

Church News

SERVICES THIS WEEK

7 June 1 st Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor



History seems to be a theme in the valley recently. The Chalke History Festival is round the corner, sharing and reenacting much of our social, literary and military heritage. I hope you will be able to support this wonderful festival in some way. At the other end of the Benefice, both Charlton All Saints and Britford recently hosted talks by local historians about the land and their church buildings. We were reminded of our deep heritage, both agricultural and ecclesial – and we noted how linked they are. How the liturgical year revolved around what was



happening on the land, from where our predecessors earned their living, sourced their wealth, food, clothes and materials. We heard that many fields locally are still laid out in the same way and called the same name as they were 400 years ago and although much has changed about the landscape and the way we live, the information helped us to feel connected to our forebears.



Our churches tell us so much about what was going on in the country at different times - both in the layout and decoration which mirrored patterns of faith and liturgy, and in memorials, which spoke of the wealth and influence of the local people. In Britford there is a tomb purporting to be that of Henry Stafford, the Duke of Buckingham who was beheaded in Salisbury in 1483 ('outside Debenhams'!!), as well as huge plaques, and even a mausoleum, erected by local estate owners. Charlton All Saints was built in and for the village so despite having the Nelsons of Trafalgar House as patrons, has fewer, and smaller memorials. Yet this small church celebrated its 175th anniversary at the end of April making recent history as it was the last service in the Diocese at which the latest Bishop of Ramsbury, The Right Revd Andrew Rumsey, presided before going on to be Bishop of St Albans.

It is important to have a sense of what has gone before, not only to learn but also as it helps to remind us of our responsibility to those who will come after us. The land and our buildings will be here a long time after us and our descendants will no doubt wonder at decisions we made - why some churches have pews and some don't, or what is depicted in the stained glass windows for example.

cont...

Readings for Sunday 7th June - 1st Sunday after Trinity Sunday

Old Testament : Hosea 5 v 15 to 6 v 6 **New Testament :** Romans 4 v 13 - end

Gospel: Matthew 9 v 9 - 13 & 18 - 26 **Psalm:** 50 v 7 - 15

cont...

Jesus referred a great deal to what had gone before him. The Covenants between God and Noah, Abraham and Moses were the basis of peoples' understanding of the Divine and the expectation of how to live, becoming the law. Jesus reminded people of the core of these laws, many of which had become concealed by the vagaries of human interpretation, prejudice and preferment – that God is a God of mercy and love who expects us to be merciful and to love in return. Love God and love your neighbour were the most important things, then and they are now. Welcome the stranger, care for the poor, and be generous were Old Testament edicts as well as New. Jesus demonstrated this practically in the way he treated women, children, foreigners, those who were considered different and on the margins of society and he told his disciples to 'go and do likewise'. The challenge to us is – are we doing this, or do we again need to be reminded? And I wonder how the legacies we leave, seen in our land and our churches, will demonstrate our interpretations of God's covenant with us. How will our children's children, reading our churches, know what and who were our priorities?

Revd Maggie - June 2026

Broad Chalke Open Gardens

Sunday 7th June 12am - 5.30pm

A varied selection of Broad Chalke's private gardens will be opening to the public on Sunday 7th June - including (clockwise from church): **Coniston** (Dr George Todd); **Kings Old Rectory** (Sir Christopher & Lady Fiona Butcher); **Anthony's Ground** (Gen Ashley & Jenny Truluck); **Bow Meadow** (Julian & Julia Thomas); **Chalke Pyt House** (Andrew & Di Jeans); and **Ash Meadow** (Goeff & Judy Viney). The gardens are situated on a walking circuit around the village centre linked by footpaths through the water-meadows.



Check-in from 12 a.m on the day at the Village Hall where you will be given an entry ticket showing a map and description of all the gardens on display.
Cost: £8 per adult for entry to all six gardens, with proceeds going to the Village Hall and CRESS. There will be home-made refreshments on sale in the village hall and a small flower display and organ recital in the church. Car parking (signed) available

for those coming from afar.
Chalk Pyt Gardens



Parishioners and passers- by alike enjoyed a glorious afternoon and delicious cream tea in the grounds of St Peter's church Britford on Sunday afternoon.

The threefold combination of scone, cream and jam was one way of marking Trinity Sunday and the beautiful location, perfect weather and a fabulous team of helpers made it a joyful way to raise a few pounds for the church and Morning Star.

Thanks to all who came and all who helped. MM



If you are unable to attend a service in church this Sunday, there are services on the radio ...



8.10am - BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 'Mercy in an unmerciful world'

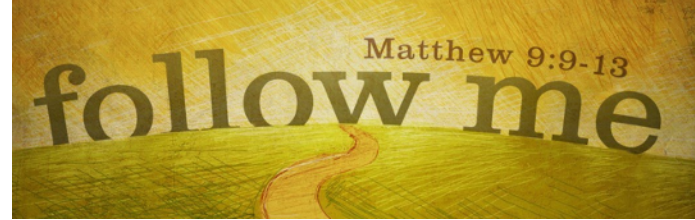
A service from Glasgow University Memorial Chapel



6.00pm - BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong

Live from Tewkesbury Abbey

The Gospel reading for Sunday 7th June - 1st Sunday after Trinity - Matthew 9 v 9 - 13 and 18 - 26





The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

 Services in the Chalke Valley Benefice: June 2026 				
BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)				
7 June 1st Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
14 June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Jenny Taylor
	10.30am	Worship Together	Broad Chalke Hub	Janet Roe
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
21 June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Tony Monds
	4.00pm	Sunday Praise	Coombe Bissett	Lay Led
	4.00pm	Sunday Praise with Pets	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
28 June 4th Sunday after Trinity	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Tony Monds
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
6.00pm	Songs & Sausages	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe	