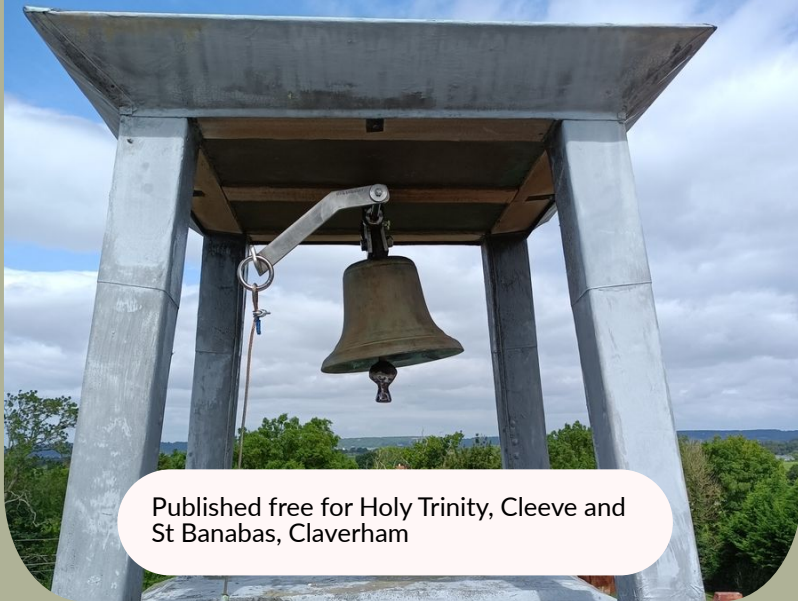


The MESSENGER



Published free for Holy Trinity, Cleeve and St Banabas, Claverham

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Issue 417 April 2026

Reflections on Calvary

A wonderful man died for me today
Before his death he had walked a long way
He was tired and homeless, a refugee,
He'd spoken out of turn.
He was different you see

Not a white man, I noticed he had a dark skin.
Quite poor, under-nourished, in fact he was thin.
His lips dry and cracked he complained of a thirst
His refusal to talk made them whip him at first

They say that his jurors were letting him go,
but the crowd had objected with a definite 'No!'
And they spat with such hatred, tying thorns to his head
His friends didn't care, they had gone, they had fled.

His hands were holed by some painful device -
The informer, I gather, received a good price.
His feet also wounded, were painful and sore
And an auction was held for the garment he wore

The thunder clouds gathered, it was just about three
When the sky became dark, I could only just see,
I watched and I waited there was lightening about
'Why do you forsake me?' I heard the man shout.

Many thanks to Chris Maurin for sending me this lovely poem and to Pete Kesby for agreeing for it to be published in the Messenger. Mary was a very talented lady and much loved in Claverham and Yatton.

Of course, the Easter story does not end at the Crucifixion but continues in the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. Why not come along and celebrate this joyous day with us? Services in our churches are shown on the following page.



Who was he calling? And what had he done?
This man facing death alone, somebody's son.
Could I offer him help? No, the risk was too great
It was none of my business, besides, it was late.

He died very quietly tied to a tree,
I caught his eyes suddenly looking at me,
The depth of those eyes made me feel very odd,
The expression they held not of man but of God.

And as he was dying he made a last plea -
'They are ignorant Father, forgive them,' said he.
What a strange thing to say, Was he talking of me?
I think he was God - he was different you see.

Mary Kesby

You are invited to join us.....

Holy Trinity Cleeve and St Barnabas Claverham

April and Easter 2026

Palm Sunday Group Service

29th March - 10am Holy Communion
St Mary's Yatton

Maundy Thursday in Holy Trinity

2nd April - 7pm Holy Communion

Good Friday in St Barnabas

3rd April - 2pm An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday in Holy Trinity

5th April - 6.30am Sunrise Service
followed by breakfast

10am A Celebration for Easter for All Ages
*including activities for children
and a Easter Egg Hunt*



3rd May - Holy Trinity

10am Holy Communion

10th May - St Barnabas

10am Holy Communion

17th May - St Barnabas

10am Holy Communion

24th May - Cleeve Village Hall

9.45am for 10am Cafe Church
An informal service which
starts with breakfast

12th April

10am Holy Communion in St Barnabas

19th April - Holy Trinity

10am Annual Parish Meeting
in the Context of Morning Worship

26th April

9.45am for 10am Cafe Church in Cleeve
Village Hall (An informal service which
starts with breakfast)

10am Morning Worship in St Barnabas

Every Thursday at 9.30am in Holy Trinity
there is a service of Reflection and Prayer or
Holy Communion.

If you would like to come to the
Sunrise Breakfast, please let
Lin Mortimer know. Tel 838515

31st May - Holy Trinity

Trinity Sunday

10am Holy Communion

Every Thursday at 9.30am in
Holy Trinity there is a service
of Reflection and Prayer or
Holy Communion.

All are welcome to join us.

More information
Tel: 01934 904765

Yatton Benefice Easter Services

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday Benefice Service

7.00pm All Saints: Communion with Foot Washing and Stripping the Altar.

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

2.00pm St Mary's: Last Hour at the Cross

2.00pm St John's: Hour at the foot of the Cross

Saturday 4th April - Easter Eve

7.30pm St Mary's: Service of Light and new Fire

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

10.00am St Mary's: - Easter Communion

11.00am All Saints' - Easter Communion

11.00am St John's: Easter Communion

Daile Writes -

2026 Services in St Barnabas

Since the last meeting when it was decided that we would not have a service in St Barnabas on the fourth Sunday at 10am, I have received some feedback from a few people. In response I wish to revisit the decision.

Difficulties

1. Replacing the morning service with an afternoon service – would it work?
2. We do not have people to lead the service. We cannot guarantee that LWA from Yatton would be able to cover all the time.
3. If we ask a retired minister to cover the service, there is a cost of £50 (includes mileage)
4. The number of people who attend is only six to ten.
5. Music
6. It prevents some people from attending Café Church, because they feel committed to duties at St B.
7. If we do cover the service with a LWA – there is still a burden on Daile to organise music, orders of service, readers, people to act as deputy wardens etc
8. What happens on the Sundays when we cannot find a LWA to take the service?
9. There are some people who would not attend church on this day if we didn't have a service at St Barnabas.

Considerations

1. It is important to offer an alternate to Café Church for those who prefer a traditional act of worship.
2. Are there people in our congregation who would be willing to lead Morning Prayer (omitting a talk)?
3. We have a couple who would help ensure the church is open, give out books etc so that St B regulars could go to Café Church if they wish to.
4. The workload of Daile, deputy wardens and others in the running of two services – especially as most of the people who wish to keep this service are not able or willing to volunteer to help.

5. How do we encourage those who are reluctant to try Café café to come along, or consider an afternoon service?

6. Is it fair to ask a LWA to put effort into planning a service and writing a service for just a handful of people?

Looking Ahead

1. April 26th - 10am St Barnabas – led by Leonie
2. May 24th - No service at 10am in St Barnabas as I am unable to find anyone to lead this. Normally this wouldn't matter as it is a 5 week month, and the following week could be at St B, but the following Sunday is Trinity Sunday – do people want this in Holy Trinity or could we hold it in St Barnabas? I suppose it depends on how important a Paternal Service is?
3. June 28th - 10am Morning Worship St Barnabas led by Mike C.
4. July 26th – 10am HC at St Barnabas (no café Church) led by Daile
5. August 23rd – 10am HC at St Barnabas (no Café Church) led by Bishop Alastair
6. Sept 27th - I am unable to find anyone to lead this service as it is a Group Café Church. Could we ask Yatton to put on a said service of HC for those who don't like Café Church – as a group service as they will also have people who might not want to come to a Café Church?
7. October 25th - 10am at St Barnabas led by Mike Cooke
8. November 22nd – 10am HC at St Barnabas led by Daile – change Café Church to 29th as there are 5 Sundays in the month?
9. Dec 27th – 10 am HC at St Barnabas (no Café Church)

Charlie comes to Cleeve and Claverham!

On Thursday 18th March, Cleeve with Claverham Parish welcomed Charlie, Archdeacon of Bath who started his visit with the Thursday prayer service at Holy Trinity. Following shortly after was a visit to Court de Wyck School, where Daile and Charlie participated in the weekly assembly after being welcomed by Jo Baker-Brown, the head teacher.



The theme of the assembly was 'Caring'. Daile asked the school children attendees who they thought cared for them? The children watched a screened "Play Lego" story on 'The Good Samaritan' and Daile then revealed paperchains made at the previous Sunday Mother's Day service on each chain was a person/ group who cared for others. Together, Daile and a pupil tried to wrap the paperchains around the entire school! This was followed by very active prayers and a song sung with great gusto by all the pupils. Charlie then proceeded with a tour of the school, with the new Science Room especially impressing.

After assembly, Charlie talked to the Spiritual Group. Asking them why they liked being in the group, a boy volunteered it was one of the more interesting groups! The group also explained that they helped out in Mrs Baker-Brown's assemblies and how they had helped Daile with their Carol Service by producing bells by way of surprise, from under their cuffs, for the service's Ding Dong carol. The Group then proceeded to ask Charlie questions: these varied from asking how many churches did he go to (150) and what was his role; Charlie explained that he was like the Head teacher and under him, like the teachers in schools, were all the vicars who took care of these churches, his responsibility was to support the vicars in all his churches. To the question "what do you do at Church?", Charlie explained it was similar to Daile's assemblies in that there was usually a talk, songs were sung and prayers were said to ask God to help us. What did Charlie like best about his job? - he loved visiting lots of churches, all of which were different and interesting. A girl wanted to know if he took assemblies in Schools? -he used to, and still went into many schools, but mainly to observe and support the vicar in their assemblies. Charlie then asked if the spiritual group were keen to continue in their roles next year?, All its members were very enthusiastic, especially given Daile was keen to use the group to help her take services, like Café Church or the animal service which is planned for Sunday 28th June; this promoted much discussion as to the type of animals that might attend, there might even be Llamas, and one boy thought his cat would be too timid to attend such a diverse gathering!

Charlie and Daile then went to St Barnabas Church in Claverham to meet members of their congregation and following on from there went back to Holy Trinity, Cleeve for hot soup and chunky bread at Thursday's Warm room. Charlie mingled with the visitors to the warm room and everyone had a chance to chat to him over cups of coffee, tea and cake in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Elizabeth



On Sunday morning we welcomed Archdeacon Charlie to Cafe Church at Cleeve Village Hall. Breakfast was served, as usual, and then Daile led us in Week 3 of our study of the Lord's Prayer which many of us say by rote without thinking of it's deeper meaning.

After a break for tea and further discussion there was much applause as Jenny Pascoe was presented with a certificate which confirmed that she is now officially a Lay Worship Assistant! We all look forward to seeing her in her new role in our churches.



Cleeve and Claverham Mothers' Union

Cleeve and Claverham Mother's Union enjoyed lunch at the Strawberry line café again this year where £153 was collected for the annual "Make a Mother's Day appeal" and talking of Mother's Day, a group of our members made beautiful posies to give out on Mothering Sunday at Holy Trinity and I know they were very much appreciated.



At our March meeting we welcomed Josie Ellis, Volunteer manager for Refugees Welcome North Somerset (RWNS). She explained how the Charity, which is run by over 40 volunteers and was established in 2016 offers friendship and support to refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced people across North Somerset. The welcome "Hubs" centres are based in Weston Super mare, Worle/Banwell and Nailsea. In the South West there are over 4000 people with roughly 120 in North Somerset seeking asylum and refugee status.

Josie told us while they are in the asylum system they are not allowed to work (although they can do voluntary work.) They have to live on as little as £7 per day, live in hotels and temporary private accommodation, which is not always ideal and usually with inadequate provisions. She explained there are approximately 120 million displaced people globally, 42 million being refugees! In the 7 years RWNS has been running the need has never felt so urgent and so local as it does today.

As soon as asylum seekers receive positive decisions on their asylum claims and given the right to live and work in the UK they get notice to leave their accommodation. There has also been a recent change in policy implementation that sees the notice reduced, from 28 days to 7 days. Some people have been waiting years for their decisions and then are expected to arrange bank accounts, register with DWP, find a job and secure accommodation in a mere 7 days. To do this where English is a second language, resources are scant and the pathways aren't always clear makes it even more distressing for all involved.

RWNS work includes: rehoming, Welcome Centres, helping with their language skills, meals, (sharing dishes from home) campaigning and fundraising. They support a significant number of asylum seekers during their asylum processing, offering Counselling, finding school places for the children. The talk was very enlightening and opened our eyes a little to the plight of immigrants. After the meeting Josie joined us for our usual lunch and natter.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April in Holy Trinity church room. The guest speaker will be Jenny Pascoe telling us about her connection with the Air Ambulance.

Future Meetings:-

21st April My connection with the Air Ambulance with Jennie Pascoe. HT at 12 noon.

12th May - Outing and lunch - Penny Brohn UK Cancer and Well Being Centre, Ham Green

17th June - World Wide Lunch - Cleeve Village Hall - 12 - 2

8th July - Toddler Picnic - Cleeve Village Hall 12 noon - 2pm

Crafty Vicar Day



'Wet Felting' wasn't the most inspiring title for Daile's first Crafty Vicar Day but we were all intrigued and arrived at the church room with excitement and some trepidation. However, with Sue, Daile's craft mentor and buddy from the wilds of Shepton Mallet, we were in very creative safe hands.

We were taught how to build up a felt panel from wispy cone wool upon which we could create a design of our choice, and Sue had brought some samples of her amazing panels, cards and figures.

Inspired, we set to work, only stopping for our sumptuous 'bring and share' lunch which fortified us for an afternoon of wool stabbing. By the end of the day I was hooked and thinking we were going to follow up with more decorated panels prepared some sketches of a hare. Alas it was not to be... I arrived for the next craft day with my drawings only to be met by Daile who quietly took me aside and explained, with all the charm of a police dog handler, that most people wanted to make three dimensional figures. So, to teach us more techniques we were all going to make a Gonk!!!...

I managed a twisted smile, but acquiesced.... and I enjoyed every minute of the day!

Imagine some sixteen ladies stabbing away with lethal barbed needles accompanied by gentle encouraging tutoring and an occasional cry of pain. Gill needs to restrict herself to using only red wool as she frequently self harmed! Earlier, when Helen arrived, she confessed that at Backwell School she had been banned from sewing classes for disruptive behaviour. This admission was swiftly overlooked when she produced a home make carrot cake for dessert.

Carried away with excitement some suggested making felt snowmen for a Christmas stall causing Brenda to drily observe 'We will have to see them first!'

Paul and Dave joined us for lunch. Paul washed up for us all and then went home to lie down!

Another of Daile's craft buddies, Helen, also joined us for the day and spent half of her time making tea for everyone.

By 3.45 we were all shattered. Ann held up her shocking pink sparkly Gonk announcing 'It has taken me six hours to make this!' Jezebel now lives on her mantelpiece guaranteed to ward off all witches and warlocks!

Thank you Daile!

June



Foundation Safeguarding Training

Saturday 18th April

All church members are encouraged to cover the two sessions on Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training, but for those of us in a particular role, for instance PCC members and those who lead sessions in the Warm Welcome Room it's a requirement. Foundation Training has now been booked for:

Saturday 18th April, 2.00pm at The Chapter House

The Basic Level trainer, Mary, will return to lead this session, but with several changes following feedback we have passed on to her. The main ones will be a break part way through, use of a mic, discussion time at our tables and refreshments at the end.

The Chapter House will be open from 1.30pm ready for a 2.00pm prompt start. The session is likely to take an hour and a half, depending on discussion and questions.

Those who would prefer to do this on their own, or are not free on that date, the training can be easily accessed online through a booking system on the Bath and Wells Safeguarding site. If you have any problems with finding this, or any questions, please don't hesitate to get back to me.

Jeannie Osmond, Parish Safeguarding Officer

A thank you from Libby

How can I start? The donations kept arriving and arriving. You are all such advocates of this worthwhile cause, speaking to your friends and others you meet along the way. I would open the door and there would be someone who lived far away from Cleeve but had heard that there was a collection happening. Thank you all so very much.

My home was bursting the day before collection from Andy with black bags filled with children's clothing and soft toys, knitted hats, scarves, blankets, bedding in all shapes and sizes, towels, boxes of kitchenware, cutlery, crockery, air fryers, slow cooker, saucepans, Church candle stubs, assortment of medical.. by way of bandages, medicines. Just wonderful donations needing four cars fully loaded back to Andy's.

A lovely story I want to share with you all is how two people met each other through donating. A dear friend in Bristol asked around Christmas time if I was collecting "dolls"...yes I said. "Well I do have a few but I'm afraid they're NAKED"....laughter! A group of ladies in Yatton are in a knitting group. Well, I needn't continue with the story as you've guessed it. My Bristol friend turned up at the home of my Yatton knitting lady and hey presto.



I have heard from James, a key transporter to Ukraine that they are facing challenges with transportation. He was heading off with two articulated trucks and an 18 ton truck, but the shortage of transportation is likely to result in a backlog of aid unless more external support is found. If there is anyone reading this, or knows of anyone who may help with this issue please email me (terandlib@yahoo.co.uk) so that I can forward to Andy.

I will advertise the current list of items required once I have heard from Andy in a future edition. In the meantime, thank you all so very much for a fabulous February collection.

Libby

In the past few weeks people from across both benefices have attended a course at Holy Trinity led by Bishop Alastair Redfern, Chair of the Clewer Institute which campaigns against modern slavery.

Lent Course

The course is based on Paul's letter to Philemon and his appeal for Onesimus, a runaway slave and Christian to be welcomed by Philemon as a brother. The themes of reconciliation and love for each other prompted much thought and discussion, focussing on our own lives as well as the way of life in the early Christian Church.



We are very grateful to Bishop Alastair for leading such an interesting and thought provoking course which drew out issues which are very relevant to all of us.

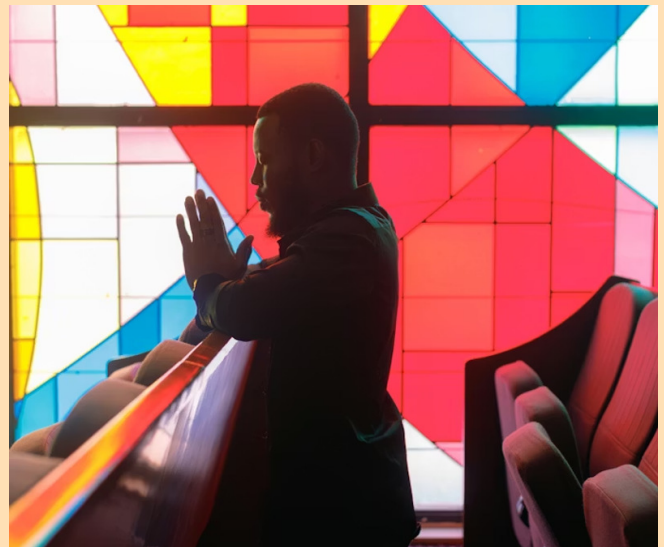
The Clewer Initiative exists to raise awareness and mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery. Further information can be found at clewer.org.uk

Leading Prayers in Church

I am planning to run a training session for people who lead prayers in church. This is for those who already lead prayers and for those who would be interested in finding out what is involved. You are very welcome to come along and see, even if you decide this isn't for you.

The session will be on **Tuesday 21st April 2026** at 2.15pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall. Please let me know if you plan to come. If you are interested but unable to make it on that date, let me know and we can find another time.

Daile



HOLY TRINITY "WELCOME ROOM"



With winter giving way to spring, The Warm Room at Holy Trinity becomes the Welcome Room through summer and up to the start of autumn.

The Welcome Room sessions are every Thursday from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Trinity Church Room, beginning on Thursday 2nd April.

All the usual elements [except soup] are in place – tea/coffee, biscuits and cake – great company, chat, puzzles, crafts, and Qwirkle

– all wrapped up with lots of laughter and fun.

A reminder that everyone in Cleeve and Claverham is welcome to come along and chill out with friends old and new, hosted by your Warm Room ladies.

If you need any more details, need a lift, etc., please ring Lin on 838515.

Raise funds for us for FREE

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Do you shop online?

If yes, did you know you can raise money for good causes, including Holy Trinity and St Barnabas by signing up with Easy Fundraising. easyfundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

When you join as a supporter, every time you shop at one of the registered retailers they will give a percentage towards a good cause of your choice.

Thinking of a Spring de-clutter?

Most people have items that they no longer want or need in their homes, things that have been upgraded and are in a cupboard collecting dust although perfectly useable, things bought on impulse and regretted, and perhaps items that charity shops will not take. Lots of people may sell these items on Facebook marketplace, Ebay or local sites, but some of us are not sure how to go about this.

It has been suggested that we have a Messenger spot each month for people to list things that they either want to rehome or that they are looking for. This may prevent useable items being sent to landfill and may save recipients some money. It will be run on the lines of a Freecycle but we hope people might make a donation in lieu of buying the item, to support the mission and ministry of our church. All donations will be used to support one of our mission initiatives, like the Warm Room or our work with the school.

Items will be listed in the Messenger. If you would like an item, please contact the person offering them, and if you wish to make a donation to the church, pop your donation in an envelope and pass it to Daile or Dave.

Wanted

Clear plastic storage boxes with lids to store church items in to protect them from the mice! - please speak to Daile

Recycle

A new set of printer cartridges - Black x 2, Magenta x 2, Cyan x 2 - please see Dave M.



FOCOS BINGO EVENING

Friday 10th April, Cleeve Village Hall

There is still time to book for the FOCOS BINGO NIGHT, which provides a brilliant night out for everyone, but is also one of the main fundraising events to pay for the FOCOS Mystery Outing 2026

To add to the excitement, we will be announcing the date of the 2026 outing at the Bingo, so be sure to be there with your diary to book up for this brilliant event, which is always oversubscribed – with the 2026 outing limited to just 50 attendees.

As usual, the FOCOS Bingo Evening will encompass good food, great fun and super prizes. A bar will be available for the evening at the Hall, so we would suggest an arrival around 7.15pm, for the delicious supper to be served at 7.30pm.

Tickets are just £10 to include a hot supper and a sweet [vegetarian options are available], plus 6 games of Bingo. Every game has super prizes guaranteed for a line and a full house. Tickets available from the FOCOS BINGO HOT LINE on 838515 or 832917.

Also - transport is available from your home to the Hall and back again – just ask for a lift when you book.



Pop-up Cake and Pie Stall – Saturday 14th March

Thank you to all those who came to 40 Cleeve Drive on Saturday 14th March in support of Helen Mortimer's London Marathon run, in aid of the Alzheimer's Society charity. A special thanks to Gill, June, Helen and Andrea who donated cakes, and Brenda for all her help.



Your generosity raised a sum of £511 which will go towards Helen's fund-raising target.

Lin, Dave and Helen Mortimer

Important Church notices

APCM Sunday 19th April 2026

at Holy Trinity 10am to 12 noon
Revision of Electoral Roll

Just a reminder that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 19th April 2026 10am to 12 noon at Holy Trinity and in readiness for that meeting I am required to review the Electoral Roll for the Cleeve with Claverham PCC. I have a few more days before this is completed and this is an opportunity for any person who is not already on the Electoral Roll to come forward and apply to have their name included and to participate in decisions affecting our churches.

I can be contacted for an application form on 01934 834621 or by emailing me at dianacook@tinyworld.co.uk

Diana Cook - Electoral Roll Officer

Around the villages

Claverham News

Ladies' Guild AGM will be on Thursday 2nd April at 2pm in Claverham Village Hall.

The April market will be on Saturday 18th April at 10am – noon. Look forward to seeing you there, Jean.



Yatton History Society

Tuesday 7th April, 7.30 Yatton Methodist Church

Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School. Guest Speaker, Steve Ryan
Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Marianne Pitman

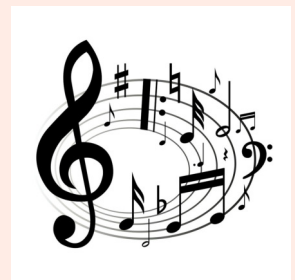
Yatton Music Society

Saturday 25th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Kallos String Quartet

Four experienced Bath based chamber musicians led by Lucy Hewson have played together for 20 years. They include the Pump Room (daily at the Georgian Pump Room) and the Bath String Academy.

<https://www.yms.org.uk> for further information



Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

Carole Perrott Jennie Ford	April 5th
Jenny Haworth	April 19th
June Richards	May 3rd
Sarah Cush Nick Cush	May 17th



Don't forget to set your alarm for Easter Sunday so you don't miss the Sunrise Service and Breakfast.

Daft Funnies

The Vicar is trying to organise a hide and seek tournament for the villages but says that good players are hard to find.

A man of great authority walks into a bar and orders everybody around

Recently Wifey said 'I just read that marriage counsellors reckon that 80% of husbands do not know what their wife's favourite flower is, do you know what mine is?' Of course I do, self-raising, isn't it?'



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

ANIMAL PROBLEMS (155)

Thank you for your contributions to this month's Messenger.

The May edition will be published on the last Sunday of April so any contributions for the March edition should be with me by **Monday the 20th April**.

As usual they can be sent on e mail to carole.perrott@gmx.com, put through the door of 15 Chestnut Drive Claverham, or given to me at church.

Useful Church Contacts

Church Office	Mon-Fri 09.30-11.30	.....	01934 832184
Priest in Charge	Revd Daile Wilshere		01934 904765 or
Cleeve & Claverham	dailewilshere@live.co.uk		07810 551447
Deputy Wardens	Dave & Lin Mortimer	.....	01934 838515
	Elizabeth Vaughan	.....	07787 781716
	Gill Roe	.....	01934 832917
Safeguarding Officer	Jeannie Osmond	.....	01934 832421
Websites	htcleeve.wixsite.com/cleeve-and-claverham		
	yattonchurches.org		
Facebook	facebook.com/Cleeve-and-Claverham-Messenger		