

St Thomas', Trowbridge and St John's, West Ashton Monthly News July 2025

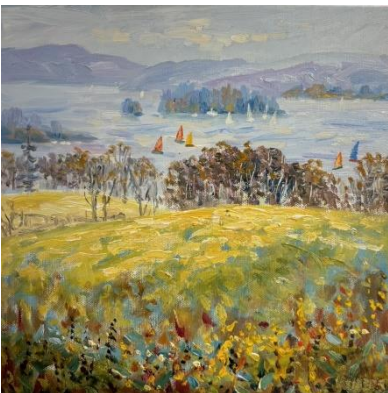
St Thomas
Trowbridge

St John's
West Ashton

Kingfisher



Holy Trinity
Trowbridge



"For sailing boats on little
seas,
Where just the smallest
summer breeze
Can blow; for picking flowers
any day;

July comes for flags and play."

— Annette Wynne

From Simon

Even though weather-wise it seems like we have been in the heat of summer for months on end, July has now sprung upon us! I am sure many are looking forward to a break, and may they be blessed times. I am reminded that July is a time of warmth, growth, and reflection – all of which are great aspects to lean into this summer. I do encourage you all to take time out, to draw into God, and listen to that still small voice of guidance. This can mean sitting in a favourite chair for half an hour, or sipping something ice-cold on a far-flung beach, God is everywhere! Be deliberate though – relax, get comfortable, and focus on God.

The summer Christian festivals will also soon be in full flight, may those of you going have a fantastic time, we all look forward to hearing what God has been speaking into your hearts. Elle & I plan to drop into New Wine for a day – so hope to see many of you there.

As a church this summer St Thomas' plan to go on holiday to Holy Trinity! All our St T's Sunday services will be there from Sunday 27th July through to and including 31st August. Same time – 10:30am – different location. This is a great opportunity to change things up a bit, enjoy a different space, and be a visible presence at the church-on-the-roundabout. Please be praying that new people continue to explore with us through this period and do invite your friends to join us.

Later in the year we are also planning baptism and confirmations – if you are interested in taking this next step in your walk, please do drop me a message.

As we continue in our journey together, I am reminded of God's famous words to Joshua 1v9

Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage!

Don't be timid; don't get discouraged.

God, your God, is with you every step you take.

I have been incredibly encouraged by all your support over the last month or so, it is an absolute joy to be part of our church family. Let's not stop as a family looking up at God and looking out to those around us in hope and love. Life can be difficult at times for us all but let us take the courage of God to demonstrate grace and love to those who feel overlooked and undervalued. Afterall God is with you every step you take.

Whether you're travelling, resting, or serving this summer, may you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding your steps.

Let us continue to be a light in our community, sharing the love of Christ in joy and grace, words and deeds.

Every blessing,

Simon.

August magazine will be slightly delayed due to holiday and will be coming out on Friday 8th August.
Deadline for August's magazine:
Tuesday 5th August.

St John's Update

Here we are in July, school holidays are looming and the annual family get away will be upon us. We have tennis, cricket, football and British Grand Prix to spur us on. The season seems a little awry - small apples are falling; small conkers are on the ground; blackberries are forming and even the berries on the rowan tree have a slight orange tinge. All far too early.

June at St John's had an air of expectancy - after nearly twelve months without a resident vicar (can it really be a year since Allan retired) - the realisation that a new Vicar - Revd. Simon Pope would be joining us - endorsed that our prayers had been answered and a ripple of expectation abounded.

With this in mind a work party had been arranged for 7th June to make St J's spick and span for the impending first visit of Revd. Simon to West Ashton.

The work party worked hard with dusters and brushes - no spider web was left untouched and at the finish everywhere sparkled and the perfume of polish lingered - magical. A BIG THANK you to all those who came along - it was an amazing turnout and fellowship enjoyed by all. Revd. Simon and Elle visited on the 15th - the weather was kind, we had 24 in the congregation and even the cows in the field came along to say Hello. All went well and after the service refreshments were given and a presentation of a St John's Wort plant was given to Revd. Simon and Elle as a welcoming gift. Revd. Simon was certainly warmly received at St John's; we trust he felt at ease with us.

The Annual Wiltshire Living Churchyard & Cemetery Project - Bishop's Award 2024 - had been awarded to St John's for 57 years of continued management for wildlife - see photograph.

St John's send heart felt congratulations to Judy Wright for being ordained in June at Salisbury Cathedral. A new chapter for her as she becomes a curate/deacon - well done Judy, God Bless you. Psalm 91:4

Come and join us, you would be made very welcome.

As the mania of Wimbledon takes over - can we say that our faith has directed us to overcome many challenges - can we say that in our lives, God wins every game, set and match - can we say he is our key to our way forward in this fragile world. As time passes and answers seem faraway, teach us Father to find help in You and Your presence. Enable us to endure and empower us to trust in You – Amen

Jean



Car Parking

At some point over the summer holidays we hope that the St Thomas' car park will have its lines repainted. The old lines have become almost invisible, and the new painting will make it much clearer where the designated parking spaces are. The repainting will include some changes to the layout: there will be two designated accessible parking spaces, and all other spaces will be full length and have good access down at least one side of the vehicle. Signage will also discourage parking outside of the designated spaces, as these areas are needed for vehicle manoeuvring, accessible access to the buildings, and emergency exits.

Sadly, none of this makes the car park any bigger, and it does not increase parking capacity! But we hope it will improve the usability of the space that we do have. We continue to ask users of the church buildings to be considerate in how you use the car park, and to give priority to those who need to park close to the buildings for reasons of mobility or transporting equipment.

When the car park is busy, for example on Sunday mornings, or some weekday evenings, then we encourage you to park nearby. Challenge Tyres and Briken Motors, on Union Street, have kindly given us permission to use their forecourt on Sunday mornings (only) – but please don't park blocking any garage doors as they may need access to these. Lovemead car park is only a 5 min walk away and is free in the evenings and costs £1 on a Sunday morning. Or there is some parking available in nearby streets – but please always be respectful to our neighbours and don't block anyone's access.

Note that when the lines are repainted the church car park will need to be closed to all vehicles for one or two days. We'll make this clear nearer the time. The PCC will keep the parking provision under review in the autumn.

Paul

Abide in Me

Abide in Me, My precious child
Come tell Me what you've done
Whatever fear that grips you tight
By Me, can be undone
I will forgive your every sin
Through what My Jesus did
No matter what the gravity
Please let Me lift the lid.

Abide in Me, My precious child
I've washed clean all your grime
It's only you who's suffering
Recalling all your crimes
Believe that I have set you free
From all the devil holds
You are My child and not a slave
Believe what you've been told.

Mike Bullock

St Thomas' Summer Services: July 27th – August 31st 10.30am

Join us at Holy Trinity for Summer Sundays!

There will be no church services held at St Thomas' church during the school summer holidays.



We are going on holiday to Holy Trinity (the church on the roundabout by the railway station) for these 6 Sundays.

Our theme for the summer:

Giants of Faith

We warmly invite you to join us for worship and a chat over a tea, coffee or something cold!

All ages welcome!

There will be groups for children or activities.

Parking will be available on Bryer Ash Business Park next to the station.



**Diocese
of Salisbury**
Making
Jesus Known

Children eat free over the holidays:

Bella Italia

Book a table at [Bella Italia](#) and kids aged 2-11 can get three courses and a drink for free all day every Thursday with every purchase of an adult meal. The same deal is available for £1 from Sundays to Wednesdays until 6pm.

Bill's

Up to two children can eat free all day at [Bill's](#) from 21st July - 29th September (excluding Saturday and Sunday), when one adult orders any main dish, whether breakfast, lunch or dinner.

BrewDog

Love a pub meal? Children can eat for free with a paying adult at [BrewDog bars](#) in England, Scotland and Wales but you must pre-book. The offer runs on different dates depending on location. In England and Wales the offer is available between 19 July - 31 August.

Brewers Fayre

If you order an adults' all-you-can-eat breakfast, you can scoff as much as you like from the pub restaurant's cooked and continental selections AND your kids eat free, too! Two children under 16 eat for free when one adult orders the £10.99 unlimited breakfast.

Dobbie's Garden Centres

Available every day, children can enjoy a children's breakfast with an adult traditional or full breakfast, or a child's hot meal or pick n mix lunch box with any adult main course, for £1. Children also receive a free child's drink. If you're visiting on Sunday, there's a £1 supplement for a kid's roast.

Dunelm – Pausa Cafe

[Pausa Cafe](#) is offering a free kids menu for every £4 spent in their in-store cafes. Available all day, everyday. Check opening hours to avoid disappointment.

Franco Manca

Running year round, children 12 and under receive a free kids pizza for every full-priced adult main meal, in selected pizzerias at [Franco Manca](#) from Mondays to Thursdays. Now, that's something to shout about.

Hungry Horse pubs

Every Monday, children can eat for £1 at [Hungry Horse pubs](#). There are a variety of meals on offer including chicken nuggets and sausages as well as a variety of vegetarian and vegan options. There are also a range of larger children meals available for the slightly higher price of £1.50.

Morrisons

Get a bargain family meal out while you do your weekly shop. Children under 16 eat free at [Morrisons cafe](#) all day, every day when an adult spends £5 or more on a meal.

Main meals for adults can be found on the menu under 'The Breakfasts' or 'The Classics' but doesn't include 'The Sides' or 'The Sweet Treats'

TGI Fridays

Kids eat free all day everyday with the purchase of an adult main at [TGI Fridays](#). To claim, you have to simply download their Stripes Rewards app – their customer loyalty scheme – to be able to claim the free meal and it's valid for new and existing members. Kids menu options include chicken burgers, hot dogs and chicken tenders.

The Real Greek

Visit [The Real Greek](#) on Sundays and you'll get one free kids' meal when each adult spends a minimum of £15 or more on their food. The offer includes a children's meal from the kids' menu (mezze or souvlaki wrap), plus a drink and ice cream or sorbet for dessert. Available to children under 12.

YO! Sushi

Kids eat free at [YO! Sushi](#) during your local school holidays when dining with a full-paying adult (minimum £10 spend). The offer includes a kids meal deal Bento Box, and is valid all day Monday-Friday during the applicable holiday period. You must dine in to claim the offer and it's not available at certain stores including Heathrow T2 or T3.

The very best car safety device is a rear-view mirror with a police car in it!



Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Recent News on Sudan.

The civil war in Sudan continues to go back and forth; first one side seems to be winning, then the other. A little while back the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) regained Khartoum city, and then Khartoum State, and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) seemed in retreat. The SAF drove south towards South Kordofan and again the RSF were displaced. Then the RSF kicked back and retook the area around the border between North and South Kordofan; they also made a drone attack on the hitherto quiet region of Port Sudan. They have also taken control in the extreme north, in the area bordering Libya and Egypt.

Even in the capital, Khartoum, now under SAF control, lack of security and poor services such as electricity, water, internet, and telecommunications in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum are causing people who had returned to the capital to leave again, though conditions seem better in the adjoining city of Omdurman.

In the last newsletter we quoted Bishop Hassan as saying “My loved ones, we are a very difficult time more than any time, because the war will be in the big cities like Dilling and Kadugli, and there is a severe risk that we cannot speak, but we ask for the help of God and protection for our lives.” It is not clear whether the “severe risk we cannot speak” refers to being unable to speak within Kadugli or to being able to communicate with us in Britain. We hope and pray it is the latter, and is caused by a similar failure of services as in Khartoum.

From all this you might draw a picture of anarchy, and while it does not use the term, in an article dated 16 June the BBC paints a picture of Sudan as a nation “in danger of selfdestructing as conflict and famine reign”. The BBC points out that there is “strategic stalemate”, but that while neither side is free from criticism, there is a possibility of further violence, human rights abuses and indeed genocide if the RSF win in the north and west of the country.

The BBC also points out that the UN requested £3bn of emergency aid for Sudan, but by the end of May 2025 only 13.3% of this had been funded. We may note that with current UK concerns about public spending, overseas aid has now a lower priority. And where aid is provided, both sides in the conflict in Sudan continue to restrict aid agencies' access to the starving.

And What of the Church in Sudan?

There is little up-to-date news about the church in Sudan as a whole. As with the nation as a whole, there is little news, but as the principal combatants seem largely at least nominally Muslim, so the church is politically in a weak position.

What about Kadugli?

Last month Bishop Hassan was very conscious of the dangers the population faced. The population was living, and no doubt continues to live in fear. Hassan's request for prayer for his family reminds us that these are people like us, with families whom they wish to keep safe now, and to educate so they can prosper as adults. But conditions remain hard in Kadugli, and in particular for Christians there. As a general rule in Sudan, Christians seem to be discriminated against when any aid is given. Aid, indeed, is in short supply, and we in Bradford Deanery make a point of targeting the church in Kadugli.

The Mother's Union is an important pillar of the church in the Nuba Mountains - Photo from Ludia Shukai



We continue to support the desperate need for food and other

essentials, and in addition, we have been supporting Hassan's son Yassa with help for his fees for his course at a university in Uganda. For administrative and other reasons any money given for Hassan's son Yassa would need to be

kept distinct from other funds, so anyone wishing to donate for Yassa can use the same payment details as for other funds for Kadugli, but with the reference “Yassa” instead of “Kadugli.”

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. The church in Kadugli is intensely grateful for our support, both financial and in prayer. Please continue to give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank: Lloyds Bank Trowbridge
Name of Account: Bradford Deanery
Sort Code: 30-98-75
Account No. 00710285 Reference Kadugli.

Or, as mentioned above, Yassa. (N.B. This is important)

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli. And as always, we ask you to pray.

Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

We continue to pray for the nation of Sudan, that God will bring about peace and tolerance instead of conflict, greed and intransigence. Above all, we pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of the people there and to bring them to a saving knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.

We pray especially for the Diocese of Kadugli and for the Christians there, for their protection and for the provision of food and medicine and other necessities of life, and especially that God will uphold them in their Christian faith.

We also pray for the young people and for their education, and that God will provide them with hope for their future.

Gardeners Prayer by Karel Capek (1890-1938 Czech)

O Lord, grant that, in some way, it may rain every day,
Say from about midnight until three o'clock in the morning.
But, you see, it must be gentle and warm, so that it can soak in.
Grant that, at the same time, it would not rain on Campion,
Alyssum, Helianthus, Lavender and other, which,
You, in Your infinite wisdom, know, are drought loving plants.
I will write their names on a bit of paper, if You like.
And, grant that the sun may shine the whole day long,
But not everywhere (not, for instance, on the Gentian, Plantain
Lily and Rhododendron) and not too much,
That there may be plenty of dew and little wind,
Enough worms, no lice or snails or mildew;
And that once a week thin liquid manure and guano
May fall from heaven. Amen



WORDSEARCH

Look up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonally on the grid to find these words associated with Wimbledon

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | Y | X | H | L | D | W | A | I | C | K | P | Z | C | N | R | B |
| E | K | L | H | S | J | E | B | Q | O | E | G | J | Y | J | H | X | S |
| V | A | O | X | J | T | K | Q | N | M | N | G | P | Z | R | C | B | L |
| L | H | M | B | W | R | K | F | R | T | P | T | Q | T | L | K | O | C |
| H | Z | V | R | B | H | K | F | R | D | E | Q | N | V | L | J | Z | Q |
| N | L | W | Q | O | Q | S | Y | N | K | Y | I | Z | P | T | Z | F | H |
| E | U | J | K | V | E | G | A | C | B | O | Z | Q | J | Z | I | G | B |
| T | F | Z | Q | T | C | H | A | M | P | I | O | N | S | H | I | P | P |
| C | Q | L | U | H | E | R | F | K | S | T | F | I | Q | T | K | B | V |
| O | I | W | M | R | N | M | A | L | S | D | N | A | R | G | R | G | H |
| R | J | G | O | Q | T | E | Z | W | X | N | V | O | L | L | E | Y | A |
| D | P | F | G | S | R | P | Q | C | E | A | P | Y | C | X | F | K | S |
| L | P | C | Z | B | E | M | Z | T | W | H | K | G | P | S | Q | O | C |
| Y | D | W | X | C | C | R | X | W | Y | K | Q | D | N | W | D | S | H |
| J | C | P | W | T | O | U | V | K | F | C | Q | G | Q | X | X | Q | C |
| L | M | N | Q | L | U | Q | U | E | M | A | G | Z | H | Q | N | W | T |
| Q | Z | K | Z | Q | R | Q | X | L | W | B | H | R | K | P | J | H | A |
| T | W | Z | G | K | T | R | R | Q | M | B | D | A | O | C | N | G | M |

BACKHAND

BREAK
POINT

CENTRE
COURT

CHAMPIONSHIP

FOREHAND

GAME

GRAND
SLAM

MATCH

NET

CORD

RACKET

SERVE

SET

SMASH

TENNIS

TROPHY

VOLLEY

Friendship Cake

1c. greetings

1/2c. smiles

1 lrg hug 2/3c. love

1 tsp. sympathy

2 c. hospitality

Prepare:

cream greetings and smiles thoroughly. Add hugs separately. slowly stir in love. Sift sympathy and hospitality and fold in carefully. Bake in warm heart.

Serve Often.