



Wimborne
Minster



Parish Magazine
August 2025
No. 468

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(Cover photo: The Chained Library by Lucy James)

Children and Families events at the Minster this summer



There is no Messy Church or Muddy Church during July and August.

This year our theme during August is 'Explorers': please join us!

Tuesdays: Forest Garden session, 10.30am -12 noon
Thursdays: Forest Garden Session, 10.30am -12 noon and
Cream Teas and Family activities in the Minster, 1.30pm -3pm

Special events:

- Monday 4th August, 7pm- 9pm, Ladies Social in the Forest Garden
- Wednesday 6th and 20th August, 10.30am-12 noon, Muddy Church at Kingston Lacy (to be confirmed)
- Friday 15th August, 9.50am- 11am, Choristers Circus skills workshop (Church House upstairs)
- Wednesday 27th August, 11am-2.30pm Choristers trip to Blandford Signals Museum

And we wrap up the summer with a fair on the Minster Green, on Friday 29th August from 3pm to 7pm. There will be family games, a food truck, and maybe even rides down from the West Tower (only for soft toys!)

Wimborne Gardening Club Summer Show

Saturday 30th August, 12noon - 4pm, Allendale Centre

Admission free but donations welcome

There are classes for everyone to enter, from Vegetables and Fruit to Flowers, Floral Art, Photography and Cookery. No charge to enter and everyone is welcome, from the novice to the seasoned expert!

More details at

www.wimbornegardeningclub.org.uk

Donating to the Minster

If you would like to support the work of the Minster, you can scan this QR code, which will take you to our giving portal. You can also make donations in the Minster, using the Gift Aid envelopes or as a contactless payment on the terminal by the porch door. Thank you.



Contact details

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The Parish office is open Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10am-12 noon. Tues evening 6-8pm
email enquiries only, please: parishoffice@wimborneminster.org.uk
 www.wimborneminster.org.uk



socialmedia@wimborneminster.org.uk

Parish Magazine publication details

Co-editors: Rosalind Jensen and Andrew Kelley

Please send articles and information, by email if possible,
 to parishmagazine@wimborneminster.org.uk or leave at the Parish Office.

Copy deadline for September issue: **Monday 11th August.**

For advertising information, contact the e-mail address above.

Services at the Minster

Sundays

8.00 am
9.30 am

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (Common Worship)
with prayer for healing on the 4th Sunday of the month

11.15 am

Minster Praise with Communion on the last Sunday of the month

6.30 pm

Choral Evensong

Weekdays

Holy Communion
Morning Prayer

11.00am, Wednesday (in the Minster)
8.30 am, Monday to Saturday (on Zoom)

Services at St Margaret's Chapel

11.00 am 3rd Thursday Holy Communion (Common Worship)

We continue to stream the 9.30 am services at the Minster. Look for the 'Wimborne Minster official' Youtube channel for live and recorded services.

Minster Praise offers all-age informal worship every Sunday from 11.15 until noon, and includes Kids in the Crypt for children.
 Come as you are, relax, and enjoy

In July

13th Baptism of Lara Arwyn Trevelion
 12th Wedding of Kirsty Palmer and Ben Roberts
 24th Funeral of Rev. Canon David Price aged 86 years

Dates for your diary - August

Friday 1st	10am - 5pm daily	Dorset 2020 Arts Exhibition (Church House) until Saturday August 9th
Saturday 2nd	2 pm	Wedding of Brad Beedell and Zara Lawrence
	4.30 pm	Roma Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday 3rd	12.30pm	Bring and Share Lunch (Church House)
Monday 4th	12.30pm	Summer Organ Series: Simon Morley
Tuesday 5th	10.30am-12 noon	'Explorers'; Toddlers Group (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 6th	1pm - 2pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4 pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 7th	10.30 am-12 noon	'Explorers' (Forest Garden)
	1.30pm-3pm	Cream Teas in the Minster
Saturday 9th	2pm	Renewal of Vows, Peter and Hilary Revill
Monday 11th	12noon	Summer Organ Series: Simon Ing
Tuesday 12th	10.30am-12	'Explorers'; Toddlers Group (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 13th	1pm-2pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 14th	9.30am-11am	'Explorers' (Forest Garden)
	1.30pm-3pm	Cream Teas in the Minster
Friday 15th	12 noon	VJ Day wreath-laying
	12 noon-1 pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 16th	6pm	Evensong sung by Laudemus
Sunday 17th	12.30pm	Baptism of Beauden Ralph Hearn
Monday 18th	12.30pm	Summer Organ Series: Colin Davey
	3pm	LPAs meeting (Church House)
Tuesday 19th	10.30am-12noon	'Explorers'; Toddlers Group (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 20th	1pm-2pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 21st	10.30 am-12 noon	'Explorers' (Forest Garden)
	1.30pm-3pm	Cream Teas in the Minster
	6pm	Choral Evensong
Friday 22nd	12.30 pm	Wedding of Lewis Ponsford and Tara Saxby
	6pm	Choral Evensong

Saturday 23rd	10am-4.30pm	Art Club Exhibition (Church House)
Sunday 24th	6 pm 12.15pm	Choral Evensong Baptism of William and Theodore Monk
Monday 25th	12.30pm	Summer Organ Series: Jeremy Blandford
Tuesday 26th	10.30 am-12 noon	'Explorers'; Toddlers Group (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 27th	1 pm-2 pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 28th	10.30 am-12 noon	'Explorers' (Forest Garden)
	1.30pm-3pm	Cream Teas in the Minster
Friday 29th	3 pm-7 pm	End of Summer Fete (Minster Green)
Saturday 30th	12 noon	Wedding of Liam Oliver and Samantha Pugh
Sunday 31st	Festival of St Cuthburga 9.30am	Eucharist: Preacher the Rt. Revd. Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury
	From 2.30pm	Bell Peal
	6.30pm	Evensong, sung by Quintus Imperfectus: Preacher the Rt. Revd. St



Celebrating St Cuthburga

Through September we celebrate the life of our patron saint, and her impact locally and (through the nuns who worked with St Boniface) in Germany. Events will include three lectures (on the 6th, 13th and 18th of September) and an organ recital with John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral). Wimborne Community Theatre will perform in Church House on Wednesday 10th. The Flower Festival runs from Friday 26th to Monday 29th, with a special viewing with live music on Saturday 27th.

A Ladies' Breakfast on Saturday 6th will discuss Cuthburga's life and work, and through the month both toddlers' groups and the Homeeducating families will be thinking about St Cuthburga too.

On Sunday 27th September the preacher will be Karen, Bishop of Sherborne.

(Picture: Victorian depiction of St Cuthburga, in a Minster window)

Praying for the Minster and the Northern Villages, Wimborne and the world

Prayer diary for August

1	Our Associate and Assistant Priests	17	East Borough Housing Association
2	Lay Pastoral Assistants	18	Social workers
3	Families and children at the Minster	19	Dorset Wildlife Trust
4	Claire, our children's and families worker	20	Queen Elizabeth's School
5	The Children's Society	21	PCC secretaries
6	Bishops Stephen, Karen and Andrew	22	Minster guides and welcomers
7	Wimborne Library: staff, volunteers and users	23	The Minster Governors
8	Local MPs	24	The Minster Environment Group
9	Amnesty International	25	Mission Aviation Fellowship
10	Bournemouth & Poole Hospital Chaplaincies	26	Our neighbouring churches
11	Home-schooling families	27	The Tivoli Theatre and Allendale centre: volunteers
12	Our Organist and Director of the Choirs	28	Refugees and migrants
13	The servers	29	The Armed Forces
14	The Minster Green Fair: organisers and helpers	30	The Reef, Streetlight
15	Wimborne Community Garden	31	A cause dear to your heart, not listed elsewhere
16	Archbishop Stephen Cottrell		

Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns.

Free entry to Salisbury Cathedral!

Salisbury Cathedral offers free entry during visiting hours to regular worshippers of churches in the Diocese of Salisbury.

You will need to apply for a Salisbury Cathedral Diocese Card by downloading the form online

at <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-andmusic/congregation/#1>.

Return the form to diocesecard@salcath.co.uk or bring a printed copy of your completed form to the Welcome Desk in Salisbury Cathedral.



“When you’re smiling, when you’re smiling, the whole world smiles with you”.

I wonder if you’ve ever had the happy experience of

hearing a toddler belly laugh. It is one of the most beautiful sounds that can fill a room with such joy and be a wonderful tonic. It comes so naturally to children, and they are encouraged even more when they see the grown-ups joining in!

Maybe as adults we are more inhibited and self-conscious about laughing? After all, you can even join laughter yoga classes now, where you are forced to make yourself laugh, although I’m guessing

it becomes infectious in a group. It all sounds so Western and modern, doesn’t it? I think I prefer the natural smile and laughter of the child and for many of us, the inner child. Yes, we all have our “inner child” that represents a subconscious space that has absorbed experiences and messages from a time before we could fully comprehend their implications on a mental and emotional level. Could it appear more difficult to find that space in our society and world today? But what about a simple smile? In 2022, the British Psychological Society suggested that “simply smiling at ourselves in the mirror for 5 seconds each morning may

reduce distress, improve well-being and alleviate depression”. Let’s go back to around 700 BC, roughly the time when Proverbs (of Solomon) was written. A book in the Hebrew Bible/the Christian Old Testament, Proverbs has been described as a book of wisdom literature, raising questions about values, moral behaviour, the meaning of human life and right conduct. So, what’s that

got to do with smiling, you may ask. Proverbs 15:13 tell us that “a joyful heart makes a cheerful face” and Proverbs 15: 30 “a cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health”. Well, although the Bible may

not specifically mention the word smiling, it does tell us to share good news, to have joy and peace, to live in kindness and put on love. So, let’s find that inner child, that innocent joy and love for all around us and smile, smile smile!



- Rev. Sharon Boyle

August Music Notes



Our Summer series of Organ Recitals starts on **Monday 4th with Simon Morley**, a former organist of the Minster (appointed in 1983), who now lives and works in Tampa, Florida. A native of the UK, he was born in Gloucestershire, southwest England in 1964. Simon Morley has given recitals on four continents and was recently awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the London College of Music, for Professional Achievement.



This is followed on **11th with William Ings**, the new Director of Music at Canford School. William was a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral under the leadership of Dr Richard Seal. William has since worked at Bryanston School and Head of Teaching and Learning and for the Independent Schools Inspectorate.



The recital of 18th August features our own Director of Music, **Colin Davey** who has recently played a recital at the Methodist Church and will give a recital at St Stephen's Bournemouth in September. Colin has just received the Nicholson Award from the RSCM.



The final recital on 25th is by **Jeremy Blandford** who was Colin's organ teacher at Southampton. In 1990 he joined the musical brain-drain and moved to Norway and has since lived and worked as a Cantor in the Norwegian church and teacher in the local culture schools in Lofoten. For those who enjoy choral music we have a number of special Choral Evensongs in August. On Saturday 16th at 6 p.m. we welcome the **Laudemus** course for their annual visit to sing evensong for



us. This year it will feature the first performance of a new setting of the canticles by **Philip Lawson**.



Then during the following week **Laus Deo Choir** will sing evensong on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (21st-23rd) at 6 pm and then sing the services for us on Sunday 24th. Formed more than forty years ago its members were first drawn primarily from Parish Church choirs in the West Midlands, to sing occasional services in local churches and cathedrals. It has sung services in Cathedrals and large Parish Churches the length and breadth of England. Their director, Thomas Allery, was himself a member of the choir from his teenage years.

- Peter Cook

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'GOD, ARE YOU LISTENING?'

Communicating with God in challenging times

Does it sometimes feel as though God has stopped listening, or you just don't know how to get through? At the Minster, Aspects of Spirituality this year has four evening workshops to explore different types of prayer to help you connect with God in deeper ways.

We have found published speakers from Guildford, Sheffield, Dorset and the Midlands who have written, spoken about and led workshops in their respective fields. They will lead us through different styled evenings and we'd love to welcome anyone who wants to join in.

September 29th	Amy Boucher-Pye	Prayer With the Bible
October 6th	Dr John Leach	Prayer Using Liturgy
October 13th	Brother John	Contemplative Prayer
October 20th	Marie Calvert	Creative Prayer

7pm for 7.30pm, aiming to finish by 9.15pm at the latest.

Prayer with the Bible. We're only a simple word or a single step away from a conversation with God. On September 29th we'll explore how doing so with the help of the Bible can deepen our prayer life, such as through personalising Scripture or adapting a passage in our own words. We'll also engage with the ancient form of sacred reading, lectio divina. Through all these ways we can encounter the living God.

Amy Boucher-Pye, author, speaker and spiritual director, has written six books, including *7 Ways to Pray*, as well as devotional thoughts for publications such as *Our Daily Bread* and *New Daylight*.

Prayer using Liturgy. While many Christians regularly use liturgy in their worship, the last few decades have seen a growing trend towards informality and the extensive use of worship-songs. We will explore some reasons for this trend, and the value in joining with the Church around the world and down the centuries in her use of a liturgical approach to worship and prayer. We will look at some liturgical forms in detail, and there will be the opportunity to write and pray with some of our own.

Dr John Leach retired from Anglican ministry five years ago, but continues to teach Liturgy at a number of different theological colleges. A year ago he completed doctoral studies on Anglican churches which don't like Anglican liturgy, and he is the author of over 20 Grove Books.



Dorset Historic Churches Trust Saturday 13th September

Dorset is full of fascinating historic churches, which are part of our spiritual life but also an important part of local history and identity. Keeping them safe and useable is a continual challenge. The DHCT raises and distributes fund for the repair and upkeep of Dorset's churches, and Ride + Stride is their major annual fundraiser. You can cycle, walk, ride your horse, or walk your dog to as many churches as you like, and get your friends and family to sponsor you.

Many churches make a special effort to be open and offer refreshments on the day: the *Tarrant Valley churches* and *St Mary's Sturminster Marshall* are

well-known for their welcome and were the most-visited churches of all last year, so you don't have to go far afield! The Georgian church of St Peter and St Paul in *Blandford* is undergoing major restoration, so you might also like to visit our neighbours there.

Plan your own route, or join the child-friendly walk around Dorchester that we (Rosalind Jensen and Claire Lehmann) are planning, including a picnic! More details in the Weekly News during August.

We are keen to encourage all sorts of outings, and maybe have another fundraising event in the spring.



The Trust celebrated its 65th anniversary this year, with a gathering of Friends, supporters and representatives of groups such as the Arts Society, on a warm day at Milton Abbey. The Trust exists to help communities sustain their church buildings for wider use and for the future; it is not a religious or Church of England organisation. So it wants to reach out to everyone who values these buildings, whether

or not they worship there.

Climate change, with more extreme weather, has been challenging, and almost half the amount given in grants in 2024 went to roof repairs. Work on historic buildings is expensive and must meet specific standards; the Government allows churches to reclaim VAT on the work, but this concession may disappear in the near future. Your support is needed and treasured!

- Rosalind Jensen (Parish Organiser)



Dorset Architectural Heritage Week 12th-21st August

Celebrate Dorset's diverse architecture and historical landmarks through a series of free, volunteer-led open days and guided tours during Architectural Heritage Week. The East Dorset Heritage Trust has again developed a programme with a wide range of special events.

The Minster, of course, is offering special guided tours, as is Dean's Court, where you can see some of the painstaking restoration work of the past few years. St Michael and All Angels' Church in Colehill, a unique Arts and Crafts building with Scandinavian features, and St Andrew's

Church, the oldest church in Bournemouth, are also open. Further afield, investigate elegant Belmont House in Lyme Regis, an 18th century maritime villa, or the Grade 1 listed Highcliffe Castle in Christchurch. Finally, for lovers of the medieval period, Lodge Farm - a 14th century former hunting lodge - awaits. Both Christchurch Priory and Sherborne Abbey are also offering special tours, with Sherborne's stained glass of special interest.

The so-called Priest's House, the building that houses the Museum of East Dorset, has revealed many layers of building history through the recent renovation project, so if you haven't visited recently, now is the time to take a closer look. On September 17th take a tour of the garden, a good example of a late medieval town plot, with Simon the head gardener. To find out more about all the events, including information on open days and times, guided tours and how to book tickets, collect your copy of the DAHW 2025 programme from Allendale House.

Fittingly, the **Historic Churches Trust's Ride & Stride** that falls within the Heritage Week will also enable you to visit a wide range of church buildings across the county and discover some fascinating corners of local and national history.

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Ordination of Rev Marianne Mangham at Salisbury Cathedral



Rev. Marianne and other curates were ordained to the priesthood at Salisbury Cathedral on 28th June; in the photo above are the curates with their training incumbents, Bishops Stephen, Karen and Andrew, and the archdeacons. (Rev. Marianne and Rev. Andrew are on the left.) Groups of supporters from St Stephens and the Minster were at the cathedral, and the next day, after the morning services, a Bring and Share lunch united many from across the benefice to celebrate.

(Photos: Anthony Oliver)

Tea and Cake Afternoon for the Flower Festival

Fundraising in advance of the Flower Festival continued on Saturday 12th July with tea and cake in Anthony and Christine Oliver's Garden.

The splendid sum of £551.45 was raised, thanks to the many supporters who baked cakes, gave prizes for the raffle, and made donations, as well as those who came on the day.

The final fundraising event will be a Charity Antiques Valuation Day in Church House, next to The Minster, on Tuesday 16th September; more details in the September magazine and in the Weekly News.

Advance tickets for the Festival at £7.50 each can be purchased from Carnival Flowers, Poole Road, Wimborne or the Parish Office.

Mothers' Union in the Garden

In June members of the Mothers' Union enjoyed lunch at Beaucroft College Café followed by a visit to the Wimborne Community Garden. Jane Benson the garden coordinator showed us around the garden and explained its history, ethos and current goals.



The garden was a dream of Jane's. She used to work in Blandford and had hoped to open a community garden there. After a long eighteen months of searching for a plot of land and receiving many no's, someone suggested she give up or look further afield. When she heard that Beaucroft College were taking over the old Wimborne First School building and fields she finally found a 'meeting of minds'. In its first two years the garden won several major RHS awards including best community garden in the South and South East, but in 2025 the team has focused on creating a basic kitchen at the garden. From the beginning, the garden has grown produce to give to the local Food Bank and Community Kitchen. Families from the Food Bank are encouraged to visit the garden to pick their own fruit and vegetables. This led to awareness that people



did not know how to prepare and cook many of the vegetables. A new project has seen the development of a garden kitchen area where families will be able to learn, in an informal setting, what to do with the produce grown in the garden. This project is going live shortly. Over the next year the children's nursery in the adjacent field is being developed, and the Community Garden is included in the planning, so its current role will continue to expand. This was a truly inspiring visit.



- Joy Craddock, Secretary Mothers' Union Wimborne Minster Branch

Find out more at <https://faith-works.org.uk/what-we-do/wimbornecommunity-garden/>.

Beaucroft College Café, 1HQ is open Wednesday-Friday 9.30am - 2pm

The Revd Canon David Price (1939 - 2025)



The death of Rev. Canon David Price has brought back many memories of his sixteen years leading the Minster. It was a time of many achievements, joyful activities, but also sadnesses. David was born in Hampstead in June 1939, his family later moving to Hertfordshire. After leaving school, David worked as a librarian before training for the ministry at St. Aidan's College, Birkenhead. He was ordained deacon in 1963 and priest in 1964 at Rochester Cathedral. He served as a Curate at three parishes in Kent before being appointed Vicar of Winkfield in Berkshire in 1972; he later also served as Rural Dean of Bracknell. Here he met Frances, a teacher and member of the choir, and they married in 1974. After some years at churches in Windsor and

Sunningdale, David and Frances arrived at the Minster in September 1986. At that time their children Sarah and Christopher were 11 and 8 years old.

involved a train from Bournemouth; 22 of the dead came from Dorset and the New Forest. Even more traumatic was the murder of Phyllis Saville, a Minster



David's first Churchwardens were Will Sear and Mary Turner. Will soon to be followed by Anthony Oliver. Other surviving Churchwardens from the period are Anne Pollard, Tony Knight and Sue Hatherley. David's years at the Minster were marked by many highlights but also tragic events. The 1988 Clapham Rail crash, in which 35 people were killed,

Governor, on her way to church one Sunday in 1994. David counted Phyllis as a wise personal friend, and later said, "I was immensely proud of the way Wimborne responded to what was a devastating event." The Minster needed major repairs to the roof, windows and stonework; David drew local businesses in to support the work financially, through

the Preservation Trust, which was specifically for the building. Church House was also refurbished, including new flooring in the upstairs hall. Administratively, at the death of long-serving Verger Maurice Jenkins, David arranged the appointment of Christine Oliver, Margaret Turner and Peter Steer as joint administrators of day-to-day running of the Minster for three years, after which a formal paid post of Administrator (occupied by Peter Lockwood) was created, and a new verger appointed. In response to the report Faith in the City, the Church of England created the Church Urban Fund <https://cuf.org.uk> in the mid-1980s, to focus on the poorest urban areas of the country. Each parish was asked to contribute a set amount per head of its congregation. The Minster raised more than double its target, and as a result David was invited to a reception at St. James' Palace in March 1990 in the presence of the Queen and Prince Philip. The Minster made several appearances on national television in David's time, most notably when *Songs of*

Praise was broadcast from the Minster in March 1990. Thora Bird then chose two of these hymns to include in her Sunday programme *Praise Service* in June that year. A special *Songs of Praise*, broadcast from Richmond Hill United Reformed Church in March 1994, included Golden Wedding couples from across the country renewing their vows at the Minster. There were also two 'Sing Ins' with Hugh Ashley from BBC Radio Solent. When David celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination in 1989 it coincided with then verger Maurice celebrating 25 years in post, and three churchwardens all celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries (the Hatherleys, the Olivers, and Bill and Mary Turner). Twenty-five years later, in retirement, David celebrated his 50th anniversary with friends



at the Minster, and was photographed (centre, with white jacket) with some of his former churchwardens, but also his training curates Rev. Stephen Batty and Rev. Tim Clapton. For the 60th anniversary of his ordination, David took part in the midweek Communion service at the Minster, when his former curates Rev. Jeremy Law and Rev Tim Clapton read the lessons. David led two major parish journeys abroad. One was to Oberammergau in August 1990, which included a stay stayed in Pertisau, Austria en route. The other was a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with a week in Jerusalem and a week at the Sea of Galilee. There were some notable firsts in these years. The late Ann Barber was one of the first deaconesses to be ordained a priest in 1994, and afterwards served

as Team Vicar with special responsibility for Holt. Girls joined the Minster Choir from January 1998, and later it was decided that on Sunday mornings the choristers could go out to Sunday School (later called Out of the Box) during the sermon and intercessions. The first Animal Blessing Service took place in 2000, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth was welcomed to use the Minster for the Confirmation Service of St Catherine's Church. For the Flower Festival in 1998, a Floral Carpet was designed and laid down the aisle for the first time. The Millennium was marked with services on the 1st and 2nd January 2000, with a sermon from a Hilfield Franciscan, and the Millennium Resolution read by a small chorister. The year 1998 was possibly the outstanding one of David's time at the Minster. In January he preached at Evensong in Westminster Abbey, a week after the Minster Ringers had rung the Abbey bells. To mark the 500th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's School, Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip visited Wimborne, and the next year Rev. David was invited to luncheon with the



Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace, one of only seven guests. David retired in 2001, as a result of problems with his voice, and he and Frances moved initially to Devon. More recently they came back to this area, living in Broadstone to be closer to family, and old friends were able to keep in touch more

easily. Francis died in 2014. Long-standing members of the Minster remember David's time of service vividly. Underlying all the exciting events was David's thoughtfulness and his deep and gentle pastoral care for all at the Minster and in the town.

- Rosalind Jensen (with material gathered by Anthony Oliver)



The choir of Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Banbury, at their lunchtime recital in the Minster. (Photo: Anthony Oliver)

Credo in unum Deum - exploring the faith of the church: Part 5

We conclude our series looking at the Nicene Creed, in the year of its 1700th anniversary..



13. The Church

Nicene Creed:

"We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church..."

Apostles Creed: *"... the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints..."*

First, some definitions! Holy means set apart, sacred, of God. Catholic means universal, broad. Apostolic means 'according to the teaching of Jesus and the apostles, truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.' Church means 'followers in The Way of Jesus, who gather to worship and accept Jesus as Lord.' Communion means: 'community, in a relationship with each other.' Saints means 'the exemplary followers of Jesus', both renowned and unrecognised. The church is formed of people, gathering together in prayer, worship, teaching and support. This helps form a Christ-centred, Holy Spirit-filled community that loves God and one another, and reaches out to share its faith and love.

We are all capable of falling away from Jesus' teaching, but the church as a body believes that as it turns to God for guidance, the Holy Spirit inspires the church. And the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds are the beginning of the answer to how we can discern what is right belief in the church. Through Christian history, some men and women have been considered as leading exemplary Christian lives, and many officially declared saints. Their holiness can inspire believers, and the Apostle Paul even counted all practicing Christians as saints. The saints who have lived before us are alive to God, and in this sense when we are in communion with God we are also united with all the saints in Heaven and on Earth.

14. Sin and forgiveness

Nicene Creed:

"We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins."

Apostles Creed:

"...the forgiveness of sins..."

Sin, going against God's laws, estranges us from God, and so is evil. For Christians, the human propensity to sin results from a 'fallen' state, expressed in the story of Adam and Eve's act of disobedience. The only person without sin is Jesus, who lived a life of perfect submission to God's will. But our sin is forgiven through Jesus, and our guilt removed; this is salvation, open to all who believe in Jesus Christ. Child or adult accepts salvation through the rite of Christian Baptism and this is needed only once, because God is faithful to his promises. In turn, the person baptised undertakes to reject evil and turn to Christ through their life.

When we are baptised we are no longer separated from God. Of course we all continue to sin thereafter, and an important part of our worship has publicly acknowledges the individual's sin; we say sorry to God. The priest then proclaims God's forgiveness and reminds us to be faithful to our baptismal promises.

15. Life and death

Nicene Creed:

"We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come."

Apostles Creed:

"...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

The core Christian hope is that there is life beyond death. Jesus himself rose from human death to resurrection life and ascended to Heaven, as he prophesied. Jesus said to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." The Christian church believes that, as we live for and in Jesus during our lives, so we have the promise of the everlasting life to come. In resurrection we have a personal continuity that goes beyond death, but our bodies will be transformed. We also believe that all the dead are universally raised and then brought to Judgement. Just as those who have died are transformed as they are resurrected, so the whole of creation is awaiting transformation, following The Fall. A new heaven and new earth will result at the end of time and those who are counted worthy by God will inherit all things (Rev: 21:1-5).

This prospect is the marvellous hope that we have in the promises of God through Jesus Christ. We are redeemed, we only have to trust and believe. The Roman, Greek and Protestant churches still disagree on this and several other doctrinal issues, but the debate is much gentler than in the past; we concentrate on our common faith, and celebrate our diversity in worship style.

Finally, the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds don't illuminate all areas of Christian belief, but I hope this series has been helpful and thoughtprovoking for all of us who recite them regularly

- Rev. Andrew Rowland

(Photo: the congregation at Bishop Stephen's installation as bishop, <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/>)

A lost tree in the landscape

The Native Black Poplar is truly magnificent and undoubtedly Britain's grandest native tree: its straight but leaning trunk often reaches 100 feet tall and can be six feet across, making it iconic in the landscape. On closer inspection, the trunk is thickly fissured and often covered with massive bosses and burrs. And, if this impact was not enough, the leaves shimmer in the breeze, creating a beautiful sound.



This titan of the tree world belongs next to rivers and streams, and in wetlands at the edges of rivers. I began to search for them around Wimborne without success and, naively, I and Trees for Wimborne set out to replant the river valley of Wimborne with these trees. I have now met many interesting and dedicated people across the country who are trying to put these beleaguered trees back into the landscape and onto the environmental agenda.

Growing alongside willows, the Black Poplar would once have provided an incredibly rich habitat and a haven for insects, birds and mammals. But those riverine habitats have long gone – drained,

farmed or developed. In the Middle Ages, it was highly valued for its timber and its unique properties of fire resistance and flexibility. But times and requirements changed, and the American Cottonwoods became the Poplar of choice. The species then became almost solely dependent on human intervention for its continued survival – they were imported and grown in plantations across the wetter areas of the landscape. It is now 150 years since Black Poplars were planted and, since they live for only 200 years or so, the clock is ticking; for many, time has run out and a valuable genetic resource has gone. Losing one more tree

species – and one that is so valuable – would be a terrible loss. Our landscape is poorer, and, from an environmental perspective, these trees are not just a rich habitat for an assortment of wildlife, but their rapidly growing dense wood is wonderful at sequestering carbon, while the roots can stabilise banks and prevent loss of soil – a feature of great importance in times of increased flooding.

Trees for Wimborne have been building up a stock of trees, both male and female, many ready to plant out this coming year. We have already provided some trees for planting in the Stour catchment, but we still have the ambition for this tree to be a familiar and prominent sight along the Stour, Allen and Tarrant rivers.

If you are a landowner (or know of one) who might be interested, please get in touch with treesforwimborne@gmail.com

Niki Harper,
Trees for Wimborne

(Photo: Bearsted Woodland Trust)

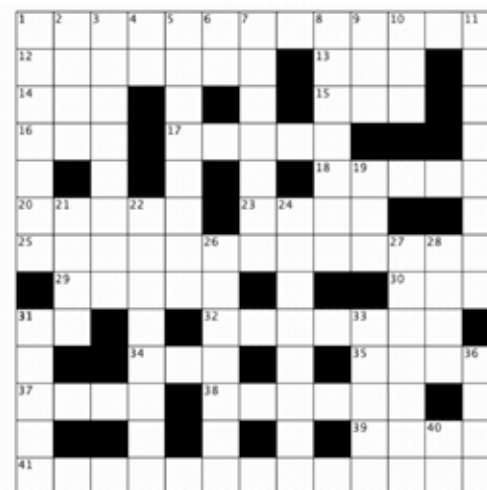
August Crossword set by Bruce Jensen

ACROSS

1. Another name for Superman (3,3,2,5)
12. A six-sided figure (7)
13. The movement of a dog's tail (3)
14. A mouse's bigger cousin (3)
15. Engineering (abbr.) (3)
16. Summer in Paris (3)
17. Pack animal of Peru (5)
18. Digit used for hitchhiking or pulling out plums (5)
20. Fabric used in blue jeans (5)
23. 'The LORD bless _ , and keep _...' (4)
25. Francis Drake defeated them (7,6)
29. To make extremely happy (5)
30. 'You won't convince him – he's rather _ in his ways.' (3)
31. Myself (2)
32. Colorful term for bureaucracy (3,4)
34. A tear in fabric (3)
35. _ Bogarde, British film actor (4)
37. Scottish singer who sang Shout! (4)
38. Hard working person who puts together a magazine such as this one (6)
39. What we no longer throw at a wedding (gives birds indigestion) 4
41. Typical difficult task, usually used in the phrase "It's not _..." (6,7)

DOWN

1. You shouldn't pull loose ones (7)
2. What to expect from a radiator (4)
3. On the outside (8)
4. Pa's mate (2)
5. Cut-off in years: 'You can even race if you're over 60 – there's no _...' (3,5)
6. Negative cousin of 'yes' (2)
7. In the world; 'There's nobody _ that's a better baker' (2,5)
8. Pullover or jumper (7)
9. What you work on at the beach (3)
10. It comes before the chicken (3)
11. What to jump into when the ship goes down (8)
19. The lower edge of a garment (3)
21. A dueling sword (with French accents) (4)
22. Not in a car, not in a van, but _ _ _ (2,1,5)
24. Your computer memory is written here (sometimes) (4,4)
26. Eve said "It was the _ . He deceived me, and I ate." (7)
27. White tablet often good for a headache (7)
28. Doe is the female (4)
31. Back tooth (5)
33. Love deeply (5)
36. The bendy bit of the leg (4)
40. Copy someone on an email (2)



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