

**The Blackdown Benefice**  
The Parishes of Buckland St Mary,  
Churchstanton,  
Corfe, Otterford and Pitminster



Pew Sheet  
**September**



**We hold a Benefice service with  
Holy Communion every Sunday  
at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise.**



**Sunday 06th September**

10.30am Birchwood Chapel

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

10.30am St Mary & St Andrew Pitminster for  
sung Holy Communion

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

10.30am St Peter & St Paul Churchstanton  
Harvest Festival

1pm Outdoor Harvest Celebration at St Leonard  
Otterford.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

10.30am St Nicholas Corfe Harvest Festival

## Prayer for September



Creator God, As the season changes from summer to autumn,  
we give you thanks,  
for the wonder of the world, you have created.

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,  
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens,  
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth  
both green shoot and hoar frost,  
sunrise and sunset,  
we bring our thanks  
for seeds that have grown,  
harvests gathered,  
storehouses filled,  
mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests  
through winter's cold embrace,  
we look forward to its re-awakening  
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

For summer's passing and harvest home  
A. WE THANK YOU

For autumn's splendour and winter's chill  
A. WE THANK YOU

For seed that has fallen the promise of spring  
A. WE THANK YOU

## This Week's Readings: Romans 18.21-35

### Do Not Judge Another

**14** Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died

and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to <sup>[f]</sup> God.’

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God. <sup>[g]</sup>

## Matthew 18.21-35 NRSV

### Forgiveness

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

<sup>23</sup> ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who

owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister<sup>[e]</sup> from your heart.'

## Gospel Notes — Matthew 18.15–20

- Peter asks Jesus how often he must forgive: “seven times?” Jesus replies, “seventy-seven times” — forgiveness is not something to be carefully counted or rationed.
- R. T. France stresses that Jesus is describing a readiness to forgive that refuses to keep a running total of another person’s failures.
- The king’s servant owes an impossibly large debt. The scale is deliberate: it pictures the immeasurable mercy of God towards us.
- The servant is forgiven completely, yet immediately refuses mercy to someone whose debt is tiny by comparison.
- Tom Wright sees the parable as exposing the contradiction of receiving God’s grace while withholding grace from others.
- Christian forgiveness therefore begins not with what another person deserves, but with remembering how much we ourselves have received from God.
- Forgiveness does not mean pretending that wrongdoing does not matter. The king takes the debt seriously before releasing it.
- Jesus’ warning is demanding those shaped by God’s mercy should increasingly become merciful people themselves.
- The Gospel question is therefore: Having received such mercy, how can we refuse to extend mercy to others?



## Introducing Our Placement Student

*My name is Karen and I am going to be on a placement with the Blackdown Benefice for seven weeks, from early September until late October.*

*I am a full-time ordinand (which simply means I'm training for ordained ministry) with Sarum College, based in Salisbury. I am halfway through a two-year undergraduate diploma course.*

*My home church is St George's church, Wilton. Some of you may remember the Revd Dr Nick Griffin at Wilton, who served at the Blackdown Benefice several years ago as an Associate Vicar/House for Duty.*

*I am looking forward to gaining experience in rural ministry, and in a multi-parish benefice, as my church experience has mainly been in an urban context. I hope to lead some services and do some preaching, as well as simply getting a flavour of all that goes on in a rural benefice. Before training for ministry, I taught at Queen's College Taunton for 12 years, so I am also hoping to help out with school's work.*

*I am married to Andrew, and we have a five-year-old daughter, Beatrice. As a family we enjoy spending time in nature and going to the seaside. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all.*

*With my prayers and good wishes.*

*Karen*

# YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## We are looking to raise £20,000. Why?

At St Peter and St Paul, Churchstanton we are committed to providing Christian spiritual leadership and to serving our Parish community.

In the past 24 months volunteers have cleared decades of overgrown vegetation from the graveyard and following several generous donations we've repaired the front boundary wall.

We now need **£20,000** to:

- address crumbling ceiling roof plaster
- create a memorial garden, where the ashes of loved ones can be interred

- install externally a much needed toilet facility
- progress further with boundary wall restoration

Your gift will help ensure that the fabric of the building and its grounds continue to be a place of welcome, praise & peace.

If you are a UK tax payer your donation can be boosted by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, if you complete the declaration form and return it to the Churchwarden, Shirley Hooper (Tel 07594 233530), or email [shirleyhooper347@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleyhooper347@hotmail.com) , or post it to the Benefice Office address provided.

**Thank you for your donation.**

## Your donation can be made as follows:

### BY MAKING AN ONLINE PAYMENT to:

**PCC of CHURCHSTANTON, National Westminster Bank, Sort Code 60-80-06, Account No 70811180** and sending the completed Gift Aid declaration below, if appropriate, to PCC of CHURCHSTANTON, Blackdown Benefice Parish Office, c/o Revd Jim Fallon, The Vicarage, Pitminster, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7AZ

OR

### BY CHEQUE made payable to:

**PCC of CHURCHSTANTON** and sent to Blackdown Benefice Parish Office, c/o Revd Jim Fallon, The Vicarage, Pitminster, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7AZ enclosing the completed Gift Aid declaration below, if appropriate.

## Charity Gift Aid Declaration - Donation

You can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ to: **PCC CHURCHSTANTON**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address ; or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

# SAFEGUARDING

*Creating a safer  
community, together.*



BOOK EARLY TO  
AVOID MISSING OUT!

A practical and informative session  
to help us all understand our role  
in keeping children, young people  
and vulnerable adults safe.



## VENUE

Churchinton  
Village Hall



## DATE

Wednesday  
16th September



## TIME

10.45 am – 12.45 pm



Whether you are a  
volunteer, parent, carer  
or simply want to learn  
more – this session  
is for you.

*Let's work together to  
keep our community safe.*



## TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

*Please contact:*

[Jaynefallon1@outlook.com](mailto:Jaynefallon1@outlook.com)



*Together, we can make a difference.*



## **Safeguarding,**

is an essential part of our responsibility as a Christian community. All PCC members are required to complete the Church of England's Basic Awareness, Foundation & Domestic Abuse Safeguarding training. Churchwardens carry an additional responsibility as officers of the bishop and are also required to complete Leadership training.

Those working with children or vulnerable adults must complete this course too. These requirements are not simply administrative. They help us recognise vulnerability, respond wisely to concerns and ensure that our churches remain places where everyone can feel safe, respected and properly cared for.

Sandy Killick Benefice Safeguarding Officer

## **Bible Mid-Week**

September 17th 12.30pm  
in the Old School Rooms Pitminster.  
(Lunch provided)



If you want to delve a little deeper into the bible within a small informal group, over lunch, then why not come along to one of our Bible Midweek sessions held once a month at The Old School Rooms Pitminster 12.30pm.  
*(Please feel free to park at the vicarage).*

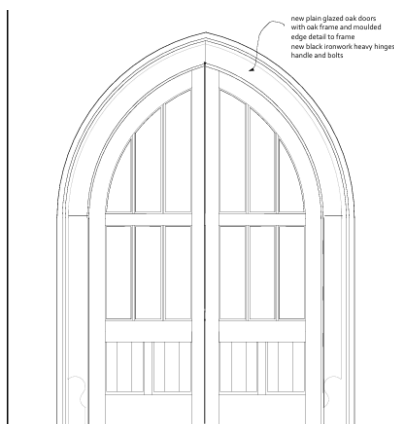
All are welcome to share this peaceful space of faith and friendship.

*“Let us rise up and build.” – Nehemiah 2:18, KJV*

Below: Buckland PCC celebrate the start of their £180,000 church reordering project, bringing mains water into the church and creating a disabled toilet facility, servery and welcoming community space beneath the west window.



Below left; The site of St Peter & St Paul Churchstanton's proposed new ashes burial plot. Below right: Outer porch door elevation for St Andrew & St Mary Pitminster to include plain glazed oak doors with oak frame and moulded edge detail to frame new black ironwork heavy hinges, handle and bolts.





## **Saint Benedict Biscop**

Saint Benedict Biscop was born in Northumbria around the year 628, into a noble family, and in his early years was attached to the court of King Oswy.

Although he could have enjoyed a life of privilege and influence, Benedict felt called to a different path. As a young man he travelled on pilgrimage to Rome, visiting the tombs of St Peter and St Paul.

This journey made a deep impression upon him, and he returned to Rome several times during his life, bringing back books, manuscripts, sacred objects and ideas which enriched the life of the Church in Northumbria.

Benedict eventually founded the monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow. He was deeply committed to prayer, learning and the ordered life of the Church.

He encouraged the use of Roman forms of worship and brought craftsmen from the Continent, including skilled glassmakers, to work on his monasteries.

His greatest legacy was perhaps the community of learning he established. The libraries he created helped make Wearmouth-Jarrow one of the great centres of Christian scholarship in Europe.

Among those formed within this tradition was the Venerable Bede. Benedict died around 690, leaving a remarkable legacy of faith, learning, worship and service.

**VENUE:**  
**CHURCHINFORD**  
**VILLAGE**  
**HALL**



**TIME:**  
**7PM**  
**FOR 7.30PM**  
**START**

**19TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

**TABLES OF 4 OR 6**

**£10.00 PER PERSON**

**(INCLUDES SUPPER OF SAUSAGES, BEANS & MASH)**

**BRING OWN DRINKS**

**FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL :** **ALICE - 01823 601300 OR**  
**SHIRLEY - 01823 601347**

Profits from this event to be used for the general maintenance of our beautiful  
Parish Church and Grounds



## **BSO Concerts**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 7.30pm**  
**Great Hall Exeter**

**Symphonic Horizons**

**Mendelssohn**

Hebrides Overture

**Tchaikovsky**

Piano Concerto No1

**Brahms**

Symphony No 2

**For more information about future concerts this year  
and to book please telephone: 01202 669925**

**Parish Office Opening Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 9am -5pm'  
Jayne our parish administrator will be glad to help you with any  
Benefice queries you may have. 01823 421757 or  
[jaynefallon1@outlook.com](mailto:jaynefallon1@outlook.com)

