

June 2022

50p



**Life**



THE QUEEN'S  
PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022



[swcd-churches.org.uk](http://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 July edition are due by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

## Editorial Notes

Queen Elizabeth is to reach a milestone this month, whilst Life magazine has broken a record also, as this month's edition contains 28 pages! I hope you like the Jubilee cover and the 2 lovely pictures from Martin Kennard of the recent Holy land visit by some of our folk from the Benefice. You can read Jenny Lewis's report of the trip on page 18.



Sue Ripley reflects on the environmental changes during the 70 years of the Queen's Reign on page 8.

All the Benefice Jubilee events can be found in Walton Matters, Compton Dundon News and details of the main three can be found on page 16.

Street's Jubilee Fete in the Mission church grounds has a good variety of stalls, refreshments, and a wide selection of musical items to entertain us. Trinity Handbells are included on the programme and will be playing a varied selection of British music. There will be news soon of the next Benefice walk in Life-Line, so we can look forward to another of these countryside rambles with our church friends and others who are welcome to join us.

Meanwhile I hope you enjoy the jubilee celebrations and I will look forward to receiving all your reports on the events for the July Magazine. Roger Harmsworth.

# Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

'Come, for everything is now ready.' Luke Chapter 14 verse 17b

I love receiving invitations whether they are those formal ones you still get for weddings and other special events or the less formal phone calls, Facebook messages etc that invite you for coffee, a walk, to an event or just to meet up. I suspect I am not alone in this; we all enjoy being asked to meet friends and family, to catch up and share, to be together. God made us to be in community and calls us to work as a community of faith.

Just a few weeks ago, many of us enjoyed a 'fun day' both in and outside the church at Walton and it's exciting that this month also begins with fun and celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. With a range of events taking place across the benefice including a flower festival, afternoon tea and a fete, there are many opportunities to meet up with friends, neighbours and family as we celebrate over the coming Jubilee period.

In last months' magazine I wrote about being this community, but also about the importance of looking outwards as part of our Christian witness in sharing God's love with the world around us and this of course must underpin all that we seek to do in being the church in Street, Walton and Compton Dundon.

As we approach our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we have a real opportunity to grow our community, to build connections with friends and neighbours and to join together with others in events which are likely to unite the nation in a time of celebration and thankfulness. Who might you invite to come along to celebrate with you? Who do you know who might enjoy a traditional fete, a flower festival, an afternoon tea or a Songs of Praise? Invite them to come with you. I look forward to seeing you there!

With my love and prayers, Ana

## **Holiday@Home**

This is a two-day event particularly aimed at those who may not be able to get away for a holiday, for whatever reason. On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August, we will be hosting a space in the Mission Church to come and be together. There will be a variety of activities on offer such as craft, board games, entertainment. The days will include lunch, tea, coffee and biscuits and will be divided into two sessions, morning and afternoon so across the two days, will run four sessions. Those who wish to come can book for one or more sessions including lunch. Costs and further details will be available in due course. We look forward to welcoming you. Please let friends and neighbours know.

Ana Lawrence

## **SWCD Women's evening**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will be holding a women's evening in the Royal Oak Pub in Walton. Come and join us from 6.30pm for a 2-course meal at 7pm. The cost will be around £15 - £20 per person to include food but excludes drinks. A great opportunity to come and be together from across our 4 churches and please feel free to invite others to come along. More details will follow.

Ana Lawrence

## **Congratulations**

To John Gordon (St Andrew's) on recently celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## **Walton matters**

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord be praised.  
Psalm 113. Vs 1-3.

May 7<sup>th</sup> saw an amazing fun day. It was supported so well and our volunteers worked really hard to bring such a successful event to the village. Lots of families came and all seemed to enjoy the variety of fun to be had. The bbq did a roaring trade and could be followed by the most delicious cakes. Thank you all for your tireless efforts on preparing for the event and for manning stalls events and refreshments. I know you were all exhausted but the day raised £807.90 and was so worth the effort to provide such fun plus much needed funds.

## **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

Our next event is a high tea on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3.00 – 5.00 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee. After what sounds like a busy weekend enjoying ourselves in lots of ways, in all our Churches and villages, come and relax with a pot of tea or coffee, sandwiches, savoury treats, jellies and lots of cake whilst listening to music from the era. We are so grateful to her majesty for a lifetime of selfless dedication to our Country and her people and what a privilege it is to share with her on this amazing weekend. The cost is £7.50 per adult with a reduction for children and we guarantee no-one will leave hungry. Please come and join us.

## **Garage Sale.**

On the 16th July there will be a village garage sale where, from their own homes, people can have a stall and sell any items they choose. We will ask a £5 donation for the Church and we will organise a map of where to find each household with a stall. Refreshments will be served at the Church and a stall will be there too. Please get in touch with me to book and we look forward to involving the community again.

May 7th saw Mark and Melody Coles wedding in church and what a joyful occasion it was. They were supported by their family and friends and it was lovely to see some of the Church family come along to wish them well. We send them our love for their marriage and life together.

Sandra Gristock

Flower rota.

11th June. Hilda Grint      25th June. Jo Pain

## **FOCUS ON OUR MISSION PARTNERS**

CHARIS, SUPPORTED BY ST ANDREWS COMPTON  
DUNDON

With the plight of refugees being high on our news agendas at the moment it seemed right to focus on CHARIS, one of the charities supported this year by St Andrews, Compton Dundon, as part of our benefice commitment to charitable giving.

CHARIS, (<https://charisrefugees.org/>) is an initiative of churches across Taunton, with the aim of 'bringing hope and transforming the lives of refugee families, one life at a time.' Their work is principally around helping to settle refugees into homes in the southwest, working through UK Home Office schemes.

Whilst there are refugees from many nations, with many different stories that have led them to seek sanctuary in the UK, the stories of Ukrainian families fleeing war has particularly touched the nation's hearts in recent weeks, with many wanting to help. CHARIS is not involved in matching potential hosts with refugee families as the government scheme at present does not allow for that, but the support they are offering (taken from their web site) includes

**Guidance and support for hosts.** The outpouring of desire from many people to provide accommodation for Ukrainians has been wonderful, but we recognise that most hosts will welcome training about Ukrainian culture, migration and how to help both practically and psychologically. This specialist support will not be short-term but will continue for as long as required.

**Support for Ukrainians seeking sanctuary.** Many Ukrainians will arrive traumatised by the war and their journey to safety. Their needs will be many and varied; language training, accessing health care, employment and benefits, to name a few. These needs will be very similar to those faced by the refugees from the Middle East we have settled in the Southwest. CHARIS will make the services we already provide to refugees from the Middle East available to Ukrainians. We are also coordinating with other local organisations to ensure an effective and timely response that is most beneficial.

Do visit their web site for more information

Kevin Lawrence (for the benefice charitable giving committee)

## **Messy Church**

We are excited to be hosting two further Messy Church events, following the success of the Messy Church Easter in the Mission Church and Walton.

Both events will be Summer themed and present the gospel in a relevant way for families and we look forward to seeing many there, once again.

The first of these is to be held on Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Mission Church from 3.45 – 5.15pm; the second is to be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June in Walton Church from 3.30 – 5pm. If you would like to help as part of the team, please could you get in touch with Ana.

Ana Lawrence

## **New Sermon Series**

Starting at the end of May and running through to the end of July, as a benefice on Sundays we will be exploring 'Stories that Jesus told' looking at a number of parables and their meanings. Do join us and if you miss a week, you can listen to the sermon online via our website. Ana Lawrence

## **PCC's Thanks**

Following our recent APCM's it is good to welcome our new PCC's for the new administrative year, so to speak. I would like to take this opportunity through this magazine of thanking all those who have served on our PCC's and have recently stood down; your time, efforts and enthusiasm have been much appreciated. We also welcome new PCC members and please do pray for and encourage those in your parish who serve in this way. Ana Lawrence



## Reflecting on 70 years of the Queen's Reign

Psalm 104: v.12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. v.14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to use...

In this Jubilee year I have been thinking about environmental changes during the Queen's reign. The Biblical Jubilee related to, amongst other things, land and restoration; a theme of this reflection.

In the years after the Second World War there was an emphasis on growing food and increasing crop yields. Chemicals were developed for use in agriculture and domestic gardens without realising the wider implications of their use. By 1952 use of manufactured chemicals was replacing natural substances used previously. A few years later the unintended consequences of this change began to be apparent. Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, drew attention to an unfolding horror, the death of birds, not just songbirds but also birds of prey. Insect eating birds and mammals were being poisoned by insecticides and birds of prey were being poisoned from feeding on them. Creatures from all levels of the food chain were being affected, insects, mammals, birds. It became apparent that these

chemicals were not only harmful to wildlife but to domestic animals, and to humans too.

In 1958 Rachel Carson wrote: 'It was pleasant to believe... that much of nature was forever beyond the tampering reach of man: he might level the forests and dam the streams, but the clouds and the rain and the wind were God's.' She suggested that humility rather than arrogance was needed, with, alongside it, a place for wonder.

Over the next decades of Queen Elizabeth's reign changes were made, in part due to campaigning from such diverse organisations as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Women's Institute. Individuals such as Prince Charles promoted organic approaches to growing and, more recently, TV programmes presented by David Attenborough have revealed the wonders of nature.

Some bird species have recovered but others such as song thrushes have not. Whilst some problems have been addressed,



others remain, as one is resolved another becomes apparent. Loss of hedgerows and destruction of plant life and habitat,

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have also affected birdlife;

when did you last hear a nightingale?

We have made some better progress, organic farming has increased and for those not using organic methods technologies have been developed to ensure more precise and cost effective use of the chemicals used in agriculture. Gardeners are encouraged by organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and Royal Horticultural Society to garden for wildlife. As well as providing plants and habitats this includes the use of biological (natural) controls.



Much has changed over the last 70 years but as Psalm 104 reminds us, the natural world exists without us. We should do our best not to let our interventions spoil that world. Rachel Carson's appeal for humility and wonder should not go unheeded. Her words before her death in 1964 reflect this: 'There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter... what will sustain me in my final moment is an infinite curiosity as to what wonders will follow.'

Sue Ripley, Street, Eco Church Group

## Compton Dundon News

**“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”**



The sermon that Kevin preached in St Andrew's, Compton Dundon on May 15th was based on the words from this Gospel reading, in the book of John. It is certainly a challenge to love as abundantly as God loves us, but we can show our care, kindness and love to our family,

Friends and community. This seems particularly pertinent in the run up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee week, when there are so many opportunities and events that bring people together in shared and enjoyable social experiences.

I was privileged to be able to serve on a stall at Walton church's fete last weekend, and to chat to so many who came to enjoy the occasion and feel part of the Walton family. Likewise I am looking forward to the Mission Church fete and the Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church and other village events. At the end of April we gathered in church to celebrate the life of Toby Salisbury, our very own village priest who gave so much of his time to the church, even when he was 'retired.' Around 100 were at the church service, either inside or in the marquee in the church grounds, to show their gratitude for Toby's loving service to the community.

On the first Wednesday in May we met for our regular 'CAMEO' in the Village Hall. Someone commented that there was 'a real buzz' that morning as people shared news, views and support (and cake!)

May we continue to be your people in our communities, to love and serve our neighbours, friends, family and the people we meet in our lives every day.

Pat King

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## **'ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE' OR REPURPOSED?**

This autumn, we are planning to run a new, six-week discussion course across SWCD Churches, perhaps aimed specifically at those who either are retired, are about to retire, or who are thinking about what retirement might mean. The course, which we aim to begin in October, has been developed by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and is called 'Repurpose'. It describes itself as follows...

## **Retirement isn't really about retiring.**

Stepping back from work to help look after the grandkids – or aging parents. Going out on a high, as you step back from the organisation into which you've poured your heart. Or perhaps being forced to end your career because of poor health.

When we enter our later years and hang up our work boots, many of us face major questions about our identity and purpose. It's exciting – a season of opportunity, possibility, and exploration. But it can also be daunting, disorientating, or depressing. Now that I'm retired, who am I? Who might I become? And what will I do?

The good news is that our identity and purpose as disciples of Jesus don't evaporate when we leave paid employment. In truth, we can continue to live out our God-given vocation in our retirement years: joining in his kingdom work in all the details of daily life. Because he has good work for us to do, wherever we are: offering our expertise to companies and charities, mentoring younger people, studying something new – or simply spending time with others in cafés, gardens, and front rooms.

Designed for small groups of people in or contemplating retirement, *Repurpose* is a chance to explore what that vocation might look like in your own lives – and what fresh purpose God might be calling you to in this new season.

And why am I writing about this now? Well, for me, planning as I am to 'sort of' retire in 2023, this course will be great – I look forward to learning with others across SWCD Churches, wherever they are on the journey of retirement.

Kevin Lawrence

## Events in the Benefice

### Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**St Andrews Church**

**Compton Dundon**

**Flower Festival**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**10-00am till 5-00pm**

**Songs of Praise**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**6-30pm**

**Refreshments  
available**

**Plants and Produce  
for sale**

**The Mission Church**

**Street**

**Platinum Fete**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**2-00pm till 5-00pm**

**More information at**

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



**The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

**Celebration Tea**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Walton**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**3-00pm till 5-00pm**

**Cost £7- 50 per person**

## Lent Prayer Course.

A huge thank you to Ana for organising the lent prayer course which was wonderful, using Pete Grieg's resources on prayer. On behalf of all of us that joined in during the 8 weeks, we gained so much in confidence, talked to each other in a safe space, and learnt many different aspects of prayer. Amazing.

During lent, one of my UCB readings was entitled Have Confidence in your Prayers. I thought I would share it with you.

1John 5. 14

We are confident...he heard us.

A leader wrote these words: 'My dad was a busy man...to get him at work you had to go through a switchboard unless you knew his private number. He gave it to a few business partners, but all of his kids had it...We knew, no matter how busy he was, we could call anytime on his direct line. I've the same thing...my kids know my number...they can call anytime for anything. And you know what? No voices sound sweeter to me than my kid's voices. When one of them says "Hi Dad" it doesn't matter what I am juggling... They are an absolute priority. Now multiply that out exponentially - and listen to me. Nothing sounds sweeter to God than your voice saying "Hello Father". There's nothing going on in the cosmos that would keep Him from directing His full attention to your conversation or your request. That means when God is your Father, you can call home anytime. He is never more than a prayer away! Jesus said: Ask, and God will give it to you...If your children ask for bread, which of you would give them a stone? Or if your children ask for a fish, would you give a snake? Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him!' Matthew 7.7, 9-12. You can talk to God without begging and grovelling, ' confident that he hears...whenever we ask for anything that pleases him, And... He will give us what we ask for. 1John 5:14-15. So, whatever is robbing you of your confidence in prayer, deal with it today. *United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Rd, Stoke- on-Trent, ST6 4JF.*  
Sandra Gristock



# Tour of the Holy Land

The long awaited tour of the Holy Land has happened at last! First proposed by David and Pauline Hatrey in 2018, then twice postponed due to covid, it eventually came to fruition in May this year.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May the 13 participants gathered in a hotel at Luton airport, with vaccine passes, Israel entry forms and PCR certificates packed along with passports. We were relieved to have got that far! 24 hours later we found ourselves in the comfortable Christmas Hotel in Jerusalem, all set for an exciting and memorable experience in the land of the Bible.

We were fortunate to have an extremely knowledgeable and helpful guide, Nabil, and an excellent driver, referred to by Nabil as 'the great Emilius'. Each day we set forth in our comfortable coach (very spacious for our small group) for a pilgrimage to places most of us had previously never expected to see. During our four days in Jerusalem we went to so many, including, on the first day, Mount Zion, the Western Wall of the Temple, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, St Anne's church and the Via Dolorosa with the stations of the cross. The next day we explored Hezekiah's Tunnel where there two options; the bravest four took the dark, wet route while the rest chose the well lit, dry one, but both tunnels were long and narrow, and down a very long flight of steps. How pleased we were to come out into the open! Later we visited the Garden Tomb in a beautiful setting where David conducted a simple service of Holy Communion for us. The third day the highlight was an early visit to the utterly peaceful Garden of Gethsemane – a contrast to the crowded Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem later. We were invited to a delicious Passover Meal at the Anglican Christ Church that

evening, accompanied by a Passover service and explanation by the resident Deacon. On Sunday we returned for the morning service and enjoyed lunch in their lovely courtyard café. The 'souk' was nearby and some of us bravely haggled for souvenirs. That afternoon we went to the Holocaust Museum at Yad Vashem. David led us up to the Children's Memorial first and then we followed the trail round the main part of the museum, tracing the rise of antisemitism and its terrible consequences. Unbearably moving, with countless film clips, photos and displays, the museum tells the story unflinchingly and honours all those who suffered so much.

We left Jerusalem the next day and headed first to the famous Masada Rock, a hilltop fortress where a small Jewish community committed mass suicide rather than be captured by the Romans. We went up and down in a cable car, marvelling at the views and the Roman remains while remembering the Rock's tragic past. That same day we learnt about the Dead Sea scrolls at Qumran and enjoyed a 'float' in the warm waters of the Dead Sea. We reached Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee that evening and settled into our second hotel, right on the lakeside.

Over the next three days we visited some beautiful churches and had a boat trip on the lake. We were the only passengers and the crew hoisted a Union Jack and played 'God save the Queen' as we set off. This was followed by suitable 'worship music'. We also went to the River Jordan, the ancient archaeological site of Megiddo, and a lovely 'village' in Nazareth, where workers dressed in 1<sup>st</sup> century costume demonstrated and explained how people lived in Jesus' time. We went to Capernaum and Cana, where the first miracle took place. We saw ancient caves and shrines at Caesarea Philippi and walked through a nature

reserve at Dan, with a rushing torrent of a river; there we heard a choir sing most beautifully and unexpectedly.

We saw snow-topped Mount Hermon and drove close to the Lebanese and Syrian borders.

Each day we had an evening meeting to ponder the day's events and prepare for the next day. David gave out Bible readings for many locations and these helped us to understand the context and significance of each place.

On our last day we travelled west to the Mediterranean coast where we visited the huge Roman amphitheatre and hippodrome (for chariot races) at Caesarea, before going on to the airport at Tel Aviv for the journey home. We were sorry to say goodbye to our guide and driver who had been so helpful to us.

It was a truly unforgettable tour. The Scriptures really did come alive for us as we found ourselves walking in Jesus' footsteps round the Sea of Galilee, or visiting ancient sites from the Old



Testament. Friendships were made and strengthened, and we returned tired but refreshed in body, soul and spirit. Many thanks to David and Pauline for leading such a wonderful tour.

Jenny Lewis

**David and Pauline at the Shepherds fields**

## Stewardship update

You may recall that, a few weeks ago, we wrote to everyone in the church family asking them to prayerfully consider reviewing their giving.

It is still not too late to send your response back to your church Treasurer, but we wanted to update you on the impact of the replies we have received so far. We are so grateful for all the financial support that individuals offer to our churches, particularly at this time when a number of families and individuals are facing financial pressures from rising fuel, food and other prices..

To date, across the benefice, 21 people who give either by standing order or via the envelope scheme have indicated that they are increasing their giving, with a total increase promised of some £350 per month or around 12% increased donations via in this means of giving. In addition, our Treasurers have received one off donations or pledges of around £1600.

This is really encouraging as we seek to tackle the deficit that each of our parishes are facing. However, the reality is that we will need to do more. This amount, alone, will still leave us spending more than we are earning this year across the benefice (although not as much), but we also have to recognise that the recent price rises, particularly for items like heating, will also have an impact on our churches.

We will continue to keep you informed, through 'Life' and elsewhere, about the financial situation we face and what we plan. Meanwhile, please continue to pray both for our church finances and how God may be calling you to respond.

Kevin Lawrence (on behalf of the benefice stewardship team)

# Stewardship

‘...”WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT ...”  
MATTHEW 25:21 NKJV

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In Jesus' parable of the talents, the first two stewards were rewarded for multiplying what was entrusted to them. The first steward said, '... “I have gained” ...' (Matthew 25:20 NKJV). Now, when God entrusts something to us He doesn't sit up in heaven pulling all the strings, controlling how we handle our stewardship. We have a choice. We've the freedom to mess up His affairs, or maximise them. The first two servants did with their master's money what he expected of them. God gives it to us – but we must handle it. God's not going to handle it for us! That's obvious from the fate of the third steward who said, '... “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man ... And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground”...’ (Matthew 25:24-25 NKJV). He was like those who say, 'God's standards are too high. I'm afraid if I say yes to Him, He'll demand too much of me. I'll just stay here on the sidelines where it's safe.' That's bad stewardship and even worse theology. Don't let anyone convince you that you can't do what God expects of you. By His grace, you can.

The first two stewards knew their master's expectations; that's what being a good steward is all about. We know what God requires of us because He's put it in His Word for us to read. The reason the master's commendation meant something, is because the stewards' work meant something. They had authentic responsibility and they carried it out faithfully. So, where do you rank on the faithfulness charts today? If you're not sure, examine yourself!

*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](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)*

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## Holy Land Tour

