

NEWS Extra

Parish of
Dibden
magazine

October
2025
70p





WELCOME MESSAGE



Ed Merritt

News Extra designer

There's something about Harvest at St Andrew's that takes me right back to my childhood. To be fair, there are lots of things that happen at this church that bring back nostalgic memories for me! Even so, carrying a tin of beans or packet of pasta up to the front of the church, during the Sunday morning service as a child, was quite impactful. I was extremely fortunate growing up, and I think this is the point: it was one of the few times in the year, certainly as a young child, that I actually thought about that fact to any great extent. It's only as an adult, looking back, that I appreciate just how fortunate I was (and still am).

On the theme of giving, this month's magazine highlights some of the ways in which people are giving of their time to support others. We've an update from our Mechanix course (page 6), and a write up of September's 'Love Your Churchyard' event (page 8), which saw people give their time to help maintain the churchyard at All Saints', Dibden. Thank you to those involved in these initiatives.

However we give of ourselves this month, it's unlikely that we will need to risk our life to do so. We've a report, from the front line in Ukraine, on page 16.

As a church and church family, on the whole, we are very blessed. We have a relative abundance of talent and resources at our disposal. This is obviously not the case for every church. Perhaps Harvest is one of those points in the year where, with a spirit of gratitude, it's worth spending some time reflecting on this. Do I thank God enough for the resources I have been blessed with? Do I thank others when they bless me with their gifts? How can I better support those in our wider community who are less fortunate than I am?

Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue of *News Extra*, and all the editions this year.

If you would like to contribute to a future issue, or to make any general comments on this publication, please email us: magazine@dibdenchurches.org.

Best wishes for the month ahead,
Ed



CONTENTS

- 4 Parish news
- 6 Mechanix course comes back with a new format
- 8 Love Your Churchyard – September 2025
- 10 The Best of Many Worlds
- 13 All day breakfasts
- 14 He gave us eyes to see them: Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve'
- 16 Being a pastor in Ukraine
- 19 What's on this October
- 20 Eco Extra
- 21 The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?
- 22 Sermon reflections
- 24 Puzzles!
- 26 Continuing the celebration
- 28 Book reviews
- 30 Schedules & contacts

PARISH OF DIBDEN

Rector
Rev'd Peter Toller
023 8084 3204
rector@dibdenchurches.org

Associate Minister (Curate)
Rev'd Ian McGill
023 8084 3204
associateminister@dibdenchurches.org

Youth Minister
James Willett
023 8084 1084
youth@dibdenchurches.org

Operations Manager
Nicky Long
023 8084 3204
nicky@dibdenchurches.org

Senior Administrator
Michael Ford
023 8084 3204
office@dibdenchurches.org

Churchwardens
John Armitage
Jo Snocken

PCC Members
Jacqui Besley, Paul Carter, Simon Davies*, Ruth Delacour*, Joanne Fenton, Mike Gibson, Mike Hutchinson, David Lewis, Phil Long, Anne Murphy, Gerry Murphy, Adrian Pennells, David Snocken.
* non-voting member



PARISH NEWS

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER - HOPE GARDENS 25TH ANNIVERSARY BRING AND SHARE LUNCH AFTER 10:30AM SERVICE

We're looking forward to welcoming Archbishop Samuel and his wife, Sughantha, to St Andrew's Dibden Purlieu over the Harvest Weekend to celebrate 25 years of Hope Gardens. Sign up in the foyer at St Andrew's for the Bring and Share Lunch.

GENEROUS JUNE UPDATE

We're delighted to announce a wonderful response to the Generous June Stewardship Campaign we ran earlier this year. Our treasurer announced to PCC in mid September that we

have several new regular givers and with many others having raised their giving, that led to new contributions totalling around £18,500 per annum. There are some people moving away, some have passed away or their circumstances have changed. Overall, this will lead to a benefit of about £10,000 per annum for the parish. We're so grateful to the Lord for every single gift given, and for the generosity of so many in contributing to the ministry and mission of God's church here in Dibden.

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER - YEE-HA HARVEST DANCE PARTY, 6:45PM AT ST ANDREW'S

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship for all the church family, with line dancing, a professional caller and a buffet supper. We had

over 80 people last year, all ages. Please contact the parish office for further information.

UPDATE ON ST ANDREW'S BUILDING WORK

We recently met with Coleborn & Son Builders and the church architects, who are very pleased with the work that has been completed so far. They confirmed the project has been affected by delays due to the bespoke stonework, which is being produced by an external supplier. The completion of the project will now be in two phases. We expect the hoarding to come down - and the office to move back - in October. The last piece of work around the porch will then be completed once the final pieces of stone arrive. We thank everyone for their patience and are excited about the project coming to a conclusion.

JOIN A HOME GROUP!

We currently have over 130 people in 12 Home Groups. Home Groups enable people to study the Bible together, pray and support one another and enjoy fellowship. We're hoping to start new groups including one for college/ university students. Contact the office if you'd like to join a group or would be interested in leading or hosting a new group:
office@dibdenchurches.org



Building work continues at St Andrew's



NEW FOREST FUNERALS A TRULY INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS

As the Waterside's only independent funeral directors, you know who will be looking after you from the start. The person who answers the telephone or who greets you at the office is the person who will guide you through all choices and decisions needed to create a funeral that is fitting, personal and unique. We can also provide a range of monumental masonry and funeral pre-payment plans.

**BANK HOUSE, THE SQUARE, FAWLEY
SOUTHAMPTON SO45 1DD
TELEPHONE: 023 8089 0339
WWW.NEWFORESTFUNERALS.CO.UK**



ST ANDREW'S CENTRE ROOMS FOR HIRE

Thinking about holding an event? Why not hire the St Andrew's Centre?

A range of great rooms for hire from 4 to 130 people at very reasonable rates.

Available to our church family and the wider community.

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 or speak to the Centre administrator on **023 8084 3204**, during office hours, for more details.

MECHANIX COURSE COMES BACK WITH A NEW FORMAT



Michael Ford
Senior Administrator

St Andrew's Church, Dibden Purlieu, has run vocational car mechanic training for over-14s since 2017. This year's updated course will be enjoyed by six boys and two girls who will learn car skills, interview techniques and life skills. The restored vehicle will go on display at Beaulieu Motor Museum, with a certificate presentation from Lord Montague.

Last year, Mechanix students restored a Hillman Minx, which is currently on display at Beaulieu Motor Museum and has featured on their social media posts. This year, students will restore a customised 1973 air-cooled Volkswagen Beetle (pictured opposite).

Following feedback from last year's course, leaders have made some changes. Previously, students had attended the course two evenings a week, with a life skills session and a session in the

garage, each for 90 minutes. This year, students are divided into a Monday and Thursday group, meaning they and the volunteer leaders are able to manage their time more effectively. In addition, there is a greater focus on practical mechanics.

James Willett, Youth Minister at St Andrew's Church, says:

"We had a great first session in the Coffee House, and everyone is keen to get into the garage to start work. The students and their parents enjoyed seeing the vehicle at Shawfix Autos and this year's Mechanix have been assigned their steel-toed work boots and overalls, ready to restore the car.

"By the end of the course, they will practise searching for a job, completing a mock interview, and creating a CV to use for a future job. We hope that these experiences will add to their employability and help them decide what jobs they may like to do in the future, whether mechanics or not."

The course is run annually as part of St Andrew's Church's practical outreach work to local young people. The age range is Years 10 and 11, ages 14-16. Previous mechanical experience is not required.

Mechanix is open to male and female applicants and the young people are challenged to bring cars up to MOT level during evening courses at Shawfix Autos and St Andrew's Centre. Students use manuals as their guide, as well as the expertise provided by volunteers and gain experience of MOT test procedures, car skills and life skills.

Members of staff at Shawfix donate their time and expertise,

as do a number of church volunteers. Previous and current sponsors and supporters include J Haynes, ExxonMobil, Beaulieu Motor Museum, Shawfix Autos and Draper Tools.

Planning for the first course began in 2016 and was run in 2017. With two courses in 2021 to make up for the one missed due to the Covid lockdown, this will be the ninth course.



LOVE YOUR CHURCHYARD – SEPTEMBER 2025



Written by **Alison Alcock**

On a dull but calm Saturday morning, 15 adults, 2 teenage boys and 2 pre-teen girls worked together to show LOVE for the CHURCHYARD at All Saints' Church, Dibden. For most of the morning the girls' baby brother

slept peacefully on his mum's back.

We removed ivy from headstones, began renovation of a donated bench, cleared rubbish from the lane, emptied Compost Bins, tidied the 'Sunken' Garden, removed invasive ivy from walls, cleared brambles from bushes and along a boundary wall, planted a small hawthorn plant in our wildlife hedge, and trimmed back rhododendron bushes from headstones. Throughout the morning the teenagers filled a cubit metre bag with cuttings and dragged it to our disposal area,

and then turned their energy to feeding the fire and enabling our adults to clear far more rubbish than they expected.

Coffee, tea and squash were drunk and flapjack nibbles and various chocolate cookies consumed to keep the energy levels up.

During the morning, I spoke to The Graveside Sisters who were cleaning and refreshing a grave in the churchyard. Emma told me that they visit many graveyards and churchyards around Southampton and the Hampshire

area, and that All Saints' was the best presented of them all.

Also during the past week, a volunteer, who could not attend the morning, spent many hours cutting back the verge alongside the road at the turn into the Church, thus making exiting onto the road so much safer.

For further information relating to the churchyard at All Saints', Dibden, and for details of future *Love Your Churchyard* events: allsaintschurchyard@dibdenchurches.org



THE BEST OF MANY WORLDS



Written by
Canon Edgar Ruddock

Annette and I enjoyed an eight-day break in the Channel islands in August. If ever you want a holiday that combines almost everything into one ... this may be it: a three-hour ferry crossing from Poole to Guernsey (that's your cruise!); seaside and countryside in close proximity all the time (the islands are quite small!); wild coastal paths, cliffs and then lovely beaches, all in walking or bus-ride reach; a very British place, but also very French (that's the European holiday, folks!) - the two happily melding into a uniquely different culture ... (and there's your cross-cultural experience, in language, cuisine, history and culture). What's not to like?

On arrival in Guernsey, in the lovely little town of St Peter Port, we had one night in a hotel, then caught the ferry to the little island of Sark, where we stayed for two nights. This was perhaps the highlight of the holiday for both us. No cars, no tarmac roads, no street lights ... just peace and calm. The silence was overwhelmingly beautiful, and the walks we did combined rustic footpaths, steep cliffs and fascinating views of the other islands. Sark is one of the few places in Europe designated a "Dark" place, where the whole island is protected from the introduction of bright lighting: this means there is no light pollution, rendering the night sky spectacular. For us, it was full-moon time, where that great yellow orb hung in brilliance above us, fantastic in itself, but somewhat dimming out the stars! You can't have it both ways, and at least it wasn't cloudy!

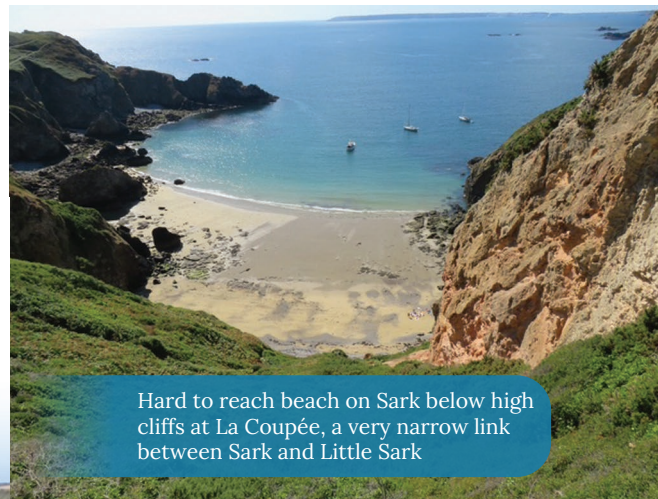
Both on Sark and in Guernsey, to which we returned for the

remainder of our holiday, there are constant reminders of history. Most obvious is the impact of the Nazi invasion in the 1940's, but there is also huge evidence of the British defence of the islands during the Napoleonic wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Behind that remain the stories of the constantly changing relationships between Britain and France since the days of William the Conqueror.

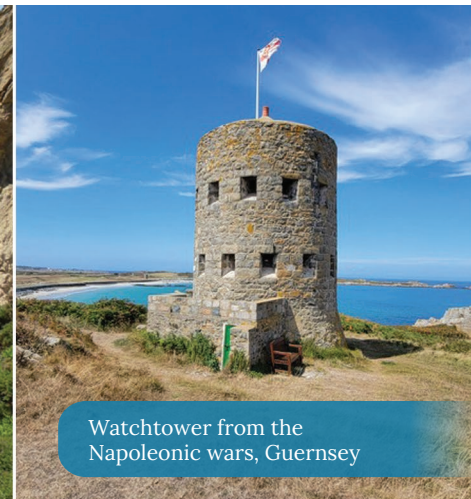
Our last full day was spent on the north west coast of Guernsey, around Vazon Bay. Here there is so much beauty in a wonderful sandy and rocky bay, encased either side by headlands, upon which are sighted huge German fortresses, commanding the beaches against any threat of invasion by the Allies. Adjacent to them, the Napoleonic War towers, defending against any invasion by the French.



Looking north west on Sark towards Brecqhou Island.



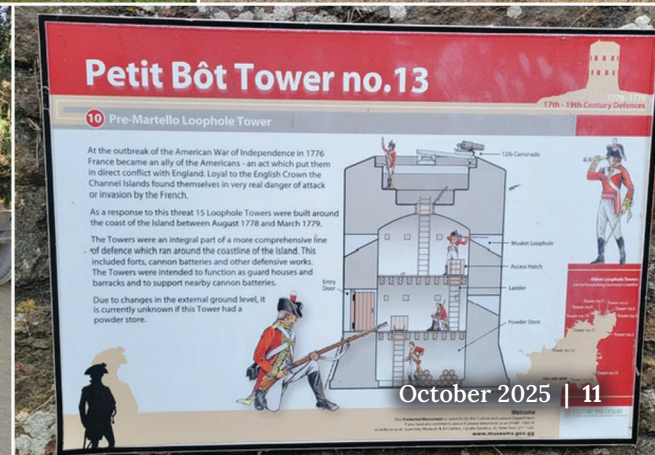
Hard to reach beach on Sark below high cliffs at La Coupée, a very narrow link between Sark and Little Sark



Watchtower from the Napoleonic wars, Guernsey



Sark's only public transport - a five minute ride from landing jetty to village.



Annette expresses it like this, in a prayer:

Spirit of the Universe, thank you that I can enjoy this little part of your world: the long stretch of sand, the sound of the waves, the warmth of the sun and the feeling of the gentle breeze, the peace and quiet. Yet here are reminders of war and violence - towers to defend against Napoleon, concrete defences built when the Germans were here in the Second World War... And still today people are suffering from war and violence. Help us to do all we can to bring your peace into the lives of those around us, and in the wider world. As in Vazon Bay, may we ponder and wrestle, where beauty and pain meet so powerfully.

For me, I summed it up in a poem, simply entitled Vazon Bay - see following. With that, with love to the peoples of Guernsey and Sark, we returned home refreshed.

VAZON BAY

*The waters break and pour
Beyond the bay on falling tide
Into the deep mysterious ocean.
This bay, Vazon, in nature's way
Births life, even in its emptying.*

*Fresh sands appear and children play:
Rocky pools feed off trickling streams
To which soon flock a multitude of Hungry beaks - gulls, guillemots, and Oystercatchers sporting blood-red beaks.*

*Precious this womb-like space in natural power,
Still sadly bunker-framed and angry,
Fortressed: as custodians of the bay.
Echoes of terror, loss and pain
Still float across the surging tide.*

*On either side, rusting iron and steel,
Mortared skeletal remains of slaves,
Encased in concrete where they dropped:
Now history's bookends, only pleading
For the healing tide's return.*

German observation tower and fortress, Guernsey.

ALL DAY BREAKFASTS

David Pickup, a solicitor, reflects on how relatively few church services we now hold.

For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

You can get most things whenever you want these days. We had three services recently in one day at our local church. Not much to brag about I suppose, but for us in small rural village it was encouraging. It was hard work having several times for worship, but there is something rather marvellous about a church being used nearly all day long. Some people came once, others twice and a few three times.

More than one weekly service was the pattern of worship for centuries. There would be a continual cycle of prayer and

worship, and up until quite recently there would be two or three services every Sunday. On high days such as Easter and Christmas the vicar and curate would start in the early hours, and continue through midday, afternoon and evening. I wonder what happened to change this and make a single service the norm. I suppose television happened! People wanted to stay at home and watch the box, and church attendances fell.

Perhaps we should start having more services again. It suits some of us to have an early service, because then you have the rest of the day to do whatever you like. Other people are busy during Sunday, and so an evening service fits their needs.

“People will not come” or “we cannot ask the vicar” some will say. Well, what about more lay led services? Every church is different and what suits one will not work in the neighbouring parish, but what do you think?

We have an extensive breakfast menu available in our Coffee House, open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00am.





HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM: LUCAS CRANACH'S 'ADAM AND EVE'

The Rev'd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums.

In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God's creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisaical harmony in Lucas Cranach's painting 'Adam and Eve.' It shows a wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neoclassical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter

people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18th century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.

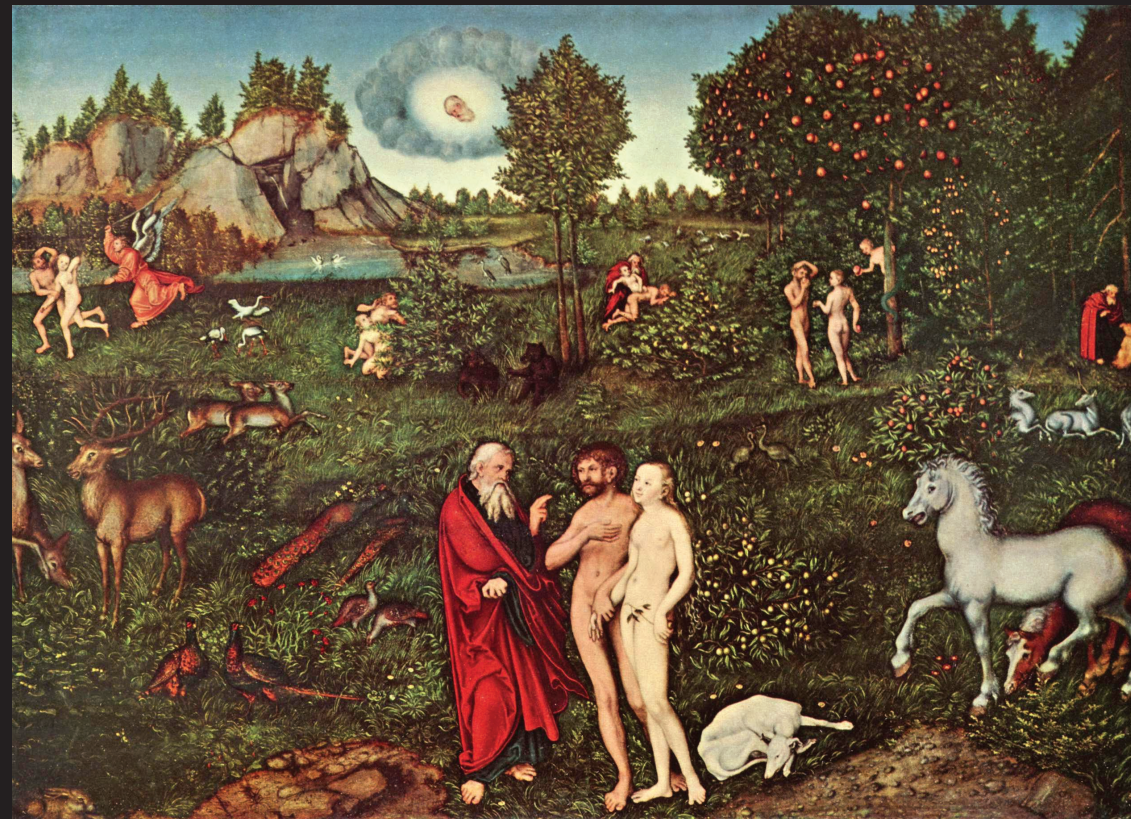
Lucas Cranach, this month's artist, was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like

them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the

vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.



BEING A PASTOR IN UKRAINE

Pastors in Ukraine are continuing to minister to their beleaguered congregations, bringing comfort and hope into the most frightening and desperate war-torn situations.

So says Transform Europe Network, a Christian ministry which serves alongside indigenous Christians in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In a recent report, it gives an update from one of its partners on the ground:

“Pastor Evgeniy serves in the war-torn Kherson region of southeastern Ukraine. Since 2022, he and a small group of volunteers have brought food, comfort, and hope to people living amid the destruction.

“Evgeniy and his team recently came to a village that had been shelled. One family’s home was reduced to rubble, and their vital documents were buried. The team arrived in bright, civilian clothing, deliberately chosen to identify them as volunteers, not military. As they began to pull back the rubble, they remained calm, focussing on their priority to help the family escape.

“40 minutes later, the volunteers heard and saw a reconnaissance drone circling above them. They couldn’t tell who it belonged to, but its presence was ominous. Then came a different sound – sharper, lower, and closer. A small military drone was heading straight for them. In a moment that could only be described as divine intervention, the drone clipped a tree branch and crashed to the ground next to the team’s car.

“The team cautiously approached the drone, still twitching and sparking. Minutes later, a second drone appeared. It aimed for the fallen drone, possibly to trigger an explosion by striking the first. But it too missed its target—crashing about six meters from the car, hitting a nearby concrete wall rather than the group. No one was injured.

“But the volunteers knew then that they were under attack. They gathered their tools, helped the family into the vehicle, and drove away. Just seconds after they left, a third drone struck – right where their car had been parked moments before. The resulting explosion could have easily taken their lives. But once again, by what they all believe was God’s hand, they were spared.

“Reflecting on the events, Pastor Evgeniy was asked if he ever felt hatred or the desire for revenge.

His answer was quiet, but unshakable

‘No. I just understand. I understand the pain. I understand the fear. But if we don’t bring light into this darkness, who will?’

“For Evgeniy, war is not a reason to harden the heart—it’s a call to deeper compassion. Even as drones fly overhead and homes crumble, he continues his ministry, bringing food, prayer, and humanity into places others flee from.

“This is what faith looks like in the ruins. It looks like a small group in bright vests, carrying hope into danger. It looks like a pastor who chooses grace over vengeance. And it looks like a God who protects, even when the bombs fall close.”

Since the talks involving the US and a possible ceasefire, the local leaders testify that instead of de-escalation, they’ve experienced a significant rise in attacks and

shelling.

Transform Europe Network (TEN) asks Christians in the UK:

Please pray for pastors and church teams, exhausted by serving many people on the frontline.

Pray for those who are confused, discouraged and angry, even with each other. Pray for healing and comfort from the Holy Spirit. Churches in Ukraine do all they can to reconcile local people, but it is getting harder and harder.

Mothers are afraid that their teenage sons will be taken away for conscription, which has become increasingly aggressive. This also causes men to run away from home and so many families are fractured and deeply stressed as the war grinds on.

More details at: <https://ten-uk.org>





WHAT'S ON THIS OCTOBER

ST. ANDREW'S, DIBDEN PURLIEU

Every Tuesday			
Dibden Minis Playtimes (term-time)	9:00am-10:30am	Main Hall	Toys, songs and snack time for babies and toddlers!
Alpha	7:00pm-9:00pm	Coffee House	Our autumn 2025 Alpha course. Please contact the parish office for further information.
Every Wednesday			
Parish Prayers	9:00am	Garden Lounge and via Zoom	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/854948714 A Psalm, thought for the day and prayer.
Every Thursday			
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.
Wednesday 1st October			
Living with Loss	3:00pm	Garden Lounge	An informal and supportive bereavement group.
Saturday 4th October			
Men's Breakfast	7:30am for prayer, 8:00am for breakfast	Main Hall and Garden Lounge	Prayers led by Archbishop Samuel with a talk by Jon Barnes of 'Hope Now'.
Sunday 5th October			
Hope Gardens bring & share lunch	After 10:30am service (12:00pm)	Main Hall and Centre	We're looking forward to welcoming Archbishop Samuel and his wife Sugantha to St Andrew's, Dibden Purlieu, over the Harvest Weekend to celebrate 25 years of Hope Gardens.
Saturday 11th October			
Yee-Ha Harvest Dance Party	6:45pm	Main Hall	Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship for all the church family, with line dancing, a professional caller and a buffet supper. Please contact the parish office for further details.
Tuesday 14th October			
Women's Fellowship	2:15pm	Garden Lounge	A friendly group that meets with a guest speaker. Enjoy tea and a chat afterwards.
Thursday 16th October			
CAMEO	12:15pm	Main Hall	Lunch time group for the elderly. Booking required.

AllanPollock
HOMEOPATHY

Health restored naturally

Do you have low vitality, recurrent or longstanding physical or emotional complaints?

Homeopathy has been helping to restore health for 200 years

Why not take advantage of a 30 minute free 'discovery call' to see if homeopathy can help you?

Web: allanpollock.co.uk

Email: allan@allanpollock.co.uk

Tel: 07553 175138

registered member of
Society of Homeopaths

HOME HELP BY MARION - MAKING YOUR LIFE EASIER



SERVICES PROVIDED

- Light cleaning
 - Meal preparation
 - Shopping
 - Trips out/appointments
 - Help with medication
 - Assist with paperwork/calls
 - Sitting Service/Company
- Insured, Food Hygiene and Medication certificates

07789 199776

Thanks to gifts in wills we are able to care for **1 in 4** of our patients

Oakhaven hospice
making every moment matter

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 for more information.



ECO EXTRA

ALL SAINTS' CHURCHYARD - NEST BOX REPORT 2025

MORE BIRDS FLEDGING AT ALL SAINTS'

We've had nearly twice as many chicks hatch and fledge at All Saints' Churchyard this year, which is great news, and shows the scheme is working.

For the second year in a row, the bird nest boxes at All Saints' Churchyard were checked for breeding, using an endoscope camera on a pole so as not to disturb the nests. The number of boxes has doubled, and the number of chicks has almost doubled too.

Sharon O'Reilly, a British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) - licensed bird ringer and nest recorder, says:

"It was a successful breeding year with six nest boxes used, compared to 2024 where three boxes were used.

"Nest box checks were made in April, May and August. During the final check, we noted that all chicks had fledged, with no dead left in the boxes.

"Thank you to All Saints' Diben for allowing bird ringing and nest recording in the churchyard, and to Simon Pearson for nest box maintenance and repair, and for helping with the final clean out."

Although no chicks were ringed this year, all contents were recorded for the BTO nest recording scheme and sent electronically to BTO, which strictly controls and licenses all bird ringing activities.

2024 in numbers:
3 boxes, 23 chicks
(16 blue tits, 7 great tits)
2025 in numbers:
6 boxes, 39 chicks
(14 blue tits, 25 great tits)



THE POPPY APPEAL – COULD YOU HELP BY GIVING SOME TIME THIS AUTUMN?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the

dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser – also a volunteer – who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.



Is This You?

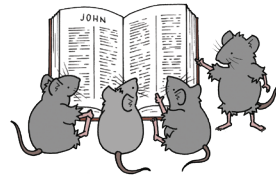
B & B Computer Services can provide the help you require!
Contact Andy on 023 80846011
Or 07770 230625
Email: info@bbcsuk.co.uk
www.bbcsuk.co.uk

We repair and support PCs and laptops which run on Microsoft Windows, Apple macOS and more, for Home or Business customers. No Call Out Charge.

- Virus and Malware removal
- Hard drive replacement
- Windows 7 to 10 Upgrades
- Network & WiFi issues
- Printer issues

- Computer setup or upgrades
- Cyber Security
- Microsoft 365
- Computer supply
- Honest advice - repair or not?

SERMON REFLECTIONS



‘ESTHER’S CUNNING & GOD’S GREAT REVERSAL’

Esther 5:11-14 and 6:6-13

Rev'd Peter Toller / 3rd August

...“You see, we deserve to be cut off from God because of all the rubbish we’ve done in our lives. And yet, at just the right time, God sent Jesus to die in our place, to take our judgment on Himself on the cross. And a great reversal takes place. Jesus dies so that we can be honoured. Jesus faces the disgrace so that we can enjoy God’s grace. We are given royal robes and invited to be sons and daughters of the king in God’s great reversal.

We see God’s great reversal in our lives today as well. You see, the Bible tells us that when we are weak, we are strong. When we are weak, through our suffering, there is beauty and glory that God can bring. Because our suffering is bound up in Jesus’s suffering. God could turn our lives around today and bring us from darkness to light. And from our brokenness, God can bring beauty. Maybe right now there’s a situation in your life which feels a bit rubbish, which needs a bit of a reversal?”...

‘ESTHER’S COURAGE & GOD’S GREAT RESCUE’

Esther 8:1-8, 15-17 and Acts 2:36-41

Sue de Jong / 10th August

...“But what is the story about? And what is it telling us about God and about us? Well, we have one Jewish girl, don’t we, called Esther who saves God’s chosen people. So, there we have God at work powerfully in the life of one individual. Fast forward 500 years. The one and only son of God, Jesus, born a Jew, comes to save for all eternity all who call on Him. And we know about the death that He died and the suffering He endured, don’t we? In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes this, “For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.” And he quotes the prophet Joel that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; everyone. God chose Esther. God chooses me. God chooses you. And I wonder what He’ll choose for us to do today? Who are we going to meet? What are we going to say? What are we going to do? What are we going to pray? We need to have that listening ear, don’t we?”...

‘RETURNING TO THE LAND’

Ezra 1:1-11 & Revelation 21:1-7

Rev'd Ian McGill / 17th August

...“To see the names of real people who have gone about the building [of Salisbury Cathedral] is something really rather special. ... Everyone can play their part in building the house of God. So what do we carry forward today? What is it about the temple and the churches of today? They remain profound places of presence, don’t they? I think not only to people of faith but also, in some way, they share a space in our society that, if they were taken away, we would miss them dearly.

Someone said to me after the 9:00am service, we experienced something of this through COVID. In the COVID days, when we couldn’t come into church, something was missing. ... The space, the sacred space, that we couldn’t go to was missing.

It’s been said often that the real test for a church is that, if the doors were closed for good, would anyone really notice? I certainly believe that society would. Something sacred would be lost.

In their time, King Cyrus and Ezra, and all the people who responded to the prophet Jeremiah’s call, rejoiced that God had indeed not abandoned them. There was indeed a hope and a future.”...

‘REBUILDING THE TEMPLE’

Ezra 3:8-11 & John 2:13-21

Rev'd Peter Toller / 24th August

...“There is a ‘not yet’, which still awaits, which we can look forward to. A time when there will be no more need for a temple. The last book in the Bible, Revelation, reminds us that in heaven there will be no temple. Why not? Because we won’t need a temple. Why not? Because God will be living and walking among us as if we were back in that Garden of Eden.

Jesus has gone through the heavenly curtain in the heavenly temple to make this access possible for us. He’s died. He’s risen again. And this is the great news of the Bible. We need to rejoice in Jesus and not put our trust in the church building so much. One day this building here will be redundant. We’re working our way at trying to repair it and restore it. But one day it won’t be needed. One day All Saints’ Church won’t be needed.

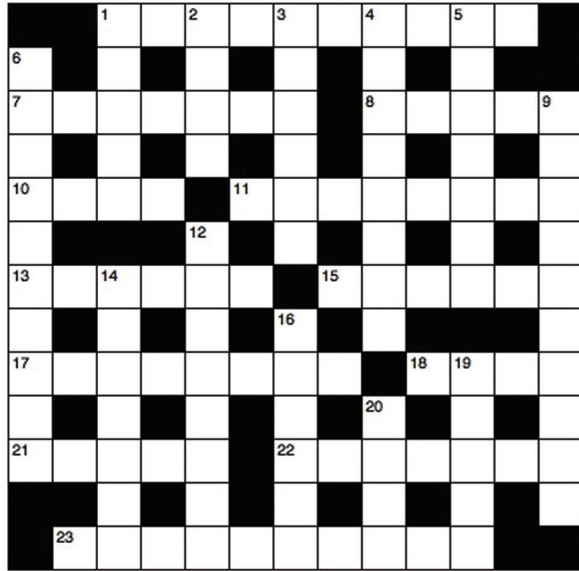
We need to trust in the God who will one day live freely among us in the new creation. He will walk among us and we will see Him face to face in the most incredible way. So be encouraged. God is building His church. It’s OK to weep too at the state of the church but we can look forward to that day when there will be no more temple, and God will be with us and we’ll be with God.”...

PUZZLES!

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)
- Down**
 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his



- commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across

Answers on page 27.

SUDOKU

5	2			4			7
	3	9		8			
4	8	7	6				
7			2	6		4	1
9		1			3		2
8	4		3	1			
				2	7	1	8
			1	4	9		
6			9			3	5

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

2	5					8	
			6	5	3		
9							6
			4	6			1
3							4
7			2	9			
	2						9
			5	7	4		
		4				6	5

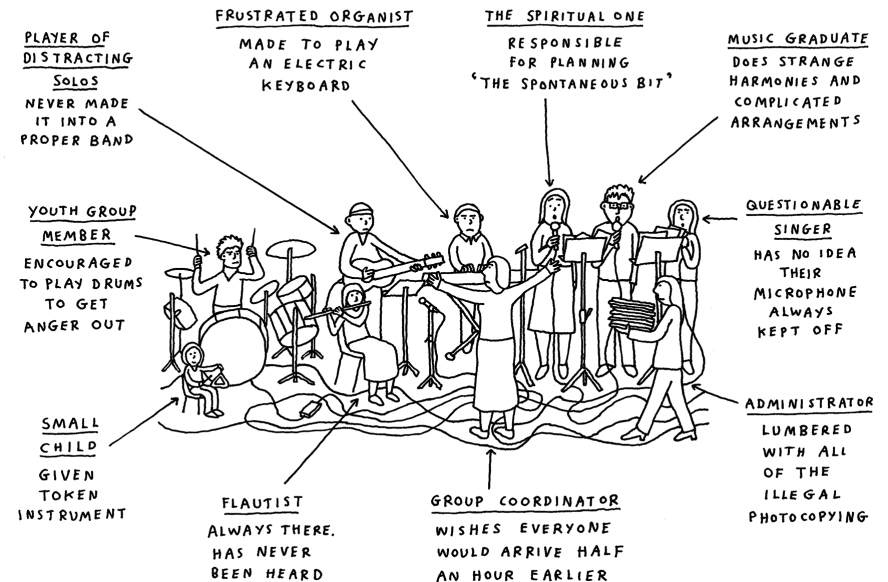
© 2008 KrazyDad.com



CARTOON CORNER



THE MUSIC GROUP



CartoonChurch.com



CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION!

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

On 6th-13th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. "Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns."

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: "celebrate the festival to the Lord your God... For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we're not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

I'm very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this

month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

Sam Long Ltd.

SERVICE EXTENDED

Sam Long's Fruit and Veg drive-thru will continue to be at St Andrew's Church, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PT from 9:30-1:30 every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until the end of the year!

Please follow us on Facebook @samlonglimited to receive up to date information about our service and seasonal produce available.

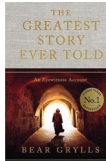
Grab yourself a coffee whilst you're here at **The Coffee House NOW OPEN.**

BOOK REVIEWS



THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

Hodder & Stoughton - £14.99
Bear Grylls



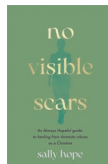
I would highly recommend this book to Christians who are familiar with the gospels and to those curious about Jesus and faith.

It is Bear Grylls' prayer that this book will bring millions to know the truth that sets us free.

This is a moving and powerful account of Jesus's life from the start of His ministry to His ascension. All the miracles, known teachings and happenings are vividly brought to life through the eyewitness accounts of 5 characters who knew Jesus well - Mary (his mother), Thomas, Simon Peter, John & Mary Magdalen. The gripping story telling style makes it easy to read and difficult to put down with short, punchy chapters. The words spoken by Jesus have not been changed from the original gospel accounts adding to the authenticity. Jesus is depicted as both divine and a fully rounded human being, displaying a range of emotions from fear, doubt, righteous anger, gentleness and humour. Overall His story appears real, raw and gritty. The narrative between Jesus's arrest and crucifixion leaves nothing to the imagination and is a hard read.

NO VISIBLE SCARS AN ALWAYS HOPEFUL GUIDE TO HEALING FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE AS A CHRISTIAN

SPCK - £12.99
Sally Hope



One in four Christian women will experience domestic abuse. Survivors report that their churches are not adequately equipped to support them, and that secular domestic abuse services do not understand their faith.

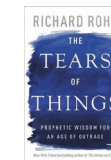
So this book explores domestic abuse and the unique challenges that Christian women face. It seeks to help survivors find answers to commonly asked questions such as 'Where is God in all this?' Survivors will be

helped to recognise that God is firmly on the side of the abused, He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

No Visible Scars is based on the 'Always Hopeful' recovery programme for groups of Christian women who have experienced domestic abuse.

THE TEARS OF THINGS PROPHETIC WISDOM FOR AN AGE OF OUTRAGE

SPCK - £21.99
Richard Rohr



Richard Rohr's much-anticipated memoir offers teaching of profound importance for our fractured world.

How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with the anger we feel over an unjust world? Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today.

The prophets' writings carry a profound lamentation about our shared human condition and the pain of the world. They embody what Rohr calls holy disorder - a distinct approach to confronting malevolence and recognizing the

wholeness of every living being.

Written in the warm, pastoral voice that has endeared millions to Rohr, this book breathes paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a wholehearted way of living in a hurting world.

THE CLOUD, THE NIGHT, THE FIRE AND THE SONG WITH THE MYSTICS IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Canterbury Press - £13.99
Charlie Cleverly



From climate upheaval and plagues to war and persecution, the great Christian mystics - John of the Cross, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Francis of Assisi, and others - lived through deeply turbulent times. Yet out of these crucibles emerged profound spiritual insight and rich traditions of prayer.

This book draws on the vivid imagery these mystics used to navigate their spiritual landscapes - symbols that continue to speak into the confusion and weariness of our own day. It offers spiritual companionship for the journey of faith in our uncertain times.

"The Greatest Story Ever Told" reviewed for this issue of News Extra by Ali Loader.



WORSHIP THIS OCTOBER

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR SERVICES THIS AUTUMN

**ST. ANDREW'S,
DIBDEN PURLIEU**



**ALL SAINTS',
DIBDEN**



Wednesday 1st October

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

Sunday 5th October • Harvest

10:30am All Age Worship * Give generously! Give your best!
6:30pm Refuelled - A Heart for Worship

9:00am Holy Communion BCP
Jesus the Bread of Life

Sunday 12th October

9:00am Holy Communion BCP
Christ Divided?
10:30am Morning Worship *
Christ Divided?

Sunday 19th October

9:00am Holy Communion BCP
Christ Crucified
10:30am Family Communion *
Christ Crucified

Sunday 26th October

9:00am Holy Communion BCP
Christ United
10:30am Morning Worship *
Christ United
3:00pm Memorial Service

* 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/>

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector	Rev'd Peter Toller	023 8084 3204 rector@dibdenchurches.org
Associate Minister (Curate)	Rev'd Ian McGill	023 8084 3204 associateminister@dibdenchurches.org
Youth Minister	James Willett	023 8084 3204 youth@dibdenchurches.org
Parish Office (for all church enquiries, including room hire)	Nicky Long Operations Manager Michael Ford Senior Administrator	023 8084 3204 nicky@dibdenchurches.org 023 8084 3204 office@dibdenchurches.org
The Coffee House	Tina Brearley Coffee House Manager	023 8084 3204 thecoffeehouse@dibdenchurches.org
Churchwardens	John Armitage Jo Snocken	john.armitage@dibdenchurches.org
PCC Secretary	Tina James	pccsec@dibdenchurches.org
Treasurer	Mike Gibson	treasurer@dibdenchurches.org
Music Ministry Lead	Heidi Shaw	music@dibdenchurches.org
All Saints' Churchyard		allsaintschurchyard@dibdenchurches.org
Magazine Editorial Team		magazine@dibdenchurches.org

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

NEWS EXTRA

Design
Ed Merritt

Photography / illustrations
Elisabeth Coskun, Ed Merritt.

Contributors / article writers
Alison Alcock, Ali Loader,
Canon Edgar Ruddock,
Ed Merritt, Michael Ford.



WE ARE OPEN

Tuesday – Saturday

9am until 2pm

(Closed Public Holidays)

Excellent espresso coffees using Rwandan beans

Assorted teas, hot chocolate & soft drinks

Delicious cooked breakfasts & lunches

Light bites, cakes, sandwiches & snacks

Freshly & carefully prepared to your order & served by our friendly staff & volunteers



Free WiFi
connection

The Coffee House,
St Andrew's Centre, Beaulieu Road,
Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PT.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU



Tasty Breakfasts



Light Lunches



Cappuccino Coffee



Hearty Soups

Care in your own home

Our social enterprise helps to fund Oakhaven Hospice



Could you become an Oakhaven Carer?
Find out about careers with Oakhaven Care
at oakhavencare.co.uk/careers

Oakhaven care

Support with the activities of daily life and **companionship** to help combat loneliness and isolation

From 30-minute 'drop-ins' to multiple daily visits to 24-hour live-in care, we can help you maintain your independence in the familiar surroundings you love, while receiving the support you need.

Our qualified Care Assistants provide a range of paid care services, tailored to your needs and wishes. Services include support with daily tasks, medication assistance, personal care, and companionship, helping you live life to the fullest.

For live-in or visiting help in your own home, call us for a chat today

01590 646 440

02381 800 505

Find out more by visiting
OakhavenCare.co.uk

Scan me

