

April 2022



50p

# Life

[swcd-churches.org.uk](http://swcd-churches.org.uk)



# Rector's Letter

## Preparing for Easter Joy!

Some weeks ago, I went to a national Christian leader's conference and spent three days alongside clergy and other church leaders in the Harrogate Convention Centre. One of the highlights for me was the sung worship; joining in with around 1,500 others praising God gave perhaps a glimpse of heaven. It's never a good idea to seek to replicate such experiences when arriving back home as the contexts are of course always so different. But one of the things I came away with was a renewed sense of joy. By joy, I am not thinking of anything frothy or superficial or even a cheesy grin! Rather, the Christian joy of being in relationship with God, knowing that God loves me and that I love him. This is a deep joy that can be hard sometimes to put into words, but through the Holy Spirit's prompting, this is a joy that can almost feel tangible.

We are living in tough and challenging times with so much in the world that appears joy-less. And yet, as we prepare for Easter, for the time when we remind ourselves that 'He is risen; he is risen indeed', our hearts should surely seek to be joy-filled. Over the Easter period, we will be hosting two Messy Church events, aimed at primary school aged children and their families, and our prayer is that we will be able to offer this Easter Joy to these families who might not otherwise hear about it. In addition, of course, there will be a full range of Holy week and Easter Services and events to which all are welcome.

As Easter people, let's be those actively seeking joy using holy week and Easter as a time to remind ourselves and others that we are a redeemed and hopeful people. Easter reminds us, even as we face dark and uncertain times that we know how the story ends and we know that it is Good News. Hallelujah! I close with some words from a modern worship song.

O praise the name of the Lord our God.  
O praise his name forevermore,  
for endless days we will sing your praise,  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

With my love & prayers for a joy-filled Easter, Ana

\*\*\*\*\*

## **World Day of Prayer** - 4th March

It was a pleasant warm sunny spring afternoon. Thank you to the Readers Jenny & Sandra and to all those who came to the Quaker Meeting House. We were very well supported and it was nice to meet the other ladies from Street churches to celebrate together the World Day of Prayer. Also Marion who joined us on zoom.

'Hope' at this particular time in our lives worldwide was a very poignant thought for us all to ponder on!

Carolyn

.....

## **Jubilee Fete**

On Saturday 4th June from 2pm, we are celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in Street, with a good old fashioned church fete at the Mission Church. For this to be a success we need every member of the congregations in Street and others to get behind it and play their part. We are looking for people to man stalls, help make and or serve teas and cake, play music and anything else you think would fit. Putting up and taking down tables is also a key job. There is going to be a cake competition making either Victoria Sandwich (decorated or plain) or Lemon Drizzle, both Mary Berry recipes which will be provided. We are delighted to have Val Stones of Great British Bake Off fame and author of 'The Cake Whisperer' opening the fete and judging the cake competition! Please contact Suzie Williams (Mission Church) if you can offer anything at all so we can have a great event.

07928921129

Suzie Williams

## Easter Plans



Please see elsewhere in this magazine for a full schedule of Easter services and events. This year, we will be hosting two Messy Church Easter events, one in Walton on Palm Sunday and the other on Good Friday in the Mission Church. Each will be the same, so choose to either come, or invite others to one or the other! On Maundy Thursday, we will be holding a 'Seder' meal in Walton Church, an opportunity to gather together with a traditional Passover style meal followed by Communion. On Good Friday there will be the annual gathering on Lollover Hill, Compton Dundon with the three crosses which will be preceded by a service in St Andrew's church. Then, in the afternoon, there will be a quiet service of reflection in the Parish Church, Street. In addition to the morning services on Easter Sunday, there will be a new, Celebrate@6 service of worship, teaching and ministry open to the benefice and beyond, which we hope to make regular, going forward.

### **The Road to the Cross**

Oddments, a Christian theatre company based in Yeovil, are putting on their latest production 'The Road to the Cross' at a number of locations over the Easter period. If you would like to go as a group, there is a performance on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April in St James Church, Yeovil at 7.45pm. Please contact Ana if interested.

## **APCM's**

Our three APCM's (Annual Parochial Church Meetings) are due to take place in May. There will be nomination forms available in our churches and online for PCC member and church warden shortly. Please consider whether you would like to stand and pick up a form for more details.

## **Open Doors at the Mission**

As part of our desire and heart to look outwards, Open Doors will be held monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month 10am – 12noon in the Mission Church. Come along, bring a friend, invite a neighbour to a safe warm space to gather for coffee, games, puzzles or just to sit and chat. Who might you invite?

## **Holiday at Home**

In August we are looking to host a 2 day 'Holiday at Home'. The idea of 'Holiday at Home' is, as the name suggests to offer the holiday experience for those who may struggle to go away on holiday for whatever reason. The 2 days will feature entertainment, food and excursions and will be open to all in our communities who would enjoy this. At this stage, we would love to hear from people who would be interested in getting involved in this project, which we plan to hold in the Mission Church early in the month.

This is a fantastic opportunity to serve others, but it can only happen with your help. Please talk to Ana to express an interest and find out more.

## **SWCD Book Club**

Our next book is something a little different (!) as we read 'The Cloud of Unknowing', an anonymous collection of devotions dating from the Medieval period which is nonetheless both accessible and challenging. Why not get hold of a copy and join us at our next meeting, details of which will be advertised in Lifeline.

Ana Lawrence

## **Compton Dundon News**

March began with our monthly 'CAMEO' ('Come And Meet Each Other') coffee morning in the village hall on the first Wednesday, when delicious coffee and cakes were enjoyed by both churchgoers and the wider village (and wider than that, visitors from Street too.)

A good chance to chat and catch up.

On Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a Benefice walk, setting off from the church (more of this elsewhere.)

Celia has opened her Plant Stall once again, which has previously proved to be so popular and successful. Do come along to The Old Farmhouse in Compton Street (turn left at the cross before you reach the pub) to browse a range of plants, seedlings and garden accessories. All money raised is for a good cause – St Andrew's Church.

Celia is also selling some attractive yellow and blue pansies for £2 a pot, with proceeds given to the Disasters Emergency Committee for relief in Ukraine.

During the March church services our intercessions have naturally focused on the situation in Ukraine and have included beautiful prayers written by church members in Kyiv. We joined together to say the powerful prayer written by the two Archbishops and took a copy of this home to continue. A candle was lit at the end of the Intercessions as a focus for our personal prayers. It is humbling to think of the outpouring of love and prayer for the Ukrainians at this time and we are proud to be just a small part of it.

Later in the month, during the afternoon of March 27<sup>th</sup>, we are excited to be introducing our plans to restore the church bells to a full ringing set. Architects' plans and drawings will be available to browse and this will be an opportunity to meet the 'bells team,'

and one of our bells experts to hear more. In addition, there are other plans currently being discussed as to how the interior of the church might be better arranged to accommodate the changing and modern needs of St Andrew's. So please do join us to offer your views and ideas. An added draw is the tea and homemade cakes on offer!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Pat King

## **Benefice Walk March 5<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> the sun was out and so were we!

The walkers and one spaniel met at St Andrew's Church in Compton Dundon to set off on our countryside venture, planned by Tim Hindle. It was wonderful to be able to meet and chat with others from each of the churches across the Benefice.

Our route took us down Peak Lane before a right turn and one more road (track?) before heading into open fields. We managed to negotiate a fresh wind and quite a bit of fresh mud after all the rain and after a very pleasant hour we climbed to the summit of Lollover Hill. Worth the effort for a beautiful panoramic view on this clear day. There was much discussion about the geographical features we could see...Glastonbury Tor (of course), the Mendip Hills, the Windmill, Polden Way, Combe Hill Woods, the Hood Memorial to name a few. Someone even claimed to see Wales in the distance!

We returned to the church to enjoy a hot drink and cake (thus immediately cancelling the health benefits.) It was a most enjoyable morning and a wonderful time of fellowship together. We were already talking about possible places for the next Benefice walk. Thank you Tim Hindle, a lovely walk thoughtfully planned and very much enjoyed by all.  
Pat King.





## Walton matters

*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53. V's 3-6. N.I.V.*

Belated news on our quiz evening that took place on February 19th. Thank you all for attending and joining in the fun. We had a wonderful turnout and our quiz master Liz Brown kept us on our toes. Nine teams fought it out closely and we had decisive winners in the end. A brilliant evening was had by us all.

Friends of Walton Church.

We are meeting together after coffee morning on the 7th April to plan activities and share ideas for fundraising. Everyone will be welcome and any ideas, large or small, will be grateful.

Walton Church Fun Day.

Saturday 7th May we are holding a fun day in the churchyard and church. This will be from 10.30 to 2.30 and centre to this will be worm charming. Come along to see how this works. There will be lots of fun for all ages including hook a duck, table football, target practice, parachute games, buzz wire and many more. We will also have information on the 'wilder churchyard' plan.

Bacon/sausage rolls and homemade cakes will be available to tempt everyone. There will be a family charge of £5 and £2 for an adult and all activities will be included in this. Extra charge for refreshments and for the plant/craft/produce stall. Please come and join us and take a look at our plans for the future. We would

welcome any help to man stalls or help with refreshments.  
Please get in touch with me if you can spare any time.

Queens Platinum jubilee celebrations.

On June 5th we will be holding an afternoon tea in Church and out, weather permitting. Please make a note in your diaries and join us with music and plenty of sandwiches and cake, to share together our gratitude for Queen Elizabeth's life of dedication and duty.

Flower rota.

16th April. Church decorating for Easter.

30th April. Sandra Gristock.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Benefice Charity Giving for 2022**

Following recommendations by church members and recent approval at our PPC's, below are the charities and organisations that each of our parishes plan to support with their 2022 charitable giving

### **Street**

**Tearfund** – the Christian International development charity <https://www.tearfund.org/>. We have also sent support for the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) humanitarian response for Ukraine through Tearfund, who are DEC members.

**Zambia link** – our Diocesan link with Mfuwe parish with whom we have had a long-lasting partnership.

**Send a Cow** – Christian international development charity, founded in Somerset and based in Bath. <https://sendacow.org/>

**Street Foodbank** – offering food to local people in need, run by Street Salvation Army

## **Walton**

**Mission without Borders** - An international Christian development charity working in Eastern Europe  
<https://www.mwbuk.org/>

**Barnabas Fund** - An international Christian charity focusing on the persecuted church <https://barnabasfund.org/>

**Home for Good Bath** - A local branch of a national Christian charity focusing on encouraging fostering  
<https://homeforgood.org.uk/connect-locally/bath-area>

**One Hope Church, Harare Zimbabwe**, with whom the church at Walton has a family link.

## **Compton Dundon**

**Somerset Wildlife Trust** – the local environmental charity protecting Somerset’s wildlife <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/>

**Mercy Ships** - Christian charity offering medical care to poor coastal communities <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>

**The Children’s Society** – A UK based Christian children’s charity <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

**CHARIS** - a charity established by the Taunton churches to help refugees <https://charisrefugees.org/>

As well as giving money, we are committed to pray for our partners, raise the profile of their work and involve the church family in their work and campaigns as much as possible. If you have ideas on how we may do that better, we would love to hear from you.

Kevin Lawrence on behalf of the benefice charitable giving group.

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

April 2022

## A time of hope

**A**fter two years of living with a pandemic, churches across Somerset are preparing for what is hoped to be a return to marking Holy Week in a more usual way.

For the newly designated Taunton Minster, St Mary Magdalene, it will be the first it marks as a Minster, and for its vicar, Tobie Osmond, it will be the first full Holy Week during which he can welcome people to the church in person since taking up the post more than two years ago.

He says, "I am sure I am not alone in feeling that it will be good to have somewhat close to a 'normal' Holy Week, even though it won't be completely the same as prior to the pandemic. After various services and activities throughout the week we'll be having a sunrise service on Easter Sunday at 6am, followed by breakfast, and I am sure Easter eggs will feature in our service later in the morning. It will still be a hybrid offering as there are some who still feel unable to return to church, which is completely understandable, and it is important they can still join



with us online."

While a return to 'normal' is the hope, Tobie also recognises the positives from the changes wrought by the pandemic. He says, "By sharing our services online we are also able to reach out to people not just in Taunton, but around the world. We regularly have people join us from Zambia, our partner diocese, also Canada, South Africa and Australia."

The church was formally designated as a Minister by Bishop Ruth on Sunday, 13 March. She said, "This new designation comes when Taunton, like the rest of the UK, is dealing with the challenge of recovering from the Covid pandemic, but it is also a time of hope and positivity for the future."

Find out what other churches are doing at [bathandwells.org.uk](https://bathandwells.org.uk) ■

# Hope in turbulent world

I write this on Ash Wednesday, a day when we begin a period of reflection and penitence, and remember our mortality. Those of us receiving the ash crosses on our foreheads today will hear these words: 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return...'

We have been invited to set this Ash Wednesday aside to pray for peace in Ukraine. It would be easy for us to point the finger at those we hold responsible for such atrocity and yet we need to recognise that all of us carry responsibility for our own failures to live as peacemakers and reconcilers. Not one of us is perfect and Lent offers us an opportunity for honest realism and a chance to repent and seek forgiveness.

As you read this we will be approaching the end of Lent, and Easter will be in sight. Much will have happened in the world since I wrote it. Two years ago, I was praying for the world caught up in the early throes of a pandemic. Who could have known that we would still be living with the virus and how much life would have changed? Today I am joining in the prayer and fasting for countries at war. Where will we be as we enter Holy week and approach

Easter? What might be the outcome for Ukraine, Russia, ourselves?

And yet that is the very heart of faith. We do not know what the future holds but we do know the One who holds us. The fact is that God so loved the world that when He sees us in our greatest need, at our most threatened, He comes to be with us. To share the pain and give Himself fully, even to the point of death. And the story of Easter tells us that death is not the end. That life is found through the death of the Saviour.

I don't know what your experience of these last couple of years has been. I expect many of us carry the scars of loss. Pain and death are not things we can avoid. And neither did Christ. The hope He offers us is that they are not the end of the story but rather the beginning. Hope can be ignited and life restored through the faithful following in the footsteps of the One who loves us.

It does not mean that all will be wonderful. It won't stop wars. But it does mean that hope, forgiveness and new starts can be found as we look to follow Christ's example.

+ *Ruth Tanton*

## News in brief

### Prayers & support for Ukraine

Churches across Bath and Wells have been praying for Ukraine and for peace. Many are open for those who wish to have a quiet moment of prayer or to light a candle, others have been holding prayer vigils. Locally church communities are working closely with aid agencies to raise money and support those in need in Ukraine and refugees from the conflict, including St Mary's Bridgwater and St John's, Yeovil. Bath Abbey showed a very visible sign of support, lighting up in blue and yellow ■



Steeplejacks assess the damage

### View from the top

Work is underway to repair the spire of St Thomas', Wells. The church hit the headlines when two and a half metres of the spire plus its two and a half metre long weather vane came down during Storm Eunice.

Revd Claire Towns saw the whole thing. She said, "We were just really shocked this happened, but equally feel very thankful that nobody was hurt" ■

### Platinum celebrations

From 2 to 5 June this year we will celebrate Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

HOPE Together is working with others to help churches mark the occasion and, in particular, to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. There are a range

of ideas and resources provided for communities, schools, churches and youth organisations. A website celebrating the Queen's faith and service focuses on six ways to mark the occasion; celebrate, sing, gift, learn, service and invite. Find out more at [theplatinumjubilee.com](http://theplatinumjubilee.com) ■

## A uniting faith

Andrew Avramenko, a curate at St Stephen's & St Mary's, Bath who has Ukrainian connections, reflects on hope in challenging times.



Andrew and his family at a rally for Ukraine in Bath

### What's the Ukrainian connection?

My father is Ukrainian. His parents survived the Holodomor, a forced famine in the 1930s by Stalin that aimed to wipe out Ukrainian identity - over 7 million died. They escaped from Stalin's forces and from the Nazis when my father was a young child. They travelled across Europe on foot before being welcomed as refugees into the UK. I also have connections with both the Anglican and Orthodox Ukrainian churches.

### Is faith important to Ukrainians?

Faith is very much part of the Ukrainian identity and their way of living. On social media you can see people praying and holding services in underground shelters, in

underpasses and even in front of a church while warning sirens sound. Ukrainians are asking for prayers, not just for themselves but also for Russians, and have been deeply touched and encouraged by them.

### Is faith a support in challenging times?

Faith is a very active thing that strengthens us, unites us and calls us to a better way, a peaceful way, out of this. It helps us to see people as human rather than a label, even our enemies. It unites us with people around the world, bringing us together in such a way that we couldn't do in many other ways.

### How does conflict affect your faith?

If anything it strengthens my faith. I came to faith in part due to the last war in Europe, in Yugoslavia, and took aid to refugees. Although we may feel powerless, we do have the power to act; just as we have the power to do evil, we have the chance to do good and replace hate with love.

Read the full interview at:

[bathandwells.org.uk/a-uniting-faith](http://bathandwells.org.uk/a-uniting-faith)

Follow us on

 @BathWells     bathandwells  
 churchofengland\_somerset

 DIOCESE OF  
**Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



## The Benefice walk at Compton Dundon

*Street Mission Church Fete*

*4th June 2022*

*2pm - 5pm*



*Includes a 1 pm cake baking competition  
judged by Val Stones of Great British Bake Off fame*

*Get more information at [www.swed-churches.org.uk](http://www.swed-churches.org.uk).*



