

This month

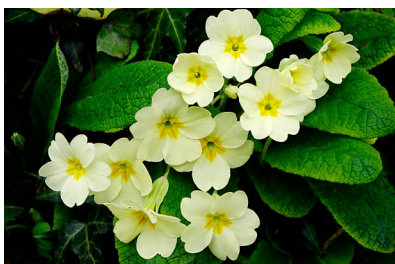
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The Messenger

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

Issue 405 March 2025



A very warm welcome to this Month's Messenger.

Hasn't the sunshine of last week been a welcome sight!

I don't think I can remember a gloomier winter and a darker time for world news. The emergence of the spring flowers and return to colour in our hedgerows and gardens is a real mood lifter. We had a wonderful Pancake Day in Cleeve

Village Hall and are now firmly in the season of Lent. I hope that you will join us for some of our Lent/ Easter services - all welcome, details overleaf! *Ed*

Lent – Giving or giving up?

This Sunday, 9th March is the first Sunday of Lent (a word from an old English word meaning "lengthening") and very appropriate as the hour "sprang forward" on that day and daylight saving time as we call it began.

There will be much talk about "fasting" or giving up chocolate or cutting down on sweet things, or stopping or letting go of activities or maybe habits which although not wrong in themselves we feel impinge on our lives in unhelpful ways. We fast by "giving up"!

There is a fascinating chapter in the Bible, in the Old Testament – where the prophet Isaiah (chapter 58 – look it up) talks about God's view of fasting. He outlines how God says fasting should be about GIVING rather than GIVING UP and DOING rather than NOT DOING and makes some very practical suggestions.

"This is the kind of fasting I am after" says God through the prophet and then lists some ideas. "Breaking chains of injustice"; "getting rid of exploitation"; "freeing those who are oppressed"; getting rid of unfair practices"; "stop blaming victims"; "giving yourselves to the down and out and the refugee"; "sharing your food with the hungry". "looking after your own flesh and blood".

A lot of ideas there to think about and apply to ourselves. It is true that it is often a lot easier to stop doing something rather than actually do something. Maybe the Lord can help us though prayer during Lent to begin (and continue!) to be positive, practical and unselfishly seek to serve each other and our communities by GIVING AND DOING.

May God bless and help us all.

Rev John Angle

Services for Cleeve/Claverham -March/April

March

2nd Sunday 9th March 2 - Lent 1

10.00am - St Barnabas : Shared Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 16th March -3 - Lent 2

10.00am -Holy Trinity : Morning Worship

4th Sunday 23rd March 4 - Lent 3

10.00am St Barnabas : Shared Parish Communion
10.00am - Cleeve Village Hall : Cafe Church with children's crafts for Mothering Sunday.



5th Sunday 30th March - Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday - Clocks go forward!

10.00am - St Mary's : Shared Holy Communion for Yatton, Cleeve and Claverham.
11.00am -All Saints : All Together on Mothering Sunday for Kenn and Kingston Seymour

April

1st Sunday 6th 5 April Lent 5

10.00am - Holy Trinity : Shared Parish Communion

2nd Sunday 13th April 6 - Palm Sunday

10.00am - St Barnabas : Shared Parish Communion

Wednesday 16th April - Wednesday of Holy Week

7.30pm - St Mary's Choral Meditation

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm - Holy Trinity : Holy Communion plus Vigil - Shared with St Mary's

Friday 18th April - Good Friday

3.00pm - St Barnabas : Shared - Around the Cross

Saturday 19th April - Easter Eve

8.00pm - St Mary's - Group Service of Light and Ceremony of New Fire with Vigil

3rd Sunday 20th April 7 - Easter Day

6.30 am - Holy Trinity : Sunrise Communion with New Fire and Breakfast
10.00am -St Mary's - Holy Communion
11.00am - Holy Trinity : Shared Parish Worship

4th Sunday 27th April 8 Easter 2

10.00am St Barnabas - : Shared Parish Communion.

Weekday Services at Holy Trinity



Prayers for Healing and Wholeness on **Thursday mornings at 09.30** with Bread of Fellowship on 13th and 27th March, 10th and 24th April Everybody is welcome to this friendly service.



This week we heard the sad news that Beryl Hancock has died after a long period of illness.

We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Derek and the family.

From the Deputy Churchwardens

In the myriad of jobs that we have found ourselves trying to sort out, one of the most challenging is trying to obtain priests and organist for our services. We have been fortunate to have found support from many varied sources over the past year, but we have found it difficult at Festival times, and this has proved especially taxing for this upcoming Easter Day.

In the end, we are now able to offer for Easter Day at Holy Trinity a communion service at our 6.30am Sunrise service and a Family Worship service at 11am which will be non-communion, but will have an Easter Egg Hunt and craft making for the children.

We appreciate that not being able to provide an Easter Day service at St Barnabas will be a great disappointment for their congregation. However, we will be able to provide transport for anyone who wishes to attend either/both services from St Barnabas – please just let us know, as we would love as many of the congregation as possible from St Barnabas to share Easter Day together at these Parish services.

Elizabeth, Gill, Lin and Dave

A date for your diary -

Sunday 23rd March – Café Church with a Children's Craft session making Mothering Sunday gifts Cleeve Village Hall – 10am

Come along to enjoy our normal Café Church Sunday with coffee, cakes and a chat PLUS children's crafts, – with all things provided to ensure the young ones will be taking home a super Mothering Sunday gift for their Mums for the following Sunday.

Holy Trinity Pancake Lunch



On Shrove Tuesday there was a super turnout of parishioners, villagers from Cleeve and Claverham, together with Mothers' Union members from nearby branches who all enjoyed soup, filled rolls

and two sweet pancakes, plus a convivial chat with friends and neighbours at Cleeve Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and helped on the day to make it such a successful event.

Thanks to everybody's generosity, we have been able to send £683.25 to Clevedon Foodbank and £250.00 to the Mothers' Union to help with their work of their UK charity 'Away From It All'.



Alastair started by asking us what we saw as problems facing the world and the church today. Suggestions included conflict, asylum, poverty, safeguarding and unity - or lack thereof. He went on to show how all these were facilitating modern day Slavery.

Slavery has always been with us, from Roman times and before. Aristotle considered that some people were created for power, others to be cared for; he saw men in the former category and women, children and slaves in the latter!

The US Declaration of Independence, in 1776, declared all men free and equal, and was signed by slave owners! Slavery was not considered wrong or unacceptable. Then in 1787 Wilberforce started his campaign to abolish Slavery of African peoples. This was a wake up call, but nowadays slavery is hidden, and as such is perhaps more insidious.

Alastair is involved with The House of Lords work on abolishing modern slavery, The Global Sustainability Network and The Clewer Initiative. This last was started by a group of women who wished to help other women to escape a life of prostitution. They formed a religious order and befriended, cared for and gave them hope for a new future. He likened their efforts to that of the Good Samaritan who not only picked up and helped the injured man but made long term provision for him. This order spread across the world but now only has 2 members, however the initiative funds work in Tanzania and Kenya; and Ghana where they are working with Mothers' Union against arranged or forced marriages, which are seen as a form of slavery.

Modern Day Slavery as run by criminal gangs is seen to be one of the highest earners, second only to armaments.

Why is there so much modern slavery? There are so many vulnerable people through poverty, famine, seeking asylum, illegal immigration, the widespread net of the Internet promising so much to the vulnerable, and especially to young teenagers wanting to spread their wings outside the family. He mentioned a lad, son of a police officer, who by the age of 14 had worked himself into a high position in county lines networks. These too are run by criminal gangs, often with international connections, which can make it particularly hard for the police to trace them.

Geographical and employment mobility, where nowadays people often don't know their neighbours, nor the people they work with, facilitate modern slavery. A woman doing her shopping around town one day became aware of the number of beggars who seemed to all have virtually the same handwritten notice asking for money. She reported her suspicions which, when investigated, revealed the working of a gang run money making business using vulnerable people kept in poor conditions. Somebody else noticed that about 10 or 12 young men seemed to be coming and going from an ordinary house, being bussed in and out daily. When investigated, they were effectively slaves being shipped off to work for next to nothing. Some are brought in illegally and have their passports taken from them. Their masters often know their families back home and so have complete control over them. Others bring themselves over illegally but have no means of support and are easy targets for criminal gangs. The gangs are also known to operate outside food banks or with the homeless where they can pick up vulnerable people and get a hold over them once tempted in.

Where do they work? Anything transient: car washes, cleaning agencies, cheap clothing factories, agricultural work, care homes and prostitution. All these are crying out for low paid workers, the demand fuelled by us - the consumers. We need to become more aware, to question why we can get clothing very cheaply, contact the manufacturer and ask why. There is an app for car washes, where there is now a high incidence of foot rot amongst workers of low value who do not have protective footwear. A good employer provides his workers with protective footwear against all the chemicals they are in contact with.

Alastair accompanied police to talk to those at a Toyota factory. The management were quite confident that they employed no slave labour, but were shocked when asked about their cleaners, caterers, window cleaners. These were jobs outsourced to agencies employing those that they knew nothing about.

Care homes are always in desperate need of workers, whose credentials are often not checked carefully. People doing this sort of work can so easily be supplied by the criminal gangs who pocket any pay and keep the workers in appalling conditions. There is such a turnover in these jobs that no-one gets to know workers who may only stay a few weeks before being replaced.

Out of season holiday homes can be rented very cheaply and used as pop-up brothels. Girls shipped in from abroad and girls who leave home to look for an exciting or better life on their own are the vulnerable ones here.

There is a charity called Hidden Voices, which is working with the marginalised, encouraging them to speak out. Much is being done to familiarise children and young people with the dangers, also in the Muslim communities. Training is being provided for those who work at food banks to be aware of anyone who may be preying on their customers.

We need to break the silence about sexuality, sexual exploitation of children, about Sin - it is everyone's business. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to be more aware of and care about those around us, who do jobs for us.

Alastair then had to leave us, without having time for lunch, to rush off to his next job as a 'retired' Bishop.

Hazel



On Tuesday 25th February we had our annual outing to the Strawberry Line cafe at Yatton Station to celebrate, have a meal together and take a collection for Make a Mother's Day.

Our collection came to £136 and we chose to spend it on several causes ranging from women's literacy and empowerment in developing countries, and support for women in prison in the UK.

The Strawberry Line cafe is a community not for profit cafe set up to involve adults with learning disabilities and enable them to gain the skills to work in the catering industry. It is well worth a visit.

Next meetings:

18th March – MU Chaplain – Louise Bale 12 noon Holy Trinity Church room

15th April – YMCA – Juley Howard 12 noon Holy Trinity Church room

Churchyard Maintenance

Since the new hedge was planted in the churchyard at Holy Trinity over two years ago it had got a bit overgrown with the brambles which were sneaking through from the adjoining field.



On 8th February a small team of us waged war against them to prevent them from strangling our newly planted native hedge plants. A big thank you to Elizabeth, Libby, Clive, Angie and Rob who fought and won the battle!

We were grateful to Lin for providing refreshments and to Rob for his wonderful muffins, the remainder of which were enjoyed by the congregation of St Barnabas the following morning!
Ed

Claverham news



Claverham market will be held on Saturday 15th March from 10am till 12. Come along, browse the wonderful variety of stalls and have a cuppa with your friends!

Ladies' Guild AGM is Thursday 3rd APRIL. We meet on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall from 2 - 4pm. We have very interesting speakers and a chat with tea/coffee/cake afterwards. Come along and join us!

Yatton Local History Society

Tuesday April 1st

Talk by Martin Powell on the Maid of the Haystack

7. 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW. Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Ecumenical Lent Lunches

Yatton Methodist
Church Hall - High Street

12.45pm for 1pm Start

Thursdays:-

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March
3rd & 10th April

Soup, Bread and
Cheese

Donations to
Christian Aid
& CAFOD



Three Musical Events -

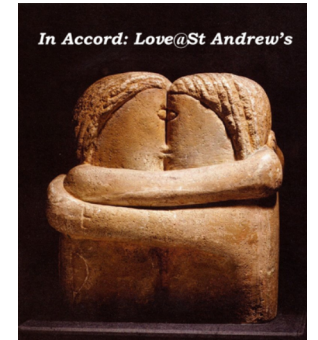


Concert at St Andrew's Backwell

We are delighted that **In Accord** choir's next concert, at 7.30pm on **Saturday 15th March**, will be in the wonderful spiritual and acoustic environment of St Andrew's Church, Backwell BS48 3JJ.

On a theme of love, we're hoping to sing to all kinds of romantic love (from the first meeting, through uncertainty, confusion, passion, torment and loss), as well as love of God, love of children and love of place.

To bring this to you with richness, flow and soul, we're joining with the wonderful jazz group **Round Midnight**. Tickets £10/£5; book your place via astridpestell@hotmail.com



Trinity Singers

Kirchenmusik - St Mary's Church, Yatton, Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 7.30pm

A concert of 19th Century sacred choral music including Schubert: Psalm 23 and Mass No2 in G, and Rheinberger: Missa Brevis in F and Drei Geistliche Gesange

Tickets **£12.50** (Accompanied under 18 free)

Yatton Music Society

Fitzhardinge Consort with James Drinkwater (organ) at St Mary's Church, Yatton, 29th March at 7.30

The Yatton Music Society is privileged to host this concert by this renowned choir of professional musicians from across the West of England and South Wales. Members of the choir have sung with the Tallis Scholars, the choirs of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and in lead roles on the stages of Covent Garden and Glyndebourne.



The choir will be conducted by Peter Wagstaff who is the Tenor Lay Clerk in the choir of Bristol Cathedral and is also a historical authenticity consultant for TV period dramas. The organist for the choir and soloist is James Drinkwater who is the Director of Music at Clifton College and a prize winning FRCO.

Their programme for this concert will be focused on 19th and 20th century sacred English music for voices and organ and will include well known choral music of this period and a few lesser-known pieces by John Rutter and C V Stanford.

This is a rare opportunity to hear a choir of this eminence perform in St Mary's. Concert starts 7.30 tickets £12, students £6, children free.

Details and programme: www.yms.org.uk

Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

Andrea Stoddart Lin Mortimer	March 16th
Enid Print Ron Pring	April 6th
Kath Hunt Alan Hunt	April 20 th

Clive and Ron are battling it out for the worst joke of the month award! Apologies in advance!

I was lonely until I glued a coffee mug onto the roof of my car.
Now everybody waves to me!

Wife has just bought me a new Sat Nav for Over 70s.

Not only does it give directions to your destination it also tells you why you are going there!

My wife fainted on the luggage carousel at the airport. I think she's going to be alright, she's coming round now.

I've started investing in stocks. Beef, Chicken and Vegetable. One day I hope to be a bouillonnaire

Useful Church Contacts

Team Office	Mon-Fri 09.30-11.30	.....	01934 832184
Assistant Priest	Revd John Angle	.....	07970 968652
Deputy Wardens	Dave & Lin Mortimer	.....	01934 838515
	Elizabeth Vaughan	.....	07787 781716
	Gill Roe	.....	01934 832917
Safeguarding Officer	Jeannie Osmond	.....	01934 832421
Websites	.....	www.yattonchurches.org	
		htcleeve.wixsite.com/cleeve-and-claverham	
Facebook		facebook.com/Cleeve-and-Claverham-Messenger	

Sunday 30th March

Mothering Sunday Roast Lunch

at the

*Village Hall,
Kingston Seymour
Lunch at 1pm
Doors open 12.30pm*

Welcome drink on arrival

Full roast lunch (butcher's beef or chicken)

Puddings

Bar

**Tickets: Adults and children over 14 £20
5yrs - 14yrs £10 Under 5's free**

Judy: 07896 692813

Sue L: 01934 835939 Sue T: 01934 833593

Thank you for your contributions to this month's Messenger. Articles, jokes, photos, words of wisdom for the April edition should be with me by **Wednesday 9th April**

They can be e-mailed to

carole.perrott@gmx.com, given to me at

church or put through the door of 15 Chestnut Drive, Claverham.