & Health Seica, covering the needs of the old and sick. Dawn Fletcher



SOOOO – what were the rest of you doing at Good Shepherd while I was training, or climbing Goat Fell? (I was given a FREE ice cream at the sea level base shop.)

Strawberry and Cream Teas

It was great to hear that Father Jeff and Mary were there (so sorry to miss you, Father. You were a wonderful chaplain on a Mayor's trip to Romania in 2016.)



WELL DONE

for a good afternoon & raising £330.00!

.....

And ... by the time this is published, the Good Shepherd folk will have held another yet another fundraiser. **Coffee Morning** for the restoration of the Calvary War Memorial in the churchyard. All these fundraising activities only 'happen' because our Lord cares for others & gives strength to his people. All glory to His name.

Dawn Fletcher

The repayments from our entrepreneurs' loans have accrued and with the last collection from Holy Trinity, our account with LWC, totalled in excess of £112.



As we have a diocesan link with Zambia our latest entrepreneurs are from that country. There are three separate groups in which we have invested:

- Masomphenya 0504, Favour 0701
- and Kabanana 0704 with business ventures ranging from a hair salon to groceries, vegetables to poultry, and shoes etc.

These enterprising ladies are providing for their families' education and futures, as they also grow their businesses.

Since loaning to Masomphenya 0504 and Favour 0701, they are now fully funded. We will soon be receiving payments on our loans.

This is such good news for them and their futures.

We wish them every success.

You are helping...

This time, we have also donated some of our repayments to Lend with Care administration costs.

All the funds we raise go directly to the entrepreneurs unless we actively **choose** to pay funds toward the admin' costs to keep the Charity running, I am sure that we want to help with this too.

Over the years, we at Holy Trinity have now helped 25 Entrepreneurs, their families and their employees in the community, to provide many better futures. All for £1 a time. Thank you and bless you!

Trudi Watkins

**The deadline for the September
magazine edition is
Monday 17th August**



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Serving Lasagne with a Stanley knife



After a year referring to it as 'the bungalow', it is now definitely our home. A year after we accepted it, all the work has been done by the Pensions Board to 'future proof' it as much as possible. Having to downsize by at least 50% was hard, and the overflowing garage bears witness to more needing to be done. We're part of a very nice Society parish here in Kings Lynn, although the Vicar is leaving later this month (I don't think it's connected in any to our arrival)!

We were fortunate to have a fortnight at the end of June to make preparations before the final move last month. Carpets laid, furniture delivered, Wi-Fi connected, a new fridge/freezer as our old one wouldn't fit in the hole left for it by the builders, and a patio table and chairs.

We arrived with a bag of tools to hang curtains, some bare essentials in food and drink, and a picnic basket which had 4 plates, 4 knives/forks/teaspoons, 4 napkins and, the most essential, 4 wineglasses! We had taken up a microwave and decided to have microwave meals. Simples! Only... Have you tried serving a 2-portion lasagne from its plastic tray with only the cutlery we had? No? Just imagine it, and then you'll see where the Stanley knife comes in. Cut the end off the tray with the knife, cut through the lasagne width ways with a knife, and encourage it to leave the tray with a knife/fork, with accompanying appropriate words. Then eat at the patio table!

Now we have everything here and we are frequently using the magic words 'where is...' It was lovely to welcome some HT Walsingham pilgrims and offer hospitality (plastic beakers and water - but biccies as well!), and Jane and I would warmly welcome any visitors - we have a guest room! Leaving you all at HT and the Good Shepherd was hard but we're settling in well into our new home and ministry; you're still much in our thoughts and prayers, and always will be.

Fr Julian and Jane

But NOTHING ever happens in Taunton in August ...

Throughout August – Alices Adventures in Hestercombe – themed arts and crafts trail for all ages.

Saturday August 1st – Summer Fete at the Rectory Care Home, Trinity Road. 11am – 2pm.

Sunday August 2nd - Vintage Family Fun Day & Car boot sale – Taunton Racecourse. Family Fun Day with classic cars, steam engines, inflatables. Entry £3

Friday 7th August – Saturday 8th August Taunton Flower Show in Vivary Park. Tickets from Taunton Visitor Centre.

Sunday 9th August – Pilgrimage of Hope – Anthony Knight plays Meditation from Thais by Massenet during 10am mass at Holy Trinity Church, Taunton. Retiring collection in aid of @Pilgrimage of Hope, raising funds for children in disaster areas through UNICEF.

Wednesday/Thursday 12th & 13th August – Brewhouse Taunton – Four Forty Theatre present their outrageous take on A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Saturday August 15th – Country Night at Oake Manor Golf Club – country music tribute show, line dancing and disco.

Sunday August 16th – Teddy Bears's Picnic at Hestercombe Gardens 3pm. Outdoor concert and interactive event for young families. Bring a picnic and dress up - prize for the best dressed bear.

Thursday August 20th – Taunton Ambulance Station Open Day – free event with lots of interactive activities for children.

Sunday August 30th – Electric Summer Festival outdoor festival featuring 80's pop legends – Vivary Park

Father James' Ruby Anniversary

On Sunday 28th June we helped Fr James celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The setting was for the ordinary mass by John Merbecke and the hymns especially chosen by Fr James to reflect various milestones along his journey through the priesthood.



The preacher was Bishop Michael Langrish and during the service Fr James presented a bunch of flowers to the statue of Our Lady in thanksgiving for her help and inspiration throughout his priesthood.



The order of service featured depictions of the 'Tree of Life' a mosaic that forms part of the apse of St Clements Basilica in Rome, something that has inspired Fr James for many years.



In true Holy Trinity style, proceedings concluded with a party in the hall to which everyone was invited.



Prosecco, cake and cider were enjoyed by all. All our congratulations, Father James.

Pauline Holt

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Date			Time
1 st	Sat	Vigil Mass	6.00pm
2 nd	Sun	TRINITY 9	8.00am
		Mass	10.00am
		Evening Prayer & Benediction	6.30pm
3 rd	Mon	No Service	
4 th	Tue	Mass	10.00am
5 th	Wed	No Service	
6 th	Thu	Mass for the Transfiguration	10.00am
		Mass for the Transfiguration	7.00pm
7 th	Fri	Mass followed by Soup Lunch	12.30pm
8 th	Sat	Vigil Mass	6.00pm
9 th	Sun	TRINITY 10	8.00am
		Mass	10.00am
		Evensong Lay led	6.30pm
10 th	Mon	Mass for St Laurance	9.00am
11 th	Tue	Mass	10.00am
12 th	Wed	No Service	
13 th	Thu	Mass	10.00am
14 th	Fri	Mass followed by Soup Lunch	12.30pm
15 th	Sat	Vigil Mass	6.00pm
16 th	Sun	TRINITY 11	8.00am
		Mass	10.00am
		Evensong Lay led	6.30pm
17 th	Mon	No Service	
18 th	Tue	Mass	10.00am
19 th	Wed	No Service	
20 th	Thu	Mass for St Bernard	10.00am
21 st	Fri	Mass followed by Soup Lunch	12.30pm

Continued:

22 nd	Sat	Vigil Mass	6.00pm
23rd	Sun	TRINITY 12	8.00am
		Mass	10.00am
		Evening Prayer & Benediction for St Bartholomew...	6.30pm
24 th	Mon	Mass for St Bartholomew	7.00pm
25 th	Tue	Mass	10.00am
26 th	Wed	No Service	
27 th	Thu	Mass for St Monica	10.00am
28 th	Fri	Mass followed by Soup Lunch	12.30pm
29 th	Sat	Vigil Mass. The Beheading of St John the Baptist	6.00pm
30th	Sun	TRINITY 13	8.00am
		Mass	10.00am
		Evensong Lay led	6.30pm
		SEPTEMBER	
1 st	Tue	Mass for St Giles	10.00am
2 nd	Wed	No Service	
3 rd	Thu	Mass	10.00am

Sunday 10.00am services are streamed on Facebook.

To access streamed services:



@ Holy Trinity Taunton

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



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

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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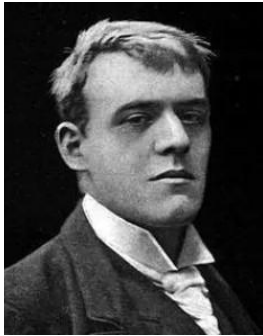
Stone walling repairs & renovations, steps and pavings etc.

References available

For a friendly, professional service call Nick
Tel: 07535 498529

Poetry Corner ...

Hilaire Belloc (1870 - 1953)



Belloc was born in village just outside Paris, to a French Father and an English Mother. The family home was destroyed in the Franco/Prussian war (1870 - 1871). His Father died when he was small and his Mother returned to England and brought him up in Sussex. He became a British citizen in 1902 and represented Salford as a Liberal in the House of Commons (1906 -10), serving only one term (he became disillusioned with politics). He was very friendly with G K Chesterton and is considered influential in converting GKC to Christianity. Belloc was a prolific writer and his cautionary children's tales are well known (Matilda, Rebecca etc) and much loved.

The soldier month, the bulwark of the year,
That never more shall hear such victories told;
He stands apparent with his heaven-high spear,
And helmeted of grand Etruscan gold.
Our harvest is the bounty he has won,
The loot his fiery temper takes by strength.
Oh! Paladin of the Imperial sun!
Oh! crown of all the seasons come at length!

This is sheer manhood; this is Charlemagne,
When he with his wide host came conquering home
From vengeance under Roncesvalles ta'en.
Or when his bramble beard flaked red with foam
Of bivouac wine-cups on the Lombard plain,
What time he swept to grasp the world at Rome.

In this poem Belloc describes the sun ripened golden harvest, the brambles, red berries, the grapes and wine making In allegory, with harvest likened unto a successful military campaign.

Pat Hitchcock



News from the PCC

At the Parochial Church Council meeting on 15th July Lindsay Edmunds, the Chair of meetings during the vacancy, welcomed Bishop Michael Langrish, who explained the spiritual, pastoral and liturgical roles undertaken by himself and by Fr James Finnemore while the parish looked for a new Vicar. He also explained the positions of Lay Worship Assistant and Local Preacher in leading non-eucharistic services.

Reported items:

- Safeguarding: a lot of work needed to update the parish's paperwork;
- Finance: new tenants found for the flat owned by the parish;
- Data Protection: privacy notice for the website and a policy for livestreaming under way;
- Music: Simon Gaunt acknowledged the gift of a piano from Fr Julian and Jane. He spends a lot of time on choosing music and asked that any complaints should be made directly to him.
- The Churchwardens had met with Archdeacon Simon and also with retired clergy from Chard.

Approvals:

- Keith Penny to be commissioned by Bishop Michael as a Lay Worship Assistant at Holy Trinity;
- Lindsay Edmunds to exercise ministries begun as an LWA and as a Local Preacher;
- Office copier to be replaced on a new and less costly contract;
- Office computer to be replaced by a refurbished model at a cost of up to £340 plus labour costs;
- New altar linen purchased, funded from the Deal and Coles bequests.

Discussions

- PCC members were elected to form the Standing and Finance Committees. The need to be registered with the Charity Commission led to discussion about governance; PCC members would be asked as Trustees to sign forms supplied by HMRC.
- The Chair and Churchwardens asked for attention to communication and information, as well as tolerance while all concerned adjusted to the changed circumstances after Fr Julian's retirement.

Keith Penny PCC Secretary

News from Taunton Deanery Synod

On 7th July, Deanery Synod was hosted in the delightful rural church of St Augustine , West Monkton. Proceedings started with a service presided over by Bishop Fiona who delighted us with a thought- provoking sermon on ripples. She explained that we all had our part to play in spreading the word and to be more like Shane Warne who took 708 wickets in his career, but that it took over 40758 balls bowled. Never give up – nothing is instant.

The service was followed by the meeting, where we were advised that the Diocesan Synod was reviewing its safeguarding objectives, had advised that any person from the laity could be elected to Synod, the Diocese was reviewing its requirements for payment of the Diocesan Share for Parishes vacant longer than 18 months and the need for members of the laity to come forward as Church Governors to schools and how this would aid cross- boundary working within the Diocese.

Three clergy and three members of the laity were elected to DMPG (Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group), the steering committee for Deanery Synod. The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Pauline Holt



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

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. 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

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026

At the end of June, ten pilgrims comprising members from Holy Trinity, The Good Shepherd and St Johns Taunton, met up with Fr Julian and Jane to spend an extremely hot yet rewarding few days at the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Such a beautiful and peaceful place is hard to describe – it has an inner peace that fails to go unnoticed by anyone who visits.



Our time was split between services not only in the main shrine but in various chapels, plus a lovely walk through the village to the Parish Church of St Mary in Little Walsingham where we renewed our Baptismal vows.



Stations of the Cross involved a peaceful and thought-provoking walk around the grounds.

Not to forget a fabulous walk along the disused railway line to visit the Catholic Shrine and the Slipper Chapel. No host of golden daffodils here but a treat of poppies everywhere.



*But it wasn't all church
and none of us ended up
in the village pokey!*



Thank you once again Fr Julian and Jane for leading us yet again in Walsingham and the lovely afternoon out to see your lovely new home in Kings Lyn .

Pauline Holt

When John Lennon said the Beatles were 'more popular than Jesus'

- It was 60 years ago, on 4th and 5th August 1966 that US newspapers and radio stations quoted John Lennon as saying his Beatles band was "more popular than Jesus." It provoked widespread protests across America.
- The story had really begun some months earlier, when in March Lennon's comment was originally published in the London Evening Standard, as part of an interview that he had given at his home in Weybridge. He had told the reporter: "Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue about that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now. I don't know which will go first, rock 'n' roll or Christianity. Jesus was all right, but His disciples were thick and ordinary. It's them twisting it that ruins it for me."
- Lennon's views passed without much comment in London, but five months later, when his comment was reprinted in the American teen magazine *Datebook*, he sparked an enormous wave of fury across America, especially in the Bible Belt.
- Many radio stations refused to play Beatle's records, and protestors held public burnings of Beatles records.
- Lennon apologised on 12th August, at the start of the Beatles final tour of the USA, saying that he had not meant to say that he was divine, but only that his band was now more popular than Jesus was.
- Such a claim did not soothe American sensibilities. Throughout the tour, the band faced pickets and protests and even death threats.
- By the end of the American tour, the controversy had driven the band to a big decision. There would be no more live tours, but only studio recordings. Just over three years later, in September 1969, John Lennon left the Beatles for solo work, and the following Spring, Paul McCartney followed him out. The Beatles had reached the end of the road.



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

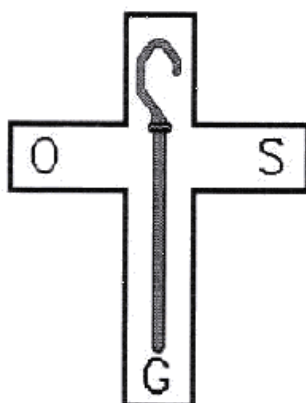
Afternoon Tea



On the 25th July many of us met for afternoon tea in aid of our church. There was a cake stall (very popular!) and raffle. Very many thanks to Father James for his hospitality and to all those who supported the event. The fabulous sum of £235 was raised for church funds.

Sacrifice : The Core of Christian Belief and Life

A teaching day led by Bishop Lindsay Urwin O.G.S.
Saturday 12th September at Holy Trinity, Taunton TA1 3JG.
10.00am Mass – if you can make it ... you might be travelling.
Ending at 3pm ... if you can stay all day!



There will be 3 sessions:

- The Sacrifice of Christ: 'a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice'
- Sacrifice in Liturgy: 'accept this our sacrifice'
- Sacrifice in Christina Life: 'ourselves, our souls and bodies to be reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee'.

To get a rough idea of numbers it would be helpful if you can inform the Church Office on holytrinity01@outlok.com or 01823 354800 if you wish to attend – no one will be turned away!

Bishop Lindsay will be available to hear confessions. He will preach the following morning, 13th September at the Good Shepherd, Chard at 9.45am.

Fr James Finnemore

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