

July 2024



50p

Life



swcd-churches.org.uk

Articles for the August edition are due by **Sunday 14th July**

Editorial Notes

Two past Street Bellringers are Congratulated on page 9 in this edition. Tim Hatrey was the tower captain at Street before moving away and marrying. Bob Lampert was the Tower Captain before him. Bob is no longer able to ring, but he has certainly had a good innings, as you will see also on page 9. Bob therefore is a deserving candidate for the front cover with Ana presenting him with a worthy certificate.

Three of my pictures taken at the recent Flower Festival at Compton Dundon in June is just a small presentation on the back cover, of a wonderful display. Top left shows the newly positioned Font (from above) with each month of the year depicted by a different arrangement. The top centre one copies the Bell appeal logo very cleverly. Top right is a simple but lovely display by just one of the village youngsters whose work were to be seen in the choir seating area. More on this festival on page 8. On a recent church 'Nature Ramble' (see page 18) "Orchids in abundance" were seen, and centre back cover shows a small example of them.

In Walton Matters, Sandra reports on their new noticeboard, and the picture is bottom left.

Violin, Trumpet, and Organ players were in attendance at Compton Dundon's 'Songs of Praise' service to conclude the Flower Festival (bottom right).

Roger.

Rectors Letter

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46:1

As I sit here in the quiet of the beach at Burnham and reflect upon the past week, I am drawn to the acts of remembrance that I have seen on the television this week commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Listening to the stories of those that were there that day brought tears to my eyes. One gentleman who lost his brother and some of his friends, said that after the war, he had been 'cloaked in sorrow his whole life'.

I watched the service at Normandy and the pillars with the names of thousands of fallen soldiers, each a son, a father, someone's loved one. A family torn apart. The ages of the fallen are also listed upon this beautiful monument that looks out to sea. The ages of those men who, in some cases were just boys. It was deeply humbling and deeply moving.

So many of those servicemen say that they are not heroes, they insist that the hero's never came home. I have to disagree, every single one of those people who fought for our freedom is a hero, those living or those who have passed into Gods keeping. It is due to those heroes, that I can sit here in peace, the quiet only broken by the sound of the wind and the Gulls and that we are free. My day at the beach brought by *their* day at the beach eighty years ago.

I attended the poem reading at Merriman Park and at the United Reform Church, In Flanders fields was read out, the poem talks of how we must never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war. We stood together after, prayed together.

The opportunity to be still and reflect on each of the names upon the monuments. We were there only a short time, but the enormity of the debt we owe to all the fallen felt very heavy indeed.

What was upon our minds as we stood at the memorials is that this must never be allowed to happen again. We must stand up for peace in our world and that starts in our hearts. Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and to forgive those who trespass against us. What a world it would be if we could live in peace and harmony with each other. Helping, loving and serving each other as equals just as Jesus modelled for us.

We will remember them.

Sister Rachel Pengelly.

Connections@theMission
Thursday 18th July
2-30pm till 4pm
Come Along and Hear About
'My Faith and Motherhood'
with

Rachel Pengelly (SWCD)

There will be a cuppa and cake



Bishop's letter

– A richness of ministry

If we're all alike we tend to think the same. This can be comfortable and reassuring - 'Everyone around here sees things just like I do'. But it doesn't help us think out of the box or worse, spot risks and dangers of which we're unaware - 'Crumbs we never saw that one coming!'. For this reason, companies and all kinds of organisations are seeking to become more diverse. Having differing viewpoints, skills and abilities is increasingly recognised to grow ability to think not only more widely but more effectively too.

Recognising diversity has been very much part of our life here in our Diocese of Bath & Wells during recent weeks. Back in May we acclaimed the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. It's almost impossible now to imagine what our Church would be like without the contribution of women throughout the ordained ministry. At the end of June, the 'Celebration of Lay Ministries' held at St Paul's Weston-Super-Mare saw us affirm, thank and bless the many different roles and responsibilities that lay people are undertaking across our churches and in local communities – from leading worship to pastoral care, ministry with children and young people to preaching and teaching the faith. Again, it's almost impossible to imagine what our churches would be like without such richness.

Our hope is that the diversity we've been honouring will only flourish and grow. For it's essential if we're to bring the light of the Gospel to everyone in our communities – and especially those we find hard to connect with. For none of us alone, either individually or as a group, has the ability to reach everyone. All of us are needed. It's for this reason that one of the priorities we're commending across our diocese is 'shared local ministry'. This recognizes that everyone, everywhere, has a contribution to make. Now surely that's something to celebrate! Bishop Michael

Alpha comes to SWCD Churches



I've been reflecting recently on that famous encounter in John chapter 3 between Jesus and Nicodemus, a learned teacher of the Jewish law. Verse 10, particularly, caught my attention with its challenge to Nicodemus 'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?".

Bishop John Pritchard, in a commentary on this verse, asks an uncomfortable question. Although most of us would not regard ourselves as biblical teachers, he wonders how many of us have, nonetheless, sat in churches for many years, hearing sermon after sermon, and yet still don't really understand the core teachings of the Christian Gospel.

It might be that this last paragraph resonates with you or, perhaps, you or someone you know has been wrestling with what Christianity is really about? This autumn, we will be offering an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore together some of the key Christian teachings in a simple and accessible format, a format which has been used by millions across the globe in recent years.

If you would like to attend the course or would like to bring somebody along with you who you would love to hear more about the Christian faith, please let either me or the church office know of your interest.

Ana Lawrence

Walton Matters

I am he; I am the first and I am the last. My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens: when I summon them, they all stand up together. Isaiah 48. V's 12-13. NIV.

New Notice Board

We were delighted to welcome to Church on Sunday 9th June Adrian and Diane Huggett. Adrian had made us our beautiful new notice board as it was installed on the Thursday before. It was wonderful to greet them and give him our thanks publicly. A photo of Adrian and the board can be seen on the back cover. We are so grateful Adrian for your skill and your generosity.

Garage Sale

Our next event will be 20th July when we will be holding a garage sale. Anyone can book a table either in their own driveway or at the church. A map will be supplied for keen eyed bargain hunters to have a wander. Refreshments will be available in the Church. Lunch time rolls, cheese scones and delicious cake and biscuits of course.

What a good opportunity to clear out any unwanted items from home plus support our church.

New P.C.C. members

We welcome Gill Atwell and Edgar Frampton to our PCC. We look forward to working with you during this exciting time of development.

Walton School

We were delighted to be invited to Walton school on the 11th June for tea/coffee, cake and fruit. The year 6 well-being team entertained us and sat with us as we discussed GREAT DREAM. Giving, Relating, Exercising, Awareness, Trying out, Direction, Resilience, Emotions, Acceptance and Meaning. Not all at once I hasten to add. The first session concentrated on Giving. This can be in many ways, not just financially. 2 young people told me about coming alongside the reception children until they gain confidence or talking with someone who is not coping well or are sad. We shared thoughts on how we could help someone that day.

For the 1st time ever, we had to pick from 1-9 on how we feel on a guinea pig scale. (do ask about that one)

Thank you Walton school for this positive invite and we look forward to joining you for Relating next month.

Sandra.

Flower Rota.

6th July. Geraldine Frampton

20th July. Sandra Gristock





St Andrew's Flower Festival Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed our flower festival. People commented on the warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and hospitality. They loved the wonderful flower displays and remarked on how lovely it was to see the village working together to produce such a remarkable festival. The Songs of Praise was an opportunity to thank God for the beautiful flowers, made special by our very talented arrangers. It was good to sing too and enjoy some festive fizz together. Over forty people were involved in putting on the festival and altogether over **£1,000** was raised towards the upkeep of St Andrew's and the churchyard. John Gordon, Compton Dundon.



Love children? So do we!

Over the last few months, it's really encouraging to see more and more children in our churches, particularly in the Mission Church on Sunday mornings. It's been great to worship intergenerationally at our First Sunday and Celebrate@theMission services, but also to be able to offer separate children's activities at the monthly Communion and DigDeep@theMission services.

We have a fantastic volunteer team who lead our children's work, but with numbers growing, the team could really do with growing too! Could you be part of a larger team of children's helpers on a Sunday morning? Material and support are provided, what we need is people who love working with children, sharing the good news of their Christian faith with them. If you are, like me, excited to see and hear more children in our churches, could you also help to support the work with them?

Please have a word with either myself or Hannah Hindle (Mission Church) if you want to know more.

Ana Lawrence

Congratulations

To Bob Lampert (Parish Church Street) who recently marked 70 years as a member of the Diocesan Association of Bellringers. A certificate from the association was presented to Bob at a recent Parish Church service with the bells being rung in celebration.

Also, to Tim Hatrey and his wife, on the arrival of Flora. Best wishes to all, including proud Grandparents David and Pauline.

Why I have chosen to volunteer at Devon Christian Youth camp (DCYC)

In 2019 I first attended the DCYC junior mixed camp, a week-long Christian summer camp in Blackpool sands, Devon. It was an amazing week where I made many new friends, learnt lots about Jesus and experienced incredible worship. I then booked to go back in the summer of 2020, however as we all know covid stopped this. As a result, I returned to camp, this time DCYC senior mixed camp, in August 2022 and again in 2023. Over these two years I made lifelong friends, incredible memories and generally had lots of fun worshipping and learning more from the bible. Sadly, the age limit to be a camper is 17 so this is where I thought my time in the wonderful faith filled field ended.

However, after some time and thought I decided to look into being a leader to continue my experiences with DCYC. This developed quickly from sending the initial email expressing my willingness to share my faith with the younger generations to being accepted as a leader for DCYC junior mixed camp 2024!!! This role will include joining another leader to look after a tent of 6, 11–14-year-old girls making sure they have an amazing week just like I did as a camper! I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for camp this year as I experience it from the other side, being a leader instead of a camper.

Maisie Day, The Mission Church



Come Home!

The Father looks down the weary road,
where His loved one went off to roam.
His heart was full, His eyes were wet,
“When is the wanderer coming home?”

He sees a distant figure coming,
on the homeward road,
it is His loved one, He starts to run,
to bring the wanderer home.

They meet, the Father kisses and hugs,
the lad says, “I have sinned,”
The Father fetches robe and ring,
and sandals for his feet.

“This son of Mine was dead and is alive again”
The Father says with joy,
“Let's celebrate and have a feast,
to welcome home My boy.”

Have you a loved one on the road,
away from the Father's home he's roamed?
His Father dear is always near,
longing to bring him home.

Are you wandering on this lonely road,
carrying troubles thick and thin?
Come back into the Father's arms,
come home, come back to Him.

Jenny Hall (Mission Church)

The Rectory Pudding Party is back!

In what has now become something of a SWCD Churches tradition, Kevin and I are delighted to invite the church family and friends to the rectory pudding party on Saturday 10 August 3 – 5pm.

For those unfamiliar with what this is, the idea is simple. Bring a pudding and possibly a bottle, turn up at the Rectory (bringing a garden chair if you have one) and then enjoy each other's company and puddings! Puddings can be homemade, or shop bought, simple or 'showstoppers' - what matters far more is we enjoy each other's company over a sweet treat!

No need to book, no need to RSVP, just put the date in your diary and we'll see you there! Ana Lawrence

Pudding Party Photos 2022



God and Nature

Discoveries and Reflection

In my last article I wrote about events in June. The Flora Hunt in Walton Churchyard was a wonderful opportunity to seek out plants large and small (many in flower) and to marvel at how they adapt themselves to their setting, using even the smallest crevices in walls. We identified around 50 plant species. On the Nature Ramble to Street Hill we found many interesting plants on our way up the hill, and once there, a wonderful meadow area with grasses including quaking grass, wildflowers including yellow rattle and orchids in abundance. We identified 4 orchid species and also spotted a mass of bright blue Meadow Cranesbill shining in the sunlight. Reflecting on the June chapter in *Soulful Nature* we recognised a link between the benefit of impoverished soil for many of the plants we were seeing and a sentence in the chapter:

Whether the apparently scarce resource is money or power, or love, the true law of life is that we generate more of whatever seems scarce by trusting its supply and passing it around.

Another section we discussed related to the idea of the sacred:

...Wendell Berry challenges our cultural idea that church represents the 'sacred' space in our culture, while all else is 'secular'. There is no such thing as an 'unsacred' place as he suggests in his poem 'How to Be a Poet': 'only sacred places and desecrated places'.

On our July walk we plan to take a short walk on Shapwick Heath to look for an ancient pathway and butterflies. We will meet at the Mission Church at 11.15 on 27th July to share lifts.

Trees

Walking back down Street Hill the view over Street made us aware of just how fortunate we are to have so many trees in our parishes. The list from Walton's Flora Hunt includes a few of those trees. This led me to reflect on trees and their significance to Christians, and their importance in all our lives.

Trees play an important part in our environment, our health, our economy, our culture and our society. Trees appear throughout the Bible either directly or symbolically, for example referring to wisdom as a tree. They appear in the first chapter of Genesis, the first psalm and in the last chapter of Revelation. They:

...hold immense significance in Christianity, intertwined within biblical narratives, teachings, and imagery. From the creation story to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, trees in the bible symbolize profound spiritual truths and these biblical trees can offer valuable lessons for believers.

<https://plantwithpurpose.org/>

Trees are a precious resource helping to maintain the earth's atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, thus making a significant contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change. They provide shade in summer and reduce the adverse effects of urban heat islands in our towns and cities. Tearfund reminds us that trees provide the raw materials for construction, furniture, cooking implements and paper products. They are an important source of food such as fruit and nuts.



Trees are vital to the health and wellbeing of communities who are most affected by climate change and form part of the work of many agencies working in those communities who aim to encourage the use of climate-smart agriculture techniques. These agencies include Tearfund, Christian Aid and Ripple Effect.

Trees have a key role but the Flora Hunt and Nature Ramble showed that meadows also an significant part of our landscape, providing space for wildflowers and grasses and the wildlife that depend on the habitat they provide. We are fortunate to have both trees and meadow areas in our churchyards and parishes and should look to do what we can to protect them.

Sue Ripley (Street, SWCD Eco Church Group)

An LWA story

Pat King (Compton Dundon) was recently licenced as a licenced worship assistant (LWA) to the benefice. The Diocese featured her story in their recent publicity, and we are sharing it for 'Life' readers

Pat King was a teacher for 38 years full time, and several years after that supply teaching part time. It was only when she stopped teaching that she really began to explore her journey of faith in more depth and consider what God might be asking her to do next. Her Rector, the Revd Ana Lawrence, had previously spoken to her about becoming a Lay Worship Assistant at her church in Compton Dundon, and when the teaching ended, there was a space left that God wanted to fill.

Reflecting now on her decision, Pat says, "I was holding back for a while until I recognised it was something I really wanted to try; I definitely needed a bit of push from God, and I am grateful too for Ana's encouragement."

Pat deliberately chose a course that was away from her Benefice so that she could meet new people and learn from the varied experiences in their churches. "All the learning was brilliant. It was great to share with other people on the Exploring Worship course. Visiting other churches and seeing how they worship was fantastic. I particularly enjoyed exploring worship songs and music, as I am involved in the music in my own church and Benefice and collaborating on approaches to writing prayers. How people celebrate and worship in different ways was just enlightening. During the final session of the course we delivered a 'mini service' in pairs to the group, a culmination of our training journey.

Pat's 'Exploring Worship' group has kept in touch since the training to pool ideas and lend encouragement.

Pat believes that all people are called to serve and that everyone can use their unique gifts to support the church's mission and ministry. "It opens your mind. I think it's really important for the congregation and the body of the church to see people who are not clergy, people just like them stepping up, and sharing in ministry. My experience shows that anybody can do it. I have really enjoyed leading three services to date and look forward to further opportunities. This morning I read that God doesn't call the qualified – He qualifies the called."

Kevin Lawrence

The House Group Experience

"What are house groups all about?" You may have asked yourself that question when you've seen the church house groups mentioned in Lifeline or wherever. So this article is intended to give an idea of what the house group experience is like. Rather than just give my own thoughts, I asked members of our house group to write down what they like about being in the group. And here are some of the things they said:

"It's an opportunity to share thoughts about our faith and beliefs within what has become a friendship group."

"It's good to have time together to explore Bible verses and passages in depth."

“A place to pray for each other’s friends and family.”

“It’s good to have a forum to share my hopes, concerns and aspirations with friends who do not judge but seek to offer support and encouragement for my spiritual development.”

“I gain a lot of understanding of the Bible from meeting and discussing with like-minded people who have become like family.”

“A trusted place to share ideas, thoughts, concerns and joys.”

“It’s a great opportunity to learn about Jesus through each other’s experiences.”

If you are looking for a way to share fellowship with other Christians and to learn more about the Bible or about your faith, a house group might be for you.

There are 3 house groups currently running across the benefice. All the house groups are open to members of any church in the benefice. If you are interested, get in touch with one of the contacts listed below:

Explore@Monday Group – meets on Mondays at 7.15pm in the Mission Church – contact Ian Jones on 07805 935121

Walton House Group - meets on Tuesdays at 7.00pm over Zoom - contact Sonia Beaty on 07504 794909

Wednesday Night Group - meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Mission Church - contact David Hatrey on 01278 723616

Ian Jones (Mission Church)

4 Churches Challenge' sees successful Compton Dundon Bell Appeal fundraiser

With all official permissions now in place and the plans ready, the team behind the St. Andrews Compton Dundon bell appeal are now focusing on raising the remaining funds they need through fund raising events and applications to trusts in order to start this project.

The bell appeal will see the restoration of a full peal of bells at St Andrews and there is also a plan to recruit a team of bell ringers, with interested budding campanologists being trained at the Glaston bell ringing school, based in Holy Trinity Street.

The '4 churches Challenge was a sponsored walk, held in early May. Celia Thomas, the organiser, provided the following report on the event,

Despite the awful weather forecasts, the day was pretty near perfect for the 10-mile sponsored walk on Bank Holiday Monday. 25 walkers and quite a few dogs signed up and set off from St Andrew's Church to head over to Walton Church, then Street Mission Church and Street Parish Church before returning to Compton Dundon. Organised efficiently by Louise Treloggen from Compton Dundon and her team. no one was lost and the first aid kit stayed in its pack!

Determined walkers completed the route spurred on by generous sponsorship. The cream teas at the church revived walkers and supporters alike, though there was concern there wouldn't be any left by the time the walkers got back! Luckily there was plenty for everyone.

Medals were given out at the end to mark this achievement.

Thank you to all around SWCD Churches for supporting our bell appeal. A total of £1,206 has been raised with the generous sponsorship, donations and sale of refreshments.

Look out for more news on this project in the coming months.

Kevin Lawrence

Walton Reordering Update

We are so grateful to the many members of Holy Trinity, residents of Walton and others who have shared their feedback on our reordering plans at the church.

It was good to have conversations and share some of the vision behind the plans. The feedback received is generally very positive although, inevitably and rightly, there are questions and concerns that we will need to consider.

The next stage is to take this feedback back to Walton PCC and then work with our architect to refine and develop our plans in the light of what we have heard. Alongside this work, we will also be beginning to think about how to raise the funding that we will need to both undertake the essential repairs that Holy Trinity needs and develop the building as a modern and welcoming place of worship and community hub for generations to come.

Please watch this space for further developments and continue to pray for our PCC and those working on this project.

Kevin Lawrence

Building for our brothers and sisters in Mfuwe

Each of our parishes has now sent its 2023 financial support for our partner parish in Mfuwe, Zambia via the Diocese of Barth and Wells.

Our money will be used in a project to build a house for the local priest. Unlike in the UK, the local Anglican Diocese in Zambia does not provide housing for their clergy and therefore it is up to the local parish to supply this. With our support this house is now well on the way to completion, and we are hoping that, with this year's donation, the project can be completed.

We will keep you informed of progress and please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Zambia. Kevin Lawrence

Electoral roll – are you on it?

The Church of England does not have a formal membership system as some other denominations do but, the nearest we come to it, is the electoral roll. This is a list of all who associate themselves with their parish church and can be joined by completing a simple form. Membership of the electoral roll runs for a number of years, but then needs to be renewed. Therefore, even if you have been a part of SWCD churches for many years it might be, unless you remembered to renew your membership, you aren't currently on it. If you have joined the church more recently, it would also be great to add your details, which we can't do without you signing up. Whilst joining the roll is not essential, it is also one way of formally saying that you belong to the church family at SWCD churches. It also carries some extra 'fringe benefits' (free visitor entry to Wells Cathedral being one).

You do not need to live in the parish to be on the electoral roll if you are a worshipping member of the church there and indeed, it is entirely possible to be on more than one electoral roll.

If you are not sure whether you are on the electoral roll, why not speak to your parish electoral roll officer, who would be delighted to check and 'sign you up'? The electoral roll officers are:

Sonia Beaty – Walton

Angela Reeve - Street

Peter Robertson – Compton Dundon

Thank you, Kevin Lawrence,

Finance update

Thank you to all of those who have responded to the recent letters sent to all members about church finances. We are grateful to all who have set up new regular giving arrangements, increased their giving or made one off donations.

We recognise that finances are tight for many at the moment and your increased support at this time is much appreciated as your church, too, faces challenging financial times.

If you have not yet already responded to the letter it's not too late and please contact your Treasurer (details on the inside pages of this magazine) to do so. They will also be able to provide you with a copy of your letter if you didn't receive it, or more details if you need them.

As promised, we will continue to keep you up to date with the financial position of our benefice in future editions of Life magazine but if you want to know more in the meantime, please do ask.

Kevin Lawrence

Men's Breakfast

All Men are invited to a Saturday morning "Somerset breakfast" at the Mission church on **August 3rd 9am -10am**. An opportunity to come and start the day by joining with other people for food and relaxed company. There will be an "after breakfast" speaker.

Please do let us know that you wish to come so that we can arrange for the catering. There may be a small charge (<£3). Contact details and for more information Tim Hindle (mission church) tim_hindle62@hotmail.com or 07976 615844

Manna

A time to celebrate What a joy it is to come together to celebrate. Wedding season is upon us and across Bath and Wells this summer, churches will be the scene of couples pledging their lives to one another. But it also a time for us to celebrate those who minister in the church, both our ordained ministers and those who minister in other ways. In June, colleagues, family and friends came together for the ordination of our new deacons and priests at Wells Cathedral. St Paul's Weston-Super-Mare was the venue for our Celebration of Lay Ministries service which saw people from across the diocese come together to give thanks for all that lay people give to the life of the church and to their community.

In May, many of our women priests, past and present, came together to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women priests. Our PCCs and Treasurers have also been coming together at Wells Cathedral for an Evensong with Bishop Michael, followed by refreshments at the Bishop's Palace. "These are all special occasions and an important reminder of how we all serve our God and His Church in a host of ways. In Bath and Wells we are blessed with the gifts of so many people – from those who lead, including ordained ministers, Readers and those who serve in other ways, from mowing the churchyard, to serving refreshments. Our church life is richer for all these gifts and it is important that we take time to cherish them and nurture them as we seek to grow our church and transform our communities together. Manna Team

Youthful bell ringing

An 11-year-old schoolgirl from Locking has become one of the youngest elected members of a bell ringers association in the country. Sophie Taylor, who rings the bells at Locking Church, near Weston-super-Mare, discovered her passion for bell ringing a year ago, inspired by her father, James.

Sophie shared, "I became interested after my dad started bell ringing. I found it fascinating, and I loved the history. So, I asked him if I could have a go and after I tried it, I fell in love with ringing. Manna team

Changing your family dynamics!

‘... TEAR DOWN YOUR FATHER’S ALTAR TO BAAL ...’

Judges 6:25 NIV

Mark Twain said he spent a lot of money tracing his family tree, then twice as much trying to keep it a secret! That reminds me of the family that wanted its history written, so they hired a professional biographer. However, they were worried about Uncle George, the black sheep of the family who had been executed in the electric chair for murder. ‘No problem,’ said the biographer. ‘I will say that Uncle George occupied a Chair of Applied Electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a real shock.’

When it comes to your upbringing or your family's past, you cannot do much except learn from it. But you can do a lot about your future! Your parents may have stumbled in spiritual blindness but you can walk in the light – and take your family with you! Gideon grew up in a family of idol worshippers. One night God told him, ‘... Tear down your father's altar ... Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord ...’ (Judges 6:25 NIV). Was that easy? No, by nature Gideon was very fearful. Furthermore the townsfolk wanted to stone him for doing it. But he surrendered his life to God, and ended up changing his entire family!

So, who is going to change your family dynamics? If not you, who? If not now, when? Gideon discovered that when you work with God, He works with you. So, with God's help, you can change the dynamics in your family – starting with 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

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