

September 2025

60p



Life



swcd-churches.org.uk



MAGAZINE EDITOR LIFE

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Articles for the October edition are due by Sunday 14th September.

In July, Walton Holy Trinity Church held a 'Garage Sale' to raise funds for the church. There were tables full of unwanted 'Bric a Brac' in several gardens around the village, which were found by the map which was given to you in the church. After a stroll around, on returning to the church, you were welcomed by Declan, (grandson of Sandra Gristock,) who encouraged you to buy from the church stall he was helping with. There were other stalls there too, one of which is pictured on the front cover with Andy Savage and Philip Daniels. There were also refreshments including cake, which were welcomed. Before heading out the door, you were again approached by an enthusiastic Declan, encouraging you to buy. (See his photo on the back).

Also on the back cover are a group from swcd churches relaxing under a canopy, and a lovely picture of Pat King, churchwarden of Compton Dundon, and Sandra Gristock, churchwarden of Walton. Lastly there is a picture of Imogen Lowndes-Northcott (Mission Church) with Tim and Hannah, on her return to Britain from South America, which she writes about on page 17.

Bishop Michael gives an interesting insight to a local clock on page 25, and who remembers Cassius Clay or Muhammad Ali? Read the UCB on the last page. Roger.

Rector's Letter

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” Isaiah chapter 41 verse 10

Dear Friends,

I am aware that some of our church family have faced or are facing tough times with difficult and hard things in their lives. Life can feel overwhelming at times. For some it can be around mental or physical health issues, for others bereavement, for others family problems or financial pressures, and others, painful anniversaries or it could be something entirely different. As Christians, how might we handle things when life feels hard and pressured and we don't know which way to turn? The bible is full of promises, verses of comfort and reassurance reminding us that we have a God who is always with us. God cares deeply; God comes alongside us journeying with us through all the seasons and rhythms of our lives. God is our strength and our shield, he will uphold us and is with us, always.

One of the many joys of being a church family is that we can support one another, and it is so good to see simple pastoral care taking place across all of our churches as we seek to reach out and care for those we know and love often in everyday practical ways. One of the hallmarks of the Christian Church must surely be the love and tenderness between us: “by this will everyone know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John chapter 13 verse 35).

In the tough times and in the good times too, God is always with us.

At New Wine this Summer, one of the many songs that was sung in the Big Top was 'Bless God'. It is a beautiful worship song with profound words:

Bless God in the sanctuary
Bless God in the fields of plenty
Bless God in the darkest valley
Every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name

Let's be a church family who is able to bless God whatever we face or are going through. With my love & prayers, Ana.

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Celebrate@6 welcomes back Hopestream

Celebrate@6, our monthly evening service of worship, teaching and ministry will meet again on 21st September, at 6:00pm, in the Mission Church. We will continue to study the book of Romans and welcome local Christian worship band Hopestream, who will be leading our sung worship on the night.

Please do join us if you can.

Ana Lawrence

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Confirmation

The next Confirmation Service will take place in Wells Cathedral on Saturday 18th October at 2pm. For those baptised, this is an opportunity to publicly declare your Christian faith. We already have one candidate and would love to welcome more. Please have a word with Ana for more information or if you are interested in being confirmed.

Ana Lawrence

A Bishops blessing in Mfuwe

With the Priests house in our partner parish of Mfuwe, Zambia now complete, Father Philip Mwanza has written to say that he has arranged for the local Diocesan Bishop to come and bless his new home. He goes on to say:

Greetings from Mfuwe Parish in Zambia. We continue thanking you and pray to God his blessings to you all.

As Mfuwe parish and on behalf of the Diocese I want to thank you for the spiritual and financial support rendered to us.

August is full of conferences and during these activities, we will be praying for you and your parish.

Blessings. Fr. Phillip.

The house was funded through the charitable giving from each of our churches and we have previously shared pictures of it in Life magazine. Mfuwe parish are now discussing the next project they would like to work with us on and hopefully a proposal will come to our September PCCs if Mfuwe are ready. by then. Kevin Lawrence

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The story of Nehemiah and healthy churches

A reminder that, from mid-September, we will be beginning a new sermon series based on the Old Testament book of Nehemiah.

Alongside retelling the story, we will be exploring what this has to say to us as we consider what it means to be a healthy church. The author Robert Warren conducted extensive research amongst churches and used this to suggest seven marks of a healthy church in his book 'Healthy Church Handbook.'. If you would like to read more, please consider getting hold of Robert Warren's book or 'Nehemiah for You' by Eric Mason, available, as they say, in all good bookshops or online. I look forward to digging deeper into God's word with you this Autumn
Ana Lawrence

Cream tea anyone?

You are invited to come and share a Cream
Tea on

**Saturday, September 20th,
from 2pm - 4pm.**

Join us in the

**Meadway Hall, Compton
Dundon**

for an afternoon of good food and good
conversation.

We will be asking for voluntary donations for
one of St Andrew's Church's chosen
charities this year,
the work and mission of Bonny Downs
Church.

We look forward to seeing you there ...

Pat King

What has the UK inflation rate got to do with church life?

You may have seen headlines over the summer, reporting that UK inflation reached 3.6% per year, the highest rate for over 18 months. You might be wondering, however, what this has got to do with church and why we mention it in a church magazine?

The simple reality is that inflation affects all of us, including the church. Just as prices rise for our personal shopping and other bills, so prices also rise for the church, be that for heat and light or insurance, or even the cost of buying communion wine and wafers.

In response, we need to increase our income in order to balance our books, and we therefore regularly ask church members to review and increase their giving. The good news is that, whilst inflation has increased, so have incomes, even if it does not always feel like it! Government figures also show both average earnings (5%) and the state pension (4.1%) have increased more than inflation.

In the light of this, could you increase your giving to help the church cover rising costs? It's easy to put things like this off and then find that you have not changed your giving for many years. Maybe, if so, this article is your prompt to take action? If you do sometimes forget and you want an easier way to review your giving regularly, please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. This scheme gives an option to increase your giving each year automatically, in line with the rate of inflation, although you always have the option to opt out of any increase before it is applied.

You can find details of the Parish Giving scheme for your parish on our web site https://swcd-churches.org.uk/Groups/304053/Give_to_us.aspx or please contact us, in confidence, to discuss your giving or find out more information. Thank you, Sonia Beaty Treasurer of Street and Walton . Julie Gordon, Treasurer of Compton Dundon.

Healing Ministry

From the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's letters and the life of the early churches, healing groups were clearly evident. These were people who responded to God's call and Jesus' promises as he talked about the kingdom of God. These were not 'extraordinary' Christians, rather those who saw God's vision of healing for a broken world and agreed and allowed God's healing power to flow through them. In October we can celebrate the beginning of healing teams at both the Parish and Mission churches. Members of our church have come forward and are completing the Acorn Trusts' course preparing them for this ministry. We can thank God for their service and their openness as they seek to serve God in our churches and beyond.

How will this unfold? From October, on the second Sunday of the month at the Mission Church, members of the healing team will be available to people for prayer. This can be for prayer for themselves or others. It will be discreet and done sensitively in the main body of the church. This may or may not involve the laying on of hands or anointing with oil. We will be asking God to come to meet us at our point of need so that God can bring us to fullness of life and have life in all its fullness. On the third Sunday of the month another group will gather at the Parish Church. Can I ask you to pray for these people as they begin this ministry of discerning what work God has for them.

This adds to the group that already meet at Walton Church on the first Sunday of the month. This group meet and pray with those who come forward for healing. Both members of our congregation and beyond, have already celebrated with us the difference this has made for their lives. We in turn give the glory to God for all that he is doing through us.

Finally, please be aware in the conversations of which you are part that if there is a need for healing you talk about this and suggest that they might come for prayer.

We look forward to all that God will do through his grace.

Revd David Hatrey

My Faith Journey

I have always been along to church from birth, having been brought up by Christian parents. Sundays were always a busy day and certainly not a day of rest! There was a service in the morning followed by Sunday School in the afternoon and then a service in the evening. My gran holds a very special place in my heart as she had prayed for me every day that I would come to know the Lord. Her prayer was answered when at the age of 10 I gave my heart to the Lord after listening to the speaker at the evening service, and understanding for the first time that Jesus had died on the cross for me and wanted to come and live in my heart. I told my mum the next morning that I had asked Jesus to come into my heart and we went to see my gran and told her too. During my teenage years I found that I didn't always want to go to church and would have preferred to join my non-Christian friends who seemed to be doing more exciting things on a Sunday. I knew that this would prove to be a battle with my parents and so continued to go along to church to please them and avoid arguments. The church introduced an annual Youth Holiday and it was during these days of spending time with our youth leaders and other Christians that my faith began to grow. At the age of 16 I was baptised. I later became a Sunday School teacher, teaching 6 – 7 year old girls, which I loved. At the age of 19 I began singing in a Gospel Group called 'Born Again' with my brother and two girls from the church. We would travel all over the Birmingham area taking church services and also leading

special events. My faith continued to grow during these times. It was at one of these events that I met my husband Steve. We started going out with each other and Steve would come along to various churches with the group and often helped out with the sound system. We got engaged 6 months later and married the following year in 1981. We were blessed with our only child, a daughter, in 1983.

In 1985 we moved from Birmingham to Somerset with Steve's job, first of all living in Glastonbury and then in the year 2000 we moved to Street. We had attended Street Baptist Church for many years where we served the Lord together as Sunday School teachers, Youth Leaders and in establishing the music group, leading worship with Steve on his guitar and me playing the flute. We have always enjoyed serving the Lord within the church and I have always sought to try and encourage and pray with others on their faith journey. I really enjoyed being involved with leading a group on the Alpha Course.

About nine months ago we began to attend The Mission Church where we have now settled and my prayer is that the Lord will continue to use me as I seek to serve Him here.

What does our future hold? We do not know of course, but we pray that the Lord will guide and lead us and show us what He has planned for us wherever that may be.

"For I know the plans I have for you, 'declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29 v 11

Linda Clark (Mission Church)

New Wine Encouragements

Over the summer a group from across SWCD Churches attended New Wine, either as campers, day visitors or serving on team. New Wine is a large, national Christian festival, taking place only 10 miles away from us on the Bath & West Showground near Shepton Mallet each year.

Read below some of the things that festival goers have said about New Wine when they were asked to finish the sentence

'The best bit of New Wine for me was...

being encouraged to hear and participate with how God is working with churches and Christian communities across this land and beyond. The teaching, worship, prayer ministry and workshops all helped encourage and equip me in my faith.... And the camping was pretty fun too!

Tim Hindle (Mission Church)

The quiet early morning Communion service in a tent and listening to stories of God at work through local churches.

Kevin Lawrence (Mission Church)

Spending quality time praising God, really relaxing into God's presence through worship and praise. Also it was so encouraging to spend some time relaxing with Christian friends from our church, getting to know them a bit better. New Wine will always be a little glimpse of Heaven for me!"

Julie Day (Mission Church)

Uplifting worship, encouraging and challenging talks, the company and chats at the campsite, blessed to have such wonderful people in my church family. Overall it is a brilliant few days to step away from other things and tune into the holy spirit, sing until your voice gives out, refresh and reboot.

Hannah Hindle (Mission Church)

We will certainly be going again as a group next year, with some camping and some taking advantage of day or evening tickets or serving on team. Please have a word with Ana, I or any of the above if you would like to know more and watch out for details of next year's booking deadlines. Kevin Lawrence

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Church contacts list

Every two years we update our church contacts list and the new list for 2025 was issued by the church office over the summer. If you haven't received your copy and you have asked to be on the 'public' list please contact the office.

The contacts list will give you the names and contact details for the church family from across the benefice, and please keep it in a safe place and use it to stay in touch with each other.

If you notice any errors in your details on the list, or your personal information needs to be updated, please don't wait two years until the list is updated again, but let the office know.

To comply with data protection law and to honour the promises we have made, please do not share contact details with people outside the church family without the permission of the person concerned. Thank you. Ana Lawrence



SEASON OF CREATION

The Church of England with other denominations celebrates September 1st to October 4th as the Season of Creation. This abbreviated article reflects on this year's theme of **Peace with Creation** based on Isaiah 32:14-18

The palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks (Isaiah 32:14).

The prophet Isaiah portrays a desolate Creation, devoid of peace due to injustice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. Devastated cities and wastelands reflect the destructive impact that human activities can have on Earth.

Though God's plan for Creation is rooted in justice and peace, human sin disrupts this, leaving Creation in ruin. Isaiah vividly describes the results of human estrangement from Creation.

Many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Our impact has expanded from local to global, manifesting in unsustainable lifestyles, excessive consumption, lasting pollution, and a throwaway culture.

Our Hope: Creation Will Find Peace When Justice Is Restored

There is hope for a peaceful Earth. Biblically, hope is active—it involves prayer, action, and reconciling with Creation and the Creator through repentance and solidarity. Isaiah envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved. Righteousness leads to peace and restores the land's fertility.

Creation is God's sacred gift, entrusted to our care. Christians are called to protect and nurture Creation in peace, working in partnership with others and passing this responsibility on to future generations. Churches engage globally in climate, agriculture, and biodiversity efforts, grounded in theology and a prophetic call for repentance and justice. Only through reconciliation with and genuine justice for all living beings will Creation find peace, fulfilling Isaiah's vision (32:16-18).

A Call to Action: "The Effect of Justice Will Be Peace"

God calls us to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). We are called to live in peace, worship the Creator, and work for a just and sustainable community that aligns with God's eternal plans. As co-workers with the Creator, we must embody peace with all of Creation. God's peace is unconditional, rooted in justice and righteousness for all people and Creation.

God declared all Creation "good." Despite the damage caused by sin (Genesis 3:17-19), biodiversity reflects generosity and abundance. The Spirit guides us to ecological conversion and a deeper understanding of our cosmic family. We must change our mindsets, embrace righteousness, and teach these values to future generations. Peace with Creation requires proactive steps. Jesus taught repentance and restorative justice. We must repair broken relationships: between humans and Earth, humans and other creatures, and humans and God.

While the challenges may seem overwhelming, Christ reminds us, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Hope fuels action; through prayer, discernment, and commitment, we can create a foundation for change.

God's peace emerges when we work for justice, solidarity, reconciliation, and harmony with Creation. Transformation takes patience, understanding, and trust. Action can include advocacy, sustainability projects, cleaning campaigns, or education to show that caring for Creation is central to our faith. We must collaborate and build on diversity to achieve peace. Peace processes, such as reforestation, river cleaning, or building wells, can unite even divided groups.

For the full text, further information and resources visit

<https://seasonofcreation.org/> and

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation>

Susan Ripley, Eco Church Group (Street)

New Member's Evening

It has been great to continue to welcome new members of the church family to our churches over the last few months.

Those who have joined us should shortly be receiving an invitation to a new members evening on Monday 13th October when we will explore together what it means to be part of the church family here.

If you have recently joined us and don't receive an invitation, it's possibly because we don't yet have your contact details. Please speak to the church office or complete a welcome card which you can find in each of our churches, handing it to the church warden on duty and we will be in touch. Ana Lawrence.

'Amazing Grace', get your tickets now

We are excited to have booked the Christian Theatre company, 'Oddments', to perform in the Mission Church on the evening of Saturday, 18th October.

This will be the first night of the Yeovil based theatre company's new play 'Amazing Grace,' which they describe as:

"A voyage of discovery as we tell the incredible story of John Newton – the sailor and slave-trader who went on to write the famous hymn 'Amazing Grace.' Watch Newton's journey of faith unfold as he battles the high sea, lost love and his own destructive self and eventually finds himself at the mercy of a compassionate God."

Oddments will bring a professional production, with previous performances at the Mission Church being well received by packed audiences.

Tickets, priced £14, are now available via this link

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/AGStreet>, or contact the church office if you cannot book online

Ana Lawrence

Short term Mission in South America

I have just got back for the most incredible 5 months of my life in South America serving with a Christian mission organisation called Latin Link. I spent 2 months in Ecuador and 2 months in Colombia serving. Ecuador was amazing because we were fully thrown into the deep end; completely embedding in the community that spoke zero English and with full days of manual labour filling our schedule otherwise busy with the 5 services a week! The community were so beautifully welcoming and by the end of 2 months we fully felt like family. We built a roof for their church that previously had a tent and this proved demanding work in the 30° heat. The services we found so incredible how God and his message can defy language as, despite not understanding a lot of the service, the message and spirit were definitely conveyed. After the church roof was built, we helped out with a holiday Bible club that they were running for kids in the area. This was an incredible experience and a lot of us really discovered a passion for working with kids and the change, over just 2 weeks, was unbelievable!

After some hard goodbyes in Ecuador, we headed to Colombia and got settled in. This was a very different style of mission with multiple ministries in different places. One of our ministries was 'Mom moments': a group for young mothers with young children where we would entertain and work with the kids while the mothers got a talk on raising a child. This was in a very poor area and we really connected with them, it felt like we helped them to progress. Another ministry was a set of schools that we worked with where we headed in and helped the teachers with their lessons; practicing pronunciation and other stuff. We also led some Christian camps which were just incredible and the kids by the end were just throwing themselves in wholeheartedly. Overall, I have absolutely loved my time and would recommend mission to anyone. Imogen Lowndes-Northcott. Mission Church



A reminder about car parking in the Mission Church

In our August 'Life' magazine the churchwardens for the Mission Church wrote about the need to ask for parking permits if you want to park in the Mission Church car park outside normal service or event times. This is just a reminder that, if you have not already applied for your parking permit, please do so by contacting the church office with your full name, the church you normally attend, and the registration number of your vehicle. Thank you for helping the wardens to manage the use of the car park well. Ana Lawrence

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Global Lunch



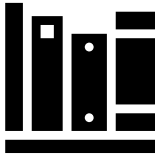
Sunday 12th October, why not join us On for a Global Lunch to celebrate harvest, an opportunity to enjoy food from around the world, sampling favourite dishes prepared by church members.

Open to all in the benefice, we will gather in the Mission Church from 12 noon onwards to eat together.

If you would like to come along, please sign the list.

If you have a favourite dish, either from the country where you were born or raised, or one that you enjoy cooking from around the world, how about preparing it and sharing it with the church family. We will ask for a donation from those attending to cover the cost of ingredients. If you are willing to prepare a dish, we would ask you to let us know what the dish is, where it originates from, and whether there is any allergy information that people need to be aware of. Please let the church office know who you are and what you can bring.

Come and celebrate with us! Ana Lawrence



SWCD Book Group

Our most recent meeting

We met recently to discuss 'I Capture the Castle' by Dodie Smith. As often happens there were mixed reactions to the book. Not everyone had finished reading it so we did our best to avoid 'plot spoilers' in our discussions.

We revisited a book we read some time ago, 'The Salt Path', questioning whether we felt differently about it in the light of media reports about the veracity of elements of the story. Some felt it didn't greatly alter their response to the story, with an awareness that any autobiographical account is told from a personal viewpoint and may omit unfavourable details.

A book we read more recently, 'The Spire' (William Golding), has recently been serialised on Radio4; at time of writing, it is still available on BBC Sounds.

Future meetings

We agreed that we would read 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald for our November meeting (Tuesday November 18th) and 'Small Things Like These' by Claire Keegan for our January meeting (date to be arranged). Suggestions for books that we might read in future include: 'The Poisonwood Bible' by Barbara Kingsolver, 'The Penguin Lessons' by Tom Michell and 'The Red Tent' by Anita Diamant.

The book we will be discussing at our September meeting, on **Tuesday 16th September 11am** at the Mission Church, is: 'The House at Riverton' by Kate Morton. We are a Benefice Book Group and welcome new members.

Susan Ripley (Street)

What is Open the Book?



Open the Book is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, storytelling teams use the Open the Book programme to prepare and present a 10 to 15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible. Storytelling teams are made up of trained and safely recruited volunteers from local churches who sign up to follow the Open the Book Code of Practice.

Within Street and Walton, we share the Bible stories in Walton, Elmhurst, Hindhayes and Brookside Schools either weekly or fortnightly depending on which school. Our storytelling sessions are met with real enthusiasm from the school communities, children and adults alike. The children so enjoy dressing up and acting out the story as well as singing the action song at the end. The teachers are always very pleased to see us and are very welcoming. We feel it is a real honour to be able to share the Bible stories with the children, who probably would not hear them otherwise. As a team we support each other well with prayer, care and love.

It all started in Bedford in 1999 as a millennium project. Dave Todd recognised that children didn't know Bible stories and he yearned to change that. Dave believed that if there was a way to bring Bible stories to life for children in a way that was engaging, interactive and fun, it would make a difference. One evening, he gathered in his living room a group of Christians who had experience working with children and in schools. They didn't know why they were there. Dave unveiled a giant cutout of a lion that he had made, and asked the group, 'How are

we going to tell the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den?' Since then, Open the Book, as it became known, has grown beyond what anyone ever imagined. There are now more than 7,500 Open the Book Storytellers who comprise more than 2,500 teams. These teams go into over 3,000 primary schools across England and Wales. This means more than 360,000 children are hearing Bible stories regularly in their school assemblies. Open the Book is also growing in another 18 countries spread across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. How thankful we are for Dave Todd's vision, commitment and creativity in finding a way to bring Bible Stories to life for children.

In September when school returns our stories begin with Creation and journey through the familiar Old Testament stories. We end with Christmas and then in January 2026 we start with Epiphany and then the stories focus on the Life of Jesus up until Easter.

Pauline Hatrey Open the Book Team Leader Street and Walton

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Congratulations



To Mandy Priestley, St Andrews, on recently celebrating a significant birthday

To Ana and Kevin Lawrence on the arrival of their granddaughter, Olive Adelpha Sutton.

To Dave and Steph Hall (Mission Church) on the birth of their most recent granddaughter

To John and Julie Gordon (Compton Dundon) who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, August 2nd.

To Andy and Louise Savage who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the 6th September. With love from us all at Walton.

Finally, Margaret
Mission Church) will



Barret (Parish and
be 90 on the 11th October.

Dig deeper into the Bible this autumn

Starting on the evening of Tuesday 30th September at 7pm, you are warmly invited to join us as we dig deeper into the Bible through the eight week 'Bible Course'.

As part of our commitment to be a church that is 'growing in faith', we will take an interactive journey through the big story of the Bible. The course, running in the Mission Church (we need a screen!) will 'help you and your church discover how Bible characters, stories, and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation'.

Using videos narrated by Dr Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society, and with plenty of opportunities to discuss and learn together, this is a great opportunity to find how the 'meta narrative' flows through the most purchased book in the world and what that story might have to say to us today.

If you would like to come along, please let the office know so we can plan for numbers. If you would like more details of the course please talk to me. Ana Lawrence

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Liz Selway

The funeral of our dear Liz Selway was an amazing tribute to someone we all loved and cared about. The church was packed with lots standing and the church itself looked stunning with so much work put in by every member of the congregation. The family were overwhelmed I know. Thank you to Ana and David who led the service wonderfully. Sandra.



St Andrew's bells ring out!

There has been considerable interest in the new bell ringing gallery at St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon.

We have a regular bellringing team who ring monthly before the 10 am service. But the bells can be heard each week before church, thanks to an automatic chiming system. In addition, we have welcomed other bellringing teams who have enjoyed viewing the new gallery and ringing the bells. Recently there was an hour of ringing during the Village Show celebrations to celebrate 25 years since the new Village Hall was built.

On Friday, August 15th ringers nationally were asked to ring at 6.30 pm to commemorate VJ Day and the bells rang out over the village at this time.

So our new bells and ringing platform are getting plenty of use and have been heard and enjoyed by many. Pat.

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Coffee, chat and snacks.

Guests at Coffee chat and snacks enjoyed a summer cream tea and cake morning. As you can see, we had a wonderful spread of different cakes lovingly made and donated by our volunteers. Many thanks to those who provided them! Would you like to know more? Please ask me, or grab one of our cards in the church. We would love to welcome you on a Saturday morning. Sister R Pengelly



Living generously Generosity begets generosity

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

In August I was privileged to dedicate the restored clock in the tower of Montacute church. It's not just any old clock. In fact, Montacute's is amongst the oldest in the country. Built in the village in **around** 1400, the clock is so old that it is held in place by iron wedges. At the time of its construction, the nut and the bolt wouldn't be invented for another hundred years!

The Montacute clock is an artefact that seems to generate generosity. In the 1980s the clock was restored by Humphrey Hamlin, for whom it is now named. Humphrey poured time and energy into its mechanism, preventing it from being scrapped. During the last two years, heroic efforts by the people of Montacute have led to its further restoration. All this was marked last month by a whole village gathering. The community choir sang, Morris men danced, the local pub provided a hog roast, cake was dispensed in huge quantities.

Montacute is a beautiful example of how generosity begets generosity. Like a chain reaction, one act of generosity, the restoration of the clock, led to another, another and another. As a result, a whole community was brought together in celebration and joy.

In his second letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul writes of the church in Macedonia that 'their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity' (2 Cor 8:2).

Having nothing, the Macedonians discovered that they could still give. In turn, their generosity enabled Paul to challenge and encourage the church in Corinth to do the same. All to help the struggling Church in Jerusalem.

As I travel around our diocese, I see this pattern of generosity begetting generosity happening in so many places. One person starts, another adds their contribution, more join in and soon we learn that together we are so much more than the sum of our parts. This is the economy of God. It's an economy that all of us are invited to join.

Bishop Michael.

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More New wine Encouragement.

It was a joy to go to New Wine this year and meet up with the others from our benefice as well as old friends who had moved on. The worship and teaching were amazing and I came back on a cloud.

Do consider and pray about joining us next year. You don't have to camp; I drove in daily but I know the campers enjoyed themselves and made us very welcome when we arrived.

Sandra Gristock (Holy Trinity Walton)

Connections@theMission

Over the last three months we have had three different speakers at our '*Connections*' Get Togethers.

Pat King (Compton Dundon) told us about some of her teaching and faith experiences; and shared some of the pictures, cards and thank you letters, that previous pupils had given to her.

Margaret Long (Mission Church Street) gave us an insight into the George Muller Children's Homes.

In August Jane Tompsett (Lay Reader) led the group as people shared a bible verse and explained why their chosen verse helped them in difficult times.

Tony Hall (Mission Church Street) will be sharing, 'A Very Special Time With Jenny' at the September '*Connections*'

Pam Harmsworth (Mission Church Street)

Connections@theMission

Thursday 18th September

2-30pm till 4pm

Mission Church Street

Come Along and Hear Tony Hall (Mission Church)

talk about

✿ ✿ 'A Special Time with Jenny' ✿ ✿



Followed by



A cuppa and cake

WELCOME!



Forthcoming Events at Holy Trinity Walton

We will be having a table as usual at Walton Fun Day on 13th September starting at 1.00. Do come along to support and encourage us. It is such a good day with so much going on. As well as the car boot sale there will be ferret racing, children's races, bouncy castles and live music. Plenty to eat and drink and fireworks at the end. Fun for everyone.

We will be hosting a MacMillan coffee morning on September 25th. 10.30 -12.00. We are proud to support such a worthwhile cause so please come along. There will be plenty of tea, coffee and cakes as well as some games and a sale table.

Our Harvest festival service will be on 5th October and as always our gifts of non-perishable food will be donated to the food bank. We will be having a Harvest lunch after the service to which you are warmly welcome.

Sandra.

Don't Give Place to Pride

'OUR POWER AND ABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY ARE FROM GOD.'
2 Corinthians 3:5 AMPC

Before his 1971 fight with Joe Frazier, Muhammad Ali said: 'There's not a man alive who can whup me. [He jabbed at the air with his blinding left.] I'm too smart. [He tapped his head with his glove.] I'm too pretty. [He showed the cameras his profile, like a bust on a pedestal.] I am the greatest! I am the king! I should be a postage stamp – that's the only way I'll ever get licked!' Guess what happened in that fight? To the amazement of all, especially himself, Ali lost to Frazier. When confidence in your own ability and resources becomes pride, and then becomes arrogance, you're heading for trouble. The Bible says, 'Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall' (Proverbs 16:18 NKJV).

So, how do you find balance? By remembering that every gift, ability, talent, and resource that you have comes from God. Confidence is essential to success. There is nothing wrong with recognising the gifts God has given you. But the difference between self-confidence and Christ confidence is found in who gets the credit. A good way to keep this thought in the forefront of your life is to practise the art of thanksgiving each day. It's hard to be too self-confident when you acknowledge that you are nothing without God's grace, which is His unmerited, unearned, undeserved favour. The Bible says: 'All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time' (1 Peter 5:5-6 NKJV).

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