



We welcome you to this month's publication, which we hope will be something to lift your spirits and be

June Newsletter

thought provoking too! There are printed copies available in Lady St Mary Church and these can be picked up at the 10am service and taken to people who do not have the internet and so if you can please share it by posting a copy to a neighbour, thank you.

Dear Friends,

This will be my final letter to you as your Rector and I have decided to adapt my address to the Annual Parochial Meeting as it encapsulates much about my past ministry.

'For all things under the heavens there is a time and season.'

So says the writer of Ecclesiastes. Normally we might expect to hear that passage read at a funeral but the longer I live the truer I see it is of family life, community life, Church life and much more besides. Thinking in such a way is both sobering and humbling, for it makes one realise that we are all but small cogs in the larger wheel of life, and the wider world. That said, if you take it too far you reach the conclusion that you are insignificant and that everything is meaningless – which is where the writer of Ecclesiastes rather depressingly ends up.

But we are all to see ourselves as active players in the different times and seasons we find ourselves in; and using the gifts that God has given us and responding to his calling we will discover that we all have a part to play, large or small.

For my part, I first felt the call to Wareham in the mid 2000's, when I was Rural Dean of Milton and Blandford, and Bill Blakey was incumbent. Even after Bill had moved on and Andy Bowerman was appointed, I knew that somehow Wareham would play a part in my future.

When it was announced that Andy was moving on, I knew I had to apply, especially as the then Bishops of Sherborne and Salisbury both, independently, suggested that I should do so. I somehow knew it was where God wanted me to be. And following an interview/selection panel in May 2014, that calling was confirmed, and I was installed the following October. Since then, my season in Wareham has intertwined with yours.

When I arrived in the parish it was rather fragmented with some wanting the parish to adopt a more progressive style of worship and others wanting to stick with the more

traditional forms. Sandford was coming to terms with the fact that it would be leaving its old place of worship and moving to a new church; and some of the smaller churches felt rather disenfranchised. This coupled with the fact that since Peter Hardman left there had been two short incumbencies, the bishop wanted me to try and bring some unity of team and parish and give it some stability. And this is what I have tried to do.

It has not been easy. When I arrived there were many people offering advice on what I needed to do in order to make the church grow – the trouble was they were all saying different things!

Whilst here I have spent a lot of time listening to parishioners and to God, trying to discern the way ahead. I have never been one for making changes just for the sake of it, instead I have tried to respect the traditions of the different churches and working with them.

There are those who believe that Church growth will only happen if you follow one particular style of worship – giving the example of large more eclectic churches. I fundamentally disagree, eclectic churches may work in large towns, but in smaller parishes there are ways of worship that have evolved over the years and these ways need to be respected. This said, there is a place for experimentation and change, and this will ensure that the parish moves on, rather than staying static and stagnating. There is always a fine balance to be struck.

The other thing that must be factored in to caring for a parish is the continual changing of the congregation, with people coming to a faith, others moving from outside and arriving with fresh ideas; whilst at the same time established members of the congregation will be moving on or departing to be with the Lord. To all things there is a time and season.

By the time of my retirement, my season of stipendiary ministry will have lasted thirty-five years to the day and during that time things have changed massively. When I was ordained priest, such ordinations were a male-only preserve, and women Bishops were but a pipe dream; marriage of divorcees was frowned upon, and safeguarding was practically unheard of. Since then, there have been many other changes, some for the better and some well...

These all go to show that we live in a rapidly changing culture that often struggles to keep up with itself. Some say that the Church has been left behind. However, I would say that where society has rushed headlong into change (often making mistakes), the Church of England has wisely spent time discerning the right way forward (hopefully God's way).

Probably the most painful episode in my time of ministry was locking the church doors during the Covid pandemic, it went against everything that Church should be. With hindsight this was a mistake but in fairness to our superiors, they were dealing with an unprecedented situation, and acting on the best medical advice available at the time.

However, it was due to this that we developed a whole new congregation, and it could be argued that our numbers have increased as a result. Our online Services, which average around seventy-five viewings per week, have proved very popular. Even if half of these viewers are people who have already attended Sunday worship this is still a healthy new congregation. Also, these services have proved a very good way of ministering to the sick, the elderly and incapacitated who can be spiritually nourished as well as still feeling part of the church family.

Compared to many other churches, locally and nationally, Wareham has bounced back well following the pandemic with numbers on average returning to where they were pre-Covid. I believe we are now in a better place than when I arrived, and for that I thank God.

Everyone will have their own opinion of my ministry, and that is their prerogative, but I can assure you that in all things I have tried to be faithful and true to what I believe God has desired for this parish. I am most grateful to those who have kept me in their prayers over the past ten years and hope that those prayers will continue in the coming months.

Last, but by no means least, I wish to thank Linda, who has generously and sacrificially supported me throughout my ministry, and Lydia and Freddie who have grown up to be such beautiful caring people despite the challenges of growing up in Rectories! I could not have carried out my ministry without their incredible love and support. We would love it if you could join us for our farewell service at 10am, on Sunday 16th June, in Lady St Mary church, Wareham and for the light buffet lunch that will follow.

My season here in Wareham is drawing to a close, but I leave knowing it will be in good hands, with Neil and Deborah settling in well.

Yours ever in Christ,

Simon

Wareham Baby and Toddler Group

Do you have a little spare time! We are looking for volunteers to help with the teas, coffee and setting up/clearing up each week for Thursday playgroup?

The playgroup runs every Thursday during term time in the Parish Hall, Wareham, from 10am (setup from 9:15) until 11:30 and volunteers in the kitchen are on a rota basis. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Office Tel: 01929 550905.

Diary of Events

Going Deeper: Everyone welcome!

Do you want to deepen your faith, learn alongside others, and be encouraged in following Jesus Christ?

If so, you are warmly invited to Going Deeper:

6pm Sunday 9th June 2024

Sandford St Martin's Church

This month reflecting on the theme of Mission with Canon Simon speaking and helping us to deepen our understanding.

This relaxed gathering, starting with refreshments, includes worship (prayer, including silence, music and singing), a talk, on an aspect of faith, opportunity to ask and discuss questions and reflect together more deeply.

Retirement of our Team Rector

Our Team Rector will retire in June of this year, his last service will be in Lady St Mary Church, **10am, on Sunday 16th June 2024** and will be a united Holy Communion.

Following the service there will be a **celebratory bring and share lunch, there are sign-up sheets at the back of Lady St Mary church and Sandford St Martin's**, please choose what you can bring and enter it up on the sheets, items can be left in the Parish Hall on the morning of the 16th, prior to the service.

Ladies That Lunch and Pray: The next meeting is to be confirmed please look



for further information in the weekly newsletter. Please bring a sandwich, and drinks will be provided, between 12.00 - 14.00pm. For the venue and any further information or RSVP please contact Elaine Orchard, Margaret Harris, or Debs at the Parish office Tel: 01929

550905 or parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Open House

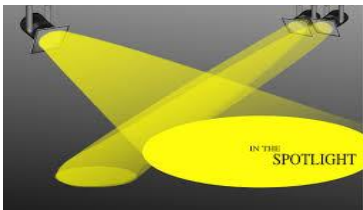
'Open House' at Sandford St Martin's Church - **2 pm - Thursday 27 June 2024.** 'Singalong' - with time after for giving a donation to Sandford's Mission Fund, cup of tea, chat, and a raffle. All Welcome.



Men's Breakfast - The next Men's breakfast **is to be confirmed** please look out in the Weekly Newsletter. The guest speaker this month is to be confirmed. Whether you are a regular at men's breakfasts, or have never been before, you are most welcome to come along. **Please contact the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday before to book your place, on 01929 550905 or email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk**



SPOTLIGHT ON.....



Our feature for the monthly newsletter entitled "Spotlight on...." Each month we interview and introduce personalities and their roles within the five churches of our Parish, as well as articles on aspects of church life. **This month we are acknowledging Sue Bartholomew and Liz Day, on behalf of our Lady St Mary church Choir.**

The first record of a quire (band and singers) at LSM is in the Vestry Accounts of 1799 for the purchase of viol strings. It can be assumed that a choir has been in existence here for at least four centuries. The quire would have been in the gallery above the west entrance of the church.

The musicians became redundant after the purchase of the first organ in 1819. For a fictional account of this momentous change in church music please read Thomas Hardy's 'Under the Greenwood Tree.'

In the Choir Vestry we have a picture gallery dating from 1904 when only boys (trebles) and men were in the choir. Numbering 40 there were 22 trebles and 18 men. The choir joined the Royal School of Church Music in 1934 only five years after the RSCM was founded.

Many things in church have a unique name and the choir stalls are no exception. On the north side the stalls and their occupants are the Cantoris and on the south side the Decani. To see a complete list of all Organists/Choir Directors look above the Cantoris seat adjacent to the chancel arch.

Our present choir boasts 18 members, directed by Bill Day with Maurice Turner as organist: both works tirelessly for the music in the church and for us choir members in particular. We rehearse every Friday evening and sing for the 10am service on

Sundays. We sing a choral service for special events in the church calendar, such as Advent, Nine Lessons, Carols, Candlemass and Easter. We also sing to mark major events such as the Civic and Remembrance services. We are also asked to sing at weddings and funerals, and it is with great pleasure that we serve members of the community on great occasions in their lives. All this commitment means we need a large repertoire for every occasion, and we have collected a substantial library of choral music over the years, much of it from the choir festivals, which used to be held annually in Salisbury Cathedral.

The choir has been asked and willingly accepted to join the Wareham Choral Society in the D-Day Commemoration Concert in Lady St Mary on Saturday 15th June at 7pm.

We welcome new singers in all choral parts. There are no auditions, and we are a friendly group. If you would like to have a go, please chat to Bill, or come to a rehearsal on a Friday night in the church at 7.30pm.

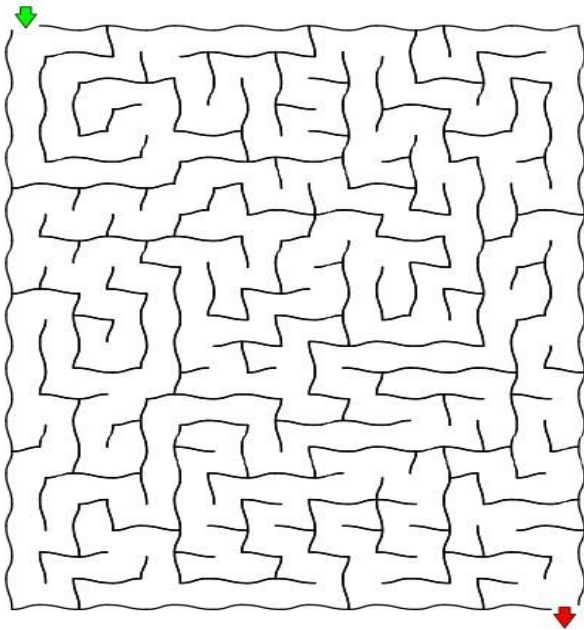
Sunday Coffee Rota

We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our coffee rota team. If you can give any time to provide this wonderful service, even a few Sundays a year, it would really help us provide this valuable service which everyone appreciates. We can only run the refreshments with your help. Contact Nick Burden or Hilary Goodinge.



Volunteers to help at Parish Fund raising events – If you are able and willing to help out at Parish Fund raising events, please let me know. We are trying to compile a list of potential helpers to take away the demand on a few people that we have already helping. For more information, please contact Debs in the Parish office on 01929 550905 or email parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk I look forward to hearing from you.

Puzzles



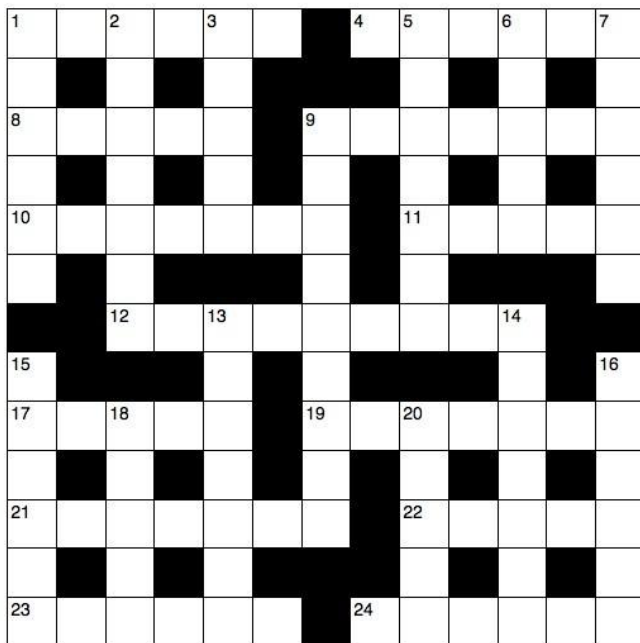
The Maze

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku

Crossword



Clues Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew —, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got —, so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen

(Job 39:23) (5)

23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their doorframes at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Contact information!

Parish Office

The Parish Office has now reopened to answer all face-to-face enquiries, telephone and email enquiries **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** 9am to 1pm. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Contact details: www.warehamchurches.org.uk

Tel: 01929 550905, **Email:** parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND

Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support, and advice. Please contact:

Clergy Team



Team Rector, The Reverend Canon Simon Everett

Tel: 01929 289236

Email: rector@warehamchurches.org.uk

Team Vicars, The Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann

Tel: 01929 208400

Email: neilkelly3@icloud.com and debjswann@gmail.com

Schools Worker and Pioneer Priest, The Reverend Hilary Bond

Tel: 01929 551219

Email: hilary.bond@me.com

PtO, The Reverend Michael Young

Tel: 01929 552582

Email: myng220@btopenworld.com