

Life Magazine for August 2021

Editorial Notes

Most Church and community magazine editors have a month off in August! But 'Life' goes on as they say; don't get me wrong I'm not complaining. We certainly are not short of news this month despite the lack of 'Manna', so no Bishop's letter but I have included a piece on page 23 entitled 'New Bishop Consultation' from the Bath and Wells Website. Pat King said she had nothing to report, so no news from Compton Dundon this month. Walton Matters pages 8 and 9 contain some scary news and notice of a Thanksgiving Service, and I have included some 'memory photographs'.

As I reported last month, Pam and I were holidaying on the Isle of Wight, hence the front cover of the Needles sandwiched between the coloured cliffs of Alum Bay. The back cover has Eco type pictures on the Island, along with two of Sonia, one with a well earned medal, and you can read her piece on page 13.

If you can contribute anything for the September magazine I would warmly welcome it by Sunday 15th August. *Roger.*

A prayer for Youth day taken from The Bath and Wells Diocese Prayer Calendar.

Thursday, 12 August

God of all, on the UN International Youth Day, we pray for young people here and around the world. We pray especially for those in our communities receiving GCSE, A Level and BTEC results today. Lord, guide our young people as they look to the future.

Rector's Letter

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians chapter 3 verse 13

Dear Friends,

I don't know how you might be feeling about the releasing of restrictions following the most recent government announcements. Cautious? Optimistic? Scared? Excited? We are beginning to enter a world in which we have to 'live with covid', whatever that might look like.

In the life of our churches, we are also having to adjust from the strict rules that most of us have become entirely used to, to something a little more relaxed. Whether you are feeling very cautious, or you cannot wait to hug everyone, we are still family who look after one another and treat each other as St Paul said to the church in Colossae with 'compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'. We will be taking things gradually, not rushing back to somewhere near to where we were 18 months ago.

In our recent 're-imagine' sermon series, we began to explore how life might be different in a post covid world, for our churches, for our communities, and for our nation. Whatever our worshipping and community life may end up looking like in the weeks and months to come, let's continue to be open to re-imagining all that God may have for us, even if it might look and feel different to what we might have been used to.

Meanwhile, for some of us, the summer months mean taking a holiday, though this year might be more of a challenge. Whether you are able to get away or not, can I encourage you to use

these August weeks to 'rest' and be 'refreshed'. Enjoy the sunshine and a good Christian book. Rest, but also spend time in prayer and bible reading, spend time with family and friends and prayerfully consider how you may serve the church family (see elsewhere in the magazine for various opportunities) going forward, both in person and online.

May you know the love and compassion of Jesus in these changing times.

With Blessings and my prayers,

Ana

Picnic at the Rectory

Though it seems hard to believe, August marks one year since I was formally licenced to serve you in this benefice. I know that, at the time, many of you told me how sad you were that we were unable to have a party to celebrate that event.

One year later, and believe it or not, I still want to celebrate! It has been a joy to be part of the church family here over the last year, even in such 'interesting times!'

To mark the occasion, Kevin and I feel it is now time for that long-awaited party and accordingly would love to invite you all to the Rectory Garden (Mission Church, if wet) anytime between 4pm and 7pm on Sunday 15th August. Come for as long as you wish.

In normal times, we would have loved to have offered refreshments but are all too aware that we are still emerging from Covid 19 restrictions and perhaps now is not yet the time for mass catering. Please therefore bring a picnic for you and your household; we are really looking forward to seeing you.

To reassure those of you who may be concerned, not only is the garden disabled access friendly, but it is also big enough to allow for social distancing if you wish to.

Ana Lawrence

Reaching new generations

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” Proverbs 22. 6

You will see elsewhere in this magazine details of some initiatives for work with children and young people and how you can get involved. Archbishop George Carey once famously said ‘the church is always one generation away from extinction’, which should remind us how important it is for us to be sharing the Good News of Jesus with each new generation.

As well as children’s work on Sundays and the ‘Open the Book’ initiative in our schools, Walton Church are planning an all-age event towards the end of September to name but a few.

I would love to see more of the church family involved in these initiatives and can I ask you to prayerfully consider whether this may be something for you.

Ana Lawrence

Confirmation

We are delighted that this year’s Diocesan Confirmation service will take place on Saturday November 13th at 2pm in Wells Cathedral. Confirmation is an opportunity for candidates to publicly declare their Christian faith.

If you have not yet been confirmed and would welcome this opportunity, then I would love to hear from you so we can discuss what might be involved. It would be great to see others joining

those from Street, Walton and Compton Dundon who are to be confirmed at this years' service. Ana Lawrence

Open the Book needs you!

Do you enjoy sharing stories with children? Do you believe that it is important that Bible stories are shared with children? If yes, you may be just the person we are looking for to join our dedicated team.

Open the Book offers primary school children, across the schools of Street and Walton, an opportunity to hear and act out key Bible stories. Our team in Street and Walton has volunteers from our local churches. The sessions are about 15–20 minutes and we use materials from the Bible Society in conjunction with the Lion Storyteller Bible. There is now an optional year of material based on Christian values. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 we have been unable to go into the schools for the last 15 months but we do sincerely hope that September may bring good news.

As a team we hope to return as soon as we can. If you feel that you would like to be part of the team please contact Pauline Hatrey for more information.

Her email is paulinehatrey@gmail.com you can also go onto the Bible Society website <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book> for more information. You will need

to complete safeguarding training as well as have a current DBS with your local church. This is easy to arrange and guidance will be given.

We are ready and waiting for new members to join our lovely team and share these wonderful stories in our local schools.

Pauline Hatrey

Children and Youth in our Churches.

How can we encourage children to learn about Jesus?

Deuteronomy 6 v 6-7: 'And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise'

As a church family, discipling our young people is so important. We want to teach them about God through reading the bible and help them learn about Jesus and his forgiveness and love for them. Children have a lot of questions about faith and life and we need to be able to answer, advise and encourage them in their faith.

Young people need to have Christian friends and also good Christian mentors in the church, preferably from outside their own immediate family. We need to demonstrate our faith and love for God in how we act and be good witnesses for our young people.

How can we best engage and provide for our young people within the church? How can we reach out to families in our community? What can we run as a church that families/young people would be keen to attend?

In order to re-start a children's group on a Sunday morning at the Mission church, when covid allows, we need at least 2 people every Sunday.

Hannah would love to hear from anyone who feels they can support youth work either on Sunday mornings at the Mission church or if we run other events. It does not have to be a big commitment, even if you can only do one Sunday a month or even every other month every little helps. You do not have to

have any particular skills; just be happy to chat to kids. If you are not keen to be involved with the planning but are happy to be helper that would still be great. Please consider prayerfully and contact Hannah if you can help this vital work, as without supporters nothing can happen.

Email hindle25@gmail.com [Tel:07890189938](tel:07890189938)

£2 Coins

We are still collecting £2 Coins for Holy Trinity

and Mission Church Street, Funds

10% of all monies collected will be given to the

Missions and Charities that we are

supporting in 2021

(Tear Fund, Gospel for Asia, A Rocha and also

our link with Mfuwe parish in Zambia)-

So far we have collected £210

Please continue to save any £2 coins and let

Roger or Pam Harmsworth have them now or near

the end of 2021, *at the Coffee Morning??*

Walton Matters

*Then a voice came from the throne saying:Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!
Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. "
Then the Angel said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"
Revelation church 19 v's 5-9.*

Wildlife in the Churchyard !

A very exciting event happened a few weeks ago. On the Walton community website there was mentioned a sighting of a large milk snake along the Church wall that had either escaped captivity or had been released as it was too big. So off I go in search of said snake, desperately hoping I wouldn't find it as I didn't have a clue what to do about it. Thankfully I couldn't see it but someone else in the village managed to catch it and put it in a tank they had. Wonderful. It has been posted in a wider area but so far no owner has come forward. I am pleased to say that two people have offered to give a home to the snake so all will be well.

I am still looking for the chapter on catching snakes in the churchwarden's handbook and haven't found it yet but I am sure it is there somewhere.

Joan Evans.

After a lovely but small funeral service for Joan Evans in June, a thanksgiving service will be held on the 2nd October at 2.30. This will be held at St James Church, Winscombe and the family have said that all who would like to join them will be very welcome. I will be going and have some seats in my car.



**A thank you
at a P.C.C. supper**



**Helping hang
bunting for a Fete.**



**Mission Church
25th Anniversary.**

Refreshments in Church

At the moment we have no definite guidelines on refreshments in Church but the plan has always been for September so we hope and pray our coffee mornings will recommence then.

Flower rota. 7th August. Sandra Gristock.
 21st August. Liz Selway

Thank you

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported me through prayer and donations for my running challenge on July 10th. Your messages of support were very much appreciated. The weather started very wet, windy and cold and it ended up so hot and sunny that I got sun burned. I am pleased to report that I completed the 50km in just over 7 hours which I am very pleased with; and in the process raised over £1100 for PROMISEworks which is amazing.



Sonia Beaty

Today at 7:59 AM · East Devon, England

Exe Estuary 50km



Congratulations, this activity is your longest run on Strava!

Distance

31.26 mi

Avg Pace

13:46 /mi

Elapsed Time

7:10:35

Elevation Gain

1,797 ft

Post Covid 19 Restriction Arrangements at Street, Walton & Compton Dundon

As you will know, the government have announced that most Covid 19 related restrictions in England will end on 19th July. However, this is in the context of rapidly rising case numbers in Somerset with both our government and the Church of England urging continued caution.

With the ending of the legal restrictions, the bullets below can now only be guidelines, but my hope is that we, as church family, will be able to adhere to these, as we support each other on this next phase of the journey out of the pandemic.

From 19th July, in all of our services in each of our churches, the following will apply:

- Whilst advanced **booking** for services will no longer be required, those on welcome (stewards etc) will be taking names (and contact details for any visitors), retaining them for 21 days for track and trace purposes.
- The wearing of **face coverings** will continue to be actively encouraged* whilst inside the building.
- The use of **hand sanitiser, ventilation** of buildings and **enhanced cleaning** will continue.
- Whilst **social distancing** is no longer a requirement, we will give people permission to socially distance if they wish by spreading out in pews and chairs. In Walton and Compton Dundon, people can put an item on the pew beside them to signify they wish to socially distance, whilst in the Parish and Mission Churches, the chairs will still be arranged two metres apart, with those who wish to move closer, being free to do so.
- **Hugging, hand shaking, physical contact** etc will be the personal decision of both parties. For the moment, we will not re-introduce this as part of the 'peace' as this may put pressure on individuals who remain uncomfortable with physical contact.

- **Singing** will be permitted, but with the congregation wearing face coverings (please see above*).
- **Communion** will remain in one kind for the time being, using the current system including the priest preparing the bread and wine.
- We will not re-start serving **refreshments** as yet and will encourage any pre and post service mingling to take place outside where possible.
- Those wishing to give financially via the **collection plate** should place their gift in the plate available when leaving the building.
- **Users hiring our buildings** are responsible for their own decisions and risk assessments, but enhanced cleaning will continue.
- **Church groups** (Little Stars, house groups etc) will be asked to consider what restrictions, if any, they will now relax, based on risk assessing their event or activity. I do not propose to encourage the various coffee mornings / afternoon teas indoors that we have not held during covid to re-start until September at the earliest.
- **Church Meetings** can be held indoors but adhering to the above where possible.

I am so aware that this may not seem like much will change in the short term, although the return of singing and the end of 'booking in' I hope will bring some joy and relief to many, but my sense is that there is widespread caution still, and I want people to feel safe in public worship.

As the current covid surge unfolds, I am conscious we need to keep these guidelines under constant review but do not want to change things too frequently so as to cause confusion. I am therefore proposing that we keep these in place for July and August, reviewing them again towards the end of August in time for September services.

Ana Lawrence July 2021

Eco Church Update and Churchyards

Congratulations to Compton Dundon on achieving an Eco Church Bronze Award; well-deserved recognition of their commitment. Following on from all 4 Churches (3 parishes) having achieved Bronze Level an Action Plan to help us all work towards a higher Award has been agreed in principle by the PCCs. As with achieving the initial award, this will take time, we are continuing to tackle individual tasks. Our main focus at present, alongside calculating the Carbon Footprint of each church, is continuing with monthly plant and wildlife surveys in each churchyard throughout the summer.

As Christians, we believe that God is actively involved in creation, so it is important to understand how ecosystems work and how humans impact the world. One of the ways in which we can monitor our impact is by recording what is in our churchyards and planning how to manage them better ecologically. In 2014 a species of bat and six species of lichen were recorded in Compton Dundon churchyard, and in 2015 twenty different kinds of moss were identified in Holy Trinity churchyard, Street. How do I know this? Because it is recorded on a national database. Although nothing is recorded for Walton we hope to change that as there is much of interest there too. During Churches Count on

Nature week in June we were encouraged to record all aspects of the natural world in our Churchyards and Burial Grounds. Harriet Carty, Director of the conservation charity Caring for God's Acre, presented a webinar in which she explained the value of churchyards for biodiversity, due to their history over the centuries. Yew trees are often the most ancient feature, followed by walls which provide a habitat for plants, insects and birds. Compton Dundon has a yew tree that is amongst the oldest in the country

and the boundary walls of Street Parish Church show

the churchyard is of ancient origin because the rounded shape. Over 700 species of lichens have been recorded in churchyards, they are useful because they protect stonework.



Harriet explained why we need biological records, and how they link to national databases.



You don't have to be an expert to submit records and I would encourage anyone to submit their sightings. You can do this through the website:- <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/> you need to say:

- Who - the recorder's full name
- What - the common (or scientific) name of the species you saw e.g. swift, ladybird, daisy
- Where - the name, address and/or grid reference for the site you visited
- When - the day, month and year

The form on the CGA website will guide you through the process; alternatively you can submit records to Caring for God's Acre by email or post.

The webinar discussed in this article, and others, are available to watch via the Church of England's Environment and Climate Change website page:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change>

Sue Ripley (Street Parish), SWCD Eco Church Group

WATCH – *Give and be surprised*

Our giving to missions and charities at Walton, for which I was responsible, had fallen into a bit of a rut - It had in fact got so bad that when Kevin asked me which organisations we supported, I wasn't even able to give a straight answer, because off the top of my head, I couldn't even recall them myself, I am ashamed to admit.

So, I was in truth quite relieved when he said he was forming a benefice-wide group to establish clear principles and bring some uniformity into how each church chose who it would support from year to year.

This has led to members of all three churches being invited to put forward ideas for the current year for their church to support.

It had been hoped that one organisation might have been named by all three parishes, but it was not to be. However, two were named by two out of the three: Tearfund and Open Doors. One on the Walton list that I had not heard of was "Railway Children" which rescues lost children from India's vast city railway stations from being abducted for purposes such as working as child labour in factories or in prostitution. Some of you may have seen the excellent film "Lion" which is about this. By chance I found a leaflet from Railway Children enclosed with a magazine just a few days before the PCC meeting. It is now one of the four chosen by Walton! The others were Tearfund, the well-known Christian international aid organisation, Open Doors which supports Christians persecuted for their faith, and One Hope Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, where my niece, Annie, works with kids living on the streets, which we in Walton have supported for a number of years now. My eye lighted on "Home for Good" in the list for Compton Dundon, which is doing a remarkable job with children in our broken social care system, and has identified some real areas of need in which churches could help – with training which they can supply. My request that Walton too might add them to our list was firmly ruled 'off limits' this

time round – but there's always next year! Thank you, St Andrews, for this inspiring suggestion!

Bernard Sinclair

Ring out the Bells!

Subject to guidelines, we are ringing again, and it will be good to see the team once more, after 16 months we are getting together for practice.

We have 2 'bookings', Merriman Park Fun Day on Saturday 4th September, where we will be demonstrating the joyful sound of the bells with various tunes.

Also on Saturday 27th November we have been invited to ring at the Frost Fayre in Glastonbury High Street.

If you are able to come to one or both of these events we would value your support.

We have just lost one of our ringers due to her moving away and we would welcome new ringers, so why not come along to Merriman Park and we would be pleased to let you have a go and tell you what's involved. Roger Harmsworth.

The Mission and Parish Church Sound System and Hearing Loop.

In June we had the Sound and Loop System serviced, the problems needing attention are being dealt with but generally microphones are working well, so any problems of not being able to hear should not be a technical one. For the sound to be heard, the user of the microphones must speak clearly and with reasonable volume and the sound box controller has a big part to play in getting the best from the microphones so all can hear clearly, including the hard of hearing of which I am one, if a hearing aid is used, switching to T on your aid is essential. If you are having problems hearing in either of our Street churches please speak to me. Roger Harmsworth

SWCD CHURCHES CHARITABLE GIVING FOR 2021

Over the last few weeks the PCC's for our three parishes have met to decide on which organisations to support through our charitable giving for 2021, following recommendations made by church family members. Each PCC had more recommendations than we could realistically support, so they are sorry that some suggested organisations were not selected for this year.

2021 is, of course, over half-way through and this process, like so much else, has been delayed by Covid. But, over the coming months, our aim is to feature each of these fantastic organisations both here in 'Life', on our web site and elsewhere in our churches.

At this stage, here is a brief introduction to the eleven we will be supporting:

Walton

Tearfund, (<https://www.tearfund.org/>) the Christian international development charity working in partnership with churches in some of the poorest communities across the world.

Railway Children, (<https://www.railwaychildren.org.uk>) supporting young people, forced by poverty and other circumstances to live on the streets or in and around India's vast railway network.

One Hope Church, Zimbabwe, providing practical Christian care and love to their neighbours in need in Harare.

Scripture Union, (<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/>) encouraging the reading and study of the Bible both in the UK and internationally.

Compton Dundon

Somerset Wildlife Trust, (<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/>) who both care for land in the village and are working with our Diocese on environmental issues.

Christian Aid, (<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>) the international development charity supported by churches of many denominations in the UK.

Sheldon, Society of Mary & Martha (<https://www.sheldon.uk.com/>) the Devon based Anglican retreat centre, particularly supporting those in ministry.

Home for Good, Bath, (<https://homeforgood.org.uk/connect-locally/bath-area>) a local Christian charity promoting adoption and fostering for children.

Street

Tearfund (as for Walton above)

Gospel for Asia, (<https://www.gfauk.org/about/>) a Christian mission and development charity. We are particularly supporting a new initiative providing wells in Africa.

Diocesan Zambia link, (<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/world-mission-and-zambia-partnership/>) continuing our link with Mfuwe parish in Eastern Zambia.

A Rocha, (<https://arocha.org.uk/>) a Christian environmental charity working in the UK and internationally, they also administer the 'Eco Church' scheme

Kevin Lawrence (for the benefice charitable giving group)

THANK YOU FROM UGANDA

The Father's Children Ministries (<https://aiduganda.org/>) was one of the charities supported by Street parish in 2020 as part of their charitable giving. They have now written to thank us for our gift.

On behalf of TFCM I wanted to say a big thank you to you and all our friends in Street for the recent donation of £1170.79 made to the charity. It is very much appreciated and welcomed and will be put to good use in support of the work TFCM is privileged to carry out in Uganda, in the name of Jesus.

TFCM a UK registered charity which works in local communities in Uganda, in three locations all within 35 miles of the capital city, Kampala. TFCM was started by Brian Stokes from Castle Cary and works amongst the most disadvantaged families, particularly those where the children have lost one or both parents and are cared for by other relatives. Schooling for the children and training for their guardians is at the heart of what they do at TFCM. One of the top priorities is to get children enrolled into school at an early stage, sponsoring them for nursery, primary and secondary education.

Please see their web site above for more information

Kevin Lawrence on behalf of the Charitable Giving Committee

New bishop consultation

Help us identify the next Bishop of Bath and Wells

The process has started to discern who God is calling to be the next Bishop of Bath and Wells. As part of that process we are consulting with people across the diocese about the church and

their hopes for a new bishop.

Your views are important to us and we want to hear from you, whether as an individual or a group. Your views will be fed into the decision making process and we will feed back on the responses in the autumn. You can complete the questionnaire on line or download a hard copy. The consultation will close on Friday, 20 August 2021.

Should you wish to have a questionnaire sent to you to complete please call 01749 670777.

- **Complete the questionnaire online**
- **Download a hard copy to complete and return**

Who to contact

For enquiries about the consultation please email:
newbishop@bathwells.anglican.org

Do not look back

'REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE.' Luke 17:32 KJV

When the Sunday school teacher told her class, 'Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt,' one child responded, 'That is nothin'! My mum was driving home yesterday, and she looked back and turned into a telephone pole!'

Lot's wife only appears briefly in one scripture, so why did Jesus tell us to remember her?

Two reasons:

1. *She invested her life in something that had no future.* John writes, 'This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever' (1 John 2:17 NLT). God tried to get Lot's wife out of Sodom, but she couldn't get Sodom out of her. When she thought of what she was leaving, she looked back and turned into a lifeless monument. When God says it is time to move, do not hesitate! Do not become like those who once walked with him, witnessed on the job, stood out as shining lights in their communities, but now have turned cold and unresponsive.

2. *Your decisions have consequences.* If Lot's wife had kept moving forward she'd have been there to protect her daughters when they got to the cave. Instead they became victims of abuse and incest. Before you lose your children, poison your marriage, and tear up your life by refusing to break with your past, 'remember Lot's wife.' She did not make it to safety, but she did make it into scripture long enough to warn us about three things:

- complacency
- involvement with the wrong things
- a divided heart!

From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: ucb@ucb.co.uk

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