

COMMUNICATE

Autumn 2026

In this issue:
Faithful calendars
Science chaplaincy
Stole stories



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St Peter's Church
Babraham

Vicar
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W

elcome to the Autumn
issue of *Communicate*!

As we come to the end of a very warm summer, this issue invites us to reflect on what the autumn holds. Ian challenges us to think about what goes into our diaries as the year in many senses begins again, Becca tells us about the stories behind her ordination stole, and we have a Coffee and Chat interview with Sandra. Do also flip to the middle for some fun activities – including the colouring page.

This is my first issue as editor – while I'll be introducing some new ideas, I also wanted to take a moment to thank Petra, Dianne and others who've been involved previously as I continue to build on what they did before me.

For the next issue I'd love to feature some of the Christmas traditions in our community. Please email short snippets to stmarys.communicate@gmail.com or chat to me at church to share yours.

Happy reading!

Clare Hulme

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From the Vicarage

Rev'd Kathryn Waite

Dear Friends,

As I sat in my study with the window open during the hot weather we have recently been experiencing, I became aware of blackbirds swooping into a bush adjacent to the study window. One bird seemed to take a kamikaze approach, aiming straight for the window and making a very sharp right turn at the last minute. The arrival of the birds was then followed by loud chirping. I realised that the blackbirds had been nesting in the bush, which was extremely well hidden, and I was able to spot at least two chicks with beaks wide open to receive the food brought to them by their parents. According to my internet research, blackbirds usually fledge around two weeks after hatching, but sadly they left the nest on a day when I was out of the house all day. I did spot one of the young a few days later enjoying an apple, one of the windfalls from the apple tree in the garden. It is now strangely quiet without the fluttering of the two adults backwards and forwards and the chirps of the young.

Watching the birds made me reflect on our church life: we all need to be fed, not physically, but with God's word. Paul uses the analogy of a baby progressing from drinking milk to eating meat when he wrote to the Corinthian church in his first letter. He is disappointed that many in the Corinthian church, though several years old in their Christian faith, are not maturing in their faith. He says they still need spiritual milk, not spiritual meat. We mature as we internalise what we learn. In practice, learning is part of our life-long Christian journey and there is always more to learn. We learn in church on Sunday, in our daily Bible reading, and as part of our various small groups with which we are blessed in our parishes. The new academic year, with the darker evenings approaching, is a good time to think about how we can learn more about God and God's ways in our lives. We all learn in different ways and learning doesn't necessarily mean reading huge tomes. Films, music, and art can all be great ways to help us think about our faith and, of course, there is a plethora of apps available that help too. Do

come and talk to a member of the ministry team if you would like some more ideas or one of the small group leaders if you are not already part of a small group and would like to know more.

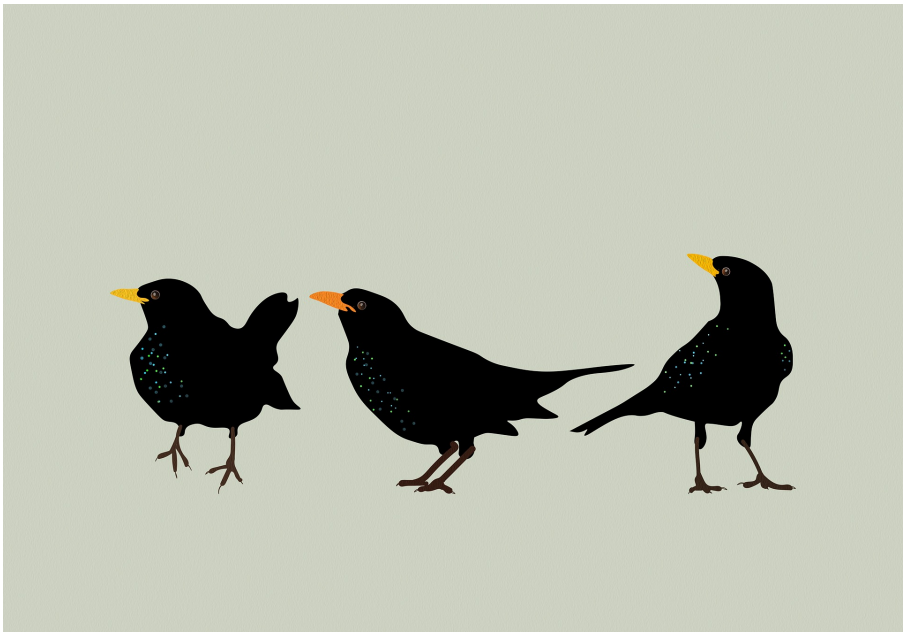
May we be a church that is always learning and becoming more mature in our faith. May we be people who are always ready to help and encourage others, young and not so young, on their spiritual journey.

With every blessing,

Kathy

"Christian brothers, I could not speak to you as to full-grown Christians. I spoke to you as men who have not obeyed the things you have been taught. I spoke to you as if you were baby Christians. My teaching was as if I were giving you milk to drink. I could not give you meat because you were not ready for it. Even yet you are not able to have anything but milk. You still live as men who are not Christians. When you are jealous and fight with each other, you are still living in sin and acting like sinful men in the world."

1 Corinthians 3: 1-3



Welcome to St Peter's!

Services at St Peter's

Morning Worship

11am on 1st Sunday

Holy Communion

11am on 3rd Sunday

Morning Prayer

8.15am on Wednesdays

Coffee and Chat

Wednesdays 12–2pm

Opening Hours

9am–4.30pm daily



St Peter's Church, Babraham



www.stpetersbabraham.org.uk



Welcome to St Mary's!

Services at St Mary's

Holy Communion

9.15am on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays

10am Altogether Communion Service on 2nd and 5th Sundays

9.30am Thursdays followed by Coffee Morning (at St Peter's while works are carried out)

Open Door – an informal service for all ages

10.45am on 1st and 3rd Sundays, with Children's Church

10.45am on 4th Sundays – All age worship

Refreshments are served after all regular services.

Please do stay and have a chat.

Morning Prayer (on hold until renovations are complete)

8am on Mondays and Tuesdays

Night Prayer

8–9pm Wednesdays on Zoom

Please contact the Church Office for link

Youth Groups

2nd and 4th Sundays – please contact Kathryn for details

Opening Hours

The church is currently closed during the week for renovations.

It is normally open for private prayer during daylight hours

Winter 9am–3pm and Summer 9am–4pm (approx.)



Email: office@stmaryssawston



St Mary's Church, Sawston



www.stmaryssawston.org.net

News from St Peter's

Rev'd Kathryn Waite

At St Peter's we celebrated our patronal festival with a choral evensong. We are grateful to Elizabeth Trenchard and the choir of St John's, Hills Road, Cambridge for leading the wonderful music, augmented by a number of familiar faces. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in leading the worship and helping with the delicious strawberry teas.

We are looking forward to the annual **Art Exhibition** which will take place on **Saturday 12 September from 10am to 4pm** (see p18). Tea, coffee, and cake will be available all day. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact myself or Denise Dear. Do come along to support our wonderful local artists including children from Babraham Primary School and the church.

In October the ever-popular **Harvest Treasure Hunt** and teas will be taking place on **Saturday 3 October from 2.30pm to 4.30pm**. Everyone is welcome so please do come along. Our **Harvest Festival** service will take place the following day, **Sunday 4 October at 11am**.

Following our Archdeacon's visitation inspection carried out by our Rural Dean a couple of months ago, it has been noted that with no churchwardens, a small congregation and very small financial reserves, St Peter's situation is unlikely to be sustainable in the long term. A letter has been written to us by our outgoing Archdeacon suggesting that St Peter's explores alternative models, such as becoming a united benefice with Sawston. Please be assured that this will not take place without input from Babraham. If you have any comments or questions, please do get in touch with me. In the meantime, please do prayerfully consider how you might be able to help our wonderful community and church.



Science Chaplaincy Begins on Babraham Campus

After much groundwork, the Granta Deanery has appointed Mandy Jeffery as the new chaplain to the Babraham Research Campus. She will be working two days a week, acting as a listening ear to people of all faiths and none. As well as being based on the campus, Mandy will be using St Peter's Church which can be accessed directly from the campus.

Mandy started her career as a research scientist before moving into HR, spending over 30 years in the NHS specialising in training, development, and coaching.

'I've been a Christian for nearly 50 years and while this is the



primary motivation for me taking on this role, I'm absolutely not here to preach or convert,' says Mandy. 'Principally I'm here to listen and help you process whatever is on your mind.'

From the Registers

Funerals

18/5/26 **Susan Carter** – St Peter's and Cam Valley

19/6/26 **William Noonan** – SFC followed by burial in the cemetery

22/6/26 **Dorothy Butler** – St Mary's followed by burial in the churchyard

30/6/26 **Lois Annie Clark** – Cam Valley

10/8/26 **Anthony John Slaughter** – St Mary's followed by burial in the churchyard

Grief is sometimes described as a journey. If you would like further information to help navigate this journey please see our "Journey Through Grief" leaflet: <https://tinyurl.com/journey-grief>

Remembering Dorothy Butler

Mary Dicken

I first met Dorothy in late 1956. St Mary's was putting on a scripted nativity play and the prospective cast met in the choir vestry. Brian was cast as a shepherd and Dorothy came with him to that meeting. The producer, in those far-off more formal days, asked Mr Butler if his young lady would like a part and Dorothy then outperformed us all. She had left the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls to work in the photography department at the University Library and I worked there as a vacation job and so got to know her better. Dorothy was very proud of her Baptist upbringing and background. Though living in Stapleford where her father was the village blacksmith, she and her mother worshipped at Great Shelford. Dorothy felt that when she and Brian were married, they should worship at the same church and so she went to Confirmation classes and became a member of the Church of England, but she never forgot her Baptist roots. The vicar who prepared her for confirmation was very impressed by her knowledge of the Bible and understanding of her faith and wished members of his flock had

a similar commitment. Dorothy and Brian were key members of the church community, and she was a great support to him when he served as churchwarden. She was one of those who pressed for the introduction of a family service of a more informal kind. She helped run the discussion group which often met at Drift House. For some years regular stalls selling assorted produce were held at the end of the Drift House drive. She oversaw the Upper Room teenage group which met at The Brook. Outside Sawston she was a prison visitor.

Dorothy was someone who had firm principles and stuck to them. She would speak her mind frankly but never confrontationally. She had a lovely singing voice and some acting talent. She was a notable cook and a gracious hostess, with several very happy New Year's Eve parties celebrated at Tudor House as well as summer barbecues to raise funds for mission. She was also a very notable gardener and the pristine flowerbeds at Tudor House were a reproach to those of us who were less gifted. She was an excellent flower arranger and in recent years had been

partly responsible for the porch flowers which welcomed visitors.

Dorothy had great pride in her family and, in her later years after Brian died, we often sat together in church and afterwards exchanged news of our grandchildren, but not at all competitively. We had witnessed so much of the recent years of St Mary's and shared in so many good and bad times that we had an inbuilt mutual understanding and for that, as well as her personality, she is very much missed.



Sawston & District Royal British Legion

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www.britishlegion.org.uk

National helpline:

0808 802 8080

(calls free from UK landlines)

Celebrating the Festival of Creation in Christ *Clare Hulme*

The Church of England will celebrate the Festival of Creation in Christ for the first time this September, offering an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, and reflect on our responsibility to care for the natural world.

The feast was approved by General Synod in July and will be celebrated annually on the first Sunday in September. It builds on an existing ecumenical season of prayer and action for the environment that runs from

1 September to 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

'Together with the teaching document *Hope for All Creation*, it reminds us that our response to climate and environmental crises must be drawn from the faith, life and worship of the Church,' said the Bishop of Lichfield, Michael Ipgrave.

Hope for all Creation can be found online: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/hope-for-all-creation-for-web-new.pdf>

Becca Ordained at Ely Cathedral

On Saturday 4 July, Becca Herrick was ordained as a deacon at Ely Cathedral by the Right Reverend Sarah Clark, Bishop of Ely. Many of us joined the service to celebrate this occasion, and it was also followed by a tea in St Mary's Community Hall. Becca has now started her three-year curacy in the parishes of St Mark's, Newnham and St Andrew and St Mary's, Grantchester.



Stole Stories: Water, a Shell, and the Cross

Rev'd Becca Herrick

The beautiful embroidery on a clergy stole – the long band of fabric worn by a priest or deacon – often has a personal and spiritual story behind it. This is especially true of ordination stoles, which may symbolise aspects of the life or faith journey. Becca tells us more about the story behind her ordination stole.

My ordination stole was designed and beautifully handmade by Petra Shakeshaft. On one side, the Holy Spirit is depicted as a dove hovering over the waters of creation. On the other is a shell, representing baptism and journeying. A cross sits at the back of the neck piece, worn across my shoulder, reminding me that Christ is at the centre of my calling. Together, these symbols speak of some of my faith journey so far: my adult baptism, after growing up in the Baptist Church, is represented by the shell, which also points to the continuing, lifelong journey of faith. Creation, and especially water – the sea, rivers, and lakes – are ‘thin’ places for me, where I am often aware of God’s presence. The dove reflects the Holy Spirit at work in us, through us and all around us, prompting and guiding us in the everyday. The strands running up and down the stole speak to me of God’s

faithfulness throughout our lives: Christ’s faithful presence through every twist and turn, expected and unexpected, and the hope of resurrection seen in the cross.

Coincidentally, Petra did some of the sewing for this stole during a retreat on Lindisfarne, in Northumberland, which is the county my parents came from and where my grandparents lived throughout my lifetime. My grandad died at the end of my first year of ordination training, so in a sense this stole also reminds me of all those who could not be present for my ordination, but who nonetheless encouraged and supported me along the way.

Deacons wear their stoles across their bodies as a reminder that we are called to serve as Christ served.



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A Full Calendar, or a Faithful One?

Rev'd Ian Henderson

Diaries fill as schools begin again, groups restart, and activities paused for the summer return to life. September brings a practical new beginning for many families and organisations. In our churches, youth work and school ministry regain their rhythm, meetings resume, and familiar faces gather after holidays and time away.

This is not the beginning of the

long season in which faith is formed through repeated, everyday choices: forgiving someone, serving without recognition, noticing who is excluded, and continuing when the first enthusiasm has faded. The Gospel readings of early autumn are often demanding. Jesus speaks about conflict and forgiveness, generosity and envy, authority and responsibility.

“We can become so occupied with keeping things going that we stop noticing why they matter”

Church's year – that comes with Advent – but it is a genuine moment of renewal. We make plans, revive commitments, and perhaps promise ourselves that this year we will be more organised or less hurried. Yet restarting the calendar is not the same as renewing our common life. September, October, and most of November lie within what the Church calls Ordinary Time. This season started just after Trinity Sunday, following Pentecost, and will continue until Advent.

'Ordinary' does not mean dull or spiritually unimportant. It is the

He refuses to separate the love of God from the way we treat one another. As routines restart, the lectionary – the pattern of readings used in church – asks not only what we are going to do, but what kind of people we are becoming as we do it. That is an important question for any church!

Activity is not necessarily the same as life, and a full calendar does not automatically make a faithful one. We can become so occupied with keeping things going that we stop noticing why they matter, whom they serve, or who is carrying too much of the

The Church Calendar: September–November 2026

Ordinary Time

The long season in which the Church explores how faith is lived and how disciples are formed through the ordinary patterns of worship, work, relationships and service.

All Saints' Day: Sunday 1 November

A celebration of the whole communion of saints: the people of God, famous and largely forgotten, whose lives bear witness to Christ.

All Souls' Day: Monday 2 November

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, when we remember and pray for those who have died.

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 8 November

Observed on the second Sunday in November, when we remember those affected by war, honour sacrifice and pray for peace.

Christ the King / Stir-up Sunday: 22 November

The final Sunday before Advent celebrates Christ the King; the traditional name 'Stir-up Sunday' comes from the opening words of the Book of Common Prayer Collect - and became associated with making the Christmas pudding. Who knows, you may even hear this Collect on the day in church!

Advent Sunday: Sunday 29 November

The beginning of a new Church year and of the season in which the Church watches and prepares for the coming of Christ.

burden. The philosopher and theologian James K. A. Smith argues that repeated practices shape what we love. The things we do week after week gradually form us, often without our noticing. Worship, prayer, hospitality, and service are therefore more than items in a programme. At their best, they teach us to become more attentive to God and more

generous towards our neighbours.

As September moves into October, the excitement of restarting settles into ordinary commitment. The evenings draw in, the temperature changes, and the natural world becomes marked by ripening, release, and decay. Harvest calls us to gratitude, while the changing season reminds us that

fruitfulness and loss are often held close together. November then brings a different movement. All Saints, All Souls, and Remembrance invite us to consider the lives that have shaped us, the people we have lost, and the histories we still carry. The final Sunday of the Church's year, Christ the King, asks where true authority is found. In the Gospel, Christ's reign is revealed not through status or control, but in our response to the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned.

During those closing weeks of the Church's year, we might all pause and ask: What has come to life among us? What are we merely keeping going? Who has flourished, and who has been overlooked? What should we carry forward, and what might it be time to release? Advent Sunday begins a new Church year. Before it arrives, the old year leaves us with a searching question: not whether we completed everything on our list, but whether our shared life has helped us recognise and serve Christ.



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What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

Marian Watson – Gift Aid Officer

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) was set up as a charity by the Church of England to help parishes manage regular donations. It helps to ease the administrative burden on churches by paying all donations into the bank by the tenth day of each month and claiming back Gift Aid by the end of each month (rather than quarterly). This means that money given to support the work of the church can be put to use sooner.

How does it work?

Each church registered with the PGS is issued with a unique number which needs to be used when communicating with the scheme as you can imagine there are quite a few St Mary's and St Peter's around the country!

Parishioners are able to sign up to the PGS online, over the phone, or using a paper form and may choose to give monthly, quarterly, or annually. This is done by a Direct Debit on the first of the month and credited to the respective church account. Eligible donors may opt to add Gift Aid, which the PGS can claim from HMRC on the church's behalf. There is an option to increase donations annually to

keep pace with inflation. For those who opt to do this the PGS will write to advise of the new amount. This may be accepted as is but it is possible to increase or decrease the amount as desired.

It is also possible to make a one-off gift online.

What about other methods of giving?

The churches are happy to receive regular donations by standing order, which can be made on any day of the month. These take longer to process as we can only reclaim Gift Aid quarterly via Ely, and also involve the Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer working closely together. All cash donations from services are eligible for Gift Aid through the GASDS scheme (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme).

More information

Forms and more information about the Parish Giving Scheme are available at the back of St Peter's. While the works are going on at St Mary's, please contact me for forms. Also if you have any questions about the scheme, please feel free to speak to me in church or drop an email to the office to pass on to me.



St Mary's Parish Giving Scheme:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/sawston-st-mary-cambridge>

Unique parish code 140614130



St Peter's Parish Giving Scheme:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/st-peter-s-cambridge>

Unique parish code 140614117

**Harvest Treasure Trail &
Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's**

**Saturday, 3rd October
2.30-4.30pm**



**St Peter's Church
Babraham**

A little church with a big heart





St Peter's Babraham

A little church with a big heart

ART, CRAFT AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

St Peter's Church, Babraham
Saturday 12 September, 10am-4pm

**Celebrating local
artists, crafters and
photographers.**



**Coffee and cake
available all day.**



Interested in exhibiting?

Please contact

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vicar@stmaryssawston.org.uk

for further information.

Set up Friday 11th, 10am-6pm or

Saturday 12th, before 10am

**Free entrance and
parking but donations
to support St Peter's
gratefully received.**

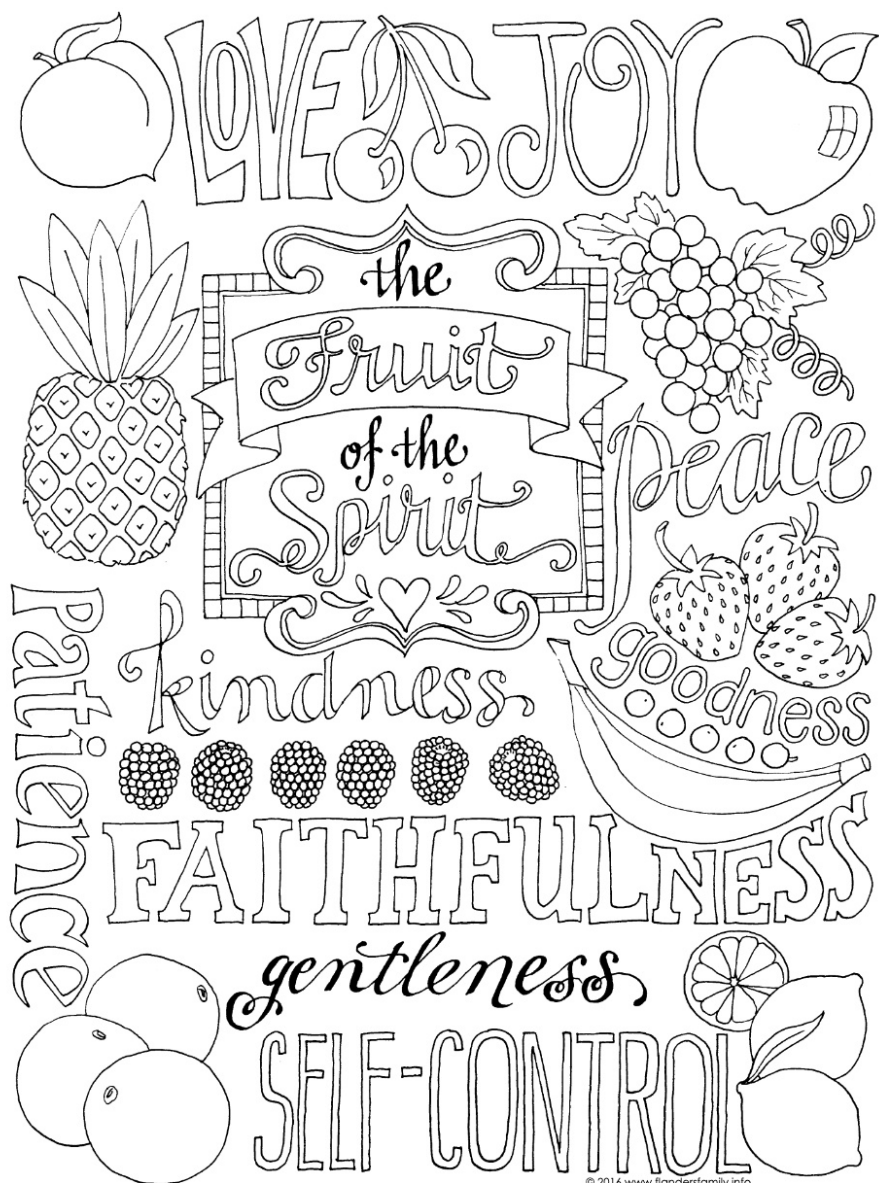
Directions: From A11, proceed on A1307 towards Cambridge. Turn right into Babraham Village. Sign for Church is on right just after small stone bridge in High Street.

Proceed along long drive and park near church



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Colouring Page



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7: 1-10, Matthew 8: 5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

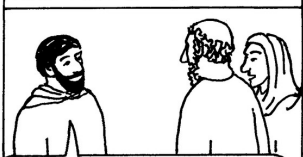


Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



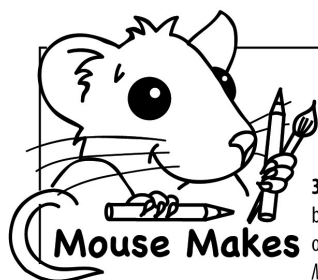
Wordsearch

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a	e	u	n	d	e	r	s	t	a	n	d	s
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Romans
loves
pain
healed
asked
leaders
people
anyone

Jesus
help
invaded
friends
understand
amazed
servant
tricky

faith
believed
centurion
authority
house
deserves
Capernaum
Israel



1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2

2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22

6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

B I B L E

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LYSTRA

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JERUSLEM

JUDEA

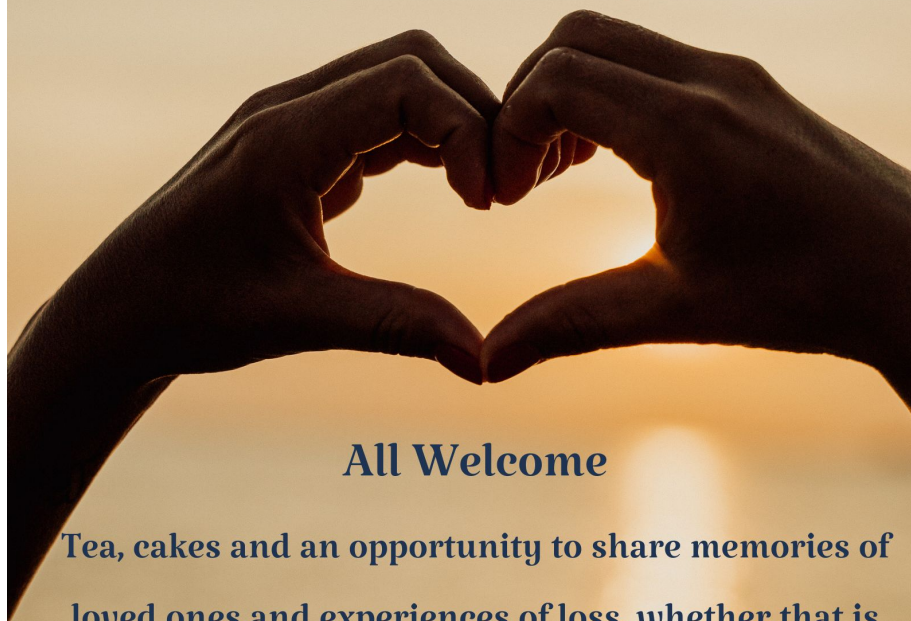
GALILEE

Bereavement Café

Saturday 17 October

10am-12noon

St Mary's Community Hall



All Welcome

Tea, cakes and an opportunity to share memories of loved ones and experiences of loss, whether that is recently or some considerable time ago



Remembering Service

St. Mary's, Sawston
Sunday 1 November
3.00pm

An opportunity to
remember loved ones who
have died

For more information please contact:
vicar@stmaryssawston.org.uk



The Names We Still Carry – All Souls’ Day

Rev’d Ian Henderson

There are names we speak often, and names we hardly ever say aloud. Some belong to people who died recently; others to those whose absence has been part of our lives for many years. Yet a name can still stop us in our tracks: on an envelope, in an old photograph, in a hymn they loved, or in the sudden recollection of a familiar phrase spoken in a familiar voice.

He enters it. Seeing Mary weep at the death of her brother, Jesus weeps too (John 11:35).

Christian hope does not deny sorrow; it trusts that God meets us within it.

At All Souls, the Church does more than recall private memories. We speak of the communion of saints: the whole fellowship of Christ, living and departed, held together in Him.

“we grieve because someone mattered, and because their absence has changed the shape of our world”

All Souls’ Day, kept by the Church on 2 November, is a day set apart to remember and pray for those who have died. It follows All Saints’ Day, when we celebrate the whole company of God’s people, known and unknown. All Souls allows that great celebration to become personal: it gives us space to bring before God the names, faces, and stories woven into our own lives. It does not ask us to tidy grief away or pretend that time has made absence unimportant. The Gospel story of Lazarus reminds us that Jesus does not stand outside grief and explain it.

‘Saints’ here does not mean only famous or exceptionally holy Christians, but includes the faithful whose names may never appear in a history book, but whose lives have helped to form ours. This is why we pray for those who have died. We are not trying to inform God of something forgotten, nor pretending to know precisely what lies beyond death. We commend the dead to the mercy and love of God, give thanks for all that was good in their lives, and pray in the hope of resurrection. In doing so, we also place our grief, gratitude, regret,

and unfinished questions before God.

When names are read aloud in church, each person is briefly restored to the attention of the gathered community. The names we carry may sometimes feel heavy, yet they are also signs that love endures. The theologian Nicholas Wolterstorff, writing after the death of his son,

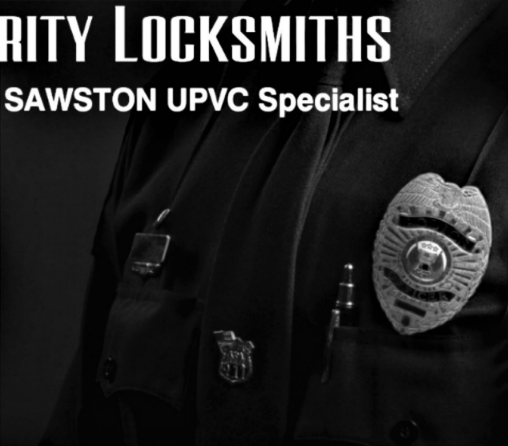
observed that sorrow bears witness to love: we grieve because someone mattered, and because their absence has changed the shape of our world. We do not move forward by forgetting, but by carrying memory differently, trusting that those we remember are held more securely by God than they could ever be held by us.

“Christian hope does not deny sorrow; it trusts that God meets us within it.”

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Hosted by Dianne Conway

Introduce us to your family. Tell us what each of you do.

We are a family of three: myself, Derrick and our son, Antonio.

I own a franchise with a Japanese company, Kumon, that provides an English and a Maths programme for children aged 3 to 16 and I run two Study Centres, one in Cambridge and one in Royston.

Derrick works as a security guard for a big security company that has various contracts all over the UK.

Antonio is about to start the last year of a 3-year course in Health and Social Care (BTEC) at Cambridge Regional College.

How long have you lived in Sawston? Where did you move from?

We moved from London to Sawston in January 2021. I moved to London from Italy in 1995, Derrick from Jamaica in 2001, and Antonio was born there in 2008.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like cooking, reading crime fiction books and solving Italian crosswords.



What do you like about St Mary's?

The strong sense of community!!! From the very first visit back in 2021, I felt welcomed by Kathryn and everyone else. When we moved here, we didn't know anyone and since we were in the middle of the last lockdown it was difficult to meet people. I started attending the Sunday service with a neighbour and was talking so much about the people in St Mary's at home that Derrick and Antonio started to attend as well.

We usually see you at our 9.15 service. What is special about that service for you?

We love to attend the service to start our family day together, it puts us in the right frame of mind to listen to the Lord's word and the sermon is always great at explaining the readings, helping us to apply them to daily life. After the service we feel ready

for another week! Also, we look forward to seeing everyone and exchanging a few words.

**Do you have a favourite hymn?
Why is it your favourite?**

I like all hymns but my favourite ever is 'Amazing Grace'. When I first met Derrick in 2004, we didn't attend church every Sunday but he had this CD with various hymns and we would listen to it for hours. I remember how emotional I got the first time I listened to 'Amazing Grace' and afterwards I searched for the lyrics as I wanted to learn every word! It resonates with me as it is all about faith, redemption and gratitude.

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***Amazing grace! how sweet
the sound,***

*That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am
found,*

Was blind, but now I see.

*'Twas grace that taught my
heart to fear,*

*And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace
appear*

The hour I first believed!

*The Lord hath promised good
to me,*

*His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion
be*

As long as life endures.

*When we've been there ten
thousand years,*

*Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's
praise*

Than when we first begun.



Olney Vicarage, where 'Amazing Grace' was likely written

Origins of 'Amazing Grace'

Clare Hulme

'Amazing Grace' is one of the most widely known and loved Christian hymns, sung across contexts and continents.

Written in 1773 by John Newton, it has been around for over 250 years, and has been sung to multiple tunes before the one we know today emerged as the favourite.

Newton regularly wrote hymns that linked to his sermons, much like our own clergy choose appropriate hymns to complement the themes of their sermons today. Newton wrote 'Amazing Grace' to accompany his sermon on New Year's Day of 1773, which was based on 1 Chronicles 17, and spoke about God's mercy. In verses 16–17, David prays, 'Who am I Lord and what is my family that you have brought me thus far?'

These words resonated with Newton on two levels: Firstly on a voyage aboard the *Greyhound* in 1748, the merchant ship was caught in a great storm, which Newton credits with bringing him back to the Christian faith that his mother had taught him as a little boy. When the battered ship

finally arrived in Ireland, he made his way to a church and dedicated his life to God.

Secondly, even after his conversion, Newton went on to work as an agent in the transatlantic slave trade. Over time he became troubled that it was 'perpetually conversant with chains, bolts, and shackles.' In May 1754, he met a ship-captain, Alex Clunie, in St Kitts, who taught him that grace was 'the free and unmerited favour of God'. Later that year, Newton took a new position as a tide surveyor in Liverpool.

He became convinced he ought to be a priest, and was eventually offered a curacy at the parish church in Olney in Buckinghamshire, and ordained at age 40. He became an abolitionist, providing support to William Wilberforce, and giving evidence based on his time in the slave trade. In 1779 he published *Olney Hymns* with the poet William Cowper, which contained the first version of *Amazing Grace*. It was later set to the now-familiar 'New Britain' tune by William Walker in South Carolina in 1835.

Share a Little Light

Article taken from churchofengland.org/christenings with permission.

Reproduced with edits.

Some parents aren't sure quite what to feel about Halloween – is it just harmless fun, or are there aspects of it that don't fit in with how we want to see the world? The christening service is very honest about the reality of good and evil, and Halloween can be a good time to talk about those things and how the love of Jesus can be a 'light in the darkness' for everyone.

The word 'hallowe'en' actually means 'the eve of all hallows' day' – in other words, the night before the Church's festival celebrating All Saints. A saint is sometimes thought to be an exceptionally holy person – someone really special, who did extraordinary things because of their faith in God.

The famous saints are all amazing examples of what it's like to live God's way. But in the Bible, St Paul calls all Christians saints – a saint is simply a friend of God, who seeks to live their life according to God's purposes. When someone is christened, they truly become a saint, so All Saints' day is a celebration of the whole family of God.

What's happening in church?

Some churches hold special events around this time of year. St Mary's will be holding a Light Station on 31 October to focus on all that's life-giving and

positive around All Hallows. There is also a Remembering Service for All Souls' Day on 1 November – a time when we remember our loved ones who have died. There might be an opportunity to go and light a candle to remember someone – even small children grieve in their own way, and may find comfort in this simple action.

Carve a pumpkin

Did you know that gargoyles (the scary-looking faces carved in stone on churches) were originally made in medieval times to scare away evil spirits? The pumpkins with scary faces carved into them at Hallowe'en are a bit like that. But nowadays most people believe that you can't fight evil with evil – you can only fight evil by doing good, and that good will always win in the end. So why not see if you can carve a friendly-looking pumpkin this Hallowe'en, as a sign that you

Light Station

**Family Halloween prayer
stations in St Mary's from
10am**

**Drop by for a warming drink
outside St Mary's Church
5-7pm**

Saturday 31 October

and your family are going to be a force for good this Hallowe'en? (And you can always use the offcuts from your pumpkin to make delicious soup! See p35.)

You can do the same with Hallowe'en costumes: superheroes make a great, positive alternative to scary witches and ghosts.

Give a treat

Not everyone is comfortable with the idea of children going round to neighbours' and just asking for treats. But if you don't want them to miss out on something their friends are doing, why not have a family baking session, and take a tray of cookies with you if you go out with them? Even little children can help stick a smiley face on an iced biscuit. That way, you have something lovely to give away to your neighbours, too!

Say a goodnight prayer

Even if you've steered clear of scary costumes, and even if your child has loved the evening, it can be reassuring to have a goodnight prayer that reminds them that love, and light, and good, are always going to be stronger than fear and evil. The ancient service of Compline (Night Prayer) has been used as

this reminder for centuries, and many of its prayers are still well known today.

***Visit this place, O Lord, we pray
and drive far from it all snares of
the enemy;
let your holy angels dwell with us
to preserve us in peace;
and let your blessing be upon us
always
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

Or, in a simpler children's version:

***Be with us, Lord,
and take away all fear,
may your angels protect us
and give us peace.
And bless us always.
Amen.***

You can use these lovely prayers any time when you need a reminder that God is with you – especially at the end of a difficult day, or when something sad has happened, or when your family is worried about something.

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Monday – Friday 8-5.30
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Pumpkin Soup

Serves: 4

Total time: 50 minutes

Preparation: 15 minutes

Cook: 35 minutes

Ingredients

2 teaspoons oil

2 onions, chopped

2 teaspoons ground coriander

2 teaspoons ground cumin

450g (lb) diced pumpkin

850ml (1½ pints) vegetable stock

Salt and pepper, to taste

Fresh herb sprigs, to garnish

Method

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan. Add onions and cook over a medium-low heat until softened, stirring occasionally. Add ground spices and cook gently for 1 minute, stirring.

2. Stir in pumpkin and add stock. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer for about 25 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.

3. Remove from heat; cool slightly. Puree using a blender or food processor until smooth.

4. Season to taste and add up to 150ml of hot water if you prefer a thinner soup.

5. Serve in warmed soup bowls and garnish with fresh herbs. Serve with crusty wholemeal bread.

To freeze

Allow to cool completely before transferring to a freezer-proof container.

Freeze for up to 3 months.



A Transient Darkness

Nigel Beeton

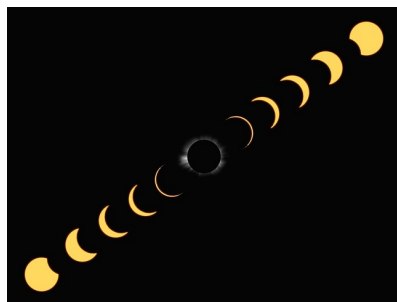
On 12 August there was a partial solar eclipse in the UK ($\pm 90\%$) – but total for some in Spain and Iceland and across the Atlantic Ocean. It's an interesting astronomical event, of course, but it also calls to mind the events of Good Friday when, Luke tells us, darkness covered the earth (Luke 23:44).

A shadow steals across the land;
A darkness in the summer sky.
The sunlight thieved by silent
hand—
No robins sing, no blackbirds fly.

Celestial spheres align in space
A band of shadow on the earth;
Reminding mortals of our place
The fragile nature of our birth.

The sun once turned its face away
And hid dread scenes from human
eye;
The brightness turned to sombre
grey
As Christ our Saviour hung to die.

And then! A flash of diamond
light!
The King regains His rightful
crown!
The gloom is but a fleeting sprite—
The King returns! The shadows
drown!



The cross is bare as empty tomb,
Their victim broke their hellish
bond.

For Christ is Risen! Gone the
gloom!
He calls us to the light beyond!

The evil powers that cause us
pain,
That lead us from the rightful way,
How very transient is their reign!
How soon we'll know eternal day!

Observe with joy the lunar shade
Mourn not the passing of the sun,
The light returns! The debt is
paid!
Christ is alive! The battle's won!

David Hatter

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The advertisement for St Peter's Church Babraham features a photograph of a stone archway with a green mug on a ledge. The text is arranged to the right of the image.

 **St Peter's Church
Babraham**

**The kettle's on
You're
welcome here**

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whether you're seeking
a moment of quiet, a
conversation over tea,
or a place to think
about life's big questions

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community

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Email:

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St Mary's Community Hall

Regular Groups

Line Dancing	Monday lunchtime	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Monday evening	Maria
Contento Pilates	Tuesday afternoon	Maria
Youth Booking	Tuesday evening	Jo
Line Dancing	Wednesday morning	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Wednesday lunchtime	Maria
Tai Chi	Wednesday afternoon	Terry
Childminder Group	Thurs morning (not 2nd)	Hayley
Sawston Beavers	Thursday early evening	David
Fitsteps	Friday lunchtime	Kelly

Monthly

U3A Classic Cinema	3rd Thursday afternoon	Irene/Cheryl
Rewilding Yoga	1st Sunday morning (some)	Deborah

Church Activities

Refresh	Monday morning	Mary/Barbara
Stay & Play (prev Toy Library)	Tuesday morning	Anne
Tea and Friendship	1st Thursday afternoon	Mary
Soup and Sandwiches	2nd Thursday lunchtime	Mary
St Mary's Craft Group	Last Thursday afternoon	Tina
Youth Group	2nd & 4th Sunday evening	Kathryn

All users are expected to sweep the floor before leaving, make sure the premises are left clean and tidy, take bulky rubbish home with them and report any damage as soon as possible.

For further information and bookings please contact:

Hall Booking Secretary: hallbookings@stmaryssawston.org.uk

or leave a message via the Church Office: 01223 837298

Sue Hunting (Chair, Hall Committee): sue.hunting@ntlworld.com

Contacts, Committees, & Officials

St Peter's PCC

Vicar (chair), **Denise Dear** (secretary), Alison Morris and Carol Todd, **Rosemary Walker** (treasurer, external to PCC)

St Mary's PCC

Vicar (chair), **Sebastian Aplin** (churchwarden), David Bard, Andrew Beale, Kieran Cooper, **Mary Dicken** (secretary), Clare Glendinning, Jeannie Green, Clare Hulme, Sue Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Anand Pillai, **Corinne Roughley** (vice chairman, churchwarden), Hilary Streeter, **Sue Chase** (treasurer, external to PCC)

Committees

Standing Committee

Vicar (chair), churchwardens, secretary and treasurer, David Bard, Clare Hulme

Fabric Committee

Vicar (chair), Sebastian Aplin, David Bard, Kieran Cooper, Mary Dicken (secretary), David Holloway, Corinne Roughley, Paul Shakeshaft, Marian Watson

World-wide Mission Committee

Christine Casey, Sarah Caswell, **Clare Glendinning** (chair), Jose John, Janet Marven, Elizabeth Parker, Anand Pillai, Marian Watson

Community Hall Management Committee

George Haddad (treasurer), Katharine Holloway, **Sue Hunting** (chair), Jane Moloney, Stephen Roughley, **Hilary Streeter** (minutes secretary), Vicar

Leaders of Activities

Beale's House Group	Andrew and Joanne Beale
Children's Work	Corinne Roughley
Church Office	Joanna Johnson
Craft Group	Christine Casey
Flower Arrangers	Barbara Hylton
Friday House Group	Rev'd Ian Henderson
Magazine	Clare Hulme
Monday House Group	Rosina Whitmell
Night Prayer	Dianne Conway
Open Door Music Group	Clare Hulme
Refresh	Mary Richmond and Barbara Hylton
Sacristans	Marian Watson
	Anand Pillai (deputy)
Soup and Sandwiches	Mary Richmond
Stay and Play	Anne Martin
Tea and Friendship	Mary Richmond
Working Parties and	David Holloway
Burial Ground	
Maintenance	

Ratified appointments which are made externally

Mothers' Union Leader	Janet Martin
SYG Chairman	Alistair Montgomery

Other Officials

Assistant Secretary	Joanna Johnson
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Martin
Gift Aid Officer	Marian Watson
Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Hylton
Sidesmen	Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Peter Green, Jeannie Green, Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Wendy Redgewell, Mary Richmond, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson
Website and Social Media Co-ordinator	Joanna Johnson

Useful Contacts

Also see inside front cover

St Peter's, Babraham

PCC Secretary	Denise Dear
PCC Treasurer	Rosemary Walker
Electoral Roll Officer	Kathryn Waite
Deanery Synod Rep	Vacant
Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Hylton

St Mary's, Sawston

PCC Secretary	Mary Dicken marydicken@btinternet.com
PCC Treasurer	Sue Chase treasurer@stmaryssawston.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Martin janetm.martin@ntlworld.com
Gift Aid Officer	Marian Watson marianwatson55@gmail.com
Deanery Synod Reps	David Bard david.bard@ntlworld.com
	Clare Glendinning clare.glendinning@talk21.com
Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Hylton safeguarding@stmaryssawston.org.uk
DBS Administrator	Jo Johnson office@stmaryssawston.org.uk
Church Flowers	Barbara Hylton barbara.hylton52@gmail.com

Parish Giving Scheme

St Mary's (Unique parish code: 140614130)

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St Peter's (Unique parish code: 140614117)

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/st-peter-s-cambridge>

What's On

Regular activities

Baby and Toddler Groups

- **Refresh**

Mondays 9.30–11.30am

St Mary's Community Hall

- **Tuesday Stay & Play**

Tuesdays 9.30–11.30am during term time

St Mary's Community Hall

Friendly group for children 0–4 years and parents/carers



Sawston House Groups

- **Mondays** 8pm on Zoom

Contact: Rosie Whitmell | rosie.whitmell@gmail.com

- **Tuesdays** 8pm at the Beales'

Contact: Andrew & Joanne | thebeales44@gmail.com

- **Fridays** 10am (11 Sept, 25 Sept, 9 Oct, 23 Oct, 4 Dec)

Contact: Rev'd Ian Henderson | revdihenderson@gmail.com



Mothers' Union

First Tuesday of each month

2pm or 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Contact: Janet Martin | tel: 835028 | email: janetm.martin@ntlworld.com



Tea and Friendship

Warm drinks, warm friendship

First Thursday of each month 2pm–3.30pm

St Mary's Community Hall



Soup and Sandwiches

Second Thursday of each month 12.30–2pm

St Mary's Community Hall

Supported by Central Cooperative



Craft Group

Last Thursday of each month 2pm–4pm

St Mary's Community Hall

Contact: Tina Casey | tina.e.casey@googlemail.com

Bring your own craft

