

September Newsletter



This month Bishop Stephen writes ...

Dear Friends,

September is always a month of endings, as well as new beginnings. As the bright colours of summer fade into the oranges and browns of autumn, shiny new school shoes make an appearance, along with fresh notebooks as we head back to our desks after a break over August. We start again, carrying with us the feeling of a new year beginning.

September then is always a month of change, and because of this it can be unsettling. We reflect on or maybe grieve for that which is drawing to a close, and can feel a mixture of anticipation about what is new or next.



It is likely that we feel this even more acutely this September, living in a world which feels increasingly insecure from the perspective of fast-changing global politics and conflicts around the world that show no sign of abating. All is changing; all feels very fragile and deeply uncertain.

One of this country's much-loved hymns is '*Abide with Me*', famous for being sung at every FA Cup Final since 1927. The words are based on Luke 24: 29 and were written by the Reverend Henry Francis Lyte, with one of the stories about this suggesting that he wrote them in September 1847 – just after he had conducted his final church service and when very ill with tuberculosis. He died two months later.

Putting aside questions of when Lyte wrote these words, the fact remains that they capture the constancy of God's presence and love, even as the seasons change, our lives change, our world changes; in life and in death:

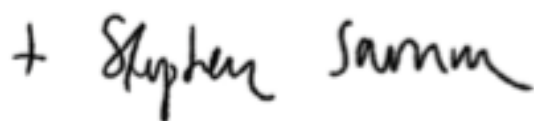
*Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

This then is a beautiful reminder that even though we, and indeed our world, pass through times of change and can feel unsettled as a result, God goes with us. God in Christ abides with us, his presence and love unchanging in our ever-changing world:

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."

Luke 24.29

And He went in to stay with them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*The Rt Revd Stephen Lake
Bishop of Salisbury*

Mission Sunday 28th September

Gathering as one Church family.

This year, with Guest Speakers from the 'Poole-Wau Mission Partnership' who visited South Sudan earlier this year.

Supporting our Mission Partners:

Ruth Guinness in Malawi (SIM UK)

The Taylor family in the Dominican Republic (YWAM)

St Stephen's School, Terekeka, South Sudan.

Join us:

**10 am Morning Worship Café Style at
Sandford St Martin's Church**



SEASON OF CREATION

Peace with Creation

The Season of Creation, from 1 September to 4 October, is an annual, ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for many years.

It's a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1st September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1st September until 4th October. Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, and in 2019 started celebrating the Season of Creation as well.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration. The season starts 1st September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

The official Season of Creation theme for 2025 is 'Peace with Creation'.

To find out more about Peace with Creation, check out A Rocha's website www.arocha.org.uk

New Wine Festival

I have recently returned from the New Wine Festival at the Royal Bath & West Showground, near Shepton Mallet in Somerset. This Christian Family Event has been held annually since 1989 and is a great opportunity to join up with other Christians (14,000 this year) for



worship, teaching and prayer ministry with a charismatic flavour. There are excellent programmes for children and youth and for those with special needs. Fun activities include a Ferris wheel, climbing wall, bouncy castles and a miniature railway as well as late night entertainment – all included in the ticket price. Most people camp on site in tents, camper vans or caravans but it is also possible to stay off-site.

I find it very refreshing and encouraging in my spiritual journey and am looking forward to going again next year. Dates are 28th July to 2nd August 2026. It would be great to take more people from our parish.

See <https://www.new-wine.org/events/new-wine-festival-2026/> or talk to me if you are thinking of coming. There is an early-bird discount for bookings up to 30 September. Day tickets are also available.

Mike Quinlan

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Men's Breakfast

Next meeting 6th September

**Guest speaker Callum Bremner JP
High Sheriff of Dorset**

8.30am at The Bear Hotel, South Street, Wareham

**Please contact Charles Donnelly by Wednesday 3rd September
to book your place on 01929 555178 or 07772 520290 or
charles291066@outlook.com**



Wareham, 20 Years as a Fairtrade Town!

FAIRTRADE

Anniversaries. What have you been celebrating or remembering this year? The national celebration in May for VE Day or something more personal? However, I wonder if you are aware that Wareham has a significant anniversary on September 8th? It was on that date 20 years ago that the town gained its Fairtrade status and this has remained for 20 years! Now that is worth celebrating!

Turn the clock back to 2005 and the Rev Ken Bird, a former Mayor and Town Councillor, was advocating the benefits of Fairtrade and proposing to the Council that Wareham should work towards becoming a Fairtrade Town. This would mean setting up a steering group, a Council resolution of commitment and introducing Fairtrade to the local Community. Brian Wilkins led the group which began thinking of practical ways of doing this.



Many people recognised the Fairtrade mark but were unaware of the benefits for the producer. So during Fairtrade Fortnight in February stalls were set up in the local supermarkets and leaflets handed out to inform people that by choosing an item with the Fairtrade mark the producer would be guaranteed a fair wage, good working conditions, environmentally friendly production methods and a 10% premium for

their community. Harry's Bar, a former café in South Street, laid on Fairtrade breakfasts; there were displays in the former Purbeck District Council Offices and the Library; a Fairtrade banner was hung over the Town Hall; the Co-op provided Fairtrade wine for a tasting event in the Town Hall.

Fast forward through the 20 years, growing awareness enabled Wareham's status as a Fairtrade Town to be renewed regularly. The steering group, although changed in some of its personnel, was still as enthusiastic. Activities widened: Brian Wilkins and Judith Holmes, both Fairtraders for Traidcraft, ran stalls in the URC, Parish Hall and Farmers' Market selling Fairtrade goods; churches in the town used Fairtrade tea and coffee; musical evenings led by the much loved duo Ball and Socket, entertained and informed about Fairtrade; more shops and cafes stocked and used Fairtrade items and a Directory was published every two years listing those places and what they

sold. In addition to the support of the Town Council, we also had a representative on the County Council, Beryl Ezzard, who became a Fairtrade Champion for Dorset. To keep momentum going, Fairtrade needed introducing to our youngsters. So links with local primary schools began, particularly with Stoborough and more recently St Mary's, taking assemblies, classes and running stalls. Our local Youth Club at Purbeck School has also been introduced to Fairtrade through quizzes.

So what next? Embracing, the digital age we now have a Facebook page, Wareham Area Fairtrade. Do follow us to learn more about the benefits of Fairtrade world wide! 20 years of Wareham being a Fairtrade Town! An anniversary worth celebrating! Put a Fairtrade item in your shopping basket or have a glass of Fairtrade wine!

Judith Holmes



ORGAN RECITAL on the Lady St Mary ORGAN

'Music for Remembrance'

David Price Organist and Master of the Choristers
Portsmouth Cathedral

Wednesday 10th September

6.00pm

Free entry with retiring collection

Sponsored by the Dorset Association of Organists

Bring & Share HARVEST Supper

**SUPPER AT ST JOHN'S THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
EAST HOLME**

**SEPTEMBER 28TH 6PM FOR THE SERVICE FOLLOWED
AT 7PM FOR THE SUPPER.**

Join us in celebrating harvest with friends, food, and more



All Welcome to OPEN HOUSE

Thursday 18th September - 2 pm
at Sandford Heritage Hall, Sandford
Come along and enjoy activities, a chat,
refreshments and fun

St Edward's Way Pilgrimage
October 7th, 8th and 9th 2025



A 32 mile pilgrimage route from Wareham to Shaftesbury following in the ancient footsteps of those who carried the body of the boy King Edward to rest in Shaftesbury Abbey more than 1000 years ago.

Day 1 - Wareham to Winterbourne Kingston. (Lunch in Bloxworth)

Day 2 - Winterbourne Kingston Church to Shillingstone.
(Winterbourne Stickland for lunch)

Day 3 - Shillingstone to Shaftesbury. (Bedchester crossroads for lunch)

Options for staying over in village halls or arranging your own transport to and from the route each day.

Come prepared to engage with the interior journey as well as the outward one.
For more info contact hilary.bond@mac.com

Can you help with Parish Administration?

Debs Barclay is leaving at the end of August following 18 years of faithful service as our Parish Administrator. We are looking at options for carrying out the work she did, some of which could be done by volunteers and other parts which may require paid assistance.

The areas include Parish Safeguarding Officer, Bookkeeper, Electoral Roll Officer, Event Bookings Secretary (for concerts and events in churches and Parish Hall) and help updating the website, social media, producing the weekly and monthly news sheets, posters etc.).

If you have skills and experience to contribute, or you are willing to be considered for one of these positions, or know someone who might be interested, please contact either our Team Rectors or the Churchwardens:

Team Rectors, Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann or
Churchwardens, Hilary Goodinge and Mike Quinlan as soon as possible

Please be aware that during September
the Parish Office won't be open as usual

Contact Details



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