



Wimborne
Minster



Parish Magazine
October 2025
No. 470

DOUCH & SMALL

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(Cover photo: moving the mermaid for the Flower Festival, by Gordon Edgar)



The **Christian Aid Poster Exhibition** featured in the September magazine will be in the **Minster from 4th to 11th October**, 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 4pm on Sunday. It

traces eight decades of campaign posters, highlighting how Christian Aid has used design, photography and slogans to communicate a call to justice. **There are two linked events, both on Tuesday 7th October** – a simple bread, cheese and fruit lunch at Wimborne Methodist Church at 12.30 and tea and cake in Wimborne Minster from 2.00 to 3.30. We hope you will be able to join us.

Mike Lunt



The **Green Festival** this year runs through the week of October 11th – 18th.

There are notices elsewhere in this magazine of some special events, but you can find the whole programme at planetwimborne.org.



Superhero Light Party

Friday 31st October, 11am-12.30pm in the Minster

Games – Crafts – Lego – Trails – Refreshments
Non-Scary Fancy Dress Welcome

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Suggested donation of £5 per family
Booking preferable by emailing:
claire@wimborneminster.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

Rector	Canon Andrew Rowland rector@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 882340
Churchwardens	Mr Andrew Patrick andrew-churchwarden@wimborneminster.org.uk Mr Peter Cook peter-churchwarden@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 886871 01202 885470
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Finance & Admin.	Mrs Kowal finance.admin@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 884753
Parish Secretary	Mrs Ruth Marshall	01202 884753

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 November issue: **Thursday 16th October.**

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

11.00am, Wednesday *(in the Minster)*

Morning Prayer

8.30 am, Monday to Saturday *(on Zoom)*

Services at St Margaret's Chapel

3rd Thursday

11.00 am 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 September

20th Wedding of Cameron Groat and Laura Ouvaroff

Dates for your diary - October

Wednesday 1st

1pm - 1.30pm

Meditation Group (Minster
Crypt)

Thursday 2nd

9.30am - 11am

Toddler Church (Minster)
Oasis lunch (Church House)

Friday 3rd

12 noon - 1.00pm

Lunch and Chat

Saturday 4th

*Christian Aid poster exhibition begins
(until Saturday 11th) in St George's Chapel*

10.30am - 12.30pm

Children's Society Coffee
morning (Church House)

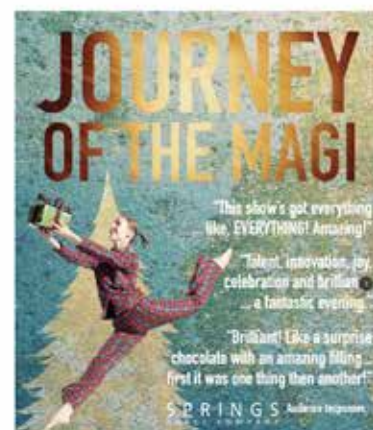
10.30am - 12noon

Muddy Church
(Forest Garden)

Sunday 5th	12.30pm	Bring and Share Lunch (Church House Upstairs)
Monday 6th	1.45pm	What do Christians believe about...? Course (Church House)
	7.00pm	Aspects of Spirituality: Praying with the Liturgy (Minster)
Tuesday 7th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Christian Aid tea and cake (Minster)
Wednesday 8th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
Thursday 9th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 10th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home-schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
	2.00pm	Funeral of Annette Brooke
Saturday 11th	all day	Green Festival (Minster Green)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Messy Church (Minster)
Sunday 12th	3.00pm	Animal Blessing Service
Monday 13th	1.45pm	What do Christians believe about...? Course (Church House)
	7.00pm	Aspects of Spirituality: Contemplative Prayer (Minster)
Tuesday 14th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 15th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
Thursday 16th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	2.15pm	Mothers' Union meeting
Friday 17th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
	1.45pm	Queen Elizabeth's School Welcome Service
Saturday 18th	From 4.30pm	Visiting bellringers
Sunday 19th, Benefactors' Sunday (Governors' Sunday)	9.30am	Parish Eucharist: Preacher, Bishop Richard Chartres

Monday 20th	7.00pm	Aspects of Spirituality: Creative Prayer (Minster)
Tuesday 21st	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 22nd	From 10.00am	Cards for Good Causes begins trading (St George's Chapel)
	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
Thursday 23rd	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 24th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Sunday 26th, Bible Sunday		
Tuesday 28th	10am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 29th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
Thursday 30th	7.30pm	Concert by Levens Choir (Minster)
Friday 31st	11.00am – 12.30pm	Party of Light (Minster)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)

Looking ahead...



In past years, we have raised money to buy chocolate angels at Christmas, which were given out by the Foodbank to children receiving support. This year, we welcome a theatre company, performing a drama for children and families, **Return of the Magi**, on the afternoon of 22nd December. Members of the church are being invited to pay for tickets that will be given to children through several organisations. More details will be provided soon. *(The photo is of a previous show by this company.)*



Keep the Date: This year's Frost Fair (Christmas craft fair) is on Saturday 22nd November from 11am to 3pm in the Minster .

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

Prayer diary for October

1	Our Rector	17	East Dorset Heritage Trust
2	Those in training for ministry	18	The police, PCSOs, the Probation Service
3	The OASIS group; the widowed	19	The Sudan Medical Link
4	The Lunch and Chat team	20	Ambulance services, paramedics and firefighters
5	The Society of St Francis at Hilfield	21	Churchwardens
6	Wimborne Deanery; the Rural Dean	22	Young people in the Wimborne area
7	Wimborne Town Council	23	PCC members
8	Dorset County Council	24	The Chained Library: custodians, volunteers
9	Christian Aid	25	The MARS Trust
10	Victoria Hospital; Streets Meadow	26	Diocesan links with Evreux and Latvia
11	Our Associate Clergy	27	The Citizens' Advice Bureau
12	Parish administrative staff: Martin, Ruth, Monika	28	New housing developments
13	The Mothers' Union	29	Wimborne Dementia Action Alliance
14	Housegroups: prayer and study	30	Wimborne First School
15	The Bible Society	31	A cause dear to your heart, not listed elsewhere
16	Staff of the Diocesan offices		

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.



Cards for Good Causes will again be based in St George's Chapel, from October 22nd. As well as a wide range of charity Christmas cards, you can find small presents and Christmas ornaments, calendars, and some surprises.

A big thank you to those who organise the rota and to everyone who volunteers to run this in the Minster. Cards for Good Causes began in 1959, and the charities include Barnardo's, MS Society, Alzheimer's and Cancer Research, as well as local charities.

There is also a year-round online shop.



As I sit here, writing this piece, I look out at the August trees and marvel at how many have autumn leaves. At least one tree looks dead. My TV is on. They are reporting that this is hottest summer on record. The land around us is scorched. Early autumn leaves mean that the berries and foliage needed by many animals will not be available this year. Global warming is not just about an inconvenience for us. It affects the whole food chain. One measure of



Francis and Creation

the challenge we face is biodiversity. In the UK many species are facing sharp decline and we are becoming described as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Two years ago, I was fortunate to spend Holy Week in Assisi. My brother, Jonathan, who is an Anglican priest and a member of the Third Order of the Franciscans, had invited me to come out and share in the life of the Anglican Chaplaincy there. Assisi is a remarkable hillside town, made famous by the life and witness of Saint Francis. Within the town itself there are four cathedral sized churches, one of which is the actual Cathedral and another is the Basilica built over the tomb of Francis. Another is the church of Saint Mary Major, which was the original cathedral. It was here, in the year 1206, that Francis renounced all worldly wealth, even stripping the clothes off his back. He embraced poverty and took on the life of a beggar. His passion for the Gospel, and his belief that Christ was calling him to rebuild his Church, led

him live a life of vibrant holiness that attracted others. The community around him grew and they became known as the Lesser Brothers, or Friars Minor, but also as the Franciscans.

A key feature of Francis' life was his profound reverence for all creation. Not for nothing is he considered to be the Patron Saint of Animals. He emphasized the need for respect for all animals and, indeed, for all creation. We remember him each year on 4th October, which is his saint's day. Not only do we have Franciscan Friars living at Hilfield Friary, but a number of people in Wimborne are members of the Third Order. This Third Order was founded by Francis himself and it is for ordinary men and women, who are not friars, but who choose to live under a Franciscan rule of life. St. Margaret's chapel in Wimborne has links with Hilfield and, from time to time, members of the Third Order meet there.

As we celebrate Francis of Assisi, we rejoice in the life of one of the greatest saints, but

we also need to be challenged by him in the violence we wreak on the created order. As we look at the parched earth around us, and the number of species whose very existence is being threatened, we too need to rediscover



a reverence for creation and see all life as part of a wider tapestry of life, gifted by God.

- Revd Canon Nigel Lloyd

Images: Saint Francis preaching to the birds, by Giotto; photo of a Franciscan at Hilfield

What does a Lay Pastoral Assistant do?

You may have heard of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) but do you know what we actually do?

The Minster website says: "The Minster has a number of experienced Lay Pastoral Assistants, who are trained and authorised by the church, to work alongside the clergy team and assist them in a number of pastoral contexts." So, what does that mean in practice?

We are there to be a listening ear to those who would like someone to talk to, for whatever reason. Maybe you are going through a hard time and would like someone to come and see you in your own home.

Some of us visit families before and after baptism.

Some of us visit people who are in hospital or in care homes. Some of us are trained to offer communion to the housebound and sick.

The Oasis Bereavement Support group is there to help those who have been bereaved, but, as LPAs, we can also offer small group support or just a friendly face to chat to.

Who are the LPAs at the Minster? Our photos will soon be on display in the porch, so you can recognise us when you see us in church. If you would like a chat, just come and talk to one of us or contact Andrew or Marianne.

We are there to listen to you.



LPA Co-ordinator

I have recently taken on the role of LPA Co-ordinator at Wimborne Minster. If you are concerned about anyone in the Minster, or you feel you would like some support yourself, please talk to me, or leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Sue Tipping

Phone: 07730941160.

email: susanann44@btinternet.com

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GOD, ARE YOU LISTENING?

Communicating with God in Challenging Times

Monday evenings in the Minster

7pm for 7.30 start

September 29th Praying With the Bible - Amy Boucher-Pye

October 6th Praying With the Liturgy - Dr John Leech

October 13th Contemplative Prayer - Brother John

October 20th Creative Prayer - Marie Calvert

7pm for light refreshments

Our speaker followed by guided space for reflection

Suggested £5 donation

Anyone is welcome



Welcoming the Levens Choir, from south Cumbria

On October 30th we welcome a choir from Kendal, Cumbria, who are on a short tour of Dorset and celebrating their 50th anniversary. The choir has a wide and versatile repertoire, and the programme will include vocal music from across the centuries, from medieval pieces to Elgar, modern songs, and even a Manx folksong.



Bournemouth Bach Choir
www.bournemouthbachchoir.org

**8 SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 2025
7.30pm
WIMBORNE MINSTER**

**Karl Jenkins
The Armed Man:
A Mass for Peace**

**Haydn
Nelson Mass**

Bournemouth Bach Choir and Orchestra

Conductor: Mark Dainton
Soprano: Sarah Dainton
Alto: Sarah Dainton
Tenor: Michael Dainton
Bass: Michael Dainton

Tickets: £15, £20, £24
£10 (over 60s)
£12 (over 60s)
£14 (over 60s)
£16 (over 60s)
£18 (over 60s)
£20 (over 60s)
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Wimborne Minster

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Animal Blessing Service: Sunday 12th October

This service is inspired St Francis' love of animals and his vision of creation. Last year's service at Southwell Minster included a new setting of the Benedicite, the Christian song (canticle) that uses Bible verses to call on all peoples and all creation to bless and praise the Lord. It begins 'O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise him, and magnify him for ever.' Composer Andrew Carter felt that there were creatures that the fourth-century words didn't include, so he wrote three extra parts for children's choir, listing some more animals. Below is the text of the first part, which was sung at Southwell last year.

The service sheet notes:

Badgers and Hedgehogs

In the first of three sections for the younger singers, some of the animals that Noah forgot to mention have a rumbustious time.

- O ye badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
- O ye badgers and squirrels and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
- O ye badgers and squirrels and ferrets and foxes and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
- O ye parakeets and pelicans and porcupines and penguins, guillemots and guineapigs and gallinules and godwits and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
- O ye weasels and warthogs and wallabies and wombats, chipmunks and chuckawallas and kookaburras and caterpillars and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
- O ye dromedaries and ye dragonflies and diddy little daddylonglegs, budgerigars and bumblebees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.

What animals would you like to include?

I think this magnificent tortoise, that came to the door of the Minster recently, should definitely be in our list!

Rosalind Jensen

(<https://www.southwellminster.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Animal-Blessing-Service-2023-22-Sep-2024.pdf>.)







Minster Green Fair

Saturday 11th October, 10am-3pm

Festival Opening at 10.30am by
Paralympic silver medallist Jack Evers,
the Deputy Mayor of Wimborne,
the Town Crier and the Quarterjacks.




Meet our local eco and green groups.
Find out why we all need to get involved in saving
the planet and how you can help.

Refreshments and children's activities
available in the Minster

DON'T JUST SIT ON
IT...

DONATE IT

AT YOUR LOCAL
TECH AMNESTY

11TH OCTOBER 2025,
12NOON UNTIL 2PM
THE MINSTER
HIGH STREET BH21 1HT





**Minster Environment
Group**



Medical Kit for Ukraine

The Minster
11th October
12 noon-2pm



Do you have crutches, surgical jackets or other
medical kit lurking in your cupboards? The NHS
don't want it back and charity shops won't take
it, so what can you do with it?

**Donate it to Ukraine Relief, who send
desperately needed medical kit to Ukraine.**



For further information,
email: wimbournemeg@gmail.com





Planet Wimborne
Green Festival presents

When Less is More

with **Patrick Grant**
from *The Great British Sewing Bee*
*Let Patrick inspire you to discover how having
fewer, better things can make us happier*

Saturday 18th October
Doors open 4.15pm; talk 5pm
Queen Elizabeth School, BH21 4DT
Book signing * Refreshments * Eco stalls



Tickets: £12; £2 (18s & under)
12s & under to be accompanied by an adult
Online via planetwimborne.org
or at Fair Ground shop (cash only)
in the Corn Market



The Power of the Bible

During a recent Evensong, we explored the powerful and beautiful words of scripture, and I encouraged those present to email in or to let me know their most treasured Bible verse:

Here are some of the answers:

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13)

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will not be shaken (Psalm 62:6 NIV).

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me (Jeremiah 29:13 NLT).
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NKJV).

Three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT).

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God (Isaiah 40:1 NKJV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV).

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God" (Luke 1:30 NIV).

Do not be afraid - I will save you. I have called you by name - you are mine (Isaiah 43:1 GNT).

I am convinced that (nothing) in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39)



Each person had a reason and a personal story behind each chosen favourite. Mine is: 'My God is my rock ...the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my saviour' (2 Samuel 22:3 NLT)

This was the first Bible verse that I read on the day I gave my life to the Lord aged 20. It was a beautiful verse on a beautiful day...

I wonder what your favourite verse is, and why? These stories can go deep - but if you would like to share (including a name or just to inspire anonymously) please do write in to the magazine - we would love you to encourage us all...

Rev. Marianne Mangham

Sunday October 26th is Bible Sunday, but we celebrate this gift to us, and listen for God speaking to us, every day.

Preparations for the Flower Festival

On the morning of Saturday September 20th, a procession through Wimborne brought a number of models to the Minster, ready for them to play their part in the Flower Festival.

The dinosaur mother and child, Demelza and Dino, were joined by Mary Anning, a mermaid and parts of the Minster walls, among other more mysterious objects.

The models have been created by Christine Oliver and a team of helpers over more than a year. They were accompanied, and steadied where necessary, by a number of dinosaur friends, including the Town Crier, Revds. Andrew and Marianne, and flagbearers.

At the time of writing, the models are resting in St George's Chapel.



Fund-raising Valuation Day

Max Beaumont Fine Art & Consultancy hosted a successful antiques valuation day on Tuesday 16th September in Church House in aid of the Wimborne Flower Festival, welcoming almost 30 residents eager to learn more about their treasured heirlooms and raising £200 for the festival. Remarkable finds included an elegant Art Nouveau Jugendstil silver and enamel pendant, circa 1910, valued at £300-£500, and two 19th century continental oil paintings, with a combined value of £500. Max said "It was a privilege to support the Flower Festival and to provide insight into items of such interest. Events like these show just how many hidden treasures can be found in our community." Max Beaumont Fine Art & Consultancy offers professional valuations and consultancy services



institutions across the region. For more information, or to arrange a private valuation, please contact Max Beaumont Fine Art & Consultancy on 01202 283220 or visit www.maxbeaumont.co.uk

Heating the Minster

Our old gas boilers have become dangerous. One failed its inspection in September 2024 and the other failed in May this year. A new gas boiler will be installed at the beginning of October and should be in service this winter. The new boiler is a more efficient condensing boiler. We will be measuring the temperature and gas usage to see if there is an improvement, and will report back at the end of the winter. Hopefully this change will lower our carbon output and our gas bills. In the longer term, we are working to have an entirely electric heating system. This system, when combined with our subscription to 100% green energy (wind and solar power), will mean we have net-zero carbon heating. What difference will this change make to the average churchgoer? The only noticeable change will be the flue on the east side of the north porch – the new flue will be longer, and there will be clouds of steam coming from the top, 'so much that it will seem like the church is on fire,' to quote the engineer. Please check before you phone the fire department!

Bruce Jensen

(Photo: our decommissioned Falcon gas boilers)

RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

Saturday 13th September

Support Dorset Historic Churches Trust, which helps churches of all kinds stay open and welcoming.



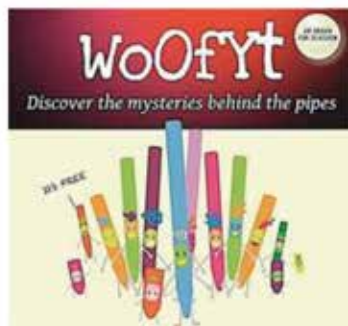
We were lucky with the weather on the day of Ride & Stride, with wind rather than serious rain. Three cyclists set off around Benefice churches and the Tarrant valley, including lunch at Shapwick. Two walkers enjoyed a leisurely walk between five churches in Dorchester, including interesting chats with welcomers and a pause in the café as well. Meanwhile our stout team of welcomers, under a new gazebo outside the porch, took it turns to welcome visitors to the Minster; strong winds meant the gazebo and bunting had to be taken down later in the day.

There were also posters in the porch showing the location of local churches, particularly those in the Benefice, and what treasures are to be found in them. St Margaret's Chapel was open, with a warm welcome that is becoming more widely known, and it was a real pleasure to see the Methodist church open for the first time, in the morning. A huge thank you to the volunteers (Ruth and Sarah, Peter and the Rector, Sue at St Margaret's) who welcomed cyclists and walkers at the Minster (38 people) and St Margaret's, on what turned into rather a windy day. The gazebo had to be partly taken down in the afternoon! And thank you to the cycling team and the walkers. Maybe we can organise more different groups ourselves next year?

To date, we have raised over £550 for the Historic Churches Trust, but the total is not complete. Thank you to everyone who supported us, for your generosity.



The Return of WoofYT (Wooden One-octave Organ for Young Technologists)



Jeremy Sampson returned to the Minster for workshops using his large (simplified) model organ. The choristers enjoyed a session instead of their usual Tuesday afternoon practice; at the end, parents also came in to have a look. The next day, two sets of music students from QE school also came. After Jeremy got participants to practice working as a team, with sounds and rhythmic clapping, he showed them how the setup of bellows and wooden pipes worked, using other pipes to demonstrate how pitch changes. Each member of the group then had one note to play on the wooden model to create a recognisable tune together, as the bellows pumped. At the end, Jeremy took the group to stand around the Minster's organ bench, and related what they had done to how a complex organ works. Thank you to Heather Waldsax for organising this!

(Image from the Peterborough Psalter)

Beyond the Walls

Since the Covid era the Minster has been livestreaming the 9.30 Sunday service. Services can be watched on YouTube, either live or after the event. The services are watched by individuals in their homes and are displayed on the common-room television in nursing homes, enabling the church to reach out to those unable to attend in person. It also offers a practical way to allow relatives to participate in life events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. A brother in Australia might be unable to attend a funeral, except via the internet. A bride told me, 'My auntie (in Brazil) must have watched the wedding 80 times.'

If you would like to join the team engaged in this important work, and at the same time channel your inner Steven Spielberg, kindly contact **Bruce Jensen**.



Some highlights of the Summer



Forest Garden sessions through the summer included harvesting some new potatoes, and investigating life in the pond. Some of the choristers enjoyed a visit to the Royal Signals Museum, with a range of activities related to the communications and IT work of the Signals Corps (<https://royalsignals.org>). After the Minster Fair suffered from the rain, we hoped the Fete at the end of August would be out on the Green, but again we had to take refuge. Books and bric-a-brac, and teas, were based downstairs in Church House, with activities upstairs. The ice cream van did have some customers, and entertainer Holly Berwick, who runs Strawberry Jam Children's Entertainers, was a great success. Quite a few children went home with amazing balloon animals. Thank you to Claire and all the volunteers for organising this, and we hope that next year's Fete will have better luck!



Rebranding the Allendale Centre

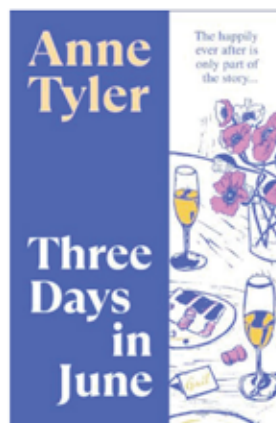
In its 50th anniversary year, the Allendale Centre has developed a new logo and brand identity, which is clear, accessible and inclusive. The graphic design was produced by Pink Egret Artwork & Design, a local graphic design company based in Wimborne.

Book review: *Three Days in June*, by Anne Tyler
(Chatto & Windus, 2025, ISBN 978-1784745752)

Anne Tyler, born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1941, has twenty-five best-selling, prize-winning novels to her name. She has won the Sunday Times Award for literary excellence, which I would fully support. More questionable is Roddy Doyle's and Nick Hornby's assessment of her as "the greatest novelist writing in English."

We would all have our thoughts on this but, for me, Graham Swift, Sebastian Faulks, Margaret Drabble, Rose Tremain and the recently departed A.S. Byatt and Hilary Mantel would all have a stronger claim. Tyler won the Pulitzer Prize for *Breathing Lessons* and was short-listed for the Booker with *A Spool of Blue Thread*.

On Day 1, the day before her daughter's wedding, Gail Baines of Baltimore loses her teaching post, or quits depending on who you ask. Her ex-husband, Max, unexpectedly turns up to stay for the festivities, bringing a cat which is looking for a new home. Their daughter,



Debbie, discovers her groom has been keeping a secret. Day 2 is the Big Day of the wedding. Day 3 is the Aftermath. Does the younger generation have something to teach the older?

As with all of Tyler's work, this is a short novel based in a small town on the East Coast of the United States, concerned with the ordinary domestic events of everyday life. Her great skill is her ability to view what

is happening from inside the heads of her characters. It is filled with her trademark wry humour and brilliant observation.

Highly recommended as an entertaining, thought-provoking, beautifully written and constructed piece of work.

Beryl Balinas

Read a good book recently? We welcome thoughtful book reviews!
- Ed.

THEMAGNACARTA
RIMDIEON
ATESTAFFMOA
CEREOROL
ELYSALISBURY
OACNS
WINDSORCASTLE
AHGGL
RUNNYMEDEPJS
PYOOP
ALLABATETOE
TIONSAARAN
HENRYTHETHIRD

Solution to September crossword

October Crossword set by Bruce Jensen



Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.

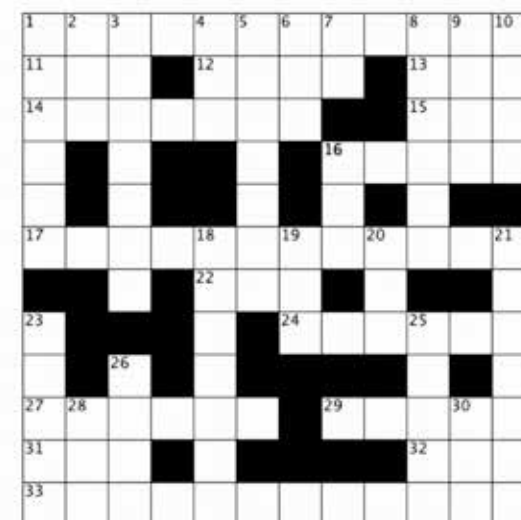
ACROSS

1. Picture 1, author of *Alice in Wonderland* (5,7)
11. What miners mine (3)
12. Front of the lower leg (4)
13. Charge for a service (3)
14. Material for belts, purses, & wallets (7)
15. Bog or marsh (3)
16. Men's garment for the top half of the body (5)
17. Picture 2 (4,8)
22. Fitting, correct (3)
24. Beethoven's 'Moonlight' (6)
27. Type of bomb superceded by the hydrogen (6)
29. A group assembled for a task: 'an assassination' (5)
31. They set bombs in Belfast in the 70s (3)
32. Short for Stuart (3)
33. Picture 3 (6,2,4)

27. Type of bomb superceded by the hydrogen (6)
29. A group assembled for a task: 'an assassination' (5)
31. They set bombs in Belfast in the 70s (3)
32. Short for Stuart (3)
33. Picture 3 (6,2,4)

DOWN

1. Nabokov's heroine (6)
2. Before (poetic) (3)
3. What British people talk about (7)



4. Librarian's chastisement (3)
5. Make happier (5,2)
6. Atmosphere (3)
7. Registered Nurse (abbr) (2)
8. A room for indoor work (6)
9. A smarmy look (4)
10. Church season from Ash Wed. to Easter (4)
16. It shines in the sky, sometimes (3)
18. The angel with the horn (7)
19. 'Who's there?' ' _ me.' (3)
20. Cuthburga was one (3)
21. Rise from your seat (5,2)
23. Message sent from my computer to yours (5)
25. Mistreatment (5)
26. Smaller vessel for travelling on water (4)
28. Prefix meaning '3' (3)
30. 'I'm not hungry - I just _' (3)



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