

August 2024



50p

Life



swcd-churches.org.uk

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Articles for the September edition are due by **Sunday 18th August**

Editorial Notes

Here we are in August, the month that a lot of church\illage magazines do not publish, thus giving their editor and it's contributors a break, but in July so much has been going on in the life of **Street Walton** and **Compton Dundon** churches we don't want you to miss out or double our work in September.

Anyway, here we are with a 24 page August 'Life' with the winning team of the latest quiz held in Compton Dundon proudly showing their medals to us on the back cover.

July was an exiting time, when Rachel was ordained in Wells Cathedral, for which sadly we were away, and also her first service as a Priest at the Benefice service at St Andrews, Compton Dundon. The bottom picture shows Rachel with Ana and David after that service.

The Rock Pipit taken by Jane Tompsett makes a splendid front cover and you can read all about her long journey up north on page 17.

On page 16 there is a pair of Bellringers pictured, about to depart to their next tower on a tandem and a specially adapted ringing chair for a disabled ringer who gets carried up the towers! What loyalty Bell Ringers have.

Finally on page 23 Ana writes about the forthcoming Bells at Compton Dundon. Roger.

Rectors Letter

Dear Friends,

“..brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God..” 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 1

During the early part of the Summer, our Sunday morning sermons were on the theme of godly relationships. At the outset, we established that our primary relationship as Christians is with God, our loving heavenly Father.

Yet, amidst the pressures of daily life and the many relationships we may have to navigate, whether family, neighbours, friends and beyond, sometimes our relationship with God can be less than it should be, and we don't give God the priority that we should give him. The blunt question is, is Jesus the centre of our lives and are our lives pleasing to him?

In my own life, I have been conscious of many times when I have sought to please others, perhaps through what I achieve and what I can offer. Some people are very good at 'people pleasing', wanting to be all things to all people, never saying no, nor letting anyone down. Sadly, this simply isn't possible and the danger for people pleasers is that they will become 'door mats' always available when others demand. God is not asking us to be like that. Our priority should rather be to please God in the way we live our lives, the way we treat others and the way we use our resources.

The verse quoted above begins a chapter which unpacks how to live a life that pleases God. It's a challenging read but one we need to wrestle with as we seek to re-focus our priorities. The Summer weeks can often be (if not necessarily for everyone) a time when things slow down, demands on us are fewer and we can step back from the ordinary every day. This Summer could that time and space be an opportunity to refocus our priorities?

Enjoy your Summer whatever it looks like for you.

With my love & prayers, Ana

Bishops Letter

Take a break!

It's August! Does that mean holiday season for you? Of course, it will be for some...but where and doing what?

Holidays mean all sorts of different places and activities – sometimes inactivity – and our preferences and choices are hugely diverse. Whether you are travelling this month, or staying at home, any break in our routines gives us a brilliant opportunity. We have a God-given moment to get perspective. Or perhaps I should say that we have the chance to get a renewed sense of who we are, who's we are, and who we might become.

I invite you to step back from everyday tasks and burdens and to place yourself into the glorious divine perspective. It's something we do week by week (or more regularly) in our worship but a holiday, or a break in our normal pattern of life, gives a special chance to do this. Seeing ourselves in a bigger context will, of course, be humbling and make us freshly aware of our frailty, yet it will also raise our eyes and our sights to the potential in which we have a share. The invitation which Jesus gave to his first disciples is the same one he gives us who are the latest generations of his followers. It is to share in something greater and bigger than we can ever fully comprehend, and to do that by accepting our personal part in the community of the Gospel, the church, in building the Kingdom of God.

'Take a Break' urges the signs on motorways. Take a break this summer, whether or not you leave home, to regain your perspective on the beauty and privilege of being a follower of Jesus in bringing the Kingdom a little closer. See the opportunities as well as the challenges in your community, our nation, and the world. Looking more widely and more broadly gives a proper perspective on who we are in the divine economy, and how we can serve both God and also other people.

Bishop Christopher Foster

Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Bath and Wells

35 Years of the Mission Church

In 1990 the new Mission Church replaced the old 'Tin Church' in Street and so, if our calculations are correct, 2025 marks the 35th anniversary of worship and witness based from this 'new' building. 25 years was marked by a meal for church members but, at our recent Street PCC meeting, we discussed the possibility of holding a more outward focused weekend of celebration and events to mark the 35th anniversary, sometime in early or mid-2025.

Ideas discussed included a traditional fete, a meal, and a 'Songs of Praise' to which we invited former members and others from our community to celebrate with us. We might also consider putting together a display of Mission Church and Tin Church memories.

However, to make this happen we need a team of people who are prepared to spearhead the project. If this looks the kind of thing you'd be interested in getting involved in, please have a word with me.

It might seem like a great idea but, without the people to make it happen, it won't get off the ground, so please consider being part of this. Ana Lawrence

New members evening

Many of you may have met newer members at a number of our churches over the last few months. As part of our welcome to them, we are organising a new members evening on Wednesday 18th September to which all those who are new, or who feel new, will be invited.

If you fit into these categories, please look out for your invitation and let us know whether you are able to come by RSVP'ing. If you don't receive an invitation and you would like to come along, please contact the church office. Ana Lawrence

Our July 'Connections@theMission' happened on a very hot afternoon. The Mission Church proved to be a refuge from the hot sun.

We were expecting Rachel, our curate, to give a talk. As Rachel was ill, Ana, our Rector, gave a talk entitled, 'From violin teacher to vicar'. The talk was very interesting, including three instances that Ana knew were from God, giving her encouragement that she should train to be a vicar. After the talk several people asked Ana questions and the discussion continued as we drank tea and ate cake.

Thank you to Ana for sharing some of her faith story with us.

We look forward to Rachel joining us at a future 'Connections' get together.

Pam Harmsworth (Street Mission Church)

Connections

@theMission

Thursday 15th August

2-30pm till 4pm

Come Along and Listen to a talk

Followed by

a cuppa and cake

A meal with Jesus?

Picture the scene. Following the receipt of a gold inlaid invitation you nervously enter Buckingham Palace for dinner with the King in the grand banqueting hall. Candlelight glows, the table is awash with silver and white linen and all around the room stand footmen, ready to serve your every need.

This picture, of course, bears no relation whatsoever to the meals that our King Jesus enjoyed with his friends, disciples and others during his earthly ministry. Our sermon series this autumn 'Meals that Jesus shared' will offer us fresh perspectives as we explore the meals that Jesus enjoyed with others in the Gospels and the impact they had on the people with whom he ate.

Hospitality, breaking bread together, is a powerful way to build fellowship and grow in faith and my prayer is that we will learn more together as we learn from Jesus' example.

Ana Lawrence

My friend Pauline Norton

Pauline was a very faithful member of the Parish Church choir for many years and loved singing.

Pauline was a dear friend of mine and I miss her very much.

Margaret Barrett (Street Churches)

Details of Pauline Norton's Thanksgiving Service

This will be held in the Parish Church on Wednesday 7th August at 12 Noon.

New arrangements for Communion

At the moment, in our Communion services both on Sundays and midweek, we offer bread (as a wafer) and alcoholic wine.

From September, I would like to introduce the option of non-alcoholic wine in all our communion services which will be available to those who would prefer this alongside our current provision. I also want to flag up that we have gluten free wafers for any who need these, and we will ensure that these are also available at our services.

If you would rather not receive wine at all, to receive only the bread is a perfectly acceptable way of receiving communion.

I hope these new arrangements will work for everyone but if there are particular issues, please do have a word with one of the clergy team.

If you want to receive non-alcoholic wine or gluten free wafers, it would be really helpful if you could let either the priest officiating or the warden on duty know. Ana Lawrence

Merriman Park Fun Day

On Saturday 7th September the church has booked a (free) stall at the Merriman Park Fun Day in Street. This fantastic annual community event gives us a great opportunity to share good news and I'd love to build a team of people willing and able to work with me on the day.

Our church mission statement encourages us to 'love our communities' and this is a real opportunity to do that in a simple, practical way.

This year we are planning to offer a prayer space whereby people can come and be prayed for or can write their own short prayers and hang these on a special tree.

Please get in touch if you're able to help.

Ana Lawrence

Holy Trinity Walton

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1. 2-5. NIV.

Fun day 15th June.

This event was very successful and a big thank you to all who spent the day manning stalls and games for the day, providing food and supporting us. Thank you also to everyone who came along and stayed to enjoy the fun. The weather was kind to us and it was indeed a fun day.

Cream tea. 23rd June.

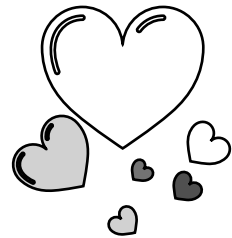
A happy band of people met for a cream tea to say our goodbyes to the Jones family from the Old Parsonage. A lovely social afternoon of catching up with lots of laughter.

Rachel's priesting day 29th June.

So lovely to join with many from our congregation and benefice to support Rachel at this wonderful service. Every blessing Rachel for where God is leading you in the future.

Many congratulations to

Jeff and Carol Brewer on their Golden wedding anniversary. Thank you for celebrating with us and love from us all.



Flower rota.

- 3rd August. Bridget Marsh
17th August. Geraldine Frampton
31st August. Gill Pople.

Sandra Gristock

A busy month of June!

June proved to be a busy and fulfilling time at St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon.

Throughout the month many in the village and beyond have enjoyed browsing and buying plants at the Plant Sale by the church porch. There was a wide variety of flowering and vegetable plants on offer. We were pleased to be able to add to our fundraising through these sales so thank you to everyone who contributed or bought plants during the month.

An exciting milestone took place on Sunday, June 23rd as Ana and Rachel presided at our first Baptism in St Andrew's Church with the font in its new position at the front of the Nave. Not one but four were baptised - two adults and two young children.

Both the congregation and the Baptism families and friends had a much clearer view of the font and the actual Baptism and there was joint recognition of the success of the font move. A warm welcome into our Church to all those who joined us that day.

On the last Friday in June Gill and Gareth kindly organised a fun Pub Quiz for the Benefice. Our brain cells were challenged over a number of rounds including such diverse subjects as cheeses and words with 'e' as the only vowel. The table round was to identify the flags of countries in the Euro competition and the table next to mine managed a full house (we didn't...) Halfway through the evening we enjoyed a meal of either sausage and chips or a fishfinger wrap and chips before the winners were eventually decided after a close-run contest. Congratulations to the 'Who Nose' team from Street! A most enjoyable evening and £290 was raised for St Andrew's Church.

The following day members of our Benefice churches were represented at the wonderful occasion of Sister Rachel's ordination at Wells Cathedral. What a beautiful service and the sun shone beautifully too afterwards as we met Rachel and her family outside. We were all so proud and pleased to be part of Rachel's special day.

On Sunday 30th June Rachel shared the Communion at our Benefice Service in St Andrew's Church. The 'Benefice Band' once again loved leading the musical worship and it was a happy uplifting occasion as we gathered together from all four churches to celebrate. Following the service the celebrating continued as we enjoyed the refreshments, including an array of homemade cakes, along with (Rachel's favourite) strawberries.

An eventful month with a positive upbeat feel, which is continuing as I write this midway through July. As a Benefice we are richly blessed in all we do and share one with another and look forward to more of the same. Amen.

Pat King, Compton Dundon



Congratulations

To our friend at Street Salvation Army, John Melia, who was recently commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army at a national ceremony.

My Faith Journey

I was brought up in a Christian home and had a thorough grounding in the Bible.

When I was about twelve I gave my life to the Lord in a special rally. I remember the hymn playing was 'When I Survey the Wonderous Cross'.

During the following years we moved to different areas of the country, but each time I was lucky to attend churches which emphasised the teachings of the Bible. Having spent many years caring for my parents, when they died I felt in a bit of a void, but the Lord led me to Street and to the church in Walton via a dear lady in the WI.

A few years ago, some of us studied the Pastoral Care Course and through this I became interested in the Healing Prayer Ministry and went to the Acorn Healing Centre in Surrey. I was able to use this as a member of the Healing Prayer team at Spring Harvest. I also took the Lay Pastoral Assistant Course which enabled me to slot in where necessary.

Looking back over my life I can see that the Lord has led me into situations, both work and leisure, where I have been involved in a caring role and an encouraging role. I know that the Lord will lead me through the remaining years of my life until I join him in the Heavenly Realms.

Hilda Grint (Walton)

SWCD CHURCHES WALK

BANK HOLIDAY 26 AUGUST

Join us as we enjoy the Bank Holiday Monday with a late summer stroll. Starting at Street Mission Church we will be walking for an hour or two (wear stout shoes and dogs welcome), ending up, as all good walks do, with coffee or other refreshments. All welcome. Tim Hindle (Mission Church)

Making it happen in Street – two dates for your diary.

We are at the early stages of planning two great events in Street this autumn and would love to hear from people who would like to get involved in a team that can make them happen.

Both will be great ways to 'love our community' but will also raise some much-needed finance for our churches.

On Saturday 21st September in the evening, we plan to hold a simple pre harvest meal with entertainment in the Mission Church.

On the morning of Saturday 19th of October, the plan is to hold a 'Treasures of Street' tabletop sale in the Parish Church. This will be open to crafters, commercial sellers or others who have things they like to sell, with a charge per table and refreshments on offer.

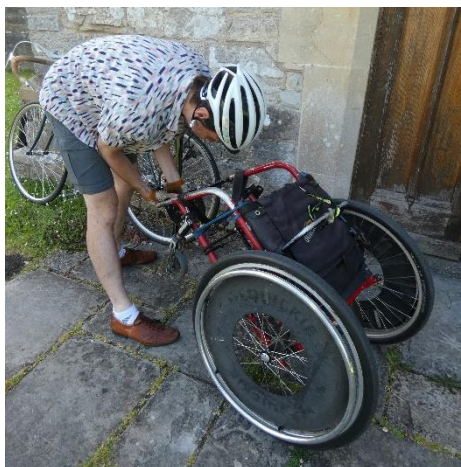
Please put these dates in your diary and contact me if it's something you can be involved in making happen.

Kevin Lawrence

Belfry News

The first batch of students to use the new training centre have 'graduated' and are now joining various practice sessions in the local area and helping with service ringing at their own towers. One joined us on the Branch outing and acquitted herself well on the recently augmented eight bells at Nunney and the light ring at Marston Bigot. There are five students in the second intake and they started learning to ring at the end of April. Three of these live in Compton Dundon and we hope that they will be able to ring at their local tower once the bells are restored/augmented. We welcomed visiting ringers from the Cheltenham area and another group known as the Rovers Society of Roving Ringers. The Roving Ringers stayed at the Youth Hostel and travelled around the area on their bicycles visiting several churches over the week. They rang for the communion service on 7th July; you may have seen evidence of their attendance as well as hearing them.

Bev Perry (Street and Walton Tower Captain).



My summer retreat

For the last few years, I have come up to Eilean Ban a tiny island under the bridge to the Isle of Skye for a month as warden. It is a volunteer job; I give a daily tour of the Gavin Maxwell Museum (book – Ring of Bright Water) and take some adventurous people up the two vertical ladders in the lighthouse. It's a joy to meet these people and hear their stories.

Being on the island is the high spot of my summer. To be in this amazingly beautiful place out with a pair of secateurs in hand cutting back the odd bramble while keeping an eye out for the otter. The otter has been very active and visible this year below the lighthouse.

One of my dislikes in life is driving long distances and certainly the 650 miles to Skye counts as a long way! But not if I only aim to drive 2 hrs a day for 6 days and see friends and have a holiday en route! After all the wisdom of retirement tells us to enjoy the journey and not just focus on the destination!

I count it a real privilege to have been given the ability to have a month's retreat, to withdraw from my normal life to relax and have time to listen to God and to be still to see the beauty of his creation. This year this little Rock Pipit has been one of my photo subjects as he sings out. (see front cover) I like to think he is singing God's praises.

In our busy lives it is good to find space to retreat and to evaluate the last year, to have time to listen to God and make any changes needed for the next twelve months.

As an added bonus I have also written two sermons ready for my return! This helps change my outlook towards wet days, to oh good I can plan..... Love Jane Tompsett Street Churches

Diocesan Day of prayer.

On the 7th of September 2024 the diocese will be joining in on a wave of prayer. We will be praying for transforming our communities and growing our churches across the diocese. We will be setting up prayer spaces in St Andrews Church in Compton Dundon. The prayer stations will be open from 9-30am to 6pm. Please do come along and be a part of this initiative, spend as long as you would like and find an oasis of peace in Compton Church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will be visiting the Bath and Wells Diocese on this day for the larger gatherings in Bath and Bridgwater supporting and encouraging the Wave of Prayer.

What is the change people in your community would like to pray for? Why not ask them?

What is your prayer for the growing church?

“Together we will help more people in our communities to come to know God’s immense love for them, and in doing so playing our part in transforming communities.”

For more information, please speak to me, Sister Rachel or look on the website.

www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/diocesan-day-of-prayer-2024

Sister Rachel.

Journey through James this summer

Over the summer weeks we will be journeying through the book of James in our Sunday sermon series.

The following quote, taken from a commentary on this letter is a good summary of what James is all about.

‘As a good communicator, James addressed his readers directly and pointedly, with vivid images from ordinary life and attention gripping statements. The letter shows how a genuine faith is a tested faith; how encounter with difficulties is an essential part of the growth to Christian maturity.’ (Alec Motyer)

Alongside our sermon series, why not set yourself the ‘summer challenge’ of reading through the 5 chapters of James?

Ana Lawrence

Alpha comes to SWCD Churches

A reminder that we will be running the first Alpha course we have held in SWCD churches for a number of years, starting on the evening of Monday 23 September.

For those not familiar with Alpha, it is an internationally recognised course that introduces the Christian faith, and we'd love to see both those who are exploring faith and those who perhaps feel they need a refresher coming along.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining our Alpha course, please let the church office know. Alpha will be held in the Mission Church and full dates and further details will be published in Lifeline and on our website. Ana Lawrence

A Celebration of Lay Ministries

On Saturday, June 22nd there was a Celebration of Lay Ministries in St Paul's Church, Weston-Super-Mare. It was attended by some of those who play a lay role in church life, including lay pastoral assistants, lay worship assistants, lay readers, Pioneers and honorary Chaplains.

The Celebration began with a Church service, followed by an opportunity to browse the stalls set up in the adjacent Church Hall.

I had decided to go to this service with Jan Jones, a lay reader in our Deanery.

We travelled to Weston early enough to enjoy our packed lunch and an ice cream on the seafront! St Paul's Church is a short walk from the beach and on arrival we were surprised to see this large town church absolutely filled with many others involved in lay ministry in its many forms. The theme for the service was Harmony and at one point we were invited to write a word or draw a picture representing this word. These were collected and collated into a 'Wordle' of many ideas, including musical harmony, world peace harmony and Christian harmony.

Different ministries and gifts in the Diocese were recognised and some interesting examples were shared. Powerful testimony was given by representatives from the Christian Motorcyclists' Association and the Mission to Seafarers. These people are constantly reaching out to those of firm faith and those of no faith, meeting them on common ground and experience to share God's word in their own context.

Another encouraging insight was offered through filmed interviews with Pupil Chaplaincy Teams in Somerset schools, who were shining examples of spreading the good news to their peers in their school settings, as well as carrying out community projects.

Bishop Michael's words affirmed that we all have ministries and gifts to offer and everyone is valued. Being together and working

together in unity, we can create harmony. The Service concluded with a Blessing from the Bishop.

Jan and I agreed that it had been a worthwhile experience, not least to hear the many diverse ways in which lay ministry makes a real difference.

Pat King, Compton Dundon

Volunteers

The Churchyard at Street Parish Church is managed by the local council who cut the grass regularly, but there are other jobs that need to be done to ensure that the area is eco-friendly, tidily presented for worshippers and visitors alike, and the external structure of the building well maintained.

Therefore, it is proposed to get a working party together to tackle some of the jobs that need doing. The date planned is **Saturday 14th September from 10am till 4pm.**

Sue Ripley and myself will detail all that needs to be done and oversee the work. Light refreshments will be available at lunchtime and tea/coffee available throughout the day.

Some tools and equipment will be provided, but if you are able to bring garden gloves, kneelers, secateurs, that would be helpful. Also there may be a need to remove some unwanted articles from the cellar and transport them to the local tip, so a suitable car would be handy.

Please contact Sue Ripley or Roger Harmsworth if you are able to help in any way. Any further details will be found in the September 'Life' and 'Lifeline' nearer the time.

Lastly, I would appreciate some help with flower arranging and coffee at the 11am services at the Parish church. Please speak to me if you can help. Roger Harmsworth.

The Bells ring out!

As plans progress to complete the bell project at Saint Andrews Compton Dundon, we can look forward to the exciting prospect of bells being rung in each of our parishes.

A peal of bells on a Sunday morning is a great way to remind the faithful to come to worship and perhaps remind the not so faithful where they should be! However, our mission statement reminds us that as well as worshipping God, we are to love our communities and we recognise that not everybody will enjoy the prospect of a peal of bells, particularly if it happens at slightly less sociable times.

As a result, each of our PCC's have agreed that it would be sensible to draw up a benefice wide bell ringing policy. This will ensure that both us and our neighbours can be clear about what we will and won't do with our bells.

A small group are gathering to do the work on this and if you would like to be part of this or if you have views you would like to share, please make yourself known to me and I will pass your details on.

Ana Lawrence

Reminder – Rectory Pudding Party

A reminder that all are invited to the now traditional Rectory Pudding party on Saturday 10th August from 3:00pm in the Rectory Garden. For those of you who may not have been before, just turn up, bring a pudding and / or a bottle (maybe even a camping chair if the weather is fine) and get ready to enjoy each other's company and share each other's puddings.

In the unlikely event that the sun doesn't shine we will decamp to the Mission Church. See you there. Ana & Kevin Lawrence

Changes at our benefice link parish in Mfuwe, Zambia

Father Samson Mwanza, until recently the parish priest at Mfuwe, Zambia, wrote to us to say that he has been transferred to another parish in the country. We are awaiting details of the new incumbent, whilst continuing to work with our brothers and sisters in Mfuwe to complete the project which we have funded through our tithed giving, the building of a new priest's house in the parish.

It would be great to have this finished by the time a new person is in post and, in the meantime, I have written to Samson, on behalf of SWCD Churches, assuring him of our prayers and best wishes as he starts his new role

Kevin Lawrence

Walton Reordering update

At our recent Walton PCC meeting, we agreed to take the next steps in the ambitious reordering project we are working on for Holy Trinity. To do this we have created two working groups, and we would be interested in talking to anyone who would like to get involved in either of these:

A building group, headed by Andy Savage, which will take the lead on working with our architect to develop our plans for Holy Trinity further in the light of the comments received at the various recent consultations.

A fund-raising group who will work to raise the money we need to make the project a reality. This is headed by Kevin Lawrence.

Please talk to either of those heading the groups if you want to find out more or would be interested in getting involved.

Kevin Lawrence

