# INSPIRE

## St John's

## St Katharine's

The monthly magazine for the Parishes
of
St John The Baptist, Frome
and
St Katharine, East Woodlands

**JUNE 2023**

## The parishes of Frome Selwood and Woodlands in the Frome Local Ministry Group

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www.stjohnsfrome.com

| | | |
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## The Bennett Centre (St John's Hall)
www.bennettcentre.com

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|---|---|---|
| Bookings | Peter Connew | c/o Parish office: 01373 462325 |
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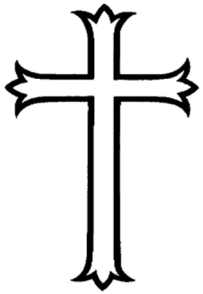
# June 2023

## Well Dressing 2023

**Dear Friends**



Following the announcement earlier in the year that as an outcome of the Living in Love and Faith process ( see www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith ) proposals to allow services of blessing of same-sex marriages that have been conducted by civil registrars may become authorised by Bishops within a guidance framework, I have had enquiries from local couples for whom this is personally relevant. For the present I have had to respond indicating the need to wait on the considerations that will take place at General Synod in July 2023 and at subsequent meetings of the House of Bishops.

For some people change is this area can only be welcomed, for others it involves significant issues of principle that need to be worked through and for some the possibility of such services is unacceptable.

How the Church of England, the Anglican Church and the wider world deals with the divisions of viewpoint will be critical in shaping the future of each of them.

Within the Church of England, and other traditions, there is a growing network of churches hosting congregations that are part of the Open Table Network welcoming LGBTQIA+ people in worship and fellowship.

Meanwhile the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda speaks out welcoming new, harsher, and LGBT laws in Uganda – and similar laws apply in many countries as for example the anti-LGBT propaganda laws in Russia that are actively supported by the Russian Orthodox Church (which also supports Putin's war on Ukraine).

In Frome in 2022, the folks behind The Frome Independent asked Frome's LGBTQIA+ community if they would like a 40 minute slot on the June market stage. Their offer led to the first ever Frome Pride, with brevity as a feature and subsequently dubbed the UK's Shortest Pride. This year a programme of events will take place during June.



Amongst the Christians living in Frome I know that there will be a significant variety of viewpoints relating to issues of gender and sexuality and the possibility of the church allowing blessing of same-sex relationships.

I also hear the title of the report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households; "Love Matters" – and I hear and see from around the world reports of awful intolerance and brutality towards people whose lifestyles are deemed unacceptable in those places.

Please pray for all who, wherever in the world they are, find themselves in fear or anxiety as they work out their own humanity in gender, sexuality and relationship – pray for the many who become victims of oppression or abuse – pray for gracious dialogue within the wider church and our own Church of England as ways forward are explored and risks of division faced.

**Your Friend and Vicar**
**Colin Alsbury**

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## 'Love Matters'

Established in March 2021, the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households was asked to explore what families and households of all shapes and sizes need to flourish. In its recent report – 'Love Matters' – the Commission has outlined five ambitions to support and strengthen family life.
We must:

- Value families in all their diversity
- Support relationships throughout life
- Honour singleness and single person households
- Empower children and young people
- Build a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society

In their foreword, Archbishop Justin and Archbishop Stephen write:
"This report focuses on issues to which we can all relate in some way,



Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨

for good and ill. Whether it is those we live with, are related to, or the people we choose, family is usually the source of both our greatest joy and deepest sorrow. It is the place where we find our most profound fulfilment and most intense disappointment, where we experience the messiness and wonder of life… 'Love Matters' delivers a powerful, deeply compelling call to action for all of us: put families first."
You can access the report, in full, summary and 'easy read' versions at: https://www.churchofengland.org/about/archbishops-commissions/families-and-households-commission
**Colin Alsbury**

## Churchwardens

Following the respective Annual Meetings at Frome St John the Baptist and at Woodlands we thank Terry Bushell and Neil McCormick for their willingness to be re-appointed as churchwardens at St John's. At present no-one has yet been nominated to be a churchwarden at Woodlands.
With the Deanery Plan for reorganisation of benefices now approved by the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee and the probability of the benefices falling vacant within the next twelve months there are some extra roles that will fall to those who are churchwardens at the time:
The basic role of a churchwarden as officers of the Bishop is described in the Churchwardens Handbook of the Diocese ( see https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/churchwardens/ ) and includes:
"As an officer of the Bishop and key lay representative in the parish, to both represent the laity
and to cooperate with the incumbent.
• To help parishioners to be faithful in their Christian faith – both by your example and your
encouragement.
• To promote unity and peace amongst your parishioners.



• To make sure that the church and churchyard are places suitable for worship, and to ensure
orderly behaviour during services.
• To be responsible for ensuring that church property is looked after.
• Churchwardens, as key lay leaders, work alongside their incumbent. The minister is responsible
for the conduct of services and churchwardens ensure that things are in place to enable services
to go well, such as ensuring that enough bread and wine is available for Holy Communion and
that the church is in a fit state for holding services
• Churchwardens must follow the guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to
the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults as part of enabling the safety of parishioners
and visitors to the church.
• When a benefice is vacant (in other words during the period between the retirement or
resignation of an incumbent, and the appointment of their successor) additional responsibilities
have to be undertaken by the churchwardens.

Please hold Neil and Terry in your thoughts and prayers as they continue in this important role, and pray that in God's good time churchwardens may be found for the Woodlands benefice.
**Colin Alsbury**

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## St John's APCM

At the St John's Annual Meeting (see also the Vicar's letter above) Ram Patten and Steve Smith were elected as new members of the PCC. We thank them and all the other noble souls who continue as our representatives in an increasingly complex world.
Our Deanery Reps are Elaine Gilburt and Lois Bushell, who is, of course, Frome Deanery Lay Chair.
**Janet Caudwell**

## A Memorable Weekend

I can't remember the last time the Well Dressing Weekend coincided with Pentecost! It was when Neil told me that he would be collecting the branches as soon as the Well Dressing was over, that the full significance of it dawned...

But first the Well Dressing. The children of Berkley, Hayesdown and Vallis Schools had been busy colouring in images of bells to illustrate *Make a Joyful Noise* which was the theme of this year's Well Dressing: a nod to this year's Festival, and a look back at the Coronation and other joyful events. These, of course, had to be painstakingly cut out and stuck onto the panels. I coincided with Marian doing this in church one morning, but Colin put in many, many hours putting it all together.

I, meanwhile, had gone into St John's School clutching one flower from my garden to make my annual plea for the children to bring one flower from their own garden, if they could, to make up the glorious flower display which forms the base of the well dressing. As usual, Elaine had prepared one little trough for each class and these were transported to school and then collected next day–full of flowers! This is always such a lovely moment for me when I see them all out on the school wall ready for collection. I've included a photo of Mrs Alexander – Jo, our wonderful school administrator–who always takes great pride and delight in making sure this all happens.

On Saturday morning when I arrived, Peter had already put the panels in place. The previous day he had rescued me when I had a major wobble over the road closure. A few phone calls later, Peter was able to reassure me that everything was in hand. And sure

enough a representative of the Carnival Club arrived on Saturday morning to perform the vital task of closing the road to ensure that the Well Dressing party, including the newly elected mayor, Cllr Philip Campagna, were not mown down by traffic on Church Street.

The sun shone, the band played, the procession made its way down Bath Street, across the market place and up Cheap Street (the shopkeepers all say how much they enjoy seeing this) and eventually St Aldhelm's Spring was blessed, Colin demonstrated how to scan to hear the bells on your phone (and got a round of applause). Many, many photos were taken and everyone went on to the next Saturday morning activity...

For Neil, Rosemary and Angela this entailed taking off their choir robes and setting off to chop down the young branches on the edge of the Longleat forest, (with their kind permission). Then began the annual sorting out of the branches, clambering up onto the pews, reaching round the column for the dangling string, positioning the jam jar rather gingerly and quickly filling it with water. This is the ritual which enables us to celebrate Pentecost with a church full of living branches (as long as we remember to keep the water topped up!). It was quite a long morning!

People with long memories might remember that Pentecost used to be celebrated in Frome with a procession through the town and a united service followed by a tea with gigantic 'Whit Buns'. The 'Not-Whit Buns' which appeared in church on Sunday morning were indeed diminutive, but the Tea Time at St John's in the afternoon where representatives of at least seven different congregations met for a short service followed by tea, cake and Whit Buns, gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships, make some new ones and celebrate Pentecost together.

So a memorable weekend. As usual, a tremendous amount of largely unseen, unrecorded work went on in the background to make all of this possible. Some people are named in this piece, but others played their invaluable part in the extensive preparation needed to organise the Well Dressing safely, in planning and preparing the service and in providing the hospitality for our visitors on Sunday. **Janet Caudwell**

## St Katharine's Church news

Lara Williams has sent me this photograph, showing her three children, who are pupils at Wells Cathedral School after their confirmation in Wells Cathedral. Left to right (I hope): the school Chaplain Tom Hardy, Dimity 17, Buck I5, and Willow 13 plus Bishop Michael Beasley, of Bath and Wells. Since moving to Woodlands the family has become really involved in our church. Lara is on the PCC, her husband often does a reading and the children have taken the collection.

George Howard's funeral took place on 23rd May and was well supported by his relatives and friends. A well known resident of the village, it was a lovely service in memory of a man who didn't look as if he was nearly 93. I didn't know what a splendid artist he was. Many friends have one of his paintings hanging on their wall.

Finally, our thoughts are with Emma of Bollow Hill Farm, who recently lost her mum, Joanne Trace, who was 87. Another well attended funeral to celebrate a life well lived, we were very lucky with the weather and gave her a jolly good send off.
**Pam Chapman**

**St Katharine's APCM**

The Annual Meeting was held in church following the Rogation Sunday service. The following people are members of the PCC: Lorna Wheeler, Steve Bainbridge, Mark Kaye, Victoria Turner, Pam Chapman, Lara Williams, Hilary Thornburn.
We welcome new members and thank those who continue to work to support St Katharine's. Lorna and Steve will be the St Katharine's representatives on the Deanery Synod.



## George Howard

George was a familiar sight at St Katharine's, faithfully transporting Diney as she came to church and attending Harvest Festivals and Songs of Praise. He and I often used to coincide at Sainsbury's where once he challenged me about a particular tune we had used for one of his favourite hymns. One hymn George chose for a service of Songs of Praise, in memory of Thelma, was *Morning has Broken* and so we sang that at his service in St Katharine's, for him. Appropriately he was laid to rest in the churchyard next to Thelma and John, with Peter and Phyllis nearby.
At his funeral we heard of George's great love of dancing – his entry and exit music was *Save the Last Dance for Me* – as well as some amusing stories about cycling everywhere (there were a lot of bicycling anecdotes) and his order of service had copies of two of his beautiful paintings of the church and the old school house.
It was lovely to see the church full of George's family and old friends, including his twelve-week-old great-grandson, who is, of course, called George. His son Andy summed up George in these words: a loving image of him for us to keep on our minds – he loved dancing, socialising and good food and was often seen in the Horse and Groom doing all three.
**Janet Caudwell**

## Woodlands Village Hall News

**Race Night at Woodlands Village Hall** is on Friday, 3rd June, if you enjoy a flutter. Details from Louise Anderson on 07707 465135
**Summer Solstice coffee morning** 20th June 10.30am to 12 noon. Raffle and home-made cake to take home, plus books on the shelves to either replace after reading, swap with some of your own or simply return. Small cash donations towards the running expenses of the hall in a nearby dish or box always welcome but not compulsory.
**Hire the Hall** Contact the caretaker, Louise, 07707 465135 or email ljnicholl29@gmail.com

## Frome Festival - Friday 7 July to Sunday 16 July 2023

## Events at St John's

Frome Festival's theme for 2023 is based on Rook Lane Arts Trust and Artmusic's series of events 'Ring out - a celebration of bell founding and bell-ringing in Frome'. St John's will have a display area under the bell tower with info panels on St John's clock, carillon and bells – in addition to our floral displays 'Celebrating the seasons'.

**Floral displays 'Celebrating the seasons'** – daily from Friday 7 July, 11am–4pm: Floral and visual displays by the people of St John's Church, in conjunction with the Frome Floral Art Society, who will be celebrating their 70th anniversary this year, and also with local schools. The floral displays will complement a rich array of embroidered vestments and stoles used throughout the church year.

**Frome Art for Wellbeing art exhibition** – daily from Friday 7 July, 11am–4pm

**Frome Consort concert** – Saturday 8 July: 7pm–9pm

**Jon Pickard harp guitar concerts –** Sunday 9 July: 5.30pm & 7.30pm

***'Oranges & lemons – Tales from the belfries',* talk by Chris Gilburt:** Tuesday 11 July: 4pm–5pm

**Festival Choral Evensong –** *Thursday 13 July:* 6pm–7pm.

**London Gala Orchestra –** *Saturday 15 July:* 7.30pm–9.30pm

***'In joy and in sorrow',* talk by Revd Colin Alsbury:** *Sunday 16 July:* 4pm–5pm

**Please support as many of these events as you can!**



## Festival Stewards needed at St John's!

As usual we are putting out a fervent request for as many people as possible to help with stewarding St John's throughout the Festival, please; to welcome visitors, direct people round the church and hand out the leaflet about the displays.

**Stewarding times/duties are as follows:**

**Daily Exhibitions**

Our opening hours for the flower displays are 11am to 4pm, so we are planning two 2.5-hour slots; 11am to 1.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm.
We need at least one steward for each time slot for each of the 11 days of the Festival.

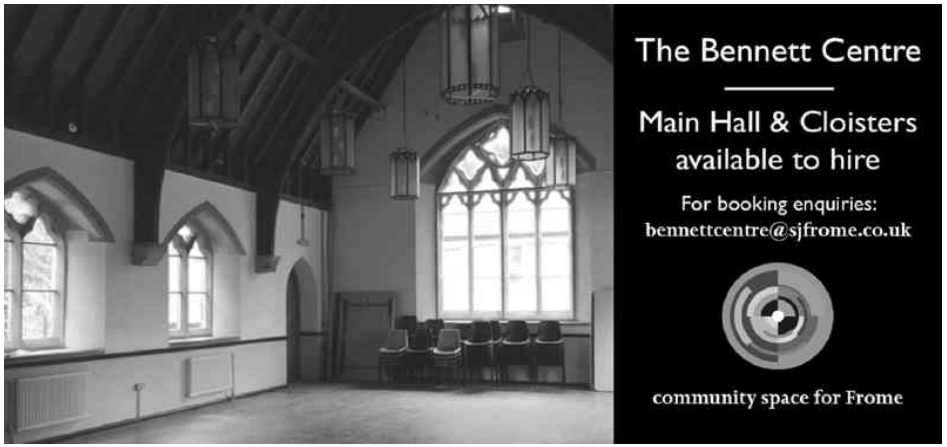
**Refreshments**

We will be offering refreshments from 11am to 1.30pm - help with providing cakes and serving teas and coffees would also be very welcome!

**Concerts and Events**

We will also need at least two stewards for each of the special events.

**Please sign up on the rotas in the refreshments area of church or contact Karolyn** 01373 462325, administrator@sjfrome.co.uk
**or Mandy** 01373 467828, amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk
**Thank you!**

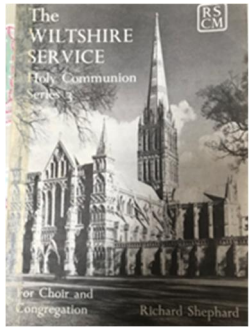


**Music Notes**

## Mass Settings

When Neil and I first came to St John's the choir sang the same musical mass setting every week. I appreciate that people enjoy hearing the same tunes for the Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, especially those of you who like to join in, but I also believe there is a strong argument for varying it sometimes. Not only does is it more interesting for the choir, but I also think it can serve to remind us of the changing liturgical seasons, in the same way as changing the colour of the altar frontals and vestments. And so, with Trinity upon us, I intend to change the setting.

In recent years I have developed a pattern whereby we sing the Appleford *New English Mass* for the major festivals – Christmas and Easter, and the weeks immediately following. This is a very accessible and lively setting with some harmony passages to keep the altos, tenors and basses happy. For the more penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, I have switched to the Addington Mass by Richard Shephard which is predominantly unison and more sombre. Earlier this year, from Candlemas to Ash Wednesday the choir sang the setting by Grayston Ives; new copies, properly printed, have made this a popular setting with the choir and it is definitely one to which we will return in future. Pre-covid we sometimes sang the setting by John Rutter, but at a recent choir practice at which we got all these (and more) out of the vestry it was the *Wiltshire Service* by Richard Shephard that got the choir vote. Shephard, (1949 – 2021) had a career in both music and education, having been a chorister at Gloucester he went on (having gained a Cambridge music degree) to become a lay clerk at Salisbury, a position he combined with the post of Deputy Head of the Choir School, before becoming headmaster of York Minster School. His many compositions include an opera based on the story of Good King Wenceslas and a musical version of Pride and






Prejudice. He was commissioned to write his *Wiltshire Service* by the Salisbury Diocesan Church Music Committee in 1979. I had hoped to be able to find a recording of the music on YouTube to share with you, but I haven't been able to. It is another bright and cheerful setting, with a particularly beautiful Benedictus, and I hope the congregation will come to enjoy it as much as we do.

## Organ up-date

I am happy to report that the appeal for the organ repairs has got off to a very good start. Thank you to Elaine for organising a special "organ-appeal" stall at the mini-market at the beginning of May, and thank you in advance to Judith who has offered to host a Coffee Morning on Thursday 15 June, 10.30am-12.30pm (see p.16).

Mandy has been busy creating a poster to show our progress and I am happy to say that we are close to reaching the total necessary to repair the swell division. This is a major milestone as it would mean all the notes on that manual would actually sound – no more excuses for missing notes in the hymns! Thank you to everyone who has already donated; if you would like to make a contribution, there is a link via a QR code on the St John's website and it is also possible to pay using the donation station in the back of the church.

**Rosemary McCormick**

## A new adventure

Most of you will probably have seen on the weekly sheet that I have recently been accepted to train as a Lay Reader. I should like to thank everyone who encouraged me to take this step and has supported me with words of encouragement, prayers, and the all-important references! The training will begin in September, and is based in Salisbury, at Sarum College. I look forward to getting more involved with non-Eucharistic services such as Tea-time @St John's, but Sunday mornings will still find me at the organ console!

**Rosemary McCormick**

## Jean Bryer

Jean passed away on Friday 12th May in the Royal United Hospital, Bath. She was a faithful and very generous member of our congregation at St John's and worshipped here for many years. She continued to keep in touch and support our church when ill health prevented her from coming in person. As a leading light in Frome Carers for many years, and as a kindly, smiling face at our services, concerts, talks and fund-raisers, she will be greatly missed.

Jean's funeral will take place on Friday 16th June at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington at 1.15 pm. All are welcome.

## St Aldhelm - Banners and Spinning plates

St Aldhelm's Day is on May 25th. Here in Frome we celebrate with our annual Well-dressing event and in Dorset the St Aldhelm Benefice celebrate with a "Walking Church" service at St Aldhelm's Chapel near Worth Matravers.

This year there was a celebration the weekend before at Sherborne Abbey when, on Saturday May 20th, representatives from churches across the Wessex area gathered on the Abbey green. St Aldhelm was the first Bishop of Sherborne in 705 AD and before that he had been Abbot of Malmesbury. In Frome we celebrate him for the founding of our church in 685; he also founded St Leonard's Church, Bradford-on-Avon, a few years later and he is linked to several other places around Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset.

After a variety of morning events there was a service in the afternoon which started with a procession of banners led by a child dressed as St Aldhelm, and later gave the Bishop of Sherborne an opportunity to demonstrate her plate-spinning skills.

In addition to the Aldhelm hymn that we sing at our annual well-dressing service there was a new song with words by Warminster writer and St Aldhelm expert, Sheelagh Wurr, the first verse of which is: *Singer, Minstrel /on and on his message goes/ songs and stories/telling all the people tales of Jesus*.

At the other end of the musical spectrum was a Medieval specialist from Edmonton (not quite in Wessex....) who has been investigating the medieval choir books from Sherborne Abbey and has re-created an early prayer of Dedication, set to an Anglo – Saxon Chant - something new for St John's Choir to learn perhaps?

**Rosemary McCormick**

*Pictured are St Aldhelm banners from Branksome, Edmonton and Malmesbury.*

**STOP PRESS - July Inspire**: Next month's edition will feature an article on **The Coronation and Accession Oaths** from Neil McCormick.

## SERVICES – JUNE 2023

***Weekly at 8.45am - Sunday Morning Service on Zoom:***

**Sunday 4th June - Trinity Sunday**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.45am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Katharine's |

**Sunday 11th June - First Sunday after Trinity**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.45am | Holy Communion | St John's |

**Sunday 18th June - Second Sunday after Trinity**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.45am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| 11.15am | Morning Service | St Katharine's |
| 4.00pm | Teatime @ SJ | St John's |

**Sunday 25th June - Patronal Festival**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.45am | Holy Communion | St John's |

**Sunday 2nd July - Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.45am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Katharine's |

**Early in-person Sunday services in Frome**
1st & 3rd Sundays;
8am Christ Church
2nd & 4th Sundays;
9am St Mary's

VISIT US ONLINE
St John's website:
**stjohnsfrome.com**
Facebook page:
**Frome St John the Baptist parish church**

**COFFEE MORNING and BRING & BUY**

*(courtesy of Judith & Peter Davies)*
@19 Leystone Close, Frome BA11 2JY

**Thursday 15th June 2023**

**10.30am to 12.30pm**

*Proceeds towards St John's Organ Appeal*
***Please come and support us!***

## DIARY DATES – JUNE 2023

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **June** | | | |
| Sat | 3 | 7.30pm | Race Night with a difference (SK) |
| Sun | 4 | 11am-2pm | Cafe and mini-market (SJ) |
| Tues | 6 | 7pm | SJ PCC Meeting |
| Thurs | 8 | 2pm-4pm | Craft & Cake |
| | | 7.15pm | Deanery Celebration Meeting; Holy Trinity |
| Sat | 10 | 10am | Worship Committee Meeting (SJ) |
| | | 10am-12 | Open Doors (SJ) |
| Thurs | 15 | 10.30am | Coffee Morning - see opposite page |
| Fri | 16 | 1.15pm | Funeral of Jean Bryer (details p.14) |
| Sun | 18 | 4pm | Teatime at St John's |
| Tues | 20 | 10.30am | Summer Solstice Coffee Morning (SK) |
| Wed | 21 | 7pm | Archdeacon's Visit to Frome - Holy Trinity |
| Thurs | 22 | 2pm-4pm | Craft & Cake |
| Sat | 24 | pm | Wedding (SJ) |
| Tues | 27 | 11am | Julian Meeting (SJ) |
| **July** | | | |
| Sun | 2 | 11am-2pm | Café & Mini Market (SJ) |
| **Fri 7 to Sun 16** | | 11am-4pm | **Frome Festival -** Exhibition at St John's, alongside special events & concerts. **See pages 10 & 11 for details and stewarding opportunities!** |

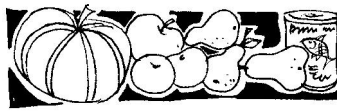
**St John's Cafe and Mini Markets**

**Sunday 4th June**

**Sunday 2nd July**

**11am to 2pm**

**Offers of help welcome!**
**And do come and support us!**



## Memories around the 1953 Coronation

1953 was very different from 2023: villages and towns were much smaller than they are now: people didn't have so far to travel to work; rationing was still in force; churches and chapels were important centres for culture and leisure activities, as well as, or perhaps more than, for worship; everyone was recovering from the War; no computers, smart phones or women priests; very few TVs, fridges, washing machines or cars. Children mainly did what they were told: communities were more self-sufficient.

I lived then in a small farming village in South Wales, perhaps 250 households in total. My universe was the family farm, the village church, my school in the local town (my father had removed his children from the village school, as he felt expectations were too low.) We heard about the wider world from the wireless or the Western Mail, which my father brought home from his office in Cardiff (the farm was too small to support two brothers and their families.) We elected an MP who kept in close touch with his constituency: he had been to school with my mother and wrote me a letter when I got a first prize in the village show.

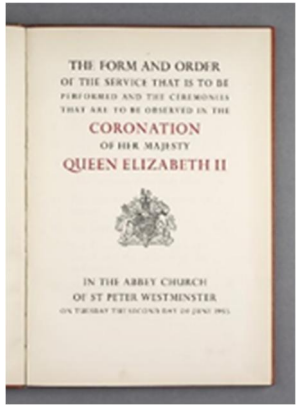
So, on 6 February 1952, our teachers told us that the old King had died. This didn't mean much to us children, as we hadn't been aware of his role at the abdication or during the War. But I recall listening to the funeral a couple of weeks later in school and having to stand up for a two-minute silence in our classrooms. This was ruined by a boy who coughed, followed by Mr. Harry Williams, the deputy head, shouting at him for most of the two minutes for showing disrespect to the king.

We looked forward to the coronation on 2 June 1953, mainly because we had a day off school but also because there was a lot going on. The village hall had three of these new 'televisions' for everyone to watch the coronation live: there would be a coronation concert later and a sports day with races and games on the field opposite the village



school. These were all things in which we were expected to take part and there was no choice about that. I practised running for the sports day and spent hours learning some poetry the Rector had decided I was going to recite in the concert.

On 2 June 1953 I started by helping out on the family farm but before that I had already heard of the success of the British expedition in climbing Everest. Everyone found this a very natural thing: it had to be British as we were the best in the world. I was helping in the dairy, getting the horse and cart ready to deliver the milk. After that I was allowed to go to the village hall to see the service and the processions on the hired televisions. I remember TV sets being very small and black & white only. You couldn't see much but the processions were great, especially Queen Salote of Tonga, a very large lady who had herself succeeded at the age of 18 and delighted the crowds with her enthusiasms.


THE FORM AND ORDER
OF THE SERVICE THAT IS TO BE
PERFORMED AND THE CEREMONIES
THAT ARE TO BE OBSERVED IN THE
CORONATION
OF HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

IN THE ABBEY CHURCH
OF ST PETER WESTMINSTER

What I recall most was the music, especially: the fanfares, all eight of them, the final one composed by Gordon Jacob whose book on orchestration I later studied; Parry's 'I was glad', his setting of Psalm 122 and Handel's Zadok the Priest, both of which I have sung many times since; Walton's Te Deum, and the lovely short piece for solo treble and choir by Vaughan Williams, 'O Taste and see' a setting of part of Psalm 8, both written specially for the coronation; most of all the Vaughan Williams ' All people that on earth do dwell' with inbuilt trumpet fanfares, which I recall singing again 10 years later in Oxford conducted by my flat mate Lionel Pike.

I remember the coronation concert for two things: my recitation was part of Browning's Pied Piper of Hamelin when the lame boy laments that ' It's dull in our town since my playmates left……' I can still recite all my ten lines. We had recitations such as 'Albert and the Lion'. I also recall the church choir sang excerpts from Edward German's



Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨

'Merrie England' rather too many for the audience who indulged in raucous heckling after three choruses of 'Where are the Yeomen of England?' The Rector did not take kindly to being forced to cut short his well-practised excerpts.
On sports day, I won the 60 yards dash for boys, the only race I ever won in my life and got a coronation jigsaw as a prize: I also met my best friend, who turned out to be two days younger than me; he and I went to the grammar school together a few months after the coronation and we have kept in touch ever since: when we met for my eightieth birthday last year we were both looking a lot more aged than 70 years earlier but still both reasonably active and keen to share memories.
Going back to my village today, I find that the sports field has a new school built on it, with the old school turned into a community centre; the village hall has been rebuilt in brick to replace the prefabricated building of the 1950s; milk is no longer delivered; the village is three times the size it was in 1953 with few people working on farms but most either remotely from home or in the local towns and cities .
**Chris Lewis**

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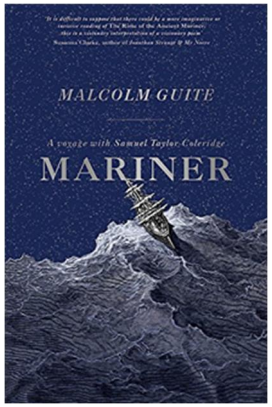
## Book Notes
## A Voyage with Samuel Taylor Coleridge




This is the sub-title of a book by Malcolm Guite. Its main title is *Mariner*. Malcolm Guite is a priest and a poet. He has a regular slot in the *Church Times* and recently retired from a chaplaincy at Cambridge University. I would commend his poetry and his scholarship. Coleridge, of course, is a local poet. One can still explore the landscape of the Quantocks and re-imagine his erratic but romantic life in the company of Wordsworth and other Romantics of the period.

At school I was introduced to *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *Kubla Khan* but did not appreciate them at the time. My school had a regime of learning poetry by heart, and punishing those who found this difficult. It was not until adult life that I discovered the glories of English poetry and their being keys to more profound understanding of the inner worlds of humanity and divinity.

In *Mariner* Guite speaks as a poet, a priest, and a biographer. He gives us an account of Coleridge's life, and his place in the development of the Romantic movement in poetry in the early 19th century. In the second part of the book, he explores the spiritual significance of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *Kubla Khan*, and Coleridge's prose writings. He draws out how these texts are so much more than the fantasies of an impractical dreamer. They are surprisingly apposite to the times we now live in. One of the signs that a work of literature can be regarded as a classic is that it endures long after the age in which it was written. I suspect that these two poems are taught less in schools today, but are still included in anthologies.
In the bibliography of this book, we are given information on the very large quantity of the poet's prose works and correspondence which have been edited and published for scholars. One does not need to be a scholar, however, to discover relevance in Coleridge's life and thought. Guite is an eloquent guide to the man and his work, and to their relevance to contemporary society. This book fulfils both an educational and a pastoral purpose in an age when both aspects are much needed. If you came across the poems at school, go back to them again. If you did not, then read them now. Several copies of *Mariner* are in the Libraries West system. You can access the poems on line.

**Kevin Tingay**

**My Kitchen Notebook**

## Summer Strawberries

It's that time of year again – summer picnics, Wimbledon, St. John's Patronal Festival all are better with sweet, luscious strawberries. I always try to buy smaller fruit as I find they are usually sweeter and juicier, and I always make sure I buy British! Of course all one really needs to go with strawberries is thick (preferably clotted) cream, but I sometimes add them to a cream tea - scone fresh from the oven, home-made jam, clotted cream - and a fresh strawberry on top, what more do you need on a summer afternoon? This month I thought I would try something a bit different – a strawberry shortcake, shortbread biscuit, with cream and fresh strawberries.
Buttery shortbread biscuits are another of my guilty pleasures, although I haven't had much success making them recently – if the person who left home-made shortbread fingers in the church biscuit tin a couple of weeks ago would share their recipe with me, I should be very happy!
While the basics are standard – good quality butter, caster sugar, plain flour, there seem to be all kinds of variations: some people add semolina for a crunchier biscuit, the proportions of flour to butter can vary considerably, but what surprised me most was the variation in cooking temperature and time. I always thought shortbread should be cooked at quite a low temperature, but then both Mary Berry and Delia Smith have 180$^{o}$ for their shortbread biscuits. I tried this and it was not a success – the biscuits spread on the baking sheet and lost the definition of their shapes.
I can report, however, that my most recent attempt has been more successful! I wanted to make a strawberry shortcake as a summery dessert for Sunday supper when we had an old friend from London coming to stay. For the shortbread rounds I started by creaming **4oz softened butter**. I then beat in **2oz caster sugar** before adding **6oz plain flour** which I mixed with a wooden spoon. I brought it all together with my hands to form a ball of dough, then rolled it out to a thickness of about 1cm. When I am rolling out a soft & sticky dough I find it helpful to place it between waxed sheets (I use the inner bag of a cereal packet)



and then it doesn't stick. I used a 5cm pastry cutter to cut the biscuits, put them on a greased baking tray, and then put them in the fridge for a few hours. When I had the oven on later for supper I was able to put the tray of biscuits on a lower shelf, at a temperature of 150$^{o}$C and bake them for 15 – 20 minutes. To serve I decorated them with whipped cream (see note) and fresh strawberries.
*Note about whipped cream*: I often find whipped cream too rich, so I like to add a bit of Greek yogurt to the mix. I whip the cream, add a spoonful of icing sugar and a few drops of vanilla essence, then, when it has thickened I stir in the Greek yogurt.
**Rosemary McCormick**

---

## Saint Fulbert of Chartres

At St John's over Easter, we sang the hymn tune St Fulbert. As no-one quite knew who this saint was, it was suggested I do some research on him. He turns out to have been quite an important mediaeval theologian, church administrator and statesman. Saint Fulbert was bishop of Chartres from 1006 to 1028 and a teacher at the cathedral school there. He was a pupil of Gebert, who would later become Pope. Fulbert admired the Virgin Mary and was responsible for her feast day now celebrated on September 8. He also helped to reconstruct Chartres Cathedral and helped to lay the foundations of many church reforms. He wrote many letters to secular and religious figures of his day. He was never canonised but as he has been called a saint in France for 900 years, dispensation has been given for this to be continued there. Fulbert's most well-known letter was to Duke William V of Aquitaine, ancestor of Eleanor of Aquitaine who became Queen of England. This dealt with the duties of feudal lords and vassals. He also wrote to fellow churchmen on a variety of practical religious issues including the appointment of bishops and obedience. His letters also dealt with more mundane issues of everyday life such as thanking people for medicine and running meetings. These letters provide insight into a



**Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨**

variety of issues in the late tenth and early eleventh century France and wider Europe: they show the wide influence the church had at that time.

We all recall the worries some people had about the millennium of 2000. Filbert had to cope with people's worries about the year 1000, with its fear of the end of the world. The veneration of Mary was already established and Fulbert used the coming of the millennium to enhance her importance. The results were both helpful in easing people's fears and expanding the cult of Mary and the role of Chartres in it.

Chartres cathedral held an important relic, supposed to be Mary's tunic, which previous bishops had used to ward off evil such as warring tribes who threatened the cathedral and its wealth. Fulbert expanded on the theme of miracles involving Mary, especially those cases where she had interceded between sinners and God. In this way people could pray for Mary's intercession with God on their behalf. He also claimed that she had cured him of a grave illness which served to give her the image of not only the mother of God but for all who believed in her, their mother as well.

This led to Fulbert's goal to have a feast day to celebrate Mary's birth. To gain popular support, he preached and published a sermon on her miracles. This enhanced her importance and led to liturgical changes throughout the next few centuries, with variations of the sermon being used in her feast day. This increased her importance making Chartres more important as a centre for her devotion. It also gave people a spiritual symbol to turn to. Fulbert's success can still be seen today in catholic worship.

Fulbert was a prolific translator of mediaeval writings: one of these was the hymn, 'Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem' which he translated from a 11th century text. A Common Metre tune was written by the English hymnist Henry Gauntlett in 1858, originally for another text but reprinted for Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1867 and used for the words of the St Fulbert Hymn. As the original name of the hymn tune was no longer relevant for Hymns A & M it was renamed St Fulbert in honour of the writer of the text. As the metre is a common

one it is also sung to other words, including 'My God I love thee not because…' A delightful descant can be found on the internet, produced for the choir of the little village church of Peterston-super-Ely in South Wales, which my farming cousins attend.

St Fulbert also influenced the architecture of Chartres cathedral. There was a fire during his time as bishop and he devoted his energies to raising funds for rebuilding, which was completed in 1037, nine years after his death. In 1194 it was again destroyed by fire; and the building of today's gothic-style cathedral begun. We still see Fulbert's influences that resulted from his promotion of the cult of Mary. The sculptures around the three portals depict her life and one of the stained-glass windows depicts the Tree of Jesse, which traces her family and hence the Holy Family, again a reference to Fulbert's teachings about the feast of her birth. The acoustics are also superb: I can recall Jonathan Willcocks taking full advantage of the lengthy echo when conducting the Chichester Singers there.

Fulbert was also influential in wider matters. He played an important role in the development of the ideas that led to the church reforms of the 11th century on the division between the powers of church and state. In those days secular rulers appointed their favourites to vacant church positions, rather as today US presidents appoint their own lawyers to the US Supreme Court. A good example was Henry II's appointment of Thomas Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury. Fulbert and his colleagues felt it was up to the clergy and the citizens of the diocese involved to make appointments. They also felt that the church, not the state, was responsible for disciplining clergy and addressed the issue of simony - the buying of church offices- and immoral clerics. These reforms were issued by Pope Gregory VII but many of the ideas originated from Fulbert. A thousand years have gone by but many similar problems still exist. Perhaps we need a new Saint Fulbert today.

**Chris Lewis**

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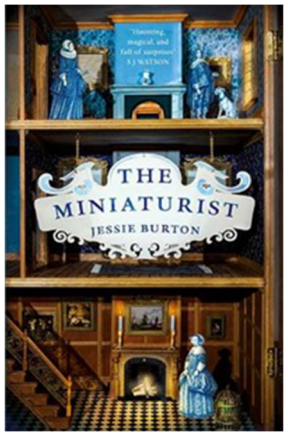
**Inspired to Read**

## *The Miniaturist* by Jesse Burton




*I have recently re-read this book for a book group. When it was first published in 2014 it won many accolades, hitting the best-seller lists and having the TV rights snapped up by the BBC for one of their prestigious Christmas slots (the stellar cast included Anya Taylor-Joy and Romola Garai).*

About the Author

*The Miniaturist* was the debut novel for Jesse Burton. A graduate of Oxford University, Burton had a brief career as an actress before turning to writing. Following the success of her debut novel she has gone on to write books for children as well as contributing essays to publications including The Wall Street Journal and The Spectator.

In 2022 Burton published a sequel to *The Miniaturist*: *The House of Fortune.*

From the Cover

*On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman arrives at a grand house in Amsterdam to begin her new life as the wife of wealthy merchant Johannes Brandt. Though curiously distant, he presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations ring eerily true. As Nella discovers the secrets of her new household she realizes the escalating dangers they face. The miniaturist seems to hold their fate in her hands – but does she plan to save or destroy them?*

A short extract

*The Guild of Silversmiths' feast chamber is large and full of people, whose faces blend into a blur of eyes and mouths and feathers bouncing off the brims of hats. Around them, the sound of silverware*



**Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨**

*on silverware builds, male laughter hitting the walls to a subtler counterpoint of women's titters. There is an almost monstrous presence of food.....Johannes links his arm tight through Nella's and they skirt the dizzying array, keeping close to the dark mahogany panelling. It seems that whispers and snickering run the room in their wake.*

The author was inspired by an artefact in the Amsterdam Rijksmuseum: the dolls' house of Petronella Oortman (1656 – 1716) although it would seem that neither the artefact nor the name were particularly unique There is another seventeenth century dolls' house, also owned by a Petronella Oortman in a museum in Utrecht. But I digress. Burton adopts the doll's house and the name of its owner for her novel, and even takes the same name for her husband – Johannes Brandt, but there the similarities end. The original Petronella Oortman was 30 when she married, the heroine of Burton's book was a young girl of 18 and she found herself living in a house full of secrets where nothing was quite as it seemed. Into this house came the magnificent dolls' house, but the subsequent furnishing and peopling of it took a sinister turn. How did The Miniaturist know so many of their family secrets and what did she hope to achieve by revealing them?

The historical detail is well-research, although I'm not sure that even a married woman would have been quite so free to move around the commercial districts of a city three hundred and fifty years ago. Burton takes the trouble to include an appendix, explaining the Dutch terms such as "spinhuis": The women's prison in Amsterdam and "puffert": a type of pancake, along with details of seventeenth century salaries and the cost of running a merchant's household.

**Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨**



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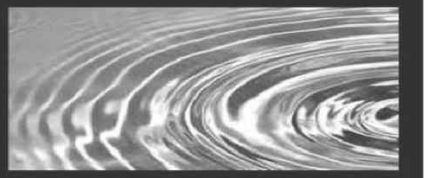

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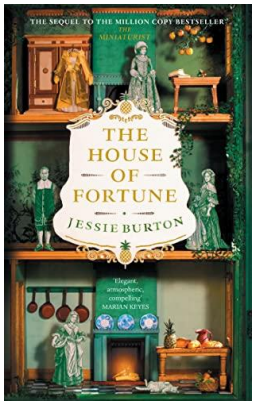
I am not comfortable with psychological drama. I tend to avoid reading anything where the central character is being manipulated and threatened and when I first read this book, nearly ten years ago, I struggled to finish it. This time I watched the TV adaptation first and found that made it slightly easier to read. I think I am sufficiently interested in the central characters to want to read the sequel, although I might try and borrow it from the library rather than buy it.

Book Group - update

I have had a positive response to my idea of forming a book group, and I should like to move forward with it by arranging a meeting towards the end of July to discuss the practicalities: how often should we meet? what time and where? Please contact me if you are interested in this.

**Rosemary McCormick**




**Editor's Note - Karolyn writes;**

I have recently re-read The Miniaturist, too, in preparation for starting *The House of Fortune*, having received a copy for Christmas...

It's next on my reading pile, so I'll compare notes with you soon, Rosemary!

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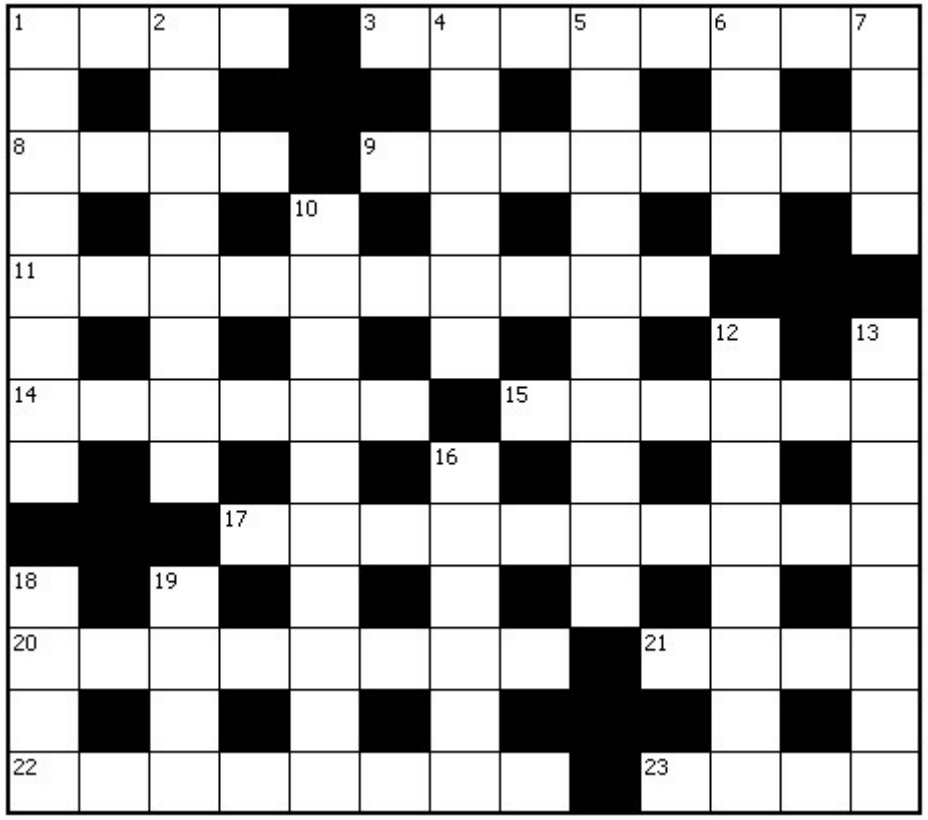
# JUNE CROSSWORD



**The Bible version used in this crossword is the NIV.**

**Across**

1 See 23 Across
3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
8 Invalid (4)
9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)



14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

**Down**

1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
6 St Columba's burial place (4)
7 Swirling current of water (4)
10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
18 David Livingstone was one (4)
19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

**Answers to May's crossword:**

**ACROSS:** 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.
**DOWN:** 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

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# JUNE WORD SEARCH

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The 'gates of hell' would never prevail against Jesus' Church, and He gave Peter the power of 'binding and loosing', and also the 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

Simon
Peter
Fisherman
Bethsaida
Galilee
Andrew
Jesus
Rock
Transfiguration
Raising
Daughter
Garden
Gethsemane
Betrayed
Cock
Crowed
Feed
My
Lambs
Sheep
Keys
Kingdom
Gates
Hell
Binding
Loosing

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# JUNE SUDOKU

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To advertise, please contact the editor
(amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk)

## SERVICES ROTA FOR JUNE 2023

| Date/Week | Services | Readings | Duties for the 9.45am service at SJ | | | | St Katharine's |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Readers | Prayers | Sidespersons | Sacristy | |
| Sunday 4 June<br>Trinity Sunday | 8.45am Zoom Service<br>9.45am Holy Communion | Isaiah 40.12-17, 27 -end<br>2 Corinthians 13.11 -end<br>Matthew 28.16-end | C Holland<br>The Hudson Family | J Bruges | K Yeaman<br>M Veakins | M Veakins/<br>M Smitherman | 8.45am Zoom service<br>11.15am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 11 June<br>Trinity 1 | 8.45am Zoom Service<br>9.45am Holy Communion | Genesis 12.1-9<br>Romans 4.13-end<br>Matthew 9.9-13, 18 -26 | M Alsbury<br>B Essex | J Caudwell | J Bruges<br>A Crook | M Alsbury/<br>N McCormick | 8.45am Zoom service |
| Sunday 18 June<br>Trinity 2 | 8.45am Zoom Service<br>9.45am Holy Communion<br>4.00pm TeaTime@SJ | Genesis 18.1-15 (21.1-7)<br>Romans 5.1-8<br>Matthew 9.35-10.9 (9-23) | R McCormick<br>R Patten | A Crook | J Davies<br>B Essex | R McCormick/<br>N McCormick | 8.45am Zoom service<br>11.15am Morning Service |
| Sunday 25 June<br>Patronal Festival | 8.45am Zoom Service<br>9.45am Holy Communion | Genesis 21.8-21<br>Romans 6.1b-11<br>Matthew 10.24-39 | K Yeaman<br>T Bushell | L Bushell | M Smitherman<br>R Frooms | M Alsbury/R McCormick | 8.45am Zoom service |
| Sunday 2 July<br>Trinity 4 | 8.45am Zoom Service<br>9.45am Holy Communion | Genesis 22.1-14<br>Romans 6.12-end<br>Matthew 10.40-end | S Smith<br>N McCormick | C Alsbury | G Fone<br>R Gosling | M Veakins/<br>M Smitherman | 8.45am Zoom service<br>11.15am Holy Communion |

CA - Vicar: Colin Alsbury
JC - Lay Reader: Janet Caudwell
RF - Lay Reader: Ross Frooms

Sun 18th June - 4pm Tea Time at St John's
Tues 27th June - Julian meeting at 11am

## Woodlands, St Katharine

| | |
|---|---|
| Churchwardens | Vacancy |
| | Vacancy |
| PCC Secretary | Vacancy |
| PCC Treasurer | Lorna Wheeler 07824 808220 |
| Flowers | Vicky Turner |
| | Mandy Hulme 01373 461941 |
| Magazine contact | Pam Chapman 01373 464802 |
| | friggletowers@gmail.com |

## Woodlands Choir

*The Choir welcomes enquiries about singing at other services and events*

| | |
|---|---|
| Organist / Choir leader | Diana Carrington 01749 831332 |

## East Woodlands Hall

| | |
|---|---|
| Hall Bookings | Louise Anderson 07707 465135<br>ljnicholl29@gmail.com |
| Hall website | www.ewvh.co.uk |

## St John's Church School (Aided)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Headteacher | Teresa Gilbert | 01373 462251 |
| Chair of Governors | Claire Levene Plumb | c/o school |
| Clerk to Governors | Sam Nicol | c/o/ school |

***We have tried to get all the key contacts on these lists; if you have any corrections or suggestions please contact the editors.***

FATHER
SON
SPIRIT