



# CONTACT

The Newsletter of the Benefice of  
St Michael and All Angels - Somerton  
St Mary the Virgin - Charlton Mackrell  
St Peter and St Paul - Charlton Adam  
All Saints - Kingsdon

**July 2016**

**40p**

## From our Curate



I'm writing this article at the beginning of June, for July's magazine, so by the time we read this, we'll all know whether we're still in the EU or have decided to leave. I suppose one of the aspects of this referendum has been the questions it has posed, as to how we see ourselves as a nation. For example, do we primarily see ourselves as Europeans first and foremost? Or perhaps we have a very clear sense of our national identity as being British, within a wider European context. Or maybe something else? And it's also a question that can be posed at the personal level. If someone asks, 'who are you?' How do you respond?

We might respond by giving our name, our gender, our nationality, our job, our title, or some other key fact about ourselves, which we feel is central to who we are, and to how we see ourselves. And this sense of personal identity is very important, because from it can stem our security / insecurity and our sense of self-worth, or lack of self-worth. But are these the things that truly identify us, and are these the things that at an elementary level tell us who we are?

For the person who is a Christian, who has given their life to Jesus Christ, there is another aspect of their identity which is far more deep-seated than their name, job title, nationality, or whether they're still a part of the EU, or not. And that identity is that they are children of God.

1 John 3:1 tells us. *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* And the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 8, also tells us that we are God's children.

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.*

What amazing verses! God's children! I believe that if we really grasp this truth, and make the fact that we are God's child the bed-rock of our sense of personal identity and self-worth, then great blessing will flow from it, both for ourselves and for others. For as children of God, whatever may befall us, and whether we're in or out of the EU, we know who we really are. God's child. Loved by him. Precious to him. Sustained by him. For He is our heavenly Father.

*PS. Where have these past three years gone? It has been a privilege and a joy to have served my curacy amongst you. God bless you all.*

### FAREWELL TO CHRIS HOPKINS

Chris's last Sunday with us will be 17<sup>th</sup> July when Chris will be present at all of our services.

### CHRIS HOPKINS LICENSING

Chris is to be licensed to his new parishes on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2:30pm at West Pennard Church, all are welcome. Please offer lifts if possible to those without their own transport.

The August edition will be available on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July in Churches and Charlton Adam PO on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Please submit material for August 2016 edition of CONTACT to reach us no later than Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July.  
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[www.achurchnearyou.com/charlton-adam-st-peter-st-paul](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/charlton-adam-st-peter-st-paul)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/kingsdon-all-saints](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/kingsdon-all-saints)



## BISHOP RUTH'S JULY ARTICLE

The end is in sight! No, I'm not talking about the EU result (whatever that is – at time of writing this we haven't yet had the election!), I'm talking about the end of term and the long summer holiday period beckoning our children and young people to put the cares of exams aside.

I remember those school holidays as seemingly endless days of sun and relaxation. Building tents in the garden around the swing and sleeping out. Packing up picnics and fishing for tiddlers in the local stream. Halcyon days! But

of course, it wasn't really like that. Well, not all the time...

We often look back with rose-tinted specs, remembering the golden days nostalgically when life was good and there were happy endings. Those of us who have been vicars know that it was always our predecessor who got it right and rarely ourselves! But why not make the most of those opportunities today, when the sun is shining and all is well in the world, to celebrate and give thanks to God for his goodness in the here and now?

We all need to take time to stop and view, to catch our breath and acknowledge the graces of God in our lives. To mark a 'holy day'. A little more fun, relaxation and play would do us all good and help us regain strength, energy and vigour for the tasks ahead.

So let's encourage our children or grandchildren to enjoy their 'hol(y)days' - and let's join in ourselves!

+ *Ruth Taunton*

### New Archdeacon of Taunton

The Rev Preb Simon Hill will be the next Archdeacon of Taunton. Simon is currently Director of Clergy Development for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, he will take up his appointment in the autumn. In the interim period, the Rev Dr Andrew Tatham will take on the responsibilities of the archdeacon.

As well as having responsibility for the effective operation of the archdeaconry and its lay and ordained ministers, Simon will also take on the role, currently held by Archdeacon John, of Warden of Readers and sit on the Bishop's Staff, the group of senior staff who support the Bishop of Bath and Wells in leading the diocese.

Before his ordination Simon Hill taught at schools in Zimbabwe, Northumberland and Malawi. After training at Ripon College Cuddesdon, he served his curacy in Leeds before returning to Oxfordshire in the role of Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team and Director of the Cuddesdon Berinsfield programme where ordinands engaged with the practicalities of parish ministry and the theological principles behind them. He moved to North Somerset in 2003 to become Rector of Backwell with Chelvey and Brockley. He became Director of Clergy Development for the Diocese of Bath and Wells in 2010.

A keen walker, cyclist, runner and occasional footballer Simon looks forward to exchanging walks on the Mendips and North Somerset coast for ones further down the coast and on the Quantocks and Exmoor. Taunton Archdeaconry covers the south and west of the Diocese from north of Bridgwater to Exmoor's Doone Valley, and along the border with Devon to Crewkerne. There are 191 churches and chapels within 186 parishes and 54 benefices.



### Bishop Peter commissions two Honorary Assistant Bishops

Pic shows Rt Rev John Perry; Rt Rev Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton; Rt Rev Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Rt Rev Brian Castle.

In a service recently in the Bishop's Chapel, the Rt Rev Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells licensed Rt Rev John Perry and Rt Rev Brian Castle as Honorary Bishops for Bath and Wells.

Honorary Assistant Bishops, who are generally retired bishops who live in the diocese, play a supportive role in dioceses across the country, standing in when diocesan bishops can't attend a parish, school or community event for example. They also share their accumulated pastoral wisdom and encouragement for the benefit of the diocese.

In the commissioning service, Bishop Peter formally recognised the role of the Honorary Assistant Bishops and gave them authority to perform their duties at his request.

REGULAR EVENTS IN CHARLTONS



Prayers for the local community  
Charlton Mackrell Church  
Tuesdays 4.00 - 4.30pm



**EVENING PRAYER GROUP**  
7.15pm - Tuesdays  
Columba, Chessels Lane

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Fridays at 4.30pm  
Charlton Adam Church



**BELL RINGING PRACTICE**  
Thursdays 7.00pm

Adam or Mackrell Tower  
Tower Captain Adam  
Albert Winter 01458 223590  
Tower Captain Mackrell  
Pauline Whitaker 01458 223186

**Village Day in the Charltons**

Do come along to Charltons Village Day  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - 1pm until 5 pm

Community Hall and Field  
Top Road, Charlton Adam



Dog show with two show rings, one for pedigree classes and one for fun classes.  
Entries will be taken from 12.30.

Range of other activities including:  
TERRIER RACING  
WELLYWANGING



CHILDRENS GAMES—BOUNCY CASTLE



BBQ — HOG ROAST



BAR



TEA TENT

**Fun for all the Family**



**1st TUESDAY of each month**

**AT 6.30PM**

**Reading Room,  
Hillway,  
Charlton Mackrell**

Based around hymns & songs being composed in this our generation.

Some "go-ey." Some quiet / reflective.

Do come –"taste and see." Our thanks to Chris Hopkins for sharing so generously his musicality & his hours of prayerful preparation. **Ross Scarratt has agreed to take over leading this from July meeting for which we are very grateful.**

We worship for up to an hour then drinks/ eats for those who wish to stay. Next two dates are

**Tuesday 5th July  
NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

**We would encourage members from the Benefice to come and join us.**

**VILLAGE CAFÉ**

**THURSDAY 14TH JULY 10.30 - 12.00**  
**READING ROOM, HILLWAY, CHARLTON MACKRELL**

We will be open with a warm welcome and delicious coffee.  
Village cafe will continue to open on the second Thursday of each month  
Donations to the Lords Larder food bank are very welcome  
Excellent coffee and a range of other drinks for £1.

**We look forward to seeing you.**



Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's

### Fund-raising cream tea

Barnardo's celebrates 150 years this year and plans to continue offering services to children and families in need for many more years to come. There will be a fund-raising cream tea in support of Barnardo's on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 3 until 5.30 Deep Meadow Hillway, Charlton Mackrell. Cream teas £3.50 and there will be a raffle.

**Please do come along and help raise money for this very worthwhile cause.**

### Thank you

Thank you everyone who supported our two very successful Friday evenings in May. We are very grateful to Richard Montagu for his very informative and interesting talk on the Avalon Marshes and to our team of villagers – Jenny Hamm, Margaret Down, Rosemary Codman and Reg Alford who told us about life here in the Charltons over the years in such a lively way. Thanks too to Celia and Ron Mycock, from the Historical Society who brought along much fascinating information about the villages. We also had lots of audience participation from villagers old and new which made the whole evening very absorbing. Each event raised £125 towards the repairs to the Tower roof in Mackrell

### Open Gardens

Thank you everyone who supported our Open Gardens event- the gardeners who had a hard time in the rain the week before but still managed to produce beautiful gardens which were much admired; all our visitors and everyone on the catering team who worked so hard over the weekend producing delicious food. At the time of going to print we are not sure how much we have raised but we are sure it will be a good amount. Thank you so much.



### ADVANCE NOTICE Charltons Harvest Lunch

Christine and Brian Wellstead have once again kindly invited us to have our Harvest lunch in their barn at Withy Hayes Farm.

This will be on **Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup>**.  
More details will follow nearer the time.

### SOME THOUGHTS TO INSPIRE

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sun house does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it."

#### C S Lewis

"Like water, be gentle and strong. Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth, and strong enough to rise up and reshape the world."

#### Brenda Peterson

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

#### John Muir

Be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today - tonight - and for ever.

#### Columba (521-597)

"Sometimes the Lord rides out the storm with us and other times He calms the restless sea around us. Most of all, He calms the storm inside us in our deepest inner soul."

#### Lloyd John Ogilvie

"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk"

#### Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

**Kingsdon Village Hall  
Bookings for July**

**Short Mat Bowls**

Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm  
Tuesdays 10am - 12noon

**Table Tennis Club**

Tuesdays at 7.30pm (not 12th)

**Yeovil District Canine Soc.**

Wednesdays at 6.30pm

**Art Club**

Thursdays 10am - 12 (Term time—Not 28th)

**Pilates**

Fridays 9.30am-10.30am (Not 22nd or 29th)

**Charlton Mackrell School**

Friday 1st 1.45pm - 2.45pm

**Private Function**

Saturday 2nd

**Private Function**

Saturday 9th

**Ladies Club**

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm

**Parish Council Meeting**

Thursday 14th at 7.30pm

**Charlton Mackrell School Disco**

Friday 15th

**Practical Study Group**

Wednesday 20th 10am - 3pm

**Private Function**

Saturday 23rd

**Charlton Mackrell  
Reading Room Bookings - July**

**The Rock**

Sundays 3/10/17 10.30—12.00

**Pilates**

Wednesdays 6/13/20/25 2.30pm - 4.30pm

**Country and Western**

Wednesday 6/13/20/25 7.00pm - 9.00pm

**Worship Evening**

Tuesday 5th July 6.30pm

**CHADS—storage of costumes**

Thursdays 7

**CHADS—storage of costumes**

Friday 8

**CHADS—storage of costumes**

Saturday 8

**CHARLTON MACKRELL SCHOOL**

Monday 11 1-3.15pm + 5.15-7.30pm

**CHARLTON MACKRELL SCHOOL**

Tuesday 12 1-3.00pm

**Parish Council**

Tuesday 12 7.30pm

**Village Cafe**

Thursday 14 10.30am-12.00

**CHARLTON MACKRELL SCHOOL**

Thursday 14 1-3.15pm + 5.15-7.30pm

**CHARLTON MACKRELL SCHOOL**

Friday 15 1-3.15pm

**QUILT TEAM**

Sunday 17 Afternoon

**READING ROOM SUB COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 19 Evening

**CHARLTONS PCC**

Tuesday 26 7.15

**If you would like to book the hall  
for a group or private event  
Please contact Margaret Hutchins 01458 224099**

**PRAYER FOR THE SUMMER**



Long warm days, the pace of life slows,  
A time for picnics and rest in the shade.

Lord, help me to rest a while in the  
cooling shade of your presence.

Slow down my restless heart  
and fill me with gentle compassion  
for all your people. **Amen**

Author: unknown

**CONNECT @ St MICHAEL'S  
Sunday 3rd July 7.30pm**

Come and join our Monthly Café Style Discussion Event.

Enjoy time together to discuss the topic of the month and enjoy the refreshments provided.

We would like to see people from around the Benefice and also ask you to bring your friends.

**ALL ARE VERY WELCOME**

**CELEBRITY CULTURE**



**THE MOTHERS' UNION**

**SOMERTON**

14th July at 2.30pm

Speaker: Mr Graham Taylor

Venue: Holy Spirit Chapel, St Michael's

Wednesday 20th July - 10am

Corporate Communion at St Michael's



**BELL RINGING - ST MICHAELS**

Sunday ringing: 10.15 am to 11.00 am

Practices: Wednesdays 7.30pm – 9pm

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at High Ham

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at Huish Episcopi

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at Somerton

4th Wednesday at Pitney

5th Wednesday at Somerton

**John Hayter (Tower Captain)**

**Tel: 01458 272002**

**COFFEE IN CHURCH**

This month's Coffee Morning in aid of Church Funds is being organised by the members of our Worship Committee



Coffee Morning

**Saturday 2nd July  
10AM - 12 NOON**

Do come along and give us your support and enjoy some time together over a cup of coffee.

**NO COFFEE MORNING IN AUGUST**

Thanks to Bellringers for organising the June Coffee Morning which raised £119.82



**SUNDAY 10TH JULY**

**ARTS FESTIVAL SERVICE 10.30AM  
In St Michael's**

Come and join us for a celebration of the gifts and skills God has given to his people.



**The Somerton Music & Arts Festival 8th - 17th JULY 2016  
Events at St Michael's**

Saturday 9th July 7.30pm - Bath Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Thursday 15th July 7.30pm - Divertimento String Quartet

For more information Website: [www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk) Email: [festivaltickets@btinternet.com](mailto:festivaltickets@btinternet.com)

Call us on: 07928508700 Online ticket outlet is [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) Search by Somerton and date.

## Benefice Tea & Chat

Our next gathering will be on :-

**Friday 15th July, at 3pm**  
**100 Behind Berry, Somerton**  
**the home of Jo and John Hinkley**

Any donations of cakes, sandwiches or money would be very welcome.

### Contacts:

**Sue Shepherd, Tel: 01458 273040**  
**Or Di Ross 01458 273277**

## HELP WITH CLEANING AT ST MICHAEL'S

Esther Locke has decided to step down, literally, as she has been cleaning the window sills and cobwebs in St Michael's for many years and regretfully feels it is time to hang up her duster. We all owe Esther a huge thank you but especially me, as leader of the cleaning team, for her continued support.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the team for their faithful efficiency and hope they are all willing to continue.

Would any member of the congregation be willing to join us and take over Esther's job? You just have to do it as and when needed and when you have the time. If a willing volunteer is not agile enough they can take over another area of the church and I will do the window sills and cobwebs.

**Please get in touch with me,**  
**Pamela Miley 01458 273026 - I will be so grateful.**

## Lay Pastoral Assistants

Did you know that within our benefice we have a wonderful resource of people who are available to visit others? They are our Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's), who have been trained and commended by our Diocese.

If you, or someone you know, are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, is housebound, is lonely, or who perhaps has recently been bereaved, or of anyone who would really appreciate a visit from one of our LPA's, please do consider passing their name to Chris Hopkins our LPA coordinator, and he will arrange for one of the team to visit, as appropriate.

Caring for one another within our communities through visits, is one way in which we can practically demonstrate the love of Christ.

Our team consists of:

Marion Hilborne  
Joy Rattenbury  
Thelma Hill  
Bill Train  
Kathy Train  
Chris Thomas  
Biddy Chittenden  
Jenny Gollop  
Anthea Reilly

If you know of anyone who would like to be visited please contact in the first instance the LPA coordinator on 01458 272029



**TAIZÉ SERVICE**  
**7:00pm On Friday 22nd July**  
**in St Michael's Somerton**

A contemplative style of worship based on the framework of the Community in Taize in music, prayers and scripture.  
**Come and join us.**



Thank you to all those who supported the recent concert by the  
Sunset Café Stompers  
The Concert raised £500.00.

And to those who supported the Queen's Birthday Tea  
and Mini Fayre  
which raised the wonderful amount of £1100.00



## Some well known authors who have self-identified as being Christians



**J K ROWLING**

Harry Potter caused controversy among many Christians on the release of the first book in 1997. There were concerns that the series drew on themes of witchcraft and the occult. However author JK Rowling has insisted Christianity was one of her major inspirations. She told *The Telegraph*, 'To me, the religious parallels have always been obvious...But I never wanted to talk too openly about it because I thought it might show people who just wanted the story where we were going.' Fans of the series have noted that quotations from the Bible occasionally appear. For example in in chapter 16 of *Deathly Hallows* Harry reads 'The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death,' (1 Corinthians 15:26) on his parents' tombstone. He also sees 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' (Matthew 6:21) on another grave.

Rowling was brought up as an Anglican and is now a member of the Church of Scotland.



**JOHN GRISHAM**

Having sold over 275 million books, John Grisham is one of the world's most successful authors. He converted to Christianity aged 8, calling the experience 'the most important event' in his life. The author of *The Firm* and *A Time To Kill* explained his books are 'relatively clean', adding 'I hope it says something about our culture that you can be successful without succumbing to all the gratuitous sex and language that is so prevalent today.' He often wonders why he's been so successful: 'I go for long walks in the woods a lot, and I ask myself if I'm handling it the way it ought to be handled. I don't know why it happened to me. God has a purpose for it. We are able to contribute an awful lot of money to his work, and maybe that's why. But I firmly believe it will be over one of these days—five years from now, ten years from now. The books will stop selling for whatever reason. All this is temporary.'



**MARILYNNE  
ROBINSON**

Described by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams as 'one of the world's most compelling English-speaking novelists', Marilynne Robinson has received numerous awards and much recognition for her writing. President Obama is a fan and this year *TIME* magazine listed Robinson as one of the 100 most influential people. She grew up in Idaho and describes herself as a Calvinist. The author of *Home* and *Gilead* also isn't afraid to mix faith and politics. She once said: 'Can we say that most of us are defined by the belief that Jesus Christ made the most gracious gift of his life and death for our redemption? Then what does he deserve from us? He said we are to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek. Granted, these are difficult teachings. But does our most gracious Lord deserve to have his name associated with concealed weapons and stand-your-ground laws, things that fly in the face of his teaching and example? Does he say anywhere that we exist primarily to drive an economy and flourish in it? He says precisely the opposite.'



**FAY WELDON**

Celebrated author of *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* and outspoken feminist Fay Weldon found faith later in life through attending a traditional Anglican church. In the year 2000, at 69 years old, Weldon was baptised in St Paul's Cathedral. 'I started going to church again, and I so liked singing the hymns that on impulse I filled in the little slip on the shelf in front of me: 'If you'd like to get more involved...' Then I had a call from the vicar and I met him, and getting baptised and confirmed seemed an obvious thing to do. It wasn't a great moment of enlightenment or sudden conversion. Partly, I think, I wanted to belong. Another thing that got me going as a Christian, around that time, is that I was being asked to write an introduction to 1 Corinthians. I was more or less converted by St Paul. What he had to say was so new at the time, and yet still so relevant.'



## IN FOCUS

### **New Christianity resource for schools to boost religious literacy**

Teaching of Christianity in schools is set to be transformed by a new resource from the Church of England, *Understanding Christianity* is a set of comprehensive materials and training which will enable pupils from age 4 to 14 to develop their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to making sense of the world and their own experience within it. Available to all schools across the country the resource was written by a team of RE advisers from RE Today Services, in collaboration with more than 30 expert teachers and academics, and has been trialled in over 50 schools. *Understanding Christianity* was commissioned by the Church of England Education Office with the generous support of Culham St Gabriels, The Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Jerusalem Trust and an anonymous donor. The Rev Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for The Church of England, said: "RE is primarily about teaching religious literacy. The ability for young people to have informed conversation and dialogue about belief and faith is key to building a peaceful society and helps combat ignorance and extremism. We recognise that within the rich Christian heritage of Britain, a particular responsibility of the Church of England is to ensure Christianity is well taught in our schools. This large-scale resource promotes theological literacy and a deep understanding of the whole Christian narrative for children and young people." *Understanding Christianity* will not be available in the shops. Accredited trainers will train teachers to use the resource in their own setting. The project also comes with up to 15 hours of professional development support. Over 800 teachers and staff have signed up for training in *Understanding Christianity* in one diocese alone. David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Cambridge University and consultant on the project said: "This resource manages to interconnect the text of the Bible, the beliefs and practices of Christians, and the world of the pupils - a remarkable achievement."

Visit [www.understandingchristianity.org.uk](http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk) for more information

### **A hopeful future Renewal and Reform**

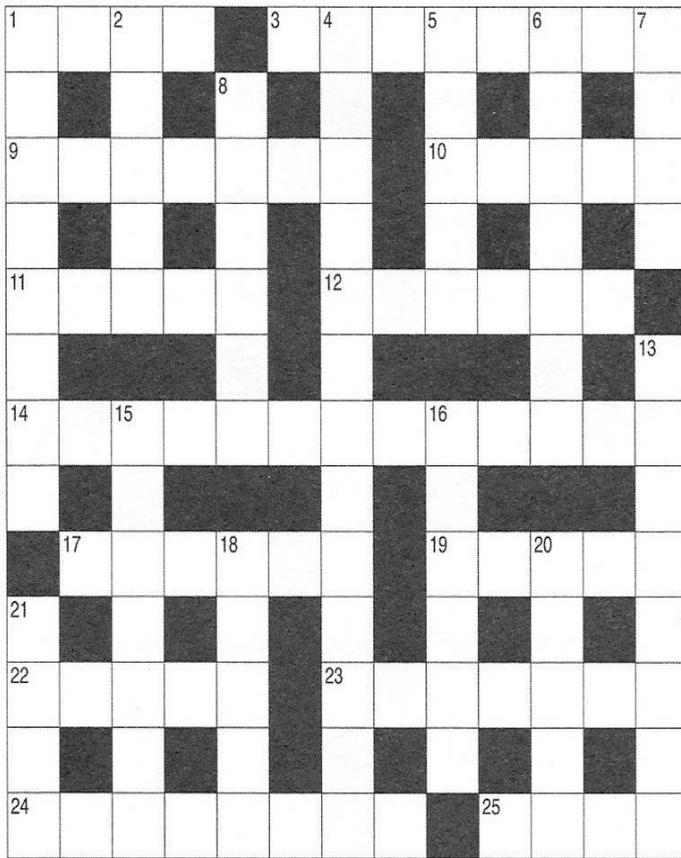
One of the foundational texts for Renewal & Reform is Luke 10:2: The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. As a church we live in a time of challenge but also hope. At the centre of the challenge is how we fulfil God's calling to us as a Church to play our role in God's ecology of growth and harvest. At the centre of our hope is God's promise to equip us. Hope has a biblical foundation. It comes out of the promises of God - his abundant, continuing generosity and his faithfulness throughout what has been and what is to come. Biblical hope underpins the work of Renewal & Reform in seeking a confident and hopeful future. This isn't about institutional survival but rather responding to God's call for His Church in this generation and for the generations to come. Renewal and Reform is not simply a response to some negative graphs and challenging demographics, although the graphs may be daunting and the demographics concerning. Rather it has to be about an understanding of God's call and God's promise into the future. I hope that as its work progresses Renewal & Reform will build upon and support the future work already taking place in parishes and dioceses across the country. In some cases it will involve new initiatives, in others supporting ongoing good work in others still nurturing planted seeds of hope to fruition and harvest. Some of this is about planning, some about releasing, some about surprise. In all the aim is to equip and invest in a confident, hopeful church by identifying the challenges and working to provide solutions to those things that would hinder growth.. For example, we need to think and plan for what ministries and leadership our churches, chaplaincies and fresh expressions need (including how to give effect to the decision to increase the number of ordinands by 50% by 2022). We need to take deliberate steps to ensure that dioceses have senior leadership which is more representative and better equipped for God's mission. We need to work out how whole church can confidently

communicate our faith in word and action in a digital age. We need to think intentionally about how we reach those groups missing from our churches, whilst affirming those whose lives and service are a faithful presence. And we need to expect God to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. We hope that every diocese will seek to articulate their own narrative of hope, informed by their context, enriched by all that God has been doing and continues to do, and confident of God's promises for the future. We hope that every parish will similarly look honestly and prayerfully at how and where God has been leading and where he may be taking us next. As the writer of Lamentations says: Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness Renewal & Reform is built on hope. And hope is a very, very good thing. Mike Eastwood, Director of Renewal and Reform

### **New ministry statistics released**

The Church of England has released new Ministry Statistics giving trends in ministry over the period between 2012 and 2015. The statistics show that total ordained ministry over the last 4 years has remained stable, with over 20,000 ordained people serving the church in various roles. The number of stipendiary clergy has fallen from 8,300 to 8,000 between 2012 and 2015. The proportion of stipendiary clergy who are women increased from 24% in 2012 to 27% in 2015. And 19% of senior staff in 2015 were women, up from 12% in 2012. Nationally, 13% of parish clergy are aged under 40, while a quarter are 60 and over. There was an increase in stipendiary clergy from Black and Minority Ethnic communities from 3% in 2012 to 3.4% in 2015. In his commentary, the Church of England Director of Ministry, Julian Hubbard, writes: "While the number of stipendiary ordinations showed a welcome increase between 2012 and 2015, this is not sufficient to redress the gathering effect of clergy retirements predicted over the next ten years. Visit <http://bit.ly/ministrystats> for more information.

Crossword No 46



**Across:**

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

**Down:**

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4)(8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: "We will not all \_ , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51)(5)
- 4 'I delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your \_ \_ \_ is' (Colossians 2:5)(5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2)(5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20)(4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel; 16:13)(6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17)(8)
- 15 CIA char (anag) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27-28)(6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34)(5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

**Answers to Crossword 45**

- ACROSS:** 1, Amazed. 4, Others, 8, Peter, 9, Zebedee. 10, Accuser. 11, Endue. 12, Scripture. 17, Shrub. 19, Abashed. 21, Foolish. 22, Upset. 23, Loathe. 24, Lesser.
- DOWN:** 1, Appeal. 2, Attacks. 3, Earns. 5, Tableau . 6, Ended. 7, Shekel. 9, Zarephath. 13, Rubbish. 14, Ephesus. 15, Useful. 16, Editor. ,18, Rhoda. 20, Abuse.

**NewWine**  
Local churches changing nations



The mission of New Wine as a movement is to see local churches playing their part in changing nations.

The Church was established on the promise of change – of hearts, families, communities, cities – that the entire history of humanity and the earth itself would be changed by those swept up in this movement of God. The reality of change is rooted in the reality of God's promise that he will work in and through our lives. This is a cause for celebration!

Come and join us as we embrace together the change God has for us, and be the change agents that he wants us to be as we play our part as local churches changing this nation.

For more information regarding booking tickets including day tickets go to the website

[www.new-wine.org](http://www.new-wine.org)

# WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	The Revd Alan Symonds, The Vicarage, Sutton Road	Tel: 01458 272029 (Day off Thursday) (Emergencies only on Thursdays please)
<b>Curate:</b>	The Revd Chris Hopkins	Tel: 01458 448250
<b>Reader</b>	Jenny Gollop	Tel: 01458 223516
<b>Church Wardens Somerton</b>	Joy Rattenbury Jan Turner	Tel: 01458 272645 Tel: 01458 270096
<b>Charltons</b>	Mrs Sue Cooper Mr Chris Gollop	Tel: 01458 223219 Tel: 01458 223516
<b>Kingsdon</b>	Mrs Dot Squire Brian Wellstead Mrs Bel Allan	Tel: 01458 224260 Tel: 01458 223583 Tel: 01935 840878
<b>PCCs Somerton</b>	Chair - Revd Alan Symonds Deputy Chair - James Turner Secretary - David Speed Treasurer - Michael Green	Tel: 01458 272029 Tel: 01458 270096 Tel: 01458 272907 Tel: 01458 272429
<b>Charltons</b>	Lay Chair - Mrs Liz Bale Secretary - Mrs Andrea de Berker Treasurer - Andrew Goldsworthy/Stacey Goldsworthy	Tel: 01458 223164 Tel: 01458 223227 Tel: 01458 223893
<b>Kingsdon</b>	Lay Chair - Nick Allan Secretary - Nick Allan Treasurer - Alan Carnall	Tel: 01935 840878 Tel: 01935 840878 Tel: 01935 840692
<b>Parish Assistant</b>	Geraldine Taylor Located in the Benefice Office, The Vicarage, Sutton Road Wednesday, Thursday mornings and Friday	Tel: 01458 272029
<b>Director of Music, Somerton, CONTACT Editor and Webmaster</b>	James Turner (email to magazine@stmichaels-somerton.org.uk)	Tel: 01458 270096
<b>Charlton's Organist</b>	Mrs Evelyn Buckland and Rota	
<b>CONTACT distribution</b>	Jan Turner	Tel: 01458 270096
<b>Lay Pastoral Assistants</b>	Contact LPA coordinator	Tel: 01458 272029

## *From the Registers*

### Baptisms

22nd May—Austin Matthews—Somerton

### Weddings

21st May—Charltons  
Jason McGeown and Annie Powell

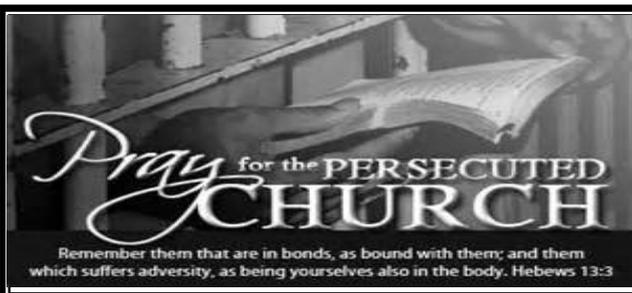
### Funerals

27th May—Phylis Hunt— Aged 83—Somerton  
3rd June—Maurice Hoare—Aged 94—Somerton  
16th June—John Cockburn—Aged 90—Somerton

### PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

1st Monday of the Month  
St Cleers chapel, Somerton  
7.30 - 8.30pm

A short time praying for Christians who are persecuted



## Benefice Sunday Services

DATE	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS SOMERTON	ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHARLTON MACKRELL	ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHARLTON ADAM	ALL SAINTS KINGSDON
Sunday 3rd July	8.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Café Service 7.30pm Connect	9.30am Holy Communion	No Service	11.00am Family Service
Sunday 10th July	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Arts Festival Service	No Service	9.30am Praise Service	9.30am Morning Praise
Sunday 17th July	8.00am Holy Communion 11.00am AM Praise	9.30am Healing Holy Communion	No Service	6.00pm Evensong
Sunday 24th July	8.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Healing Service	9.30am All Age Service <b>Reading Room</b>	No Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 31st July	8.00am Holy Communion <b>10.00am Benefice Together Holy Communion</b>	<b>10.00am Benefice Together Holy Communion Somerton</b>	<b>10.00am Benefice Together Holy Communion Somerton</b>	<b>10.00am Benefice Together Holy Communion Somerton</b>

### *Other Benefice Services*

**Wednesday's @ St Michael's  
10am Holy Communion**

Wednesday 6th July  
Wednesday 13th July  
Wednesday 20th July  
Wednesday 27th July

**Parsonage Close**

Monday 18th July - 10am Communion

**Laburnum Drive**

Monday 18th July - 2.30pm Communion

**Wessex House**

Friday 22nd July - 10.30am Communion

**BCP COMUNION SERVICE  
CHARLTON ADAM - 2.00PM**

Monday 25th July

**Please come and join us.**



**THE BENEFICE ROCK  
ACTIVITY CHURCH**  
for children up to  
11 years old

Sundays 5th, 12th and 19th July  
meeting at  
The Reading Room  
Hillway, Charlton Mackrell

**More info: Chris Thomas 224027 or  
Sandy Symonds 272029**

**FRIDAY MONTHLY MATTINS  
ST MICHAEL'S - SOMERTON - 10.00am**

Friday 15th July

**Please come and join us.**