

TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR:
1 NOV to 15 NOVEMBER.

THURSDAY
FRIDAY

"Every day we are given is a new start" Rev Sally Letman



Page 35: More of The LINK's investigation inot the perils of retirement.





WORSHIP TIMELINE

St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.

2026

1 Nov, 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion & Fynn and Ben's Baptisms*

4 Nov, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

8 Nov, *Remembrance Sunday*
9.30am St John's, *Remembrance Service.*
9.30am, St Mary's *Morning Prayer.*
10.45am, Capel Memorial, *Remembrance Service led by*
Rev Sally with St Mary's Choir.

11 Nov, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

15 Nov, 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Family Service: LighthouseWA*
presentation by Deb Johnson.

16 Nov, 2.00pm St Mary's *Compassionate Cafe*

18 Nov, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

22 Nov, 9.30am, St John's, *Family Service.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

25 Nov, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

27 Nov, 7 for 7.15pm, St Mary's, *Friends Wine Tasting*
from New Zealand.

29 Nov, 9.30am, St John's, *Celtic Prayer.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

30 Nov, 7pm, St Mary's, *First Advent Course*



TRIANON'S WIND & BRASS PLAYERS RAISE THE ROOF AT ST MARY'S



A packed church experienced a rather different set of instruments on 17 October when Trianon Music Group's wind & brass players gave an afternoon's concert of light classical pieces.

Organised by our own Gill Williams, the repertoire included a variety of music ranging from Bach's *Arioso*, Mozart's *Lacrimosa* to Wechter's *Spanish Flea* and Duke Ellington's *Don't get around much anymore*.

The Trianon payers kindly gave their time to play as a fundraiser for St Mary's Church Roof Repair Fund. It followed an equally successful visit by the group's string section in February 2025 which raised some £570 towards church funds.



Left: Janet Dann, Trianon's narrator and compere introduces the programme.

Right: Jane Walker (bassoon) and Heather Ferguson (clarinet).





Left: Marcos Garrido plays the solo trombone piece for Greenwood's *The Acrobat*.



Right: Paul Cannard on Tuba introduced an instrument rarely seen in St Mary's..



A highlight of the event was the coming together of brass and wind players to play Paul Cannard's arrangement of Franz Schubert's *Marche Militaire*.

Janet explained that Franz Schubert's *Marche Militaire*, which was originally written for piano four-hands, into a performance for brass and woodwind/wind ensemble presented several distinct musical and technical hurdles.

The original piano score relies heavily on dry, percussive chords, rapid-fire staccato pulses, and rolling accompaniments. Translating this to wind and brass instruments required careful articulation management so the texture does not become muddy or overly heavy.

However, the result was a resounding success - and a huge achievement for Paul Cannard.



Right: Paul's tuba requires some muscle-power to play!



The retiring collection (for roof repairs) raised some £490 - which boosts St Mary's target of reaching £120,00 for the work in hand. Donations were varied and generous - and unusually included a no-doubt much treasured hearing aid.



As a post-script Gill Williams reminded everyone that **Trianon Music Group's 2027 concert season** commences on 9 January at the Ipswich Corn Exchange with a musical selection of much-loved numbers from Mozart and Beethoven to Cole Porter and The Simpsons. It culminates in the premiere of a brand new Gilbert & Sullivan medley arranged especially for Trianon.



NEW TESTAMENT READING SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS DAY

Matthew 5: 1-12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you".

Sally's Reflection

"Heavenly Father, through weak human words, give us grace to hear your true and living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord" Amen

MATTHEW 5:1-12

I moved to Suffolk in 1993 and my children were little and went to a church of England school in Stutton so I thought I'd better go to church.

I had always been to church but spent most of the time thinking about my shopping or what we were going to eat for supper....

So, I sat quietly and peacefully in St Peter's church and listened to a sermon about Martha and Mary, and I was really moved.

It was my life written down, I was Martha and I really wanted to be like Mary. I introduced myself to the preacher and thanked her, and she took my number. Then she rang me and invited me to a quiet day. I had absolutely no idea what that was but with two children under five it sounded blissful.

It was a day on the Beatitudes and I had absolutely no idea what they were either!

It's amazing how often in the church we use jargon in church, assuming everyone knows.



And today I am preaching on them; God has a sense of humour!

The beatitudes translate as blessings.

It is a list; a list Matthew has perhaps put together from listening to Jesus' preaching. In Deuteronomy 28, the people came through the wilderness and arrived at the Promised Land and God gave them promises of blessings if they were obedient to him.

And here Jesus presents His manifesto but not one any politician would use today. It presents a distinctive life style, with radically different values to the world we often see around us.

Jesus withdraws to teach His disciples, a rabbi sitting with others listening. He sets out a way of Christian living; when we live in the kingdom of God, we live a contented and happy life.

In participating we are the way God meant us to be and we adapt the Beatitudes or 'Beautiful Attitudes'.

Jesus focuses on the character and conduct of citizens of the Kingdom. The poor in spirit means refers to us if we have pure confidence in God and we need to be constantly learning and dwelling in the word.

We mourn for the world, we see the depths suffering, but we are open for the comfort God brings us. The meek are happy and contented and top of the pile; it's a revolutionary concept in this world of power and manipulation.

When Jesus speaks of hunger and thirst, he is referring to spiritual hunger; we want to learn, we want to live a life in this Kingdom. We need to be merciful, pure in heart, with special joy given to the peacemakers, even the persecuted can appear happy, they have gained the kingdom.

There is no joy like the utter faithfulness to a life spent with Jesus. This is Jesus' prescription for a happy life; it is paradoxical and very powerful. He looks for qualities for those in his Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the poor in spirit and the persecuted and there will be a reward in heaven. Heaven's is God's space and one day heaven and earth will come together, and in the next chapter Jesus will teach the disciples His prayer; we pray Gods kingdom will come 'on earth as it is in heaven' and as people of the beatitudes our attitude is to live life where Gods will is done, on earth as it is on heaven.

We are summoned to live in the present; transforming this world into a place of beauty and delight that God always intended. Because the future has arrived in the present in Jesus of Nazareth, it seems up down but it's the right way. Let's all try it.
Amen



Happy Birthday in November to:

- 9 November Val Bridgman
- 22 November Julie Wardley
- 25 November Doreen Parker
- 26 November Kevin Austrin



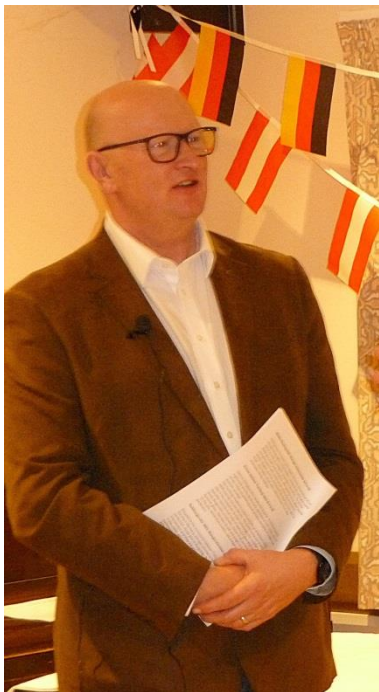
With thanks to Trevor Bailey





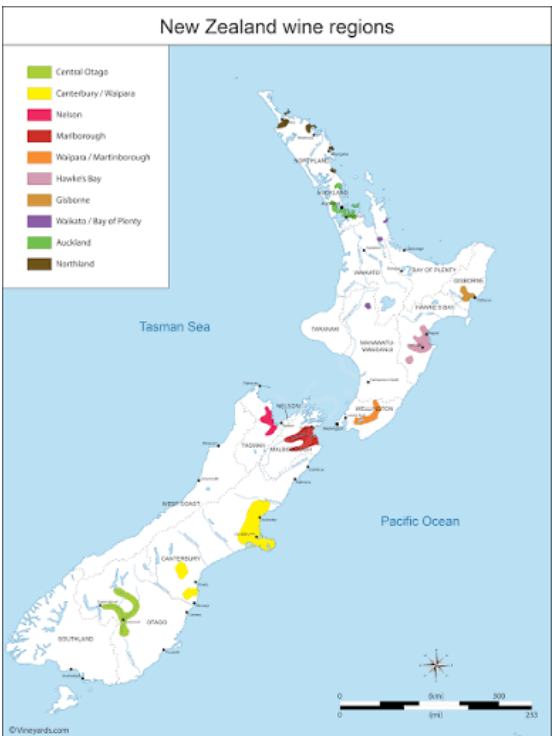
The Friends of St Mary's
Registered Charity Number 286971

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
CHURCH ARE HOLDING A WINE
EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE
VINTAGES OF NEW ZEALAND



Saturday 21 November 2026 in St Mary's
Church Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm start.

New Zealand is a world-
renowned wine-producing
nation celebrated for its
cool maritime climate,
clean energy use in
winemaking (such as early
adoption of stainless steel
and screw caps), and
strong focus on
sustainability.



*Join us as Jim Kelland gives us a run-down of
the best wines that New Zealand produces - with
samples of both red and white.*

The wines will be washed down with delicious tasty dishes prepared by Sarah.

TICKETS ARE £20 PER PERSON.

Jim's wine tasting evenings are always a sell-out so don't waste time in confirming your
table space by contacting him on:

james@delphiderivatives.onmicrosoft.com

"Another wine-loved initiative by the Friends of St Mary's!"





***St Mary's Church
Christmas
wouldn't be the
same without
Jenny's Coffee
morning and Craft Fair***



**Saturday 12 December from 10.00 until
1.00pm.**

Donations for the hamper and raffle please!!

Jenny says: It's getting close! This year's **Church Christmas Fair** will be held on Saturday 12 December from 10.00 until 1pm and preparations and the stalls and craft ladies are coming in to join in with us.

The church stalls will comprise of:

- our traditional Christmas Hamper raffle;
- a tombola and some games;
- alongside cakes and produce and refreshments offered in the hall.
- ladies from the Make and Mingle group will be selling some of their beautiful handcrafts; and
- Julie will host a rail of some clothes from the recent Fashion Show.

I am now asking for donations towards the **Christmas Hamper** and the **tombola** so be as generous as you can. And also I'm asking for helpers to come forward with offers to help on the morning.

Many thanks

Jenny





Lighthouse is a Suffolk based charity that supports women, young people and children who are affected by domestic abuse. It is one of St Mary's designated charities for 2026.



It offers refuge for women, young people and children who are fleeing an abusive situation.

Once safe, its team helps you rebuild your life. From sorting out your benefits, to arranging school places and assisting with moving on into a new home when ready.

It also runs a women's centre in central Ipswich. This service is open to women, young people and children affected by domestic abuse. However, anyone is able to contact it for advice. Its services are free, and confidential.

At our family service on 15 November, which will be led by Jenny, Deb Johnson, business & fundraising manager at Lighthouse will give us an update on all the charity achieves, and its current news



THE ROAD TO CROW'S HALL



Richard took this photograph on the road to Crow's Hall in Debenham. He said: "*It was dawn and the autumn colours were wonderful.*"

ST MARY'S NEW ADVENT COURSE: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

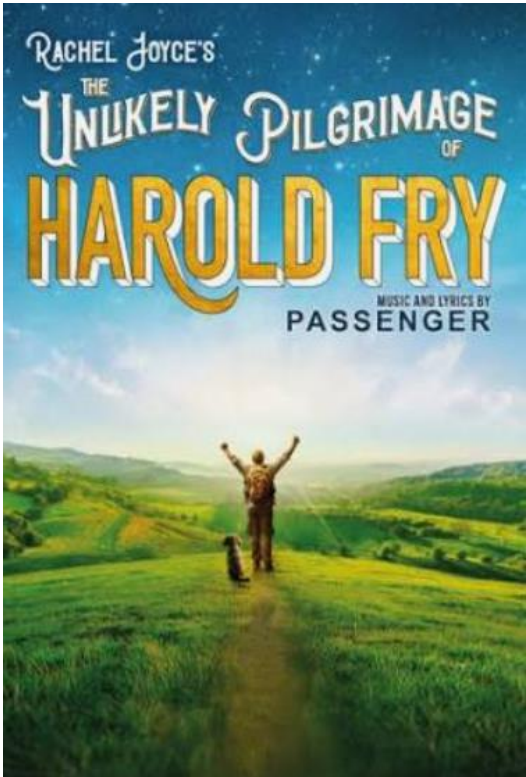
7.00pm at St Mary's Church or the Rectory - on 30 November, 7 December, 14 Dec and 21 Dec.

Rev Sally says: "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce makes a surprisingly powerful and deeply moving choice for our Advent course."

While not written as a traditional Christian devotional, Rachel Joyce's bestselling novel—and its adaptations—mirrors the foundational themes of Advent:

- waiting;
- repentance;
- stepping out in faith;
- unexpected grace; and
- the slow, intentional preparation of the heart.

Why St Mary's has selected it as our Advent course:



- **The Concept of a Pilgrimage:** Advent is a journey toward Christmas, a spiritual pilgrimage. Harold's literal 600-mile walk from Devon to Berwick-upon-Tweed mirrors the internal journey of clearing out emotional and spiritual clutter to welcome new life;
- **Stepping Out in Faith:** Harold leaves his mundane, frozen life with no map, improper shoes, and no clear plan—relying entirely on a leap of faith and the kindness of strangers. It invites participants to reflect on what it means to leave comfort behind and trust God;
- **Confronting the Past:** Along the road, Harold is forced to reckon with old griefs, regrets, and his broken relationship with his wife, Maureen. Advent similarly asks us to look honestly at our brokenness and seek reconciliation;
- **The Power of Small, Human Connections:** Harold meets ordinary people who change him. Jesus often arrived in the margins through unexpected people; Harold's journey highlights how holiness and hope are found in human connection;
- **Holding Space for Hope and Grief:** Queenie Hennessy is in hospice care, and Harold walks with the fragile hope that his action might save her. Advent always holds a dual reality: the darkness of the world and the stubborn, dawning light of hope.

Please confirm to Rev Sally (01473 311505) if you will be attending - so that the preferred venue can be decided upon.....





SUE'S POETRY CORNER

Our dear friend Sue Dale, who died on 24 August was a noted local poet whose work was much appreciated by the members of her small poetry group.

Those of us who knew her well admired her work and believed that her poems, which are extremely accessible, should have a wider audience.

So, with permission of her husband Ed, the LINK is proud to reproduce one or two special ones in the next few editions:

On November, Sue wrote:

Journey's End - A Soldier's Return

*I doff my cap to those I meet,
on crooked paths, by moon lit streams.
A cottage, thatch, pump that drips
with curtains hung in sun bleach strips.
Passed a barn with oaken beams,
o'er lichen stile by flattened wheat.*

*A hill, a hedge, by fields of corn,
A distant stack with smoke that curls.
A lantern held, I see your face,
My loving wife, our daughter Grace.
I run to them my arm unfurls,
Back to the house where I was born.*



This is a beautiful, deeply evocative piece of poetry. Sue captures the poignant, sensory-heavy atmosphere of a soldier's homecoming perfectly.

The rhythm feels like a steady, weary march that gradually quickens as the soldier gets closer to home. Her use of vivid, rustic imagery—like the "pump that drips," "sun-bleached strips," and "lichen stile"—paints a very clear picture of the timeless English countryside.

The transition from the solitary, moonlit journey to the warm, emotional embrace of family at the end provides a powerful and satisfying resolution.



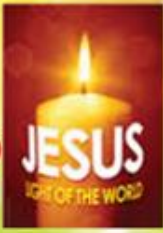


NEWS from the PEWS

AN AFTERNOON OF CRAFTS,
GAMES,  SONGS,
AND FOOD 
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

You are invited to
Come in our
Bright Colours

Messy Church





 Kids don't forget to bring an adult

 Praise Party!

 Its FREE!
Donations Welcome

Book at Maggie3@btinternet.com

SUNDAY 1st Nov. 2026
3.30-5.00PM
Capel Methodist Church

JULIE SAYS:



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 6th November 2026
7pm for 7.30pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Teams of up to 6 people
£5 per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Register your team with Julie on
07539 249234





Make and Mingle



Beverley says;

*"Our next meeting is on Wednesday
11 November from
1.30pm to 3.30pm."*

MAKE & MINGLE

*From 1.30pm to 3.30pm in
St Mary's Church Hall on
the second Wednesday
monthly.*



Beverley says: "This is an opportunity for us to come together for two hours to Make and/or Mingle.

"At our first meeting eight of us came together and we had a go at decoupage and some people worked on their own projects. Good conversations over tea and biscuits.

Next meeting 11 November at 1.30pm

Knitting, crochet, sewing, cross stitch, tapestry, decoupage, banner making or anything you enjoy making. Bring your own craft project to do while chatting, share your skills with others and just have fun or come and have a go.

If you are not into craft making just come and enjoy some company.

Open to all - No charge just a donation towards tea and coffee.

REGARDS AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! BEVERLEY





**SATURDAY 14th
NOVEMBER 2026
10am-4pm**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

BRETtenham

BRETtenham VILLAGE HALL. 1P7 7QP

If anyone is interested in a stall to
sell items, please get in contact with
Michelle

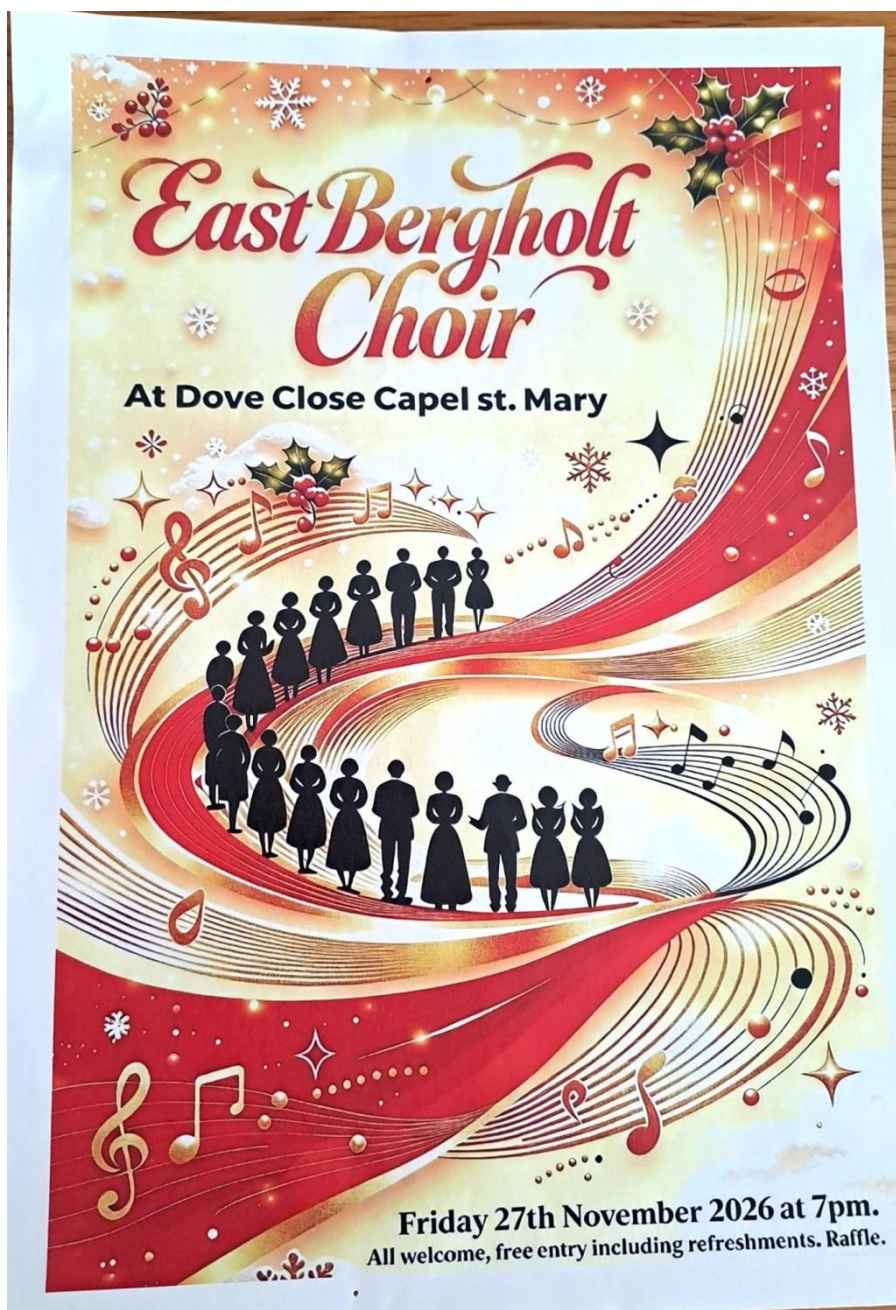
INCLUDING

Info@brettenham.org



Craft stalls, Christmas cards
and decorations, gifts,
handmade items, plants,
teas, coffees, mulled wine...

Cakes, sausage rolls, bacon
butties, hot soups, mince
pies, a raffle and lots more!



Please contact Sandra or Carolyn on 01473 310032 for further details





ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURSTALL

Christmas Market

CHRISTMAS GIFTS, DECORATIONS, CRAFTS,
POTTERY, FLOWERS, TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, CAKE,
BACON BAPS, HOMEMADE SOUP, TEA & COFFEE

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
9.30AM - 2PM

BURSTALL VILLAGE HALL
IP8 3DP | FREE PARKING & ENTRY

With thanks to Gillian Gasper



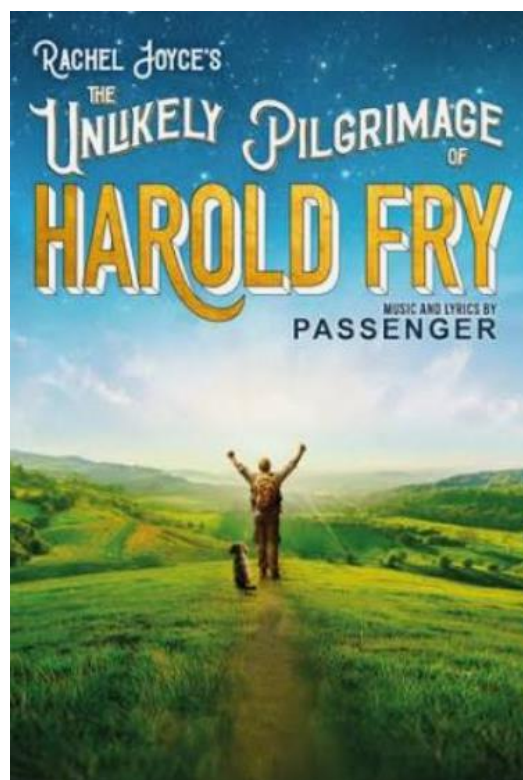
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ROCK 2 POP



YOU ARE INVITED TO

start your Christmas

WITH LINDA & TINA

ROCK 2 POP

FEEL GOOD CLASSIC ROCK TO POP SONGS
THROUGH THE DECADES



12TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN 7:30 MUSIC 8 - 11PM

LICENCED BAR - BUT BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES
TICKETS £6 CALL 07738176104
CAPEL ST MARY COMMUNITY
CENTRE IP9 2EF
rock2pop@outlook.com

With thanks to Linda and Tina





New school in Melavasal planned for 2027 completion.

New Dawn India is one of St Mary's selected charities for 2027, on Sunday 18 October **Sandra Davies**, trustee and sponsorship secretary, gave our congregation an update on the challenges facing those seeking to support the Vidiyal Programme in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Although the new school is a major aim for the charity, the largest part of the Vidiyal Programme focuses on supporting street children.

Each day, over 300 children attend Vidiyal drop-in centres, where they receive unconditional love, medical attention, and support for their emotional and material needs.

Though they continue to live with their families in slums, the children are placed in schools or colleges suited to their abilities and goals.

The centres also help with homework and provide opportunities to learn skills such as dance, drama, and karate. These efforts are part of a larger commitment to healthcare, education, and life-enriching experiences for every child.

An estimated 30,000 children live on the streets or in the slums of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, facing daily hardships such as having to do rag picking, begging, and scavenging through open sewers near their homes. The entrenched caste system traps these families in cycles of poverty. NewDawn India supports the Vidiyal Programme, led by Dr. Jim Jesudoss and Dr. Sharmila, whose dedicated team tirelessly works to uplift these children and their families.



Left: New Dawn India's trustees: Elaine, Rev Sally, Sandra, Brenda and Emma.

Sandra explained that, along with her husband, she began sponsoring with NewDawn India in 2000, after learning about the needs of so many impoverished

children through a fellow member of Capel St Mary Methodist Church. She was particularly impressed by the fact that the charity's overheads were absolutely minimal. In 2003 Sandra visited Vidiyal for the first time, which made such an impression that she has been on regular visits since. She became a trustee in 2006.

Sandra's main area of responsibility is that of sponsorship secretary, matching children to sponsors and keeping sponsors updated on the achievements and any other updates of their child.

Child Sponsorship

NewDawn India operates a sponsorship scheme and many of the children who live in the slum are sponsored, enabling them to receive a well-rounded education. The support and encouragement that the children receive through sponsorship is invaluable to them as they battle the caste system and work to achieve academic or vocational qualifications.

The most important part of being a sponsor is sending cards and postcards with messages of encouragement throughout the year. The children write letters two or three times a year and sponsors are also kept updated by the sponsorship secretary when there is any additional news about their child.

Sponsorship usually takes the form of a monthly standing order but some people prefer a yearly donation. The actual amount varies and it is important to have sponsors who write regularly to the children even if the monetary contribution is small.

Sandra and Rev Sally are getting ready to make a return visit to India early in 2027. However, on her first visit in 2025 Rev Sally met her sponsor-pal Dhanusri

Below right: On her 2025 visit to Vidiyal, Rev Sally, met Dhanusri for the first time at the airport.

"Dhanusri," Sally explained, "is a quiet little girl at Vidiyal. She will be eleven years old in April this year. She is showing much interest in her studies and is skilled in reading and writing. She dances well too!

"She is very aspirational and told me she wants to be an airline pilot!"



Right: Cutting a welcoming piece of cake.

Rev Sally explained that Dhanusri's family are "untouchables" - the lowest caste category in India. He father, Vaigaimuthu is an office assistant in a corporation office. Her mother, Alagudevi, works as a sanitary worker. She learnt sewing at Vidiyal's tailoring centre and stitches for the neighbours - earning some additional income for the family.



Sally added: *"Though they work hard they find it difficult to earn enough to make the means and ends meet. They seek Vidiyal's support in educating Dhanusri and providing her with medical aid."*



Left: Rev Sally meets the family.

Right: a typical street scene in Madurai hints at the scale of the impoverishment of the people and the challenges facing the NewDawn India team.
St Mary's Church Capel St Mary is proud to support them in 2026.



VIEWPOINT

What AI might mean for the Church of England (Part.2) – Chris Goswami is

interviewed by Christian Today.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming part of everyday life, from workplaces and schools to churches and Christian ministry. But as its use grows, questions are emerging about how Christians can embrace its benefits without outsourcing the thinking, relationships and spiritual formation that lie at the heart of Christian life.



Christian Today: How do we answer these questions about what it means to be human from a Christian perspective and how can Christians help people find those answers?

Chris: *One of the good things about AI is it is forcing these discussions to happen. Every Christian should know what essentially makes us human, what makes us different and what it means to have the image of God. We should know these things anyway, but most Christians couldn't answer these questions off the top of their head. Someone said AI is like holding up a mirror to ourselves and we're having to think, 'What is this thing?'*

From my experience, the secular world is open to Christians' interpretation because most people in the secular world also are not happy about AI having consciousness. They also want to know what the difference is.

I have been asked this question in a secular group, "If AI can do all these things and it can exceed us, it's so intelligent and it's conscious, what does it mean to be human?"

My answer is that if you are a materialist – if you believe everything in the universe is material, and even our thoughts and emotions are just chemicals and electrons – then there's no difference. But if you believe there is something supernatural in this universe, let's talk about that.

A long time ago, AI Christian partnership was having a conversation about the use of AI in pastoral care. There are lots of trials now going on in the world of using AI, for example, with the very elderly, and some of the short-term feedback I've seen has been very positive.

But it forced us into a conversation about what is really different about human pastoral care. You can have a cup of tea with somebody. That might sound insignificant, but it isn't. That's a real difference.

So, in a healthy sense, AI is forcing us to think about things we perhaps should have been thinking about anyway: what does it mean to be a person?

And it's a really good and lengthy explanation of how wonderful it is to be a human. Our job is to try to disseminate these teachings now. We have the provocation to do it now because people are asking these questions - it's an opportunity.

CT: One of your key recommendations is to treat AI "as an intern, not an expert". You've mentioned writing sermons but thinking about the creative side of ministry, are there some tasks - such as writing worship songs or devotional material - that you believe should remain uniquely human?

Chris: One of our recommendations is to use AI more in a secondary role - to critique rather than create. If it's a critical task, you should do it yourself. Your church's reputation could be at stake, and if it's important, you should be praying into it and thinking it through yourself, perhaps using AI only as an assistant.

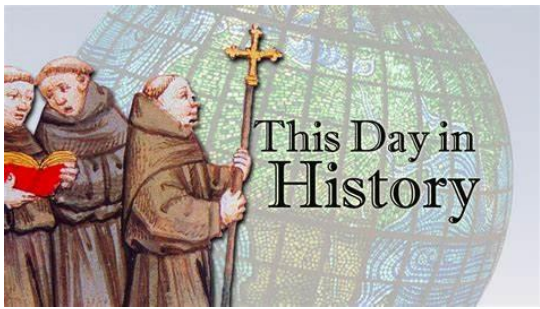
When I struggle to write a sermon, it can take me 12 hours, but I believe I'm being formed and that it's coming from my heart. God meets me in the struggle.

Instead, He allowed them to wrestle with their doubts for several hours before explaining the Scriptures to them from the Old Testament. Only later, in the breaking of the bread, did they recognise Him.

So, are there tasks I wouldn't outsource to AI? Yes. I wouldn't want to make a specific list, but if something is critical, you should be doing it yourself, with AI perhaps serving as a secondary tool. If it's non-critical, that's different, and what counts as non-critical will vary from person to person. For example, I produce a newsletter for the AI Christian Partnership. I'll often ask AI to draft a newsletter using information I give it. I still read it and edit it, but for me that's not a critical task. I've spent years writing newsletters, and I'm not too concerned if I lose some of that skill.

The reality is that we will lose some skills if we continue to outsource them. Some of those losses are okay, and some are not okay. Part of being human - not just being Christian - is identifying which skills we're okay with losing and which we aren't. It's like driving everywhere instead of walking. Eventually your legs forget how to walk. The same principle applies to AI.

[illegible]



1 NOVEMBER 1965

YORKSHIRE

THE POWER OF THE WIND WREAKS HAVOC



This photo is the best testament to the power of the gale that blows across Yorkshire today in 1965.

The first 377-foot high concrete cooling tower at Ferrybridge C Power Station, near Knottingley, collapses as 10.30am. Ten minutes later a second crumples to the ground.

The disaster is due to a substantive misunderstanding between civil engineering and meteorology. The towers, whose construction is begun in 1961, have been built to the standard allowance for wind speeds averaged over one minute - approximately 75mph as they are during this gale.

However, gusts today reach 103mph and the force which wind exerts is proportional to the square of the speed.

An enquiry into the disaster reports also that the proximity of the eight towers, arranged in two parallel, staggered rows, leads to increased wind velocity and turbulence between them by constricting the flow (the Venturi effect).

Right: the aftermath





CofE tackling 'unusually high' number of vacant bishop posts

Kaya Burgess, writing in The Times, has drawn attention to the fact that 12 out of 42 diocesan bishops' posts in the Church of England, lie vacant. One is suspended after complaints, one resigned after being arrested, one is on long term sick leave, seven retired with one temporary cover while another is appointed but not installed, one died, another (Sarah Mullally) was promoted. In the second layer of suffragan bishops, there should be 48 but there are seven vacancies.



The House of Bishops discussed this at their recent meeting, noting "the cost of long vacancies and shared experiences of identifying and encouraging candidates for episcopal ministry". A CofE spokesman is quoted acknowledging "an unusually high number of episcopal transitions", and said that the church recognises the importance of reducing the length of vacancies and is strengthening succession planning.

In addition to episcopal roles, hundreds of local parish, administrative, and national church institution (NCI) jobs are actively recruiting.



"MR ALPHA" JOINS CoFE GENERAL SYNOD ON EVANGELISM TICKET



Nicky Gumbel, The 71-year-old former vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) was elected to represent the Diocese of London in the House of Clergy, marking his first term on the Church's national governing body.

General Synod is the Church of England's national governing body. It debates and approves legislation, agrees forms of worship, considers national and international issues

affecting the Church and approves its annual budget.

Gumbel is urging the Church of England to make evangelism a central priority, warning against internal disputes and institutional concerns risk overshadowing its mission to share the Christian message.

In his election manifesto, he expressed optimism that a new chapter could be beginning. *"We have a new Archbishop. We will have a new Synod. It is a new season,"* he wrote, according to Premier Christian News.

Gumbel was ordained in 1986 and later became vicar of HTB for 17 years. During his time at the London church, the Alpha Course became a major international evangelistic initiative, helping churches introduce people to the Christian faith through a series of sessions exploring questions about life, faith and God. Since stepping down as vicar in 2022, Gumbel has served as a full-time Alpha chaplain.

A central theme of his manifesto is the need for Christians to concentrate on what unites them, rather than allowing disagreements within the denomination to dominate its attention.

"The time has come for us to unite in love for a whole generation that has never heard how much they are loved by God," he said.

Gumbel has also pointed to what he sees as growing interest in Christianity among Generation Z and Generation Alpha, and proposes the creation of a national leadership pathway for younger people who feel called to full-time ministry.

His manifesto also states that if church buildings, halls and vicarages are to be sold, this should only be to other parts of the Christian Church.



ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS FOR NOVEMBER

With thanks to Valerie Franklin

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.45 Communion Rev Sally	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates	19.00 for 19.30 Quiz Night	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.30 Remembrance Morning Prayer - Jim 10.45 Memorial Service War Memorial - Rev Sally	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10.45 Family Service Led by Jenny	10.00-12.30 Art Club 14.00 Comp Cafe 18.15-19.30 Brownies	12.30 Lunch Club 18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10.45 Communion	10.00-15.00 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates	19.00-19.15 Wine Evening	
29	30					
10.45 Communion	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies		10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		





*In
Loving
Memory*

IN MEMORIAM

With thanks to Trevor Bailey

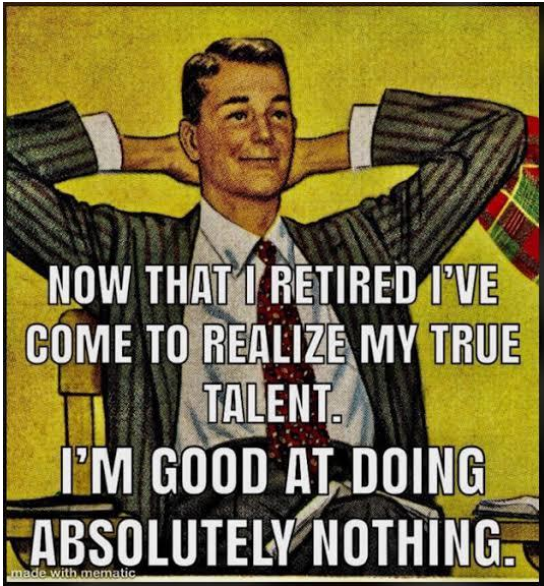
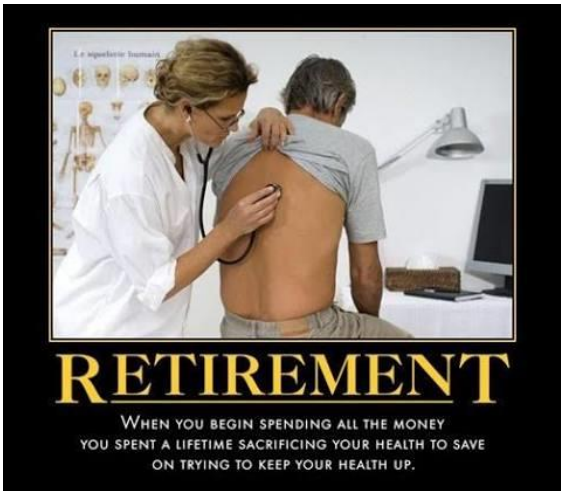
1 Nov	Margaret Terry	1994
2 Nov	Frederick Edward Willett	2004
5 Nov	Muriel Grace James	2005
	Hugh Anthony Finnegan	2021
9 Nov	Alice Rush	2003
16 Nov	Lai Jong Whinney	2016
19 Nov	Margaret Edith Pearse Butt	2003
25 Nov	Joan Potter	2016
	Garth Martin	2019
27 Nov	Marion Dolby	2008
28 Nov	Hope Bate	2010
29 Nov	Janice Makinson	2020
30 Nov	Mavis Wilson	2008

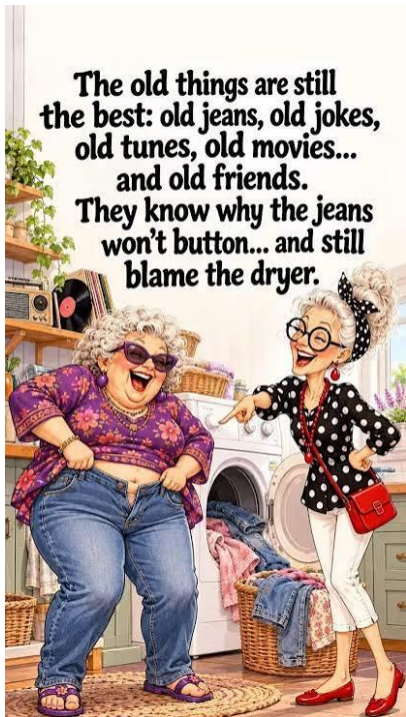
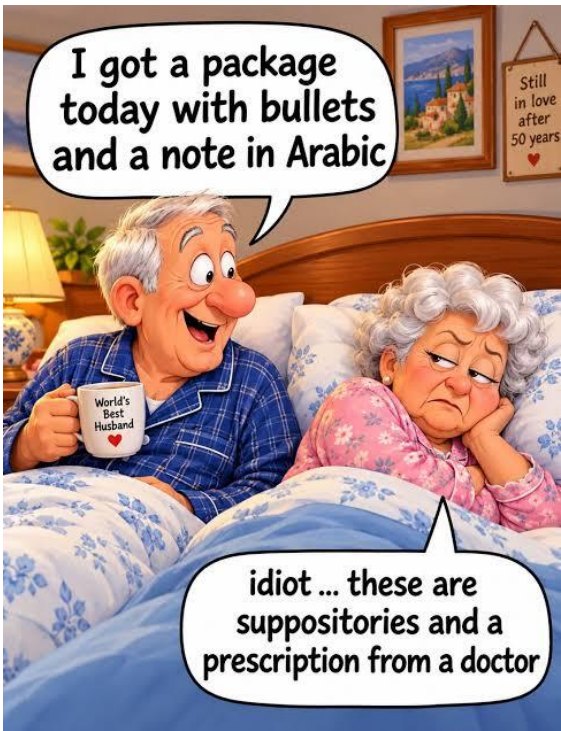
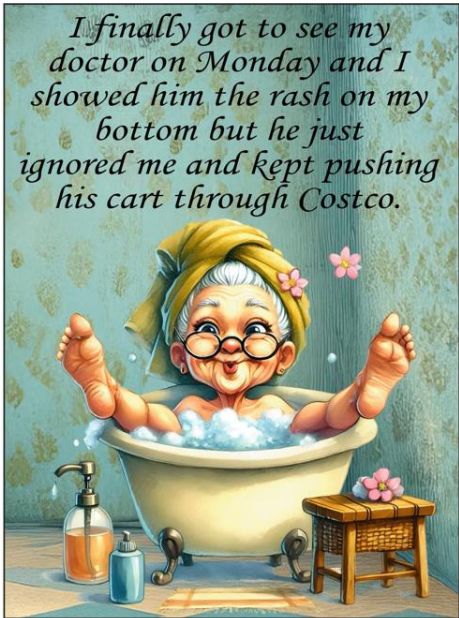


"Retirement: The only job where doing nothing is the goal, and the new key performance indicator is staying awake past lunch"

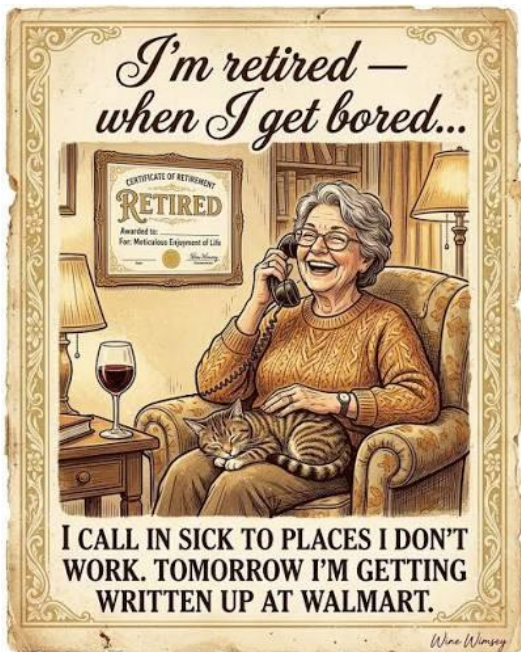
The Link continues examining the perils of retirement

I can't wait to retire so I can get up at 6 in the morning and go drive around really slow and make everybody late for work





THE 7 DWARVES OF RETIREMENT



**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE
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Priest in Charge *Rev Sally Letman* 311505

Church wardens

@ St Mary's *Mel Sutcliffe* 310967

Valerie Franklin 314179

@ St John's *John Cresswell* 311975

Diana Hunt 310441

Pastoral care

@ St Mary's *Rev Sally, Mo Hill and her team*

PCC Secretary

@ St Mary's *Jenny Hickley* 310991

Hall bookings

@ St Mary's *Valerie Franklin* 314179

Check out our website: www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk



***AND FINALLY- HOW WE INTERPRET THOSE CONFUSING
OLD PICTURES***

***Building a castle near the beach was not easy - for you had to
contend with the pounding surf...***



When you're gender fluid and also it's the 18th century.



*We found this early photo of Keith Richards.
Circa 1140 AD.....*



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

briancrogerson@btinternet.com

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Kindly note that editorial and production attempts to reflect accurately all submissions; however apologies are readily offered for any errors in transmission.

All features & news items & opinions in The Link are introduced & published by the Editor and only the church service, readings and reflection and prayers are submitted & authorised by the Priest in Charge and the PCC officers unless otherwise highlighted in the text.

