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LIFE MAGAZINE EDITOR

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Articles for the November edition are due by **Sun 16th October**

Editorial Notes

In 1844 the Author Henry Alford wrote the popular Harvest Hymn 'Come, Ye Thankful People Come' and congregations in churches everywhere have been 'Raising the song of Harvest Home' ever since. On Sunday 2nd October churches in the SWCD benefice will be 'Raising the song of Harvest Home' once more with Hymns, Praise and with the churches adorned with all the gifts of harvest, just as can be seen on the front cover showing a Walton Harvest display in 2012.

The top picture on the back page shows most of the walkers of SWCD churches at Ham Wall, and you can read Pam's description of it on page 16.

The bottom picture on the back includes me with some of the ringers at the Merriman fun day, and my report is on page 9.

Last month I visited St Andrews Compton Dundon for one of their Bell Appeals, for which they are aiming to raise at least £150,000 to restore the bells to a full ringing set (6). This will allow the bells to be pealed again, something which hasn't happened in Compton Dundon for around 100 years. Whilst there I was taken up the narrow, dark staircase to where the existing 5 bells are "hung dead" and rung using an Ellacombe Frame. On returning back down I was treated to Tea and Cake.

I'm sure we will hear more in future magazines, Facebook, and the Website, we wish them all the best with the Appeal. Roger.

Rector's Letter

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100 verse 4

Dear Friends,

This month we will be celebrating Harvest with special services and meals across our churches. Whether lunch in Compton Dundon or supper at Walton, it is wonderful to come alongside friends, neighbours & family and celebrate together. It is a time of year when we remember with thankfulness all the good things God gives us and for the ways in which he continues to meet our physical needs. We are truly blessed and even if we are ‘feeling the pinch’ with the cost-of-living crisis we have so much to be thankful for: clean water, a plentiful supply of food, clothes, homes and so much more.

Can I encourage you, in addition to our services and other events, to also set aside some time at home during the week to pause, to worship and to give God the glory. The above verse from Psalm 100, a Psalm of gratitude. There are many similar verses amongst the Psalms which contain a wealth of songs of praise (and lament) which we can read prayerfully as we come before our creator God. Why not read again some of the Psalms this month and if you're unsure where to start, follow the readings for each day of the week on the front of Lifeline (also available on the benefice website) which include a daily Psalm.

Whilst we can be thankful for all that we have, this should not preclude our care for others who may have considerably less than ourselves. There will be many people in the coming months who will be heavily relying on Foodbanks & may be struggling to afford to heat their homes. The ‘We heat, you eat’ project (see details on page 13) will be starting as we open the doors of the

Mission Church in the early part of October on Saturdays and the work of our local foodbanks in Street and Glastonbury will be relying on donations to keep supplies topped up.

Whether you are in need or have enough, foster an attitude of gratitude that seeks to be thankful in all things.

With my love & prayers, Ana

Congratulations

To Andy Savage, a member of the church family at Walton, will be licenced as a Lay Reader for the benefice on

Saturday October 1st in Wells Cathedral.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Andy to the team of Readers across the benefice and look forward to his developing ministry amongst us.

If you have ever considered the possibility of a call to licensed ministry within the church, I would love to talk to you!

Ana Lawrence

ALSO

To Mike Bergner, who celebrates 25 years as a licenced Lay Reader.

He was licenced in Wells Cathedral on the 4th October 1997. He started his Lay Reader calling in St Johns church, Glastonbury. The Mission Church congregation will know him for his drumming skills with the other musicians accompanying the hymns during the services, as well as his sermons and of course his official duties during communion. The last two duties are also carried out in the other 3 churches in the Benefice. Roger Harmsworth.

The Bishop's Letter

The same yesterday, today and forever

Many of us know well Bob Dylan's song 'The Times They Are A-Changin''. Was it written with us in mind? None of us could have predicted the changes that we have seen in 2022. The death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth, the accession of a new King, a war in Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis. None of these were on the cards as we made our new year's resolutions on the 1st of January.

Yet happen they have. And whether we like it or not, we're forced to agree with Bob Dylan's lyrics that the times are indeed changing. What can see us though these days?

A phrase that's often used about the period through which we're going is 'unprecedented'. I'm not sure it's entirely valid! Previous generations have faced situations as challenging or more than ours – seasons of plagues, wars, famines and conquest. The times in which the New Testament was written were, for its writers, periods of profound uncertainty. Its writers faced violence and vulnerability, conflict and dispute. Yet into their times they were able to speak words of hope, confidence and assurance.

One such phrase that stands out for me is a line from the letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews was written in response to a time of persecution and the possibility of people falling back from the faith as a result. Into its time and ours, the writer of the letter makes an extraordinary claim: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8)

Just imagine! The one who walked in Galilee has been there for his people throughout time, is with us now, and will be whatever the future may hold.

So respectfully, I have to disagree with Bob Dylan. In his song he tells us that in the face of times that are 'a-changin', we'd better start 'swimmin'. Much better than hyperactive splashing, I suggest, is to live out our vision to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'. For it's as we do so that we can hold fast to the one who is constant and unchanging, who holds us always in the palm of his hands; Jesus Christ who is 'the same yesterday, today and forever.'

Bishop Michael

Memorial Service

On Sunday 30th October, at 3pm in the Parish Church, Street and at 6pm in St Andrew's Compton Dundon, we will be holding memorial services, a space to remember with gratitude loved ones whom we have lost. Special invitations will be sent to families of those whose funeral services it has been our privilege to conduct in recent times; however, these services are open to all who would value them, whether the loss remembered is recent or some time ago. More details to follow. Ana

Ana Lawrence

Walton Matters

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breath of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man.....And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. 1 Kings. 4. 29-31. N.I.V.

Walton Fun Day.

We were blessed by a lovely sunny day for this village event in September and it certainly brought villagers out to enjoy the many stalls and entertainment. It was hugely successful for everyone concerned and well done to all the organisers. A few of us manned a car boot stall to boost church funds but most of all we were a presence and a focal point for lots of happy conversations. Thank you so much to the gallant team that packed, unpacked, transported and sold all afternoon. It was hard work but worth it.

Harvest.

Our harvest service will be on October 2nd and any food donated to Church will be taken to the food bank to help those that are suffering hardship. We would love to welcome you to worship with us and to give thanks for the harvest that we are blessed with.

Friday 7th October is our Harvest supper in Walton village hall 7 for a 7.30 start. The tickets are £10 for a two-course meal with lots of entertainment. Do come and join us. Bring your own drink but tea and coffee will be available. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are available from Andy Savage 210122, Liz Selway 210236, Sandra Gristock 446211 or from the Royal Oak.

Samaritans Purse.

Shoe boxes will be available for everyone in our Benefice after our Harvest services. I know life might become more difficult for many of us due to rising costs but there may be ways around this. Perhaps several people can combine to fill a shoe box or a donation might be made towards a box or even a £5 donation for posting a box. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need all around the world. In fact, shoe boxes are delivered to over a hundred countries. This mission started in 1990 after a businessman in Wrexham felt called to help the plight of Romanian orphans at the end of the cold war. Since then, more people have become involved to make it such a successful venture.

This year collection week is 14th-21st November so the deadline will be 14th November to give us time to get the shoe boxes to Bagley Chapel for collection. Bless you in advance.

It is with great sadness we tell you of the death of 2 of our villagers. Alan Marsh was Parish Council chairman for many years and instigator of the village fun day. He farmed here with his wife Bridget. We send our condolences and love to Bridget, James, Nicola and families.

We also lost our dear friend Anne Halsted who has been a steadfast member of the Church and a constant support and help to us all. We will all miss her so much. Our condolences go to June, Andy, Robert, Caron, Max, Vita, Hayley and families.

Flower rota.

1st October. Hilda Grint.

15th October. Jo Pain.

29th October. Liz Selway.



Messy Church

Messy Church is an alternative to 'traditional' church and a very special way of reaching out to families in our communities. The reality for many churches is that we are not attracting families to our regular Sunday Morning services for many reasons. The world and our culture has in many respects moved on from what perhaps some of us remember from our childhood.

Messy Church offers games, craft, worship and food after school on a weekday. It is particularly aimed at primary school aged children and their families and our prayer is that for many, this will become church, a place to worship and belong.

To find out more, please have a word with me or one of the team.

Ana Lawrence

Reaching Out – if not you, then who

We have been talking and thinking much as a benefice about reaching out to our communities, showing God's love and sharing our faith in simple and everyday ways. There have been a number of opportunities to do this, in practical ways by getting out into the community and being present as church. Sometimes there has been reluctance to join in, maybe for fear of what others might think, because of diary clashes or perhaps thinking that someone else will do this or that it doesn't really mean me! The reality is that God calls each of us to step out and if it's not you, then who is it?

Please be looking out for future opportunities to get involved. No-one is too busy, too old or too young to be God's hands and feet in the communities in which he places us.

See you there! Ana Lawrence

Belfry News

In accordance with official guidance, bells in the Benefice were tolled on Friday 9th September to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as follows:

Street Mission Church 12 noon - 12:20 Roger Harmsworth

Street Parish Church 12 noon - 13:00 Beverley Perry

Walton Parish Church 12 noon - 13:00 Leslie Perry



Bev Perry

Handbells in the Community

Ever since the first Merriman Park Fun Day, Trinity Handbells have joined in the community spirit with all the other organisations, including Street churches and various charitable and fund-raising groups to try and show the passing visitors the enjoyment of learning and playing tunes on the Handbells.

This year was no exception and the few members of the team that were available played a good variety of tunes, some with just eight bells and others with twelve, the favourite at this time being Grandfather's Clock. We had one or two stopping to listen as we tried to make ourselves heard over the noises all around us. We were there in the community representing Street Holy Trinity Churches at this popular and fun event.

Roger Harmsworth. Team Leader of Trinity Handbells.

September Afternoon Tea

It was good to welcome over thirty people to The Mission Church for the September Afternoon Tea get together. David gave a very informative talk about The Holy Land Tour, (or was it a Pilgrimage?). Pauline was very patient with the technology, as she made sure the wonderful photographs linked in with David's talk. The photographs showed lots of places that we regularly read about in the Bible. At the end of the talk there was time for David to answer questions while refreshments were organised.

Thank you to David and Pauline for sharing The Holy Land Experience with us.

Pam Harmsworth

We heat, you eat

This new project has grown out of a desire to respond in very practical ways to the cost-of-living crisis. As we offer a warm space to those who need this during the colder months it is good to reflect on why we might be doing this.

A number of years ago the logo 'WWJD' became widespread in the Christian community and people would wear bracelets with the question 'what would Jesus do? (WWJD) in any given situation. To an extent we are asking that same question as to what would Jesus do in the cost of living crisis. Where would he

Afternoon Teas

Friday 21st October

2-30pm

Mission Church Street

There will be tea, cake, biscuits

and time to talk

Everyone Welcome

Take part in Christmas Crafting

with Diana Greenfield

hang out? The answer is throughout the Gospels where time and again we read of encounters of Jesus with those on the very margins of life, those who may feel ostracised, those who have little and Jesus offers love, compassion and mercy. As Christians, in setting up 'We heat, you eat', we are seeking to offer a non-judgemental compassionate space that doesn't question why people can't afford the things we perhaps can.

'We heat, you eat' begins on Saturday 8th October and will run each week from 11am – 3pm in the Mission Church. Open to all who would value it, we offer a warm space, various activities and a simple hot meal. Please pray for those from our church family, who will be serving and welcoming our guests and for all those who come along. Ana Lawrence

Foodbank

Our friends at the Salvation Army in Goswell Road, Street are working hard to ensure that supplies are stocked up and ready to be packed into parcels for those in greatest need in our community. Your donations continue to be valued and if you are able to give non-perishable and other items, such as toiletries etc, please leave goods either in St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon, Holy Trinity Walton or drop them off at the Salvation Army who will be pleased to see you.

Ana Lawrence

FREE MONEY FOR YOUR CHURCH?

As you are by now no doubt already aware, our church finances are fragile, with each of our parishes still running at an annual deficit. Although our recent stewardship campaign has seen giving from the church family increase, we are still spending more than we receive, not helped by rising energy and other prices, from which our churches are, of course, not immune. In that context, wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to get donations from major companies and national brands for church funds, absolutely free?

The good news is that, if you do any shopping online, whether for household items or major purchases like holidays or insurance, you can make this happen.

Through a web site called Easyfundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) online purchases from a wide range of companies and brands automatically triggers a percentage of the purchase as a donation to your chosen charity. It's absolutely free for you, doesn't add to the cost of what you are buying and is really easy to use, just needing you to register and remember to make your purchases through the site portal. No-one gets to see what you have bought; the church just receives a bulk donation.

Simple? Why not sign up today and choose your church to receive donations. For Street, use 'Street PCC' and for Walton use 'Walton Holy Trinity Church Restoration Fund'. These accounts were already in existence and have already raised money for their church, but we can also set up an account for Compton Dundon if requested

As the famous advert says 'every little helps!'

If you are looking for other ways to support the church financially, by increasing your giving, signing up for Gift Aid, leaving a legacy or something else, please have a word, in confidence, with your Church Treasurer.

Kevin Lawrence

For the benefice stewardship group

MISSION GIVING SUPPORT

TEARFUND – SUPPORTED BY STREET PARISH

Street Parish have, this year, continued their support for Tearfund – the Christian International development charity, see <https://www.tearfund.org/>

Tearfund describes what they do as follows:

'Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. We tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters, and challenging injustice. We believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.'

As well as responding to emergency situations such as the recent floods in Pakistan, as a member of the 'Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) network of charities, Tearfund offers support for long term development in areas such as the provision of clean water, education and small-scale agriculture as farmers adapt to the realities of climate change etc.

As well as making a financial gift to the charity through the Street parish's tithe, we are also planning to take part in the national Tearfund Quiz again this year. Look out for further details and consider entering a team; it would be great to have one or more teams from each of our churches and start some 'friendly' church family rivalry!

Kevin Lawrence On behalf of the benefice charitable giving group.

A reminder that we will shortly be asking for nominations for charities that your parish could support in 2023. Do you have a cause that you are passionate about that you could nominate? Further details to follow later in the year.

Three in One, Walk

1. We gathered in the car park at Ham Wall Nature Reserve on a warm, Bank Holiday morning, at the end of August. All of us started off together. There was great excitement when some of the group spotted a flash of blue as a kingfisher flew low over the water.

2. When we came to a point on the walk where dogs were not allowed two adults and one dog continued along the main path. The rest of us continued along the route, amazed at the birds and other wildlife that was seen or heard.
3. On reaching a T junction near the end of the walk half of the group decided to head back to the car park, leaving nine of us to finish the planned route.

Some of the birds and other wildlife that we saw were; kingfisher, heron, little egret, great white egret, coot, swans and various other water fowl, marsh harrier, speckled wood butterfly, comma butterfly, moth, damsel flies and dragon flies. *Pam Harmsworth*

Comments from some of the walkers

“I’ve been here lots of times, but never walked in this area.”

“What a lovely way to spend a Bank Holiday.”

“The most egrets I have ever seen here.”

“You could get lost; there are reeds and more reeds.”

“Lovely meeting up with friends from all the different churches.”

“Good exercise and the surroundings were beautiful.”

“I loved the walk, interesting to see all the birds and to meet new people.”

“It was such a lovely walk. It was a perfect day, looking forward to the next walk.”

Flicks @ the Mission

On Saturday 22nd October, we are planning the first of our ‘Flicks@themission’, a chance to watch a film together in the warmth of the Mission Church.

What would you like to see? I would love to hear recommendations for films we can show which you, your friends and neighbours would enjoy watching. It will need to be a film that can be screened and is suitable for viewing by all ages.

Ana Lawrence

Welcoming Pilgrims

I am delighted that in early October we will also be welcoming a small group of third order Franciscan Pilgrims who will be spending the night in St Andrew's, Compton Dundon on a short pilgrimage Franciscan style pilgrimage from Hilfield Friary in Dorset to Wells Cathedral.

Ana Lawrence

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Our late Monarch

We have just said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II and I'm sure like me you are overwhelmed with sadness. I being 5 at the time of her ascension have no memory other than having a Queen reigning over us. On Sunday last I attended the special Commemoration Service in Street Parish church, to give thanks for her glorious 70 years on the throne and to pray for Her and the family she leaves behind, especially our new King Charles III. God now holds her safe in his hands. Roger.

GETTING BUSIER

Someone said to me the other day words to the effect of 'there is a lot going on in our churches these days, isn't there'. There is!

It is exciting to see new initiatives and events developing across SWCD Churches, but as more things start to happen, it is important that we all remember to keep others informed about what is going on. To help us all to do that, I wanted to remind you of a few things to be aware of if you are involved in organising events, meetings or other activities.

1. Tell us about it! Don't forget to let the church family know what is going on. Even if not everyone can come or be involved, others can be praying and sharing details amongst friends and neighbours. There are lots of way to do this.
 - a. Produce a poster. Let the church office have 4 A4 posters for any event in plenty of time so that so they can be placed in each of our churches. If you need help in designing a poster, we have a number of people in our church family who can do so and so please ask. Remember to include the church logo and any contact details and think about where else locally you may be able to put posters up.
 - b. Include something in Lifeline or Life. Copy for Lifeline should be with the office by Thursday for the weekly edition and for Life with Roger Harmsworth (Parish Church) by the next deadline published in each edition. It would be good to also include details of any meetings you are organising in the diary section of Lifeline.
 - c. Add something to our web site and social media. Please send details to Kevin Lawrence (Mission Church) by email.

2. Tell us how it went. Why not write an article for a future edition of 'Life' telling how your event or activity went / is going? It is always encouraging for others to read about what is going on. Pictures of what you are doing (in .JPEG format) are also always useful, both for future covers of 'Life' and our web site or social media.
3. Book it! If you are planning to use one of our buildings, please remember to check it is free first with the church office and get it booked into the church diary. The Mission Church, particularly, is getting increasingly busy with external bookings (from which we earn revenue) and it is always best to check availability, either of the main church or one of our upstairs rooms, first. Even if you have 'always' had that slot, please still check with the office as, if it isn't in the church diary, it could be all too easy for someone to take another booking without knowing you had planned to be there.

Thank you. You can find contact details for all the above on the contacts page in this magazine

At our three recent PCC meetings, each PCC agreed that it would be helpful to undertake a broader review of the way we communicate across the benefice, both in the light of the above and the various new means of communication now becoming available. Watch this space for more details.

Ana Lawrence

The Lord's Prayer

'GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.' Matthew 6:11

Paul says that a man who won't feed his own family is worse than an unbeliever (see 1 Timothy 5:8). So would God do less for us? No, how can we fulfil our mission unless our needs are met? How can we teach, or minister, or influence others, if we ourselves are not provided for? Listen: '... God ... will give you every good thing you need so you can do what He wants ...' (Hebrews 13:20-21 NCV).

We pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread' only to find our prayer already answered. We're like the secondary school pupil who decides to go to college, then learns the cost of tuition fees. He says to his dad, 'I'm sorry to ask so much, but I've no one else to turn to.' His father smiles and says, 'Don't worry, son. The day you were born I began saving for your education. I've already provided everything you need.'

At some point, it occurs to us that somebody else is providing our needs! Indeed, we take a giant step in maturity when we agree with David's words, '... Everything we have has come from You ...' (1 Chronicles 29:14 NLT). You may be writing the cheque or stirring the soup, but there's more to putting food on the table than that. What about the seed, the soil, and the sun? Who created animals for food and minerals for metal? Long before you knew you needed someone to take care of you – God already had! He's committed to you! He lives with the self-assigned task of providing for His own. And you've got to admit that so far He's done a pretty good job!

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

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