

# NEWS Extra

Parish of  
Dibden  
magazine

September  
2025

70p

## WONDER ZONE





# WELCOME MESSAGE



**Rev'd Ian McGill**  
Associate Minister

Welcome to the first of our autumn editions of News Extra ... after what seems to be a very short (and very quick) summer break!

September is always a month of new starts, or re-starts as many of the regular community and church activities have been paused for a while, and as holidays and breaks have been taken.

I always find much to look forward to as autumn approaches, a season of colour and fruitfulness in many ways, and yet a season that also heralds opportunities to give thanks for the harvest and to begin the preparations for winter to follow. It is a mystery, and joy of creation, that as the seasons turn over, often signs of the next one to come are already visible in the present days ... for autumn is very much on its way!

Within the parish of Dibden, in and around both churches at St Andrew's & All Saints', we are blessed that so much takes place throughout the year, not only church activities, but also within the local community. Many groups and meetings regularly take place each week and it is a joy

to behold that the church is place of both spiritual and social contact for so many.

In September we look forward to the start of the new 'Alpha' course and the 'Mechanix' course (see further details on pages 7 and 8). And we welcome back all who are joining our regular Home Groups, who meet throughout the weeks in different home locations around the parish. Home Groups are a main stay of our church community and offer regular support and opportunities to study the Bible, for fellowship, and to pray together. If you are not already part of a regular group and feel this is something you may be interested in, please contact the church office at St Andrew's for further details. We would be delighted to encourage anyone who would like to find out more.

Toward the end of September, we anticipate the season of Harvest in the church year, and to be mindful that we must remain grateful to God for all that He provides.

May we all find His joy and hope in this coming 'new' season, and in whatever direction he may lead us.

With all blessings, **Rev'd Ian**

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\* non-voting member



# PARISH NEWS

## SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER - CHURCH FAMILY BBQ

This year, our big BBQ is on 6th September at Peter and Claire's. The event begins at 5pm (and continues into the evening). To give us a guideline on numbers, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer at St Andrew's Centre. If you would like to contribute to the food, please sign up on the second sheet, also in the centre foyer.

## OUR WEEKLY NEWS EMAIL IS CHANGING

This month, we are changing how we send out our weekly news emails. Going forward, we will be using MailChimp, an email platform

that can display story photos and uses your existing email addresses. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office.

If you don't currently receive our weekly news email but would like to, please contact the parish office to be added to our mailing list: [office@dibdenchurches.org](mailto:office@dibdenchurches.org).

## OPENING ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

With a number of people visiting All Saints' Church, Dibden, throughout the week, we need to ensure that we can open at the times advertised – Mondays 9:00am-3:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00pm-4:00pm. We currently have a need for a volunteer on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Thursdays, plus someone to cover gaps if someone

is away. Can you help? Please contact the parish office.

## ENGAGEMENT GROWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

It's been encouraging to see an increase in numbers of people following us on social media. Whenever a new story goes up and is shared, it's a point of contact for those who may not come to church, but might like to. A few weeks ago, we reached a milestone – 900 followers on Facebook! Many thanks to all those who post positive comments and share our stories. As we say regularly in our parish emails, 'Keep checking our socials for the latest':

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfDibden>  
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/DibdenChurches>  
 Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/dibden\\_churches](https://www.instagram.com/dibden_churches)

## NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!

The Praizin' Hands Puppet Group is sharing this message and, after a summer break, the team is preparing for the 'Hythe Of Activity' on 6th September, as well as the next Showcase on 21st November, plus Christmas planning and lots of PSHE sessions in local schools. For more information on the work of Praizin' Hands: <http://www.praizinhands.org.uk/>.



### NEW FOREST FUNERALS

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You don't have to attend church to book the Centre.

St Andrew's Centre, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, SO45 4PT.

Visit [www.dibdenchurches.org](http://www.dibdenchurches.org) or speak to the Centre administrator on 023 8084 3204, during office hours, for more details.



All Saints' Church is open at least three days a week.

# NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE



## SYNOD APPROVES TRANSFORMATION OF CHURCH GOVERNANCE

A major overhaul of the Church of England's national structures has recently been approved by the General Synod.

The National Church Governance Measure, which will bring together separate national church bodies, received final approval in a vote at Synod in York this summer.

The Measure, which now requires Parliamentary approval, is the product of a four-year process designed to simplify and transform the Church's national structures to better serve, support and encourage local churches.

Two existing bodies, the Archbishops' Council and Church of England Central Services (known as ChECS) – which oversee a wide range of the church's national functions – will be replaced by a new charity called Church of England National Services (CENS).

It will also take over the non-investment functions from the Church Commissioners and most of those of the Offices of

the Archbishops at Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces.

The measure was the product of a major review of the Church's governance structures which called for an overhaul to rebuild trust and deliver greater transparency.

## BISHOP OF LEICESTER COMMENTS ON TWO-CHILD BENEFIT LIMIT STATISTICS

Following the recent publication of new government statistics on families affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments, the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, the Church of England's lead bishop on poverty, issued a response:

“Behind these figures are thousands upon thousands of stories – stories of hardship and anxiety, but also of resilience. I am proud that so many churches are part of these stories, as places of practical help, of friendship and as spiritual homes. We know that no one is just a number, but the numbers do matter. So, we continue our call on the government to take ambitious and radical action in its child poverty strategy to make sure every child grows up with

enough and feels enough in and of themselves.”

## WELSH WRITERS LAUNCH BOOK INSPIRED BY ANCIENT PILGRIMAGE PATH

A new book documenting a Welsh language pilgrimage and literary project was recently launched at Tafarn y Plu in Llanystumdwy.

The publication brings together blogs, poems, photographs and essays from the Llwybr Cadfan Literary Project. The project aimed to create cultural events at locations along Llwybr Cadfan, the historic pilgrimage path once

walked by 6th-century Saint Cadfan. Two resident poets, Siôn Aled and Sian Northey, created original work offering a fresh perspective on this ancient trail. Working with guest artists, they staged 11 events at locations including Saint Cadfan's Church, Cymer Abbey, and aboard the Ffestiniog Railway.

Welsh writers and performers who took part included Manon Steffan Ros, Twm Morys, Gwyneth Glyn, and the late Dewi Pws. Each event combined poetry, music, creative workshops and historical presentations tailored to reflect the character and history of its location.

An open space to meet new people and unpack life's big questions together.

**Unpack the Christian faith together.**

Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.

Starts: Tuesday 23rd September  
Time: 7:00pm–9:00pm  
Where: The Coffee House, St Andrew's  
023 8084 3204  
office@dibdenchurches.org

Try Alpha.

Why am I here?

# MECHANIX 2025



**James Willett**  
Youth Minister

The Mechanix Course will be starting again soon, from September 8th. Students from local secondary schools of Applemore, Noadswood and New Forest Academy have applied and passed an interview process

to join our wonderful team of volunteers to restore a car and learn life skills.

Mechanix 2025 will begin with a kick off night, where families of the students will be invited for a meal and we will share the vision of Mechanix, which has been running since 2017.

Special thanks to Shawfix Autos and Reuben Shaw, who will be again sharing their facilities to enable the car to be restored.

The Mechanix leadership team of Roy Phelps, Carole Ovenden,

Reuben Shaw, Adrian Pennells and James Willett have been working hard between the courses to encourage new students to apply for this Autumn's course. Members of the team have discerned the students who were interviewed and then were accepted onto this year's course. Thank you to the leadership team for their hard work and we ask for your prayers for all of the leaders and for the new students in this exciting project.

Furthermore, we have many volunteers throughout the

course who, without whom, we could not run the course. Thank you so much for all that you do in giving up your time in your servant hearted leadership over the young people we will guide through the course.

I (James) hope to update you in the Autumn with the progress that the students and leaders have made. In the mean time, please pray for us as we deliver this unique course to teenagers in our parish.

God bless,  
**James**



# QUIET REVIVAL AT THE 9AM



**Michael Ford**  
Senior Administrator

The term 'Quiet Revival' refers to a growing interest in the Christian faith across the UK, and we are seeing a definite increase in numbers at one traditional service here in the Parish of Dibden.

The 9:00am service at All Saints' Church in Dibden uses the traditional Book of Common Prayer. The ancient words, and the spirit of the occasion, are resonating with those who attend. On the first Sunday of the month, attendances at All Saints' Church in Dibden are especially encouraging, having grown in the last couple of years.

These days, we often welcome between 40 and 50 people to the 9:00am service, and recently 55 people arrived to worship on Sunday 3rd August.

Church member Ruth Delacour sometimes reads the Bible, and says:

"All Saints' Church is located in Dibden and is a lovely place to visit. Worship has taken place here for

centuries; it is the original of our two places of worship in the parish.

"It is such a joy to see numbers on the rise, with newcomers of all ages joining us on a Sunday morning to worship together. Many have been married or christened here, or know someone who has been. It's wonderful to see people deepening their connection with the building, with the church through the congregation, and ultimately with God."

There has also been a steady growth in numbers at the spring and summer afternoon Songs of Praise services at All Saints' Church, often with 50-plus people attending.

The Rev'd Ian McGill says:

"We recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of the rededication of All Saints' Church, after it was destroyed by a bomb in World War 2, affirmed as a 'Joyful Resurrection'! Numbers have not just increased at the monthly 9:00am in All Saints' Church, but at St Andrew's too. We've spoken to people who say their faith is being revived, or are coming to faith. This is a wonderful encouragement."

The 9:00am service is at All Saints' in Dibden on the first Sunday of the month, and at St Andrew's Dibden Purlieu on all other Sundays.



Photographs from the service to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the rededication of All Saints' Church, which took place in May.



### Is This You?

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## CAMEO AFTERNOON TEA - DELIGHT FOR SUMMER

Written by  
**Sigi Gibson**

St Andrew's Church in Dibden Purlieu recently hosted a delightful afternoon tea event for pensioners, bringing together members of the community for an afternoon of conversation, entertainment and delicious treats. Guests were offered a selection of sandwiches and savouries, homemade cakes and freshly baked scones, cream and jam, all beautifully presented and served by friendly volunteers.

The afternoon tea gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for our guests to connect, share stories, and enjoy the warm hospitality of the church. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and camaraderie, as attendees appreciated the chance to unwind and socialize in a comfortable setting.

Two talented members of the

church congregation, Paul and Val, entertained us on piano and flute with a light-hearted musical quiz, featuring classic songs from shows and films. This stimulated more banter, and even a spontaneous sing-along.

St Andrew's has an ongoing commitment to fostering community spirit and supporting the elderly through its monthly CAMEO lunches. CAMEO is an acronym (Come And Meet Each Other) and the lunch club is run by a fantastic team of volunteers. Many of the guests live alone or in residential apartments around the parish. About 50 people attend regularly and (not surprisingly) there is a waiting list!

With its focus on offering hospitality as well as pastoral and spiritual support, the church continues to be a hub for meaningful activities that enrich the lives of people in the community. If you would like more information about upcoming events or are keen to get involved, please contact the parish office at [office@dibdenchurches.org](mailto:office@dibdenchurches.org) or call 023 8084 3204.





# HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM: WILLIAM HOLMAN HUNT'S SCAPEGOAT'

*The Rev'd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums. William Holman Hunt's "The Scapegoat" (1854-1856) can be found in Lady Lever Art Gallery on the Wirral.*

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet

cord – a reminder that ‘though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.’

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt's famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

Work on ‘The Scapegoat’ began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a ‘beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.’ In the distance are the hills of

Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: ‘The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.’

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent

portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: ‘He was despised and rejected by others.’ A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the New Covenant who takes away the sin of the world.



## GENERAL SYNOD CALLS FOR BETTER FUNDING OF PALLIATIVE CARE

General Synod has called on the Government to improve funding for “desperately needed” palliative care, rather than putting vulnerable people at risk through “unworkable and unsafe” legislation to introduce assisted suicide. Members of the Synod recently backed a call by the Bishop of London for the Government to increase funding for palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives in full until they die.

The debate heard speeches opposing a change in the law and backing increased funding for palliative care from a range of different Synod members including clergy who work in hospice care, NHS consultant surgeons, GPs and a psychiatrist.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, who is a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said she was “deeply concerned” by the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which would legalise assisted suicide, being brought by Kim Leadbeater MP. And she called on General Synod members to pray and to “engage” with peers in the House of Lords as the Bill goes to the House of Lords. She told the Synod the Bill was “unsafe and unworkable” and would put vulnerable groups at risk,

including terminally ill people who cannot access the end-of-life care they need.

“Successive governments have failed to reduce inequalities in health,” she said. “These inequalities mean that some people will have up to 20 fewer good years in health than others and certain groups face persistently worse health outcomes than others. These inequalities are also pronounced at the end of life, with only one in four people who need end-of-life care being able to access it, and there continues to widespread misunderstanding and distrust of palliative care.”

“It is into this context that the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is being proposed. So, with only a third of all hospice care being funded by the NHS, the proposals are accompanied by a government commitment to fund in full an assisted suicide service should the bill be passed. Rather than funding assisted dying, the Government should be funding palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives to the full until they die.”

Bishop Sarah said the Government’s own equality impact assessment recognised that some vulnerable people may choose an “assisted” death either because they cannot access the care that they need, or because they may feel pressure to end their lives due to the cost of the care.

## ANCIENT ANGLO-SAXON TEXT SPARKS 5,200 PER CENT INSTAGRAM FOLLOWER SURGE

“Hlyst nu!”

That’s Old English for “Listen up!”

And that’s exactly what’s happening, as a video with an unexpected subject has captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world.

A video of Everyday Faith Editor Alexandra Zhirnova reading the Nicene Creed in Old English has exploded across the Church of England’s digital channels, and beyond, racking up nearly half a million impressions and sparking a global wave of engagement.

The video opens with a short introduction: “What you’re about to hear is the oldest English translation of the Nicene Creed, written in the year 992 by a monk called Ælfric. Ælfric lived a thousand years ago, but his world was not so different from ours. He believed that understanding the word of God would give people hope and guide them in their lives.”

Ælfric translated the Creed, along with parts of the Bible, from Latin into his native tongue; what we now call Old English. While much of the language is unfamiliar to

modern ears, some words remain recognisable, and viewers are encouraged to listen closely and share any they spot.

The response to the video has been nothing short of extraordinary. Since its release, it has generated over 400,000 impressions across the Church of England’s social media channels, with over 37,000 engagements including likes, comments and shares.

On Instagram, the video has become the most saved piece of content the Church has ever posted, achieving the highest reach and the second-highest number of impressions of any video on the platform to date. Meanwhile, on TikTok, it has quickly climbed the ranks to become the second most viewed video, with the highest number of comments and shares ever recorded on the Church’s account.

This viral moment comes as the Church marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a cornerstone of Christian belief since AD 325. So, if you haven’t already, why not have a listen and tell us how many words you recognise?

Watch the video here:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/ancient-anglo-saxon-text-sparks-5200-cent-instagram-follower-surge>

# WHAT'S ON THIS SEPTEMBER

## ST. ANDREW'S, DIBDEN PURLIEU



<b>Every Tuesday</b>			
Dibden Minis Playtimes (term-time)	9:00am-10:30am	Main Hall	Toys, songs and snack time for babies and toddlers!
<b>Every Wednesday</b>			
Parish Prayers	9:00am	Garden Lounge and via Zoom	<a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/854948714">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/854948714</a> A Psalm, thought for the day and prayer.
<b>Every Thursday</b>			
Dibden Minis Playtimes (term-time)	10:00am-11:30am	Main Hall	Toys, songs and snack time for babies and toddlers!
Seekers youth group (term-time)	5:00pm-6:30pm & 6:30pm-7:30pm	Garden Lounge	Youth groups for those in Years 7-13. 5:00pm-6:30pm for Years 7-8, 6:30pm-7:30pm for Years 9-13.
Parish Prayers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Chapel	Prayers for our parish, community and world.
<b>Wednesday 3rd September</b>			
Living with Loss	3:00pm	Garden Lounge	An informal and supportive bereavement group.
<b>Saturday 6th September</b>			
Church Family BBQ	5:00pm until late	33 Butts Ash Avenue	All welcome to this church family event. Please use the sign-up sheets in St Andrew's Centre foyer.
<b>Tuesday 9th September</b>			
Women's Fellowship	2:15pm	Garden Lounge	A friendly group that meets with a guest speaker. Enjoy tea and a chat afterwards.
<b>Tuesday 16th September</b>			
Guest Supper	7:00pm	Coffee House	Invite someone to our guest supper, ahead of the Alpha course which begins the following week. Please contact the parish office for further details.
<b>Thursday 18th September</b>			
CAMEO	12:15pm	Main Hall	Lunch time group for the elderly. Booking required.
<b>Saturday 20th September</b>			
All Saints' Churchyard Work Party	9:00am-11:30am	All Saints' Churchyard	An opportunity to support the work of maintaining the churchyard at All Saints', Dibden. Refreshments will be available, please bring your own tools.
<b>Tuesday 23rd September</b>			
Alpha	7:00pm-9:00pm	Coffee House	The launch of our autumn 2025 Alpha course. Please contact the parish office to sign up.

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### Carol's story

After Carol was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 58, it was the care and support from Oakhaven that helped her and the whole family at such a difficult time.

Initially visiting the Coates Centre, then Day Hospice, Carol was able to benefit from the support on offer, whether complementary therapy or a cup of tea and chat with others. Later she was able to stay at home thanks to Oakhaven's specialist nurses who visit across the New Forest, Totton and Waterside.

Leaving a legacy to Oakhaven ensures we will be able to continue caring for those in our community when they need us most, helping us to make every moment matter.

A pledge of any size will ensure we are there to make a difference for families in the future.

Could you help us with a gift in your will?  
Visit [oakhavenhospice.co.uk/legacy](http://oakhavenhospice.co.uk/legacy) for more information.



## ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO GENERAL SYNOD

*Here are some highlights from the Archbishop of York's recent address to General Synod. Archbishop Stephen delivered the Presidential Address at the opening of the July General Synod group of sessions in York*

I think it was Graham Greene who said, 'If you are going to jump, make sure the water is deep.'

As I have spent a working lifetime of ministry reflecting on both the theology and the practice of evangelisation and mission, wanting, more than anything else, to share the good news about Jesus Christ, I have often returned to this: the deep waters of faith; the embracing waters of baptism where we die and rise with Christ, the calling of the Church of England to be centred in Christ, and from it the deep and profound spiritual and theological renewal which must follow.

Moreover, recent research like The Quiet Revival encourages us and challenges us in equal measure, since it appears to be those churches that offer a depth of tradition that are noticing new

people in their midst.

We need then to renew the disciplines of prayer, the liturgical life, the contemplation of scripture as the wellsprings of those aquifers of faith, that alone sustain all ministry and mission. This must be our priority: a Christ-centred Church.

For this to happen, we need clergy and lay leaders who are formed spiritually and theologically so that we can nurture Christian discipleship and be able to teach and defend the Christian narrative in an increasingly fractious, sometimes hostile world.

It is that compelling narrative that will enable us to withstand utilitarian tides of opinion that risk making, for instance, assisted dying a reality in our national life, changing forever the contract between doctor and patient, pressurising the vulnerable, and assuming an authority over death that belongs to God alone.

Likewise, our complacency in the face of climate crisis, the challenges of racial justice, and the appalling inequalities of wealth and opportunity in our country, for me, point to the widening gap between what we say about Jesus Christ and how we actually live the gospel.

I thank my colleague Bishop Sarah

and other Lords Spiritual for their principled opposition to the Assisted Dying Bill in Parliament; to the Church Commissioners for their ground-breaking witness in transition pathways on climate change and with people like Georgia Boon and Bishop Rosemarie Mallett and the work of Project Spire for racial justice, and, yes, hopefully, even for LLF, because although we seem no nearer a settlement that can hold us together, how many other organisations would go this far with such disagreement?

I therefore believe the Lord is calling us to profound spiritual renewal, to be a church of prayer, deeply rooted in the gospel and in this year of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, even more deeply rooted in the inheritance of faith.

Well, God has humbled us in so many ways this year. It hasn't been easy, but if it has made us more penitent, more determined to put victims and survivors first, more resolved to sort out all things to do with clergy discipline, terms of service, independent safeguarding, and other things besides, then, Synod, God the Redeemer who believes in His Church is at work among us.

It is my pastoral experience, on an almost daily basis, in the conversations I have with people

on trains, in taxis, on pilgrimage, and even chatting with tourists, that people are longing for something more; for something to hope in. They are frightened by the wars and conflicts of the world.

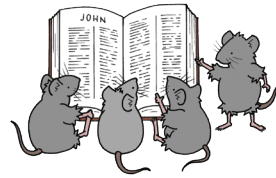
Therefore, let us be bold in sharing this gospel; being a Church of welcome, hospitality, humility, reflection and peace.

The Quiet Revival research is telling us that a more spiritually-aware generation of younger people exploring faith and younger people in our churches now want to know more about the Christian faith. We need to respond to this.

Church of England, General Synod, we need to reset the compass. Jesus Christ calls us to follow Him. 'If you drink of this water,' says Jesus, 'you will never be thirsty. The water that I give will become a spring gushing up to eternal life' (see **John 4:14**). We then give from the overflow of all that we have received. Sisters and brothers, there is no other mission.

For further analysis of 'The Quiet Revival', please visit: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival>

# SERMON REFLECTIONS



## ‘SPIRIT OF TRUTH’

Acts 2:1-21 & John 14:15-17

Rev'd Canon Steve Pittis / 8th June

...“As you sit here now, the Holy Spirit knows every thought and emotion. Did you know that? Does that encourage you or make you feel a bit scared? He knows you as you are. And what's more, the Holy Spirit is the way in which God lavishes his love upon us. Romans 5:5, Paul says, "The love of God is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who's given to us." It's a lovely concept, but that's what God wants to do more and more each day - to fill you with His love. So, the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra. He's basic to our Christian life. God Himself, here and now, present, active in our lives. He's come to live within us.

So, let's move on and say what's the implication of that for us and how can we respond to it? Well, Ezekiel said that the Spirit of God would come to live within us. That was a promise. A new heart, a new spirit I will give them, said the Lord. And Joel said, and we heard it read, quoted in Acts 2, that the spirit will be poured out on everyone.”...

## ‘FATHER, SON, SPIRIT’

Romans 5:1-5 & John 16:12-15

Rev'd Peter Toller / 15th June

...“If right at the core of our universe ... we find a creator God who is Trinity, who is three persons, united as one, that has a profound implication on your life and on mine. If at the very core of our existence together we find relationship, we find love, we find community, then that has to be very significant for the way we lead our lives each day. ... But why do we, as Christians, as Anglicans particularly, make such a fuss about the Trinity? Why does it have a special day dedicated to it? Well, the word is not even in the Bible. And we might sort of question that. Why do we make a fuss about it? Well, the Trinity avoids these two errors of thinking about God. On the one hand, it avoids a sort of polytheistic view of God that actually God is not one, He is many. ... And, on the other hand, it avoids a sort of Unitarianism view of God. A belief in one God to the extent that it denies the divinity of Jesus Christ. ... The Trinity helps us avoid both those views.”...

## ‘THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE’

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 & James 4:13-17

Sue de Jong / 22nd June

...“I think it's helpful to see time as a precious gift. But the number of our days on this earth are going to be different, aren't they, for each one of us. In the Psalms, David reflects on the God who knew him even before he was born. And he also wrote this, as if to God, 'all the days ordained for me were written in your book, Lord, before one of them came to be. Time in God's hands.

Last week we celebrated two long lives, didn't we? Margaret Ryan, 99, sitting next to Professor Percy Hammond, 101. That does take some taking in, doesn't it; it's wonderful. Long lives, long lives of faith. Two Christian people who worship and who pray, and who are still part of our fellowship here. Though we may not see them, they are part of who we are.

Well, we don't know, do we, how many years we will have, but we have today. I once bought a fridge magnet for someone who was quite a planner. They were very keen on looking ahead, copiously planning what to do next. And this is what it said, 'today is a gift, and that's why it's called the present'. I've always remembered that, although I gave the magnet away, I remember that for myself.”...

## ‘MEANINGLESS MONEY’

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 & Luke 12:13-21

Rev'd David Lewis / 29th June

...“The meaninglessness of money, of worldly wealth. And that's emphasized by Jesus in that parable of the rich fool. "Watch out", says Jesus. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. And the parable he tells of a rich farmer who builds bigger and bigger barns to store up his earthly treasure and then promptly dies. And Jesus says, "Who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

What's important for us then? Both our Bible readings tell us it shouldn't be worldly wealth. I get very challenged when I think of the work that Margie and my son have been involved in over the last 10 years, working in one of the poorest countries of the world. Helping to develop projects to bring clean water and sanitation to places that didn't have any. To provide education for children, particularly girls, who previously had little education. To provide medical care for those in need, developing many health projects in eye care and palliative care and mental health. You see, we take what we have for granted. Our clean water, our National Health Service, our education. But for many, they don't have these things.”...

# PUZZLES!

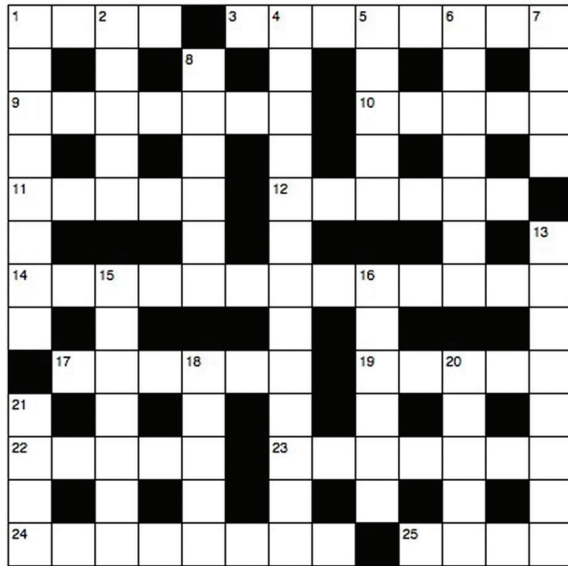
## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You – are one of them" (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the – ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald – (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to – – , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, – – – , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust – – ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his – and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

### Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all – , but we will all be



- changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your – – – is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



## SUDOKU

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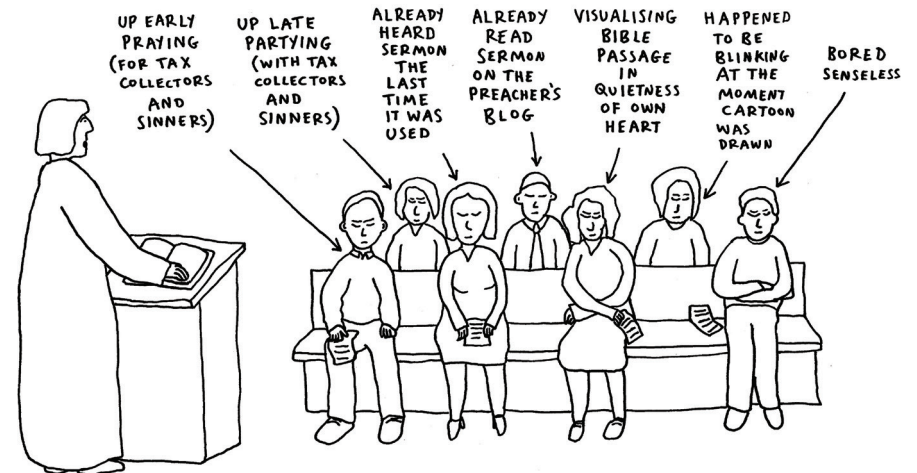
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# CARTOON CORNER



## THE SERMON

PEOPLE MAY HAVE THEIR EYES CLOSED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS



CartoonChurch.com

Answers on page 27.



## BIG PERSPECTIVE, BIG QUESTIONS

*Written by Ruth Banciewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

It was three years ago this summer that the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when 'astronaut' is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth's atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It's the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

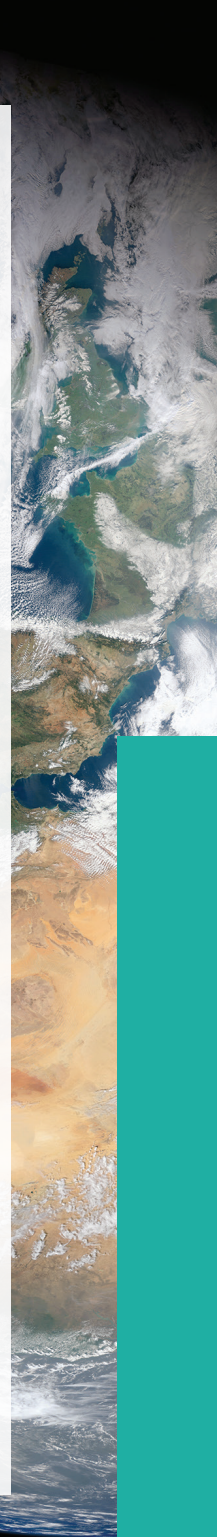
For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in

thinking dubbed 'the overview effect'. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a 'self-transcendent experience'.

Some people claim to have a 'nothing but science' approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn't answer them. It's important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

**DOWN:** 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

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# BOOK REVIEWS

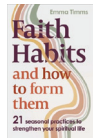


## FAITH HABITS AND HOW TO FORM THEM

21 SEASONAL PRACTICES

SPCK - £11.99

Emma Timms



Here is a no-nonsense guide to building adaptable rhythms and practices to bring you closer to God. The pace of the modern world with its constant demands and digital connection can make it tough to form a rich spirituality, and though many of us long for a nourishing connection with God, we often struggle to form habits that cultivate and sustain it.

Here, retreat guide and spiritual director Emma Timms shares 21 spiritual practices that will both feed your soul and fit with the life you are actually living. Drawing from the Bible, the saints and mystics of old, as well as contemporary psychology, this book will help you uncover God's already-active presence inside you and help you form rhythms and practices to connect more deeply.

The book will help you understand the importance of habits in

forming a life-giving spirituality; how to apply spiritual practices that have been used throughout the ages; how to make a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, and seasonal plan for your spiritual life; and how to adjust your spiritual practices to the season of life you're in.

## WE BELIEVE EXPLORING THE NICENE CREED

Church House Publishing - £3.99  
various authors



Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith.

We Believe offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed's timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing you deeper into the Creed's meaning and significance for your life.

## GOD, AI AND THE END OF HISTORY UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN AN AGE OF INTELLIGENT MACHINES

SPCK - £29.99

John C Lennox



“Revelation promises to do two things: fill our hearts with praise to God, and simultaneously prepare for God’s inevitable cataclysmic intervention in this world to judge evil righteously at the return of Christ.”

So writes John Lennox, as he explores the connections between John’s visions and the terrifying prospect of an Artificial Super Intelligence that emerges to deceive the world and oppose the rule of Christ.

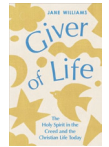
Already some scientists are envisioning the development of superintelligences that may become the gods of the future and rule over humans. Others raise the even more disturbing prospect that ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence) could eventually achieve world domination. These developments, argues Lennox, are likely to involve the deception of billions of people, inspired and engineered by the one whom the New Testament calls ‘the Antichrist’.

To find out how John Lennox reaches that conclusion read this fresh, wide-ranging and amazingly thought-provoking commentary on Jesus’ last message to His followers.

## GIVER OF LIFE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CREED AND IN CHRISTIAN LIFE TODAY

SPCK - £15.99

Jane Williams



Here is a clear, fresh and inspiring introduction to the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed and in the lives of Christians throughout the world today.

Renowned theologian Jane Williams traces the rich theology behind the Spirit’s titles and explores the deep connection between the Spirit and the life of Christ. At the same time, she invites you to consider the role of the Spirit as the one who brings you into the divine life of God, shaping your relationship with Jesus and guiding your faith.

This book may help anyone seeking to enhance their appreciation of the Holy Spirit’s transformative work in the world and in the life of every Christian – past and present.



# WORSHIP THIS SEPTEMBER

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DIBDEN**



### Wednesday 3rd September

11:00am Forget-me-not Service  
Holy Communion

### Sunday 7th September

10:30am All Age Worship \*  
A New Beginning  
6:30pm Refuelled - A Heart for Worship

9:00am Holy Communion BCP  
A New Beginning

### Sunday 14th September

9:00am Holy Communion BCP  
New Wine  
10:30am Morning Worship \*  
New Wine

4:00pm Songs of Praise

### Sunday 21st September

9:00am Holy Communion BCP  
For God so loved  
10:30am Family Communion \*  
For God so loved

### Sunday 28th September

9:00am Holy Communion BCP  
Barbecue on the Beach  
10:30am Morning Worship \*  
Barbecue on the Beach

\* Services also available online

Join in via Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/209208621>  
Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DibdenChurches>  
Watch on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfDibden/>

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St. Andrew's Church, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PT.

## PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms	Esme Fenton, Simon & Lauren Corp and Primrose Lovell, who were baptised on 14th July.
Thanksgiving & Blessing	We thank God for: Jaziah Castle-Smith, whose Thanksgiving & Blessing was on 23rd August.
Funerals	We sympathise with the loss of loved ones, following the funerals of: 14th July Joan Rickwood

### NEWS EXTRA

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Ed Merritt

Photography / illustrations  
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Contributors / article writers  
Rev'd Ian McGill, James Willett,  
Michael Ford, Sigi Gibson.



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