

NEWS Extra

Parish of
Dibden
magazine


November
2025
70p



 St Andrew's
Dibden Purlieu
at the heart of the community

 St Andrew's
Dibden Purlieu
at the heart of the community

 Parish of
Dibden Jesus said "Follow Me"

 Parish of
Dibden Jesus said "Follow Me"



Rev'd Ian McGill
Associate Minister

Hello and welcome to the November edition of *News Extra*.

As always, the month of November signals many changes, with the long and dry summer a seemingly distant past, and the shorter days well and truly with us now. The beautiful colours of autumn are all around, and though we may resist ... the heating may have to go on soon!

It is also a season of reflection, when we gather to remember those who gave their lives for their country and for freedom, as we uphold the names of those who served during the two world wars of the 20th century, and for those who have also been lost in more recent times of conflict. Services of Remembrance are observed, as is the custom, on the second Sunday of November, both at All Saints' Dibden (10:45am) and at St Andrew's in Dibden Purlieu (10:30am). We also gather for a short act of Remembrance at Hythe War Memorial Hospital (12:00 noon). It is a day and a time when the nation pauses, and we take the opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifice of so many, and to give thanks for all who stepped into the darkness of their

days knowing that they may never return home to loved ones. Jesus reminded us as to the meaning of real sacrifice and friendship; 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' (John 15:13).

It is with much excitement that we are beginning to see the completion of the recent building and refurbishment works at St Andrew's, along with new signage being installed. This November is also the month when other planned project work will take place, both at All Saints' Church; for the improvement of drainage around the Garden of Remembrance ashes plots, and for the installation of a fixed sound system in the church building. We are very grateful, and blessed, for all who have worked in planning and resourcing these projects, and for all who have contributed in prayer and finance. Thank you...To God's glory and praise!

As we journey through November, toward the season of Advent, may we all share in the knowledge and re-assurance of God's love through all generations; and as He works His purposes out, may we rejoice that He wants us all to journey with Him too.

With all blessings.
Rev'd Ian McGill

CONTENTS

- 4 Parish news
- 6 News from elsewhere
- 8 A Musical Miscellany
- 10 House of Bishops decision on LLF - where does it leave us?
- 12 The Nicene Creed: The church and the future
- 13 When there is no peace
- 14 He gave us eyes to see them: Zubaran's 'Jacob and his Twelve Sons'
- 16 Praying with the prayers of the Bible: when your prayer is not answered
- 19 What's on this November
- 20 Time to remember the persecuted church - 2nd November
- 22 Sermon reflections
- 24 Puzzles!
- 26 Worship and wonder
- 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

THANK-YOU FROM HOPE GARDENS

It's been a joy to have a visit from Archbishop Samuel and Sugantha, who joined us for our All Age Service on 5th October. On behalf of Hope Gardens in India, Tony and Judith Simmons would like to express their sincere thanks to the church family for all of the help and support during the visit of Archbishop Samuel and Sugantha. "Our special thanks go to all of the folks who helped during the church family bring and share lunch. We couldn't have done it without you!"

The 25-year story of Hope Gardens, and of the personal journey of Archbishop Samuel and his wife Sugantha, is nothing short of remarkable. Watch the interview

with Archbishop Samuel, from our 5th October Service, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6ii5UFuXvU&t=1865s>

MILESTONE REACHED IN THE BUILDING WORK AT ST ANDREW'S

In the middle of October, we reached a milestone in our building work as the hoardings came down from the front of St Andrew's Church, revealing a fresh look for our windows and parapets. There's still more work to be done, but many thanks to T. Coleborn & Son Ltd. Builders for getting to this stage!

Thank you for your patience. This has made a significant difference to the appearance of the front of the building.

As part of our ongoing 'Project Refresh', we have also commissioned new signage and most of this has now been installed around the site (see photo below).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AT ST ANDREW'S

We launched Operation Christmas Child at St Andrew's in mid October. Flat-pack boxes are still available in the Centre foyer, along with leaflets and goodies, as we pack gifts for children overseas. Collection will be in the week commencing 10th November.

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER TAKING TIME TO PAUSE... A LADIES' PAMPER EVENING - 7PM, ST ANDREW'S GARDEN LOUNGE

Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing evening with a guided facial and testimony from Claire at TEMPLESPA. Drinks and nibbles provided, only £2.50 per person. Flyers and sign-up sheet in the St Andrew's Centre foyer. Spaces are limited to 30. Please speak to Jo Snocken if you have questions.



NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE



CONSERVATION PROJECT LAUNCHED TO PRESERVE 'TABLE TOP' TOMBS

A Church of England-backed initiative has been launched to help with the preservation of thousands of stone monuments that feature in churchyards throughout the country.

There are believed to be more than 4,000 'table top' tombs, many ornately carved, dating from the 17th to the 19th century, in Diocese of Gloucester churchyards alone, and many thousands more in churchyards across the country. The tombs are distinctive for their flat slab (the 'table top') supported by sides or upright legs.

A collaborative project based in the Diocese of Gloucester and supported by the Church of England's Cathedral and Church Buildings team, with funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is now assessing the conservation needs of the tombs.

The project will contribute to new national guidance on the care and maintenance of the tombs.

DO NOT 'CO-OPT' THE CROSS TO DIVIDE: BISHOPS JOIN CHURCH LEADERS IN MESSAGE AFTER RALLY

A group of Church of England bishops and senior clergy have joined leaders from across denominations in speaking out against any "co-opting or corrupting" of the Christian faith and symbols to exclude others.

The bishops of Winchester, Manchester, Southwark, Croydon, Bradford, Woolwich and Kingston were among the signatories to a joint letter from church leaders voicing concern at the use of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, at September's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally.

They joined with senior leaders from many other denominations and organisations to write the letter which appears in the media.

The letter acknowledges that many of those involved in the rally felt a "deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process" but that it also included "racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements".

"As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds, we stand together against the misuse of Christianity," they write.

"The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other. Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger. Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable."

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARTNERSHIPS OF £11M WILL BENEFIT NEARLY HALF OF PARISHES

Nearly half of parishes across the Church of England will be able to benefit from £11m of investment in partner organisations dedicated to sharing the Christian faith, new figures show.

A range of traditions, activities and organisations will be supported through the funding, from expanding an Anglo-Catholic mission network to using social media content to share the gospel message.

The partnership aims to strengthen local mission by equipping the Church in five ministry areas. These include outreach and engagement with children, young people, and their families; establishing new worshipping communities; enhancing the effectiveness of

digital evangelism and discipleship; addressing pressing missional challenges; and collaborating with networks to extend their reach and share learning and resources.

The investments made by the Church's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) are expected to strengthen mission in around 45 per cent – 5,500 – of Church of England parishes.

ONLINE GAMING INITIATIVE TO RECEIVE GRANTS FROM £4.8-MILLION FUNDING POOL

For the first time, the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board of the Church of England (SMMIB) is to fund an online gaming initiative, as part of its agreed £4.8 million of partnerships.

Emmaus Gaming (EG), which explores digital evangelism and discipleship through online gaming, has been awarded £468,637 this year. The funding will facilitate live streaming on existing platforms, tournaments, and training for churches in digital discipleship.

The hope is that the investment will connect with 100,000 people across EG social media channels, and then go on to develop a community of young people on the messaging app Discord.

A MUSICAL MISCELLANY

with
**Ann & David
Turner**



THE HONEYPOT CHILDREN'S CHARITY

The Honeypot Charity is a UK wide charity, which has been working for almost 30 years to provide support for children, aged between 5 and 12, who are young carers for sick or disabled parents or siblings. The charity works in partnership with a wide spectrum of organisations, including social workers and GPs, local authorities, head teachers and school welfare officers. It is recognised that there are no easy solutions or quick fixes and the charity works within the child's welfare network and respects each child's individual situation.

On Saturday 22nd November, Ann Turner and Friends will be presenting a concert entitled 'A Musical Miscellany' in St Andrew's Centre Hall at 7:30pm. It will be in aid of The Honeypot Children's Charity. The concert will consist of a mix of music from different times and include string, piano and vocal music. There will be songs from musical theatre, and from earlier times, plus the range of styles which is normal in Ann's concerts.

Official figures suggest that there are 120,000 young carers in the UK but it is recognised that the figure is probably much higher and may be as high as a million children. Many of the young carers experience bullying and more than half of them miss at least 10% of their schooling. They can find it hard to relate to their peers and often show a reduced achievement in their education. There can also be an emotional impact on them. The Charity provides for the needs of these children in various

ways, including respite breaks and a combination of different services based on the child's individual needs. Respite breaks form the core of the Charity's work and consist of a two-day, three-night break in one of three sites. The three respite houses are based: 1. here in in the New Forest, 2. in Powys in Wales and, 3. the latest one, in Dalleagles, Ayrshire, Scotland. All of them offer places for the children to play in safety and to make friends with others in the same positions as themselves.

This information drawn from the charity's website, <https://www.honeypot.org.uk/>.

You will be able to hear more about the charity's activities during the evening.

There is no charge or tickets for the concert but there will be a retiring collection, which will be used totally in support of The Honeypot Children's Charity. Why not come along to an entertaining evening and support a very worthwhile cause.

For more on The Honeypot Children's Charity:
<https://www.honeypot.org.uk/>



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.

HOUSE OF BISHOPS DECISION ON LLF - WHERE DOES IT LEAVE US?



Written by
Rev'd Peter Toller

The LLF (Living in Love and Faith) process has been taking place within the Church of England for over 8 years now. Its purpose was to enable the church to discuss and debate issues of sexuality and gender and give us an opportunity to do some theological thinking as well as pastoral listening. The first few years were just that and were, on the whole, an opportunity to listen to those with different stories of sexuality and gender identity. This felt like a healthy development for a church which has made mistakes in the past in its response to those who identify as same-sex attracted or with a gender different to their biological sex.

In order to maintain the unity of the church, significant changes in doctrine (such as the ordination of women) are required to pass through General Synod with a two-thirds majority in all three houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity). Once this is achieved, the church can move forward with a

common mind and make suitable provision for those who remain in disagreement. Things turned sour and divisive two years ago when the House of Bishops sought to make significant doctrinal changes in these areas using a simple majority in General Synod. They did not take the legal advice against this approach and declined to publish that advice at the time. An organisation called The Alliance was formed to campaign to the Bishops about the methods being used to bring through divisive changes on which the church was clearly not united. Along with many other churches, Dibden PCC objected to the Bishop's approach by re-routing a proportion of our Common Mission Fund (formerly Parish Share) via the Ephesian Fund set up by the CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council). The Church of England was on the brink of a major schism.

At their October residential, the House of Bishops changed tack and agreed almost unanimously that the introduction of Bespoke Services of Prayers of Love and Faith should only be introduced as a change in doctrine, thus requiring a two-thirds majority in General Synod (which is currently split about 50-50 on the issue). You may have heard our own Bishop Philip explaining the decision on Radio 4's Today Programme. This decision, whilst hugely disappointing for many

who had hoped for change, has guarded the unity of the Church of England for the time being.

Sadly, the House of Bishop's decision came too late to maintain unity in the wider Global Anglican Communion. The day after the House of Bishop's decision was published, GAFCON (a gathering of global anglican archbishops and bishops representing about 80% of anglicans worldwide) announced they were parting course with the Church of England and no longer looked to Canterbury or the Church of England as their focus of unity. In the words of the current chair of GAFCON and Archbishop of Rwanda, Laurent Mbanda, 'we have not left; we are the Anglican Communion.'

So where does that leave us in Dibden Parish? It's easy to become disheartened when we see such political movements. For good or for bad, depending on your position, we are witnessing no change on a national level and

significant change on a global level. The church is not something 'out there,' the church is you and me. We are the church. We are the body of Christ here in Dibden and as such we seek to live out this God-given role in our community.

Following Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians and Ephesians that we're studying this autumn, we will continue to preach Christ crucified and to seek unity in the body of Christ. We will continue to show God's love to people, to care for those who are struggling, to listen to those who are hurting, to present Jesus to those who are questioning, and to baptise and disciple people in the scriptures, teaching them to pray. We will continue to send people out into the world to serve Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. So be encouraged, whatever it might look like in our messy human attempts at kingdom building, God will build his church and the gates of hell will not overcome it!

Rev'd Peter Toller



THE NICENE CREED: THE CHURCH AND THE FUTURE

Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that the Church has an eternal future.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

‘We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church’: The Creed affirms the four marks of the church, defining a truly orthodox Christian community:

One: despite the many different churches and traditions, there is only one Church to which we all belong. ‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’ (Galatians 3:28).

Holy: the church is a holy community set apart for God (ekklesia, lit ‘called out’), whose mission is to reflect God’s holiness in worship and live out His love in the world.

Catholic: this doesn’t refer to the Roman Catholic church, as the word means ‘universal’, reminding us of the unity of the church across the whole world and all denominations.

The church aims to apply the same gospel in whatever situation, context or culture it finds itself.

Apostolic: The apostolic ministry of the church (‘apostolos’) is one of being sent to communicate the good news of the gospel: ‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.’ (Matthew 28.19).

‘We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins’: As baptism is as sign of belonging to the church, it can only happen once. The issue addressed in the Creed is that of Christians who left during persecution, but wanted to be accepted back by rebaptism. It affirms the principle ‘one Lord, one faith, one baptism’ (Ephesians 4:5). Today, those baptised as children, theologically can’t be re-baptised to demonstrate an adult commitment. However, they can be confirmed or reaffirm their baptism vows.

‘We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come’: The Creed ends with a statement of hope, that we will share in Jesus’ resurrection life after death.

It is not simply about the immortality of our soul, but the resurrection of our bodies. They will be transformed to fit us for life of heaven for eternity: ‘The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.’ (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the concept of ‘peace’.

They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. “Peace, peace,” they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had ‘peace’ of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War peace making meant winning the war and defeating evil. Peace keeping was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a ‘child of peace’!)

What about a lasting peace? Many world leaders say, “Peace, Peace” but they mean only peace on their terms and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

Pray for the peace makers: the women and men in the forces

Pray for peace keepers: the experts helping to build new societies

Pray for lasting peace: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.



HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM: ZUBARAN'S 'JACOB AND HIS TWELVE SONS'

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

In the Old Testament the story of Jacob is a vivid saga of struggle and conflict: Jacob vies with his brother Esau, he has a difficult time with Laban, there are tensions in his family, and finally he wrestles with a divine stranger.

And yet in the book of Genesis his days end with promises from God: he will be blessed with descendants, a land, fruitfulness and the assurance of God's presence with him. He is given a new name and a new destiny as 'Israel.' We sense all this struggle and blessing in a remarkable series of thirteen paintings, 'Jacob and his twelve sons' by the Spanish artist, Francisco Zubarán.

They hang in the dining room of Auckland Castle at Bishop Auckland. Bishop Auckland grew as a thriving market town and then in the industrial age became the centre of the Durham coal industry. It was also the site for the prince bishop of Durham's palace. In the medieval period the bishop was as powerful as the monarch of the land, with an army that rivalled the king's own forces.

Auckland Castle became the country seat for the prince bishops, and in the 18th century Bishop Richard Trevor made the palace more Gothic and imposing than ever before. To mark the 1753 Act that allowed Jews to be naturalised in England, he purchased the portraits of Jacob and his sons by Zubarán for £124.

Zubarán normally painted monks and saints, and this particular series was meant for the colonies. But they were seized by pirates and then sold to a London merchant. The one depicting Benjamin was bought by Lord Ancaster, and so Bishop Trevor was only able to buy twelve. He commissioned Arthur Pond, a jobbing painter, to make an exact copy of Benjamin to complete his set.

The series of canvases, each eight feet tall, was in the news recently when there was a possibility they might be sold. They were saved by a Trust, now dedicated to developing the site of the Castle, which includes not just the dining room, where the paintings hang, but a very fine chapel of St Peter, a throne room, and beautiful gardens.

Jacob and his sons are each painted against the daylight sky, and each has its individual characteristics. Judah for instance is clad in a brown and gold garment with a gold circlet crowning his head as the ancestor of King David and Joseph, the husband of Mary. Gad is a strong soldier.

Jacob, the father of these twelve sons, is a bearded old man, bowed down with the weight, not just of his years of struggle, but perhaps also the burden of destiny laid on his shoulders as both a blessing and a responsibility. For in the Old Testament, we learn that God often chooses the ones overlooked by the world: the young boy David above his more likely brothers, Isaac above Ishmael, and in the saga behind these impressive paintings of Zubarán, Jacob, the second born son, but here blessed as the father of God's people.



PRAYING WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE: WHEN YOUR PRAYER IS NOT ANSWERED

Written by Dr Herbert McGonigle who is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

‘Three times I asked the Lord about this ...but...’
2 Corinthians 12:8.

Paul is talking about one of the most mysterious and one of the most baffling aspects of prayer – when God does not say yes.

On the face of it, Paul’s prayer was very modest. For some time he had been troubled by ‘a thorn in the flesh.’ He doesn’t tell us what the ‘thorn’ was and down the centuries theologians and commentators have made suggestions. Most of them have thought that the

affliction was physical because Paul says it was ‘in the flesh.’ Some have suggested that he suffered from epileptic fits which caused him to fall down, while others have suggested that he was laid low by constant fevers or that he had very poor eyesight, the last based on his remarks in Galatians 6:11. But in spite of this great servant of the Lord praying earnestly three times that the thorn would be removed, God did not answer as Paul expected. A number of things in this passage (verses 7-10) are very helpful to all of us in the matter of prayer.

First, although God’s answer was not what Paul asked for, God did answer him. God is never indifferent to the prayers we utter from the depth of our heart. Unlike the idol Baal in the Old Testament story about Elijah, (1 Kings 18) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus is not on a journey, nor is he busy elsewhere, nor is he sleeping. He hears our prayers and our cries when we come to Him in our need and pain and distress.

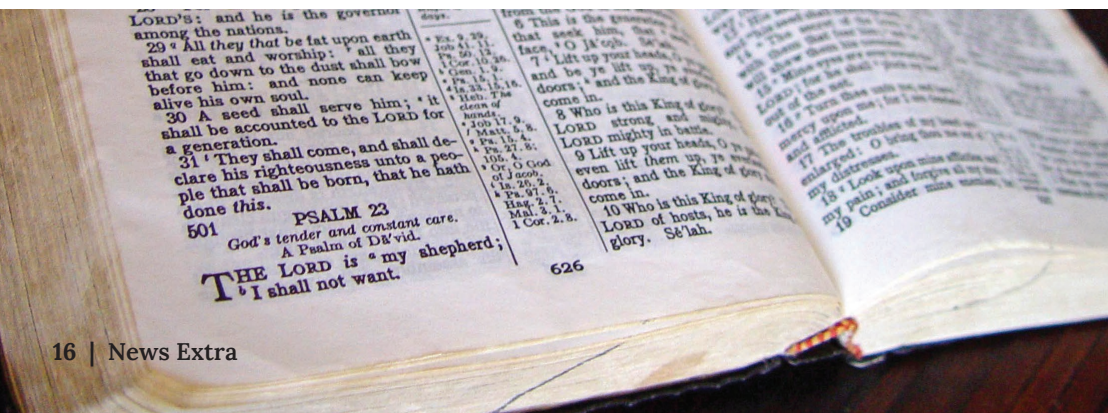
Second, although Paul did not get the answer he wanted, God made him a wonderful promise. He said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you’ (v.9). This was not what Paul asked for, yet what a promise it was! God said in effect. ‘I will not take the thorn away – but my daily grace is all-sufficient.’ In spite of the thorn, Paul will triumph. When God gives us all-sufficient grace, it will take care of everything in our lives.

Thirdly, Paul learnt that God’s wonderful grace meant that in his weakness ‘the power of Christ’ (v.9) would be with him, the power that would make him effective and

fruitful in his ministry.

Fourthly, this experience taught Paul that he could be ‘content with weaknesses and insults’ (v.10) because it was for Christ’s sake, and when he is weak in himself, he is strong in Christ (v.10).

So what about unanswered prayer? Unless our prayer was selfish and not for our good in the first place, God does answer our cry. When the answer is not what we expected, then it means that our loving Father has something for us even better and more important than what we asked for.



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?

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.




WHAT'S ON THIS NOVEMBER
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 5th November			
Living with Loss	3:00pm	Garden Lounge	An informal and supportive bereavement group.
Tuesday 11th November			
Women's Fellowship	2:15pm	Garden Lounge	A friendly group that meets with a guest speaker. Enjoy tea and a chat afterwards.
Friday 14th November			
Taking Time to Pause... A Ladies' Pamper Evening	7:00pm	Garden Lounge	Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing evening with a guided facial and testimony from Claire at TEMPLESPA. Drinks and nibbles provided, only £2.50 per person. Flyers and sign-up sheet in the St Andrew's Centre foyer, spaces limited to 30.
Thursday 20th November			
CAMEO	12:15pm	Main Hall	Lunch time group for the elderly. Booking required.
Saturday 22nd November			
A Musical Miscellany	7:30pm	Main Hall	Musical concert in aid of The Honeypot Children's Charity. No charge or tickets, with retiring collection.
Saturday 29th November			
Christmas Bazaar	1:00pm-4:00pm	Main Hall	Crafts, Tombola, Teas and Coffees. In support of our overseas mission partners, Maranyundo Parish, Rwanda.



TIME TO REMEMBER THE PERSECUTED CHURCH – 2ND NOVEMBER

Have you ever felt frightened to go to church? Afraid that someone might see you and report you to the authorities?

380 million Christians around the world have that anxiety, because one in seven Christians worldwide live in countries with high levels of persecution. That includes one in five in Africa and one in seven in Asia. These Christians make up the Persecuted Church, and live with the threat of discrimination, violence, imprisonment, and even death.

To support these suffering Christians, The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is held each year in November. It is a good month

to choose, because November is the month of remembrance – not only of our armed forces on Remembrance Sunday, but also of all Christian saints and martyrs who have given their lives for Christ, on All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

And so, on 2nd November thousands of Christians in churches across the UK will pray for the Persecuted Church worldwide. They will also send practical help through supporting well-established UK organisations such as Open Doors, Release International and Christian Solidarity Worldwide. These work to advocate for persecuted Christians in the UN and to advocate with national governments. They also distribute humanitarian aid to the affected communities around the world.

If you would like to join in this year, Open Doors, Release International, Christian

Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), and International Christian Concern offer you digital resource packs containing prayer guides, information about specific regions of persecution, and materials for church services, home groups, and children's activities.

Meanwhile, here are some things to consider (figures from Open Doors):

Worldwide, at least 4,476 Christians were killed last year for their faith. Nigeria alone accounted for 3,100 of them. Other countries in sub-Saharan Africa have seen rising numbers of Christian deaths.

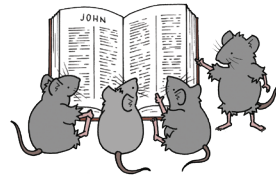
Worldwide, at least 4,744 Christians were detained. They were arrested and detained without trial. Some were then sentenced and imprisoned for following Jesus. In India alone, 1,629 Christians were detained

without trial and another 547 were sentenced to prison. Believers were incarcerated for their faith in Eritrea, Bangladesh, Iran amongst others.

Worldwide, at least 210,000 Christians were driven from their homes last year and forced into hiding. Again, almost half of these were in Nigeria, where militant Islamism is on the rise.

As for individual countries, in Algeria alone last year, all the Protestant churches were ordered to close, or were forced to stop regular services. In Mexico, where organised crime is rampant, any Christians who protest at the violence become themselves a target for abduction and murder. In Kyrgyzstan, violence against Christians is also on the rise, as the authoritarian government further represses religious freedom.

SERMON REFLECTIONS



'A NEW BEGINNING'

Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5,14
Neil Maddock / 7th September

...“Now, I love this because it means that the possibilities in a life with Jesus are endless. Yes, you have to weigh up reality and faith. Of course, we do. But God can do all things. For God, nothing is impossible. And He says He's got great plans for our future, for our lives, whatever they might look like...

So we can all have great expectation that with God there is always more. So, at the start of a new season, can I encourage you to allow your expectations to be lifted about what God can do? As you begin Alpha, be prepared to be blown away with the numbers of people that are going to come, because God can do all things. Be prepared in your own lives, as you start something new, to just live with the lid off. God said this to me a few months back and I was still processing it. Live with the lid off. We're very good as humans, sometimes, at keeping a lid on things. God says, "Take the lid off because there's so much more I want to give you and there's so much more that I want you to experience.""

'NEW WINE'

Revelation 19:6-9 and John 2:1-11
Rev'd Peter Toller / 14th September

...“I'd encourage you to look at the disciples who were persuaded that He was the Lord of all creation. I'd encourage you to look at the witness of Christian believers today. And, once you come to believe that Jesus is the Lord of all creation, well, to believe He turned water into wine, that's pretty easy.

So you can see the challenge has very quickly become for us: do we believe Jesus was who He claimed to be, the Lord of creation? And that's the message that John, in his gospel, tries to get across. ... Right at the beginning, in chapter one, he takes us back to creation. He says, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God and that word became flesh in Jesus." And right at the end of the gospel, John says, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that aren't recorded in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in his name.""

'FOR GOD SO LOVED'

Numbers 21:7-9 and John 3:1-17
Rev'd Peter Toller / 21st September

...“One theologian, A.W. Pink, makes an interesting observation that the way we become sinners is through a look. I don't know if you remember Adam and Eve, in the garden, they saw that the tree looked quite good. They saw the fruit. That was what led to them sinning. And today sin is often conceived, isn't it? By a look. We see something and then we're taken in by it. The desire grows within us and it leads to sin. And so it's fitting that we're also saved by a look. As we turn our gaze to Jesus on the cross, as we look in faith to God's Son who was raised up for us, that is the way we are saved.

Let me ask you this morning, have you looked to Jesus for your salvation? Have you looked to Jesus to save you from your sins? That's what we're doing this morning, as we gather around the Lord's table and we share communion together. We're looking to the Son. We're believing in Jesus, that His body and His blood was broken for us and that is our salvation. And that gives us life, eternal life, which begins today and will last forever.

Perhaps you've been a Christian for many years, you'll know that the book of Hebrews encourages us to keep looking to Jesus as we go on in our faith."...

'BARBECUE ON THE BEACH'

Job 19:25-27 & John 21:1-14
Rev'd Ian McGill / 28th September

...“And then my mind turned towards the words of Paul when he wrote to the church in Corinth, later speaking challengingly into their times, and I believe so into our times too. And he wrote this. It's 1 Corinthians 15. Just ponder on these words, thinking about Christ and his resurrection. Paul writes, "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." What a challenge that is, isn't it? Wow.

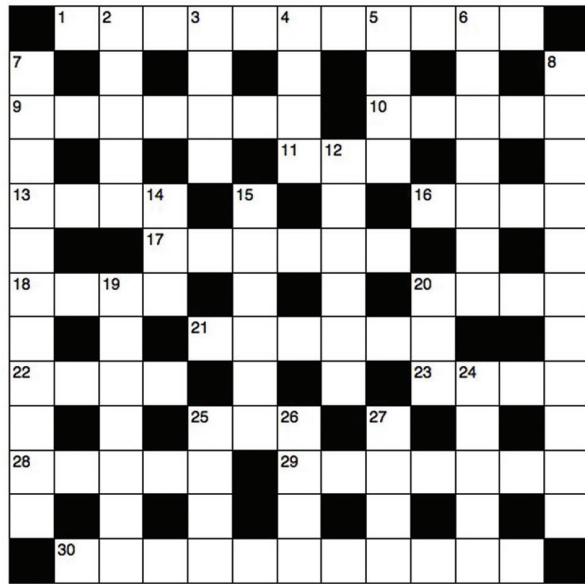
Faith that is futile must be a soul crushing experience to hear. ... But I am convinced. I am convinced that Jesus did not go willingly to the cross for all for a faith that would be futile."...

PUZZLES!

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)



Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)

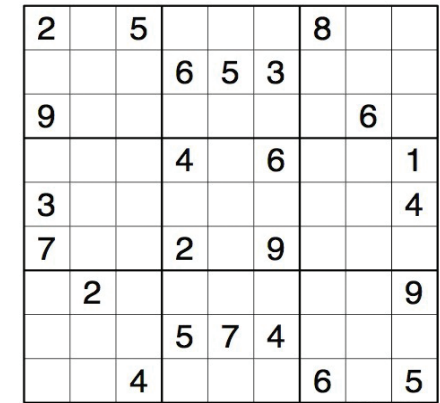


- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

Crossword answers on page 27.



SUDOKU

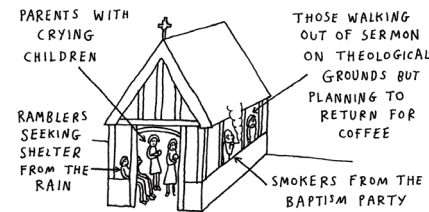


© 2008 KrazyDad.com

CARTOON CORNER



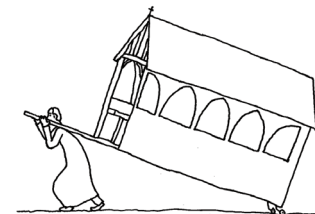
THE CHURCH PORCH



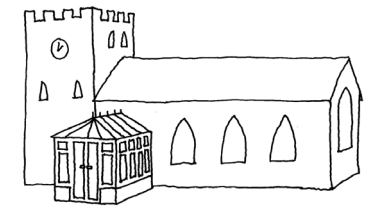
THE CHURCH PORCH IS A PLACE OF REFUGE



THE MOST IMPORTANT NOTICES ARE DISPLAYED



THE VICAR IS ALLOWED TO BORROW IT FOR GARDEN PARTIES



A PROPOSED UPVC REPLACEMENT HAS NOT PROVED VERY POPULAR

CartoonChurch.com

WONDER AND WORSHIP

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.

“I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea”.

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of*

Selbourne.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to “pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation”. His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White’s book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there’s even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone – from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation – could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree – especially in winter when it’s easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them” (NIV).

*(White’s book can be downloaded for free at <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

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.

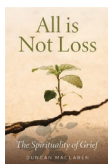
Grab yourself a coffee whilst you’re here at **The Coffee House NOW OPEN.**

BOOK REVIEWS



ALL IS NOT LOSS THE SPIRITUALITY OF GRIEF

Canterbury Press -
£12.99
Duncan MacLaren



Grief is not a rare visitor – it is a quiet companion, woven into the fabric of everyday life. From birth to death, loss shadows us, often just beneath the surface. In this deeply compassionate book, Duncan MacLaren explores the many faces of grief – not only bereavement, but also the quieter sorrows of parting, regret, failure, nostalgia, and shame.

With insight and sensitivity, he invites us to reconsider grief not as a sign of a broken world, but as a doorway to deeper connection, understanding, and spiritual growth. Ten chapters examine aspects of loss that are widely recognised: parting, regret, nostalgia, failure, bereavement, shame, ageing, dependence, mortality, and disenchantment.

Far from offering easy answers, *All is Not Loss* draws on the lived experiences of those who have been profoundly marked by loss – and yet have found their

lives unexpectedly expanded. MacLaren offers a hopeful vision: that even in our pain, we may discover that all is not lost.

BEYOND THE SETTING SUN A STORY TO HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND FEELINGS OF GRIEF

SPCK - £8.99
Sarah J. Dodd



Here is a picture story book about bereavement to support young children, specifically those who have lost a parent.

The waterholes of the African Savannah have dried up and there has not been enough to drink for some of the animals. Ekundayo, a young elephant, struggles to understand the loss of his mother, but the support of his family help and guide him through.

Based on careful research about the stages of grief for young children, Sarah J Dodd sensitively portrays the response and actions of Ekundayo to help children express and share how they are feeling with those around them.

Ekundayo's aunt and father provide words of understanding, reassurance and comfort, and the message that the love of Ekundayo's mother shines on, telling of a greater Love that they may not see but never goes away and is everywhere.

At the end, Debbie Duncan also provides helpful advice for parents and carers as they consider how to talk about death and dying with young children.

If you are looking for a compassionate tool to help young children navigate the emotions of losing a parent, *Beyond the Setting Sun* offers a heartfelt story and practical guidance to make sense of grief with love and understanding.

A YEAR TO SLOW DOWN A CHRISTIAN GUIDE TO EMBRACING HANDMADE & HOMEGROWN Form - £14.99 Rachel Bearn

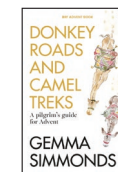


Rachel Bearn shares her own experience of how reducing her pace helped her begin to heal from severe chronic illness and connect deeper with her faith. Over 12 months she shares the benefits of living slowly, quietly and in the present moment,

dependent on God and God alone – as He always intended for us.

This is a practical guidebook that takes readers through the four seasons of the year, incorporating the festivals and celebrations that have punctuated the Christian calendar for generations and encouraging you to live seasonally and in the moment.

DONKEY ROADS AND CAMEL TREKS A PILGRIM'S GUIDE FOR ADVENT BRF - £9.99 Gemma Simmonds



The lectionary readings for Advent speak of making a straight path towards God, but many of us find our own route decidedly winding. Biblical characters in the story of the incarnation are called to set out on the road to discipleship using any means of carriage they can. This book offers user-friendly encouragement (with the occasional spur onwards) to explore what helps and what hinders us in this journey to deeper encounter with the flesh and blood God whom we find in scripture, in our lived experience and in the least of His sisters and brothers.



WORSHIP THIS NOVEMBER

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR SERVICES THIS AUTUMN

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



**ALL SAINTS',
DIBDEN**



Sunday 2nd November

10:30am	Morning Worship * Chosen to Praise	9:00am	Holy Communion BCP Chosen to Praise
6:30pm	Refueled - A Heart for Worship		

Wednesday 5th November

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

Sunday 9th November • Remembrance

10:30am	All Age Remembrance * God of the Living	10:45am	Remembrance Service God of the Living
---------	--	---------	--

Sunday 16th November

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP Know the Power of Christ
10:30am	Family Communion * Know the Power of Christ

Sunday 23rd November

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP United in a Polarised World
10:30am	Morning Worship * United in a Polarised World

Sunday 30th November

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP Know the Love of Christ
10:30am	Morning Worship * Know the Love of Christ

* 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/>

NEWS EXTRA

Design
Ed Merritt

Photography / illustrations
Elisabeth Coskun, Ed Merritt.

Contributors / article writers
David Turner, Rev'd Ian McGill,
Rev'd Peter Toller.

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.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms, Thanksgivings & Blessings	We thank God for: Finnley Davey, whose baptism was on 5th October. James White, whose thanksgiving & blessing was on 5th October.	
Funerals	We sympathise with the loss of loved ones, following the funerals of: 17th October David Hendry 27th October Ruth White 28th October Mary Dixon	



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

