

March 2022



50p

Life



swcd-churches.org.uk



Magazine aims to reflect the life of the church and to encourage the growth of the Christian faith in all our readers.

LIFE MAGAZINE EDITOR

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Articles for the April edition are due by **Sunday March 13th**

Editorial Notes

Sunday February 6th was the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II and bells rang out to celebrate at Street and Walton Parish Churches, which you can read about on page 10. The ringers at Street Holy Trinity are pictured on the front cover. The back cover has early spring flowers at each of our four churches; I will leave you to decide which pair is from which church! One is obvious.

There will of course be more events to enjoy in our benefice celebrating the 70 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, and you can read about some early plans elsewhere in this magazine.

Ana's topic this month is 'Prayer', and there are other articles relating to prayer on pages 8 and 9.

While on the subject of prayer, I would ask if your prayers could include the families of Ruby Tidball and John Talbot whose funerals were scheduled for February as I write this. John was an ardent volunteer printer of this magazine for many years until I took over the job. I also remember Ruby when she worshipped at the Mission Church, God Bless them both. The next magazine will be the Easter edition and I warmly invite you to send any poems or articles connected to this special time.

Roger

Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”

There have been many surveys conducted over the years asking people if they pray. The results may be surprising. Whether or not those in the survey say they believe in God or admit to being ‘religious’, more often than not, particularly in a crisis, people admit to praying in some form or another: ‘Please, God...’ One recent survey for example, suggested that one in 20 adults started praying for the first-time during lockdown. When I meet people and offer to pray for them, I have never been turned down. There is something about prayer, which at its heart is talking and listening to God, that people seem to be attracted to.

The Bible has much to say about prayer. Jesus in his ministry taught his disciples how to pray using the most famous prayer of all, the Lord’s Prayer, which is now prayed by millions of people in many languages and versions every day.

Prayer does not require complicated words or theological phrases; anyone can pray, and the prayer can be as simple as saying ‘help’. Sometimes, there are no words, and we simply need to cry out to God, perhaps in pain or concern, joy or faith.

I am excited that we will be hosting the ‘prayer course’, starting on Wednesday 9th March in the Mission Church. It is designed to be simple and accessible for ‘normal’ people, whether you would see yourself as an experienced pray-er or whether you feel you

haven't really got beyond 'help'! Please see more details elsewhere in this magazine.

At the beginning of this month, as well as starting the prayer course, we are also entering the season of Lent. In this season of 40 days before Easter, traditionally associated with abstinence, why not consider instead, or as well as giving something up, taking up something new, as new spiritual or personal challenge or discipline. Go deeper in prayer? Come on the prayer course? Start or develop a pattern of bible reading? Read a Christian book? Visit a lonely neighbour? Volunteer with a local organisation or in a new church ministry? If you need any more suggestions or help in any of these, please talk to me.

Yours, with my love and prayers,

Ana

Annual Parochial Church Meetings – date for your diaries

This year our APCM'S will take place on the following days:

Walton, Monday 16th May 7pm in Holy Trinity Church.

Compton Dundon Tuesday 17th May 7pm in St Andrew's.

Street Thursday 19th May 7pm in the Parish Church, Street.

These are a great opportunity to reflect back with thankfulness and to think ahead with expectation as we consider together the life and ministry of each of our parishes. They are also the occasion when we elect those who represent us as church wardens and PCC members. Please be thinking about whether you could serve in this way. Ana Lawrence

Walton Matters

And Mary said: My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me -holy is his name.
Luke Ch1. V's 46-49.

Games.

Our games afternoon will just be on a monthly basis to see what interest there is, particularly in these winter months. Board games and tea and biscuits. The next afternoon will be on March 10th at 2.00pm.

Outside fun.

How about something a bit different. On Saturday 7th May we are holding a worm charming. Something most of us won't have tried before. Alongside this will be lots of fun and family entertainment plus tempting bacon baps (vegetarian alternatives) and homemade cakes. Do pop this date in the diary and come and see what is happening in the churchyard.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

To celebrate our Queens Platinum Jubilee we will be hosting an afternoon tea inside and outside our Church. Plenty of bunting, flags and music so let's make it a complete weekend together with all our Churches planning different events as we toast an amazing reign. We plan to charge £7.50 for a high tea and £4 for children.

No flowers through lent.

Sandra Gristock

What's happening at St Andrew's?

Have you heard any rumours?

Are you curious?

Are you interested in the future of St Andrew's Church?

If so, you are warmly invited to come along to the church on the 27th March, at any time between 2-5pm to see for yourself what the PCC has been discussing over the last months.

Many of you will have heard of the plans to restore the bells to a full ringing set and we now have Architect's Plans and drawings to show you. There will be photographs and lots of information about the project and experts there to answer your questions. You can meet the team involved, go up the tower to look at the existing bells and be part of this exciting plan if you wish.

In addition to the bell project there are other ideas being discussed as to how the church might be better arranged to accommodate the current modern needs of St Andrew's. Rest assured, nothing which is being discussed is radical or in any way about to spoil the beauty and overall feel of the church, so do join us on the 27th March and let us have your views on the projects. It is after all, your church and your village and your opinion is very important to us.

The clocks spring forward on the 27th March so it will be an appropriate day to look forward to the new breath of life planned for St Andrew's. It is also Mothering Sunday so a perfect day to bring your family for a cup of tea and a piece of cake with us.

We look forward to seeing you.

Rev Ana Lawrence and St Andrew's PCC.

Compton Dundon 'Village Life'

In a series of double page features in the 'Somerset Life' magazine, each month there is a focus on a different village in Somerset. The village selected in February for the 'Village Life' entry was Compton Dundon!

St Andrew's Church was mentioned for its events involving the wider community, such as the Harvest Lunch and the Big Breakfast, monthly village lunches, carol singing and coffee mornings. The congregation was described as 'small but active,' which is certainly true as we continue to arrange outreach opportunities through our enthusiastic Events Group. This month we were pleased to be able to welcome churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike returning to our popular CAMEO coffee morning after a brief break in January. Our next CAMEO morning will be on Wednesday March 2nd in the village hall from 10.30 to 12 o'clock, an enjoyable time getting together with others – and delicious cake!

On the first Saturday in March the Benefice walk will set off from St Andrew's Church at 10 a.m. A lovely sociable and healthy activity. Hopefully by then there will be the first signs of spring flowers around the village, which is always so uplifting. It is also always worth a visit to Compton Dundon in late March/early April, when the bluebells are out in Dundon woods and the primroses appear on the path up to Lollover Hill.

Later in March an information afternoon will be held in the church when there will be an opportunity to browse the initial planning proposals for our exciting bells project. The ambitious aim this

year is to raise money for a new set of hanging bells and a ringing gallery.

Do come along to see and hear more, between 2pm and 5 pm on Sunday, March 27th.

Tea and cakes will be served during the afternoon.

Last month we began collecting donations for the Salvation Army Food Bank in Street.

The two boxes in church and in the village hall are now overflowing with goods, which will no doubt be gratefully received. Particularly welcome items are tinned goods, pasta, rice, tea and coffee, shower gel and shampoo, cereal and juice. Food prices are estimated to rise 5% in the first half of 2022, with a trajectory that they will continue to rise. So this is something practical that we can do as church members to have an immediate impact on local families.

Happy Spring everybody!

Pat King



World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March 2022

'I know the Plans I Have for You'

The verse from Jeremiah 29: 1-14 that we were given is one of hope, and hope is the overarching theme to this worship service. To symbolize hope we have used light in the form of candles and seeds.

We thought about this passage, which led us on to different forms of 'exile'. Three voices - Lina, Natalie & Emily - name some of them: poverty, fear & isolation and they each tell their personal stories of how God's plans have worked for them in unexpected ways.

We wanted the service to move from 'darkness' to 'light' - from negative places to positive hope we find in God and God's plans for us. Seven candles are lit during the service - one for each of the seven regions of the World Day of Prayer.

This is a service for everyone, prepared by Women of the UK and led by Women from Churches in Street and will be held at Quaker Meeting House @ 2pm. If you'd prefer to Zoom from home, please email janetday7@talktalk.net to have the links sent to you.

Carolyn Dulborough

The Prayer Course

Many from across the benefice enjoyed and appreciated the Bible Course which we ran, during lockdown, on Zoom. I am keen that as a benefice we continue to grow in our faith and one of the ways of doing this is by learning together. So, this year, beginning in Lent, we will be running a new course open to anyone from the benefice and beyond.

I would like to introduce the 'Prayer Course' which will take place on Wednesday evenings in the Mission Church. The prayer course is designed for everyone and is an 8-week journey that will help you to grow and deepen your prayer life.

The course is based on the Lord's Prayer and breaks down into 8 themed sessions.

During the evening, there will be a short video presentation, an opportunity to discuss some questions and a chance to share in a small group in a very practical way, all in a relaxed setting. The course is designed for 'normal' people and is simple and accessible; you don't have to have been a Christian for many years or an 'expert' pray-er.

So do consider joining us. The Prayer course will be on the following Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30pm: 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March, 30th March, 6th April, 27th April, 4th May & 11th May. If you would like to come along, please contact the church office on 01458 442671 or email churchoffice8@gmail.com to book your place. For further details, please talk to Ana.

Look forward to seeing you. Ana Lawrence

Belfry News

Ringling, like much of life, has been heavily curtailed over the last couple of years. Time for us to get back into the swing of things by marking the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II. Being a Sunday this meant that we could also ring for the service. The following met at Walton Church at 08:30am and rang rounds and call changes before the 09:15am communion service: **Treble**. Geoff Walker **2**. Gill Dennis **3**. Leslie E Perry **4**. Penelope I Hooper **Tenor**. Beverley Perry.

With some personnel changes we reconvened at Street Parish Church at 12:15pm to ring a well struck quarter peal after the 11:00am service, details as follows: 1260 Grandsire Doubles in 45 minutes **Treble**. Beverley Perry (conductor) **2**. Mervyn G Buckley **3**. Geoff Walker **4**. Leslie E Perry **5**. Penelope I Hooper **Tenor**. John R Schmidt. The band would like to associate Teresa Dunstone and Tim Hatry with this performance. Bev Perry.



One of the Bells at Holy Trinity, Street

Finance at SWCD Churches

As members of the church family here at SWCD Churches, you should all have recently received (or will shortly be receiving) a letter setting out the current financial picture in your church and inviting you to prayerfully respond. Can I encourage you to send your reply, in the envelope provided, to your church treasurer either directly or via the church office.

Ana Lawrence

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd – 5th June 2022

It is exciting to see plans to celebrate this event developing in all three of our parishes. Watch this space for further details. We hope to publish a full programme in the April Life Magazine but are really looking forward to celebrating with our communities.

Ana Lawrence

Flicks@theMission

On Saturday 12th March at 7pm we plan to screen the film 'Chocolat' (certificate 12) in the Mission Church. The film tells the story of a French woman and her young daughter who open up a chocolate shop in a small remote village shaking up the rigid morality of the community. Doors open from 6.30pm. Bring drinks, snacks, friends and neighbours.

Ana Lawrence

Open Doors at the Mission

On Thursday 24th March, we will again be opening the doors of the Mission Church from 10 – 12noon for coffee, games, and a place to sit or chat. This is open to anyone in our community who would welcome it and please spread the word.

Ana Lawrence

Street, Walton & Compton Dundon Celebrating the Jubilee

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are planning events and celebrations across the long holiday weekend of 3 - 6 June.



Street are planning to get into the spirit with a traditional church fete plus extras, held in the Mission Church and grounds on the afternoon of Saturday 4 June.

Walton and Compton Dundon will be planning events also. See the April Life for more details.

Walk with us

Saturday 5th March

10-00am

Meet outside St Andrew's Church Compton Dundon

**for more information contact Tim Hindle (Mission Church) or
see our website for details swcd-churches.org.uk**

Feeling, Faith and Fact

In our Monday evening Bible study group we have been studying the subject of Faith: what it means, what it means to us as individuals and how we cope when our faith wavers through good times and bad. The poem below was brought to our attention and as it resonated with us we thought it might benefit others to read it.

Three men were walking on a wall,
Feeling, Faith and Fact,
When Feeling got an awful fall,
And Faith was taken back.
So close was Faith to Feeling,
He stumbled and fell too,
But Fact remained,
And pulled Faith back
And Faith brought feeling too.

~Author Unknown

Glynys Ruddle

WATCH - ARE YOU GETTING IT?

Lent this year is from March 2nd to April 14th - a bit later than in some recent years. Historically Lent is a time for giving something up - 'self-denial' - so that we can get closer to God in preparation for Easter which starts the following day with Good Friday.

I want to invite you this year to consider doing something really really radical - unbelievable even - *Give up TV* - Just for Lent. That's it: don't pick up the remote for 40 days. You could even rip out the batteries and put them in the recycling.

Do you know - thinking about - in all my 78 years I can't recall anyone ever suggesting this for Lent! Mind you, we never had television until I was 8 years old. My dad hired one for the day so we could watch the Queen's Coronation. It had a black and white picture and you could only get BBC1, because that was all there was in the early 1950sand it broke down half way through the ceremony!



Somebody came and fixed it so we were able to see the highlights in the evening! In those days a TV was in a large wooden box with a tiny screen and it took 4 or 5 minutes to warm up.

Why give it up?

Simply because I think it influences us more than we think. The culture it portrays is not a Christian culture. It was more of one 70 years ago. It reflects the spirit of our age - the *volksgeist*, which means the 'spirit of the people' - in a society which is moving steadily away from the Christian values on which it was based. Try going without it for 40 days and you may begin to see for yourself.

Jesus said "Blessed (Happy) are the pure in heart for they shall see God." My own experience of nearly 14 years without TV tells me that this is easier to achieve without TV. You might also find an enhanced sense of personal freedom, increased creativity, and the freeing up of a lot of time. I wouldn't go back to it for all the tea in China (is there any?). One exception: Six Nations Rugby! But no, I'd even settle for Radio 5 for that - just for Lent. And if you want a good alternative - have you tried Premier Christian Radio (on DAB radio or the internet).



There's music, ministry, news, prayers, worship, discussions, apologetics, politics - the list is endless - all from a Christian perspective - you can get closer to God and get the tea or do the washing up at the same time! Are you getting it? Can't wait for March 2nd!
Bernard Sinclair

Eco Church and a Lent Challenge

As part of the work achieving Eco Church Silver Awards we have assessed the carbon footprint for each church using the Climate stewards 360°Carbon calculator. The energy we use to heat and light the buildings, the way we all travel to church, the use we make of our buildings including the number of people attending all formed part of the calculation. If you are interested in the results let us know.

The next step is to identify ways we might reduce our carbon footprint. To help us with this we are participating in the Diocesan initiative working with Green Journey to provide an Energy Audit for each of our four churches. As Christians Caring for God's world we should seek to avoid

squandering the resources available to us. Energy is one of them and it is getting more expensive; by reducing our carbon footprint we may also save money. Climate Stewards' team is based in Somerset; it is part of the A Rocha family of organisations helping to care for God's creation. They are passionate about helping people to live better on low carbon while supporting our global neighbours to adapt to the impact of climate change. Climate Stewards provide help in measuring individual and group carbon footprints, reduce it where possible and offset the rest.

They work with trusted Community projects. In addition to the 360°Carbon calculator for organisational use they have one for use by individuals which can be found at <https://footprintr.me/> if you try it please let us know how you got on.





LENT

Climate Stewards' Carbon Fast for Lent.

In the Bible, caring for God's creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, Climate Stewards are encouraging individuals to take up a lent challenge to find new ways to reduce their impact on the natural world and their global neighbours

How the Carbon Fast works: On Shrove Tuesday (1st March), and subsequent Sundays, Climate Stewards will send out a weekly e-mail suggesting easy, medium and harder challenges to try. It will include links to resources and a prayer helping to extend knowledge and reflect on the weekly theme.

To sign up go to:

<https://www.climatestewards.org/carbon-fast/>

Sue Ripley, SWCD Eco Church Group

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

March 2022

You're welcome

While Lent is traditionally a time people associate with giving up things this year, with our 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' activities, we are encouraging people to consider how they can better know and understand others, themselves and God, through focusing on offering and receiving welcome, hospitality, inclusion and generosity.

Throughout Lent we will be sharing stories from people from diverse backgrounds across Bath and Wells so we can learn more about the people who live here and reflect how knowing more about others affects our actions.

Tony Cook, who leads our Everyday Faith and Growing Faith team says, "During the Covid pandemic we all had to withdraw into our own four walls and although things have started to return to 'normal' we want to encourage people, and particularly people of God, to renew and extend their welcome



beyond not only their own four walls, but the four walls of the church. It is also a challenge to go out into our communities to receive the hospitality of other groups and individuals as Jesus did.

"We hope the reflections and stories featured in 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' will help us all consider how we can contribute to becoming a more diverse church – one more representative of the populations we seek to serve."

Find out more about 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' at www.bathandwells.org.uk/Lent-22 and get involved in the conversations on our social media channels ■

The promise of new life

By Trevor Willmott, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Bath & Wells

"**L**ord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?" For any would be follower of Jesus, the teaching in Matthew 25 is surely some of the most challenging in the whole of the New Testament. What sort of disciples are we called to be? Will the world recognise Christ in us both in our words and in our actions?

Faced with persecution, with the temptation to instant popularity and self-aggrandisement, Jesus remains true to himself and to his call to be a servant leader. This, he says, is what is required of anyone who would follow me: "to love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself".

While we may talk a great deal about being a welcoming Church, the reality is much harder to achieve. To welcome is not to want the stranger to become just like us. It's about valuing the gifts they bring and about being willing to be changed ourselves by the new life coming among us. It begins, as Jesus began, by seeking to serve the stranger's needs and, to do that, we

first have to listen.

Some of the harshest of Jesus' words were directed to the religious people of his day, too occupied with their own agendas, their own self-righteousness, to notice the stranger in their midst. It is only when we are prepared to leave the security of our own home, "launching out into the deep", going onto the other's territory, can we begin to feel just how strange and at times threatening the community of faith can be to the outsider.

Lent, with its invitation to de-clutter our busy lives, brings also the promise of new life. Let's use this God-given time to pray that our hearts and the life of our communities may be opened such that we can truly welcome the stranger as a sister or brother in Christ.

With my blessing
+Trevor



News in brief

New local Ambassador for Children's Society

Nicky King from St Peter and St Paul's Wincanton has become the Diocesan Ambassador for the Children's Society. It is a voluntary role working with Jess Meale, Community Relationships Manager for the South-West. Nicky will work with Jess to identify areas in Bath and Wells that the Children's Society can work in and help build relationships with supporters or potential supporters across the area. This includes giving talks to interested groups ■



100s explore God's call

Hundreds of people took part in our week of 'God Calls... everyone, everywhere' in February. At the opening service, on Accession Day, Bishop Ruth said, "Our calling won't necessarily be regal and royal like the Queen's, but each of us has sensed something of that call of



Moon for Taunton Minster

March will be a busy month for St Mary Magdalene's, Taunton. Not only will it be designated a Minster by Bishop Ruth at a service on Sunday, 13 March from the 18 – 31 March it will be hosting Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon. Funded by Somerset West and Taunton Council, they said hosting the installation would 'inspire both locals and visitors.' Last year the exhibition drew crowds at both Bath Abbey and Wells Cathedral ■

God, that's why we are here, and this week is an opportunity to consider further where that call takes us." Throughout the week we heard from people with a range of experience of God's call and joined together online at the end of the week to celebrate and reflect ■

Interview

A place of acceptance

Oosman Tegally, who worships at Christ Church, Bath share his thoughts on welcome and generosity.



Oosman Tegally

What does welcome mean to you?
Acceptance. I have gone into some places

in the past and the faces tell whether you are accepted or if you are not and if you are received well then that to me is welcome. I have visited many places, many churches, and the moment I came into Christ Church I thought, yes this is the place I'd like to worship and be part of.

Have you experienced feeling unwelcome?

Oh yes, there have been times when comments have been made because of my ethnicity. It's what they perceive, what they see, they're not

looking inside to see what kind of a person you are, and I have been very hurt about that and I have never been back again. It's sad really because someone who could have been part of that community, cannot be when that happens.

How can we make people feel more included and less like an outsider?

We have to accept the person as they are, no matter what. It is accepting them for what they are, who they are and be accepting from both sides. Inclusivity means anybody - LGBT, disabled, learning difficulties and more.

How can we be more generous?

Generosity is being there for somebody who needs you, it doesn't matter in what form. It comes from the heart and it's what you feel capable of doing, not necessarily finances, it can be in many different ways, moral support, being there, a listening ear.

Read more stories of welcome at bathandwells.org.uk/news

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DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Protect your church

'... LET LOVE GUIDE YOUR LIFE, FOR THEN THE WHOLE CHURCH WILL STAY TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY.'

Colossians 3:14 TLB

It's always easier to stand on the sidelines and take potshots than get involved and make a contribution. God warns us repeatedly not to criticise, compare, or judge one another. When you criticise what someone else is doing in sincere faith, you're out of your jurisdiction! Listen: 'What right do you have to criticise someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right ...' (Romans 14:4 CEV). So unless you're their Lord, keep your nose out of it!

Don't stand in judgment looking down on those whose views differ from yours! Paul writes: 'Why, then ... criticise your brother's actions, why ... try to make him look small? We shall all be judged one day, not by each other's standards or even by our own, but by the judgment of God' (Romans 14:10 PHPS). Whenever you judge God's children four things happen:

1. You upset their Father
2. You expose your own pride and insecurity
3. You set yourself up to be judged by the same standard
4. You hurt the fellowship of your church.

A critical spirit is a costly vice. Instead of harping, start helping! Time spent comparing and criticising is time that could be spent on better things. The Bible says, '... Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault' (Romans 14:19 TM).

Unity is the soul of fellowship; destroy it and you rip the heart out of Christ's body. So, make up your mind today to protect your church!

From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: ucb@ucb.co.uk



