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WIMBORNE



**Wimborne
Minster**



Parish Magazine

July 2026

No. 479

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There is no crossword in this month's magazine, because our crossword creator is away.
The solution to June's crossword is below



Apology

We wrongly credited last month's cover photo which was in fact taken by Anthony Oliver.



(Image: 'building' a crossword, from the New York Times)

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.



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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 August issue: **Thursday 16th July.**

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

Services at the Minster

Sundays

8.00 am

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am

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 June

- | | |
|------|--|
| 21st | Baptism of Leon Stephen Mark and River Joshua Jayden Parry |
| 6th | Wedding of Michelle Kearns and Robert Allen |
| 17th | Funeral of Revd. Colin Barnes |

Dates for your diary - July

Wednesday 1st

1pm – 1.30pm

Meditation Group
(Minster Crypt)
Prayer Circle
(Church House)

4pm

Thursday 2nd

10am – 11.30am

Two by Two Toddler Group
(Church House Upstairs)
OASIS lunch (Church House Upstairs)

12.30am

Friday 3rd	10.30am – 12 noon	Home Education Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 4th	10am – 12 noon	Coffee morning (Church House)
	12 noon	Wedding of Ella Ofei-Kwatia and Chris Shelly
Sunday 5th	7.00pm	Orlando Singers Concert
	12.30am	Bring and Share Lunch (Church House)
	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Bell peal to commemorate the Battle of the Somme
	3.00pm	Royal British Legion Service to Commemorate the Battle of the Somme
Monday 6th	12.30am – 1.30pm	Lunchtime Recital: Antique Brass
Tuesday 7th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddlers (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 8th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4.00pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 9th	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 10th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
	1pm – 3pm	Year 4 Leavers' Service
Saturday 11th	4pm	Concert by the 'Just Sing' Choir
Monday 13th	12.30am – 1.30pm	Lunchtime Recital: Jazz
Tuesday 14th	10.30am – 12 noon	Recital by Sam Hanson
		Forest Garden Toddlers (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 15th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4.00pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 16th	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	2.15pm	Mothers' Union meeting (Church House)
	7.15pm	PCC (Minster)
Friday 17th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 18th	2pm	Wedding of Tracey Nicholls and Nick Clark

Monday 20th	12.30am – 1.30pm	Lunchtime Recital: Summer Trios
Tuesday 21st	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddlers (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 22nd	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 23rd	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 24th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 25th	From 12 noon	Exhibition 2020 art exhibition (Church House) until Saturday 1st August
	2pm	Wedding of Kirsten Holland and Daniel Charman
Monday 27th	12.30am – 1.30pm	Lunchtime Recital: Brass in Harmony Quintet
Tuesday 28th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddlers (Forest Garden)
Wednesday 29th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 30th	7pm	London Youth Wind Band Concert
Friday 31st	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)

Minster Choir's well-deserved summer break

After Sunday 19th July, the Minster Choir is on their well-deserved summer break. Until the end of August, Minster Voices will be singing at the 9.30 Communion service, and Evensong will be said. Minster Voices also sing on one of the Sundays during other school holidays and occasionally at other times. If you would like to join this informal group, please contact Liz Watson (jew.watson@googlemail.com).



Some choristers enjoying ice lollies.

Praying for the Wimborne benefice, the town of Wimborne and the world

Prayer diary for June

1	Our Rector	18	The police, PCSOs, the
2	Those in training for ministry		Probation Service
3	The OASIS group; the bereaved	19	The Sudan Medical Link
4	The Lunch and Chat team	20	Ambulance services,
5	The Society of St Francis at		paramedics and firefighters
	Hilfield	21	Churchwardens
6	Wimborne Deanery; the Rural	22	Young people in the Wimborne
	Dean		area
7	Wimborne Town Council	23	PCC members
8	Dorset County Council	24	The Chained Library: custodians,
9	Christian Aid		volunteers
10	Victoria Hospital; Streets	25	The MARS Trust
	Meadow	26	Diocesan links with Evreux and
11	Our Associate Clergy		Latvia
12	Parish administrative staff:	27	The Citizens' Advice Bureau
	Martin, Ruth, Jess	28	New housing developments
13	The Mothers' Union	29	Wimborne Dementia Action
14	Housegroups: prayer and study		Alliance
15	The Bible Society	30	Wimborne First School
16	Staff of the Diocesan offices	31	A cause dear to your heart
17	East Dorset Heritage Trust		

Nature Count

On Saturday 6th June, a few people bravely tried to do a nature count in God's Acre in cold, wet and windy conditions. With some help from Wilding Wimborne, we identified 10 birds and 30 varieties of wild-flowers – and then headed off to a coffee shop.

The previous day in our Forest Garden, children did a Bug Hunt .. Nine different insects were identified plus other invertebrates, including numerous slugs and snails. We regularly see frogs, mice and squirrels. All the data goes to 'Caring for God's Acre' and so becomes a national churchyard count, and is also added to an international data base.





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Loving Our World

In early June I was away at Hilfield Friary in Dorset, and we watched the People's Emergency Briefing Film, the film presented the national

implications of climate and nature breakdown alongside credible, hopeful responses. It combined expert contributions with real audience reactions, helping viewers not only understand the scale of the crisis, but begin conversations about how to respond together. We reflected: upon Climate Justice, why the Church of England has a net zero target, the polycrisis: biodiversity, climate and what the science can tell us.

A polycrisis is a crisis in many areas: it is caused when multiple issues affect one another. Our Lecturer Revd Dr Nigel Dilkes quoted David Attenborough in 'Trailer to a Perfect Planet: Humans' (2021), where Attenborough stated 'Planet Earth was perfect, but now a new force is sending our perfect planet off-balance – humans!'

With all the news that comes to our attention day in, day out - wars, refugee crises, global fuel concerns - we can feel saturated emotionally and unable to take more bad news. To decompress most of us like to get outside into creation as an antidote to stress and overwhelm. Preservation is needed because God's beautiful world breathes life.

Awareness is an essential first step to understanding how we can make a difference to creation care individually and as a community. As a Wimborne community the People's Emergency Briefing was also held locally on Friday 26 June at the Allendale Community centre, and was supported and followed by a discussion from our local MP Vicky Slade. It is worth taking a moment to reflect upon the astounding world that we inhabit. Our beautiful local beaches, our wonderful woodland walks, the rolling hills around us.



The bible agrees that the creation reveals and reflects the glory of its maker. Psalm 19 tells us that 'the heavens declare the glory of God...day by day they pour forth speech' (VV 1-2). All voices are important. At our Hilfield Retreat, Revd Dr Mike Perry, from A Rocha UK and the Bishop of Salisbury's Adviser on Climate Justice, left me with a helpful reflection. In an orchestra all instruments are needed to make up the beautiful sound of worship. Reducing the sound even by one voice, one instrument is

not good. We would not take a flute out of an orchestra and melt it down, and yet the environmental crisis is reducing the sounds of bees, of birds, of the poorer voices in our world, to silence. We are called to love. I leave

you with a reflection from renowned theologian, John Stott. 'Our care of creation reflects our love for the creator' (2010, p.54).

Stott, J. 2010. The Radical Disciple. InterVarsity Press: Illinois

Annual Meeting on 28th May, and the new PCC

At the Annual Meeting, both Andrew Patrick and Peter Cook were elected as Churchwardens for another year, and the new PCC was formed. The Rector expressed his hope that new volunteers would step forward in the coming year, particularly to take on the role of Churchwarden in due course. We heard from Churchwarden Andrew that we are close to seeing work on the entrance put out to tender. At that point we will have a reliable idea of the costs.

The Annual Report of Minster activities (which is a required element of the Annual Meeting) runs to 60 printed pages. Thank you to everyone who contributed; if you haven't yet looked at it, please do go online, or ask the vergers for the print copy. You may find some groups that you didn't know about!

The annual accounts were not yet finalised by the APCM, and will be approved by the new PCC at their first meeting. The delay is due to a change in finance manager and the shift to the new, more straightforward, accounting system.

After the Annual Meeting, the new

PCC held a short meeting. We are very grateful to the Churchwardens and to PCC members for taking on their vital roles. A new list of sidespersons, covering all the Sunday services, has been drawn up by Anthony Oliver, and was accepted with thanks by the PCC.

What happens in the PCC?

The PCC meets every 2 months and is chaired by the Rector. The Standing Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens, Hon.

Treasurer) meet beforehand to put together the agenda. The PCC doesn't just hear about and agree to the work being carried out by the Standing Committee (such as the progress of plans for the toilets); there is also time set aside for the PCC to discuss more general issues in the life of the Minster. Last year, a question about charitable giving led to some detailed discussion. PCC meetings now fall earlier in the month, so it will again be possible to have a report in the magazine. If you have questions, please talk to any PCC members, who can be found at a range of Minster services. (see next page)

Below is a list, with the service(s) where you are most likely to find that person.

Andrew Patrick , Churchwarden	Minster Praise
Peter Cook , Churchwarden	9.30 Communion, Evensong
David Allen , Deputy Churchwarden	9.30 Communion
Dennis Child	9.30 Communion
Mike Dodds	9.30 Communion, Minster Praise
Anne King	Minster Praise
Andrew Kelley	9.30 Communion, Evensong
Angela Mullen	9.30 Communion
Sarah Steele	9.30 Communion
John Waldsax	9.30 Communion
De Ashton (Deanery Synod)	Minster Praise
Derek Howshall (Deanery Synod)	9.30 Communion

Jane Davidson has been co-opted and continues to be our Safeguarding Officer. Please contact her if you have any concerns or questions in this area. All volunteers have been completing the new online training.

Richard Knott has been co-opted as Hon. Treasurer. We thank them for their continuing commitment. More from the PCC next month!



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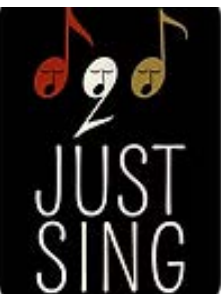
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Music Notes for July



July really kicks off our summer season of music and will be a busy month. On 4th July, the USA's Independence Day, enjoy a lovely concert for a summer evening, given by the Orlando singers, conducted by Sam Hanson. The first half includes music by George Gershwin, Dave Brubeck, Henry Mancini and others, with Will Todd's Mass in Blue in the second half. For this piece, a jazz trio will be added, formed by Sam Hanson (piano), Luke Selby (drums) and Colin Davey (double bass). Our free regular Summer Lunchtime recitals begin on Monday 6th July. With great pleasure, we welcome these musicians: 6th July, Vintage Brass; 13th July, Sam Hanson playing jazz piano; 20th July, Summer Trios, led by David Warwick; 27th July, Brass in Harmony Quintet.



On Saturday 11th at 4pm come and enjoy an informal performance by the local "Just Sing" Adult Choir. Formed in 2014, the choir enjoys a wide range of music styles and members work together to choose the repertoire. You may have heard them in the past at

the Folk Festival or at Camp Bestival; they perform through the year to raise money for a range of charities.

The month finishes with a visit from the London Youth Wind Band on Thursday 30th July. The Wind Band was formed (by Guildhall School of Music) in 2003 as a companion ensemble to the London Schools Symphony Orchestra (LSSO), so that more wind, brass and percussion players can work at a high level.



(Photo: some of the Wind Band on tour in Belgium.)

The young musicians (aged 12-18) perform a wide range of music, including original works for band and arrangements of classical, film and musical theatre scores. This year they are in Dorset on tour, playing in Bournemouth, at the Minster, and at Swanage Carnival.

Looking further ahead, August will see the return of our lunchtime organ recitals. This year our soloists are as follows: 3rd August, John Radford; 10th August, Jonathan Melling; 17th August, Sean Tucker; 24th August, Martyn Williams; 31st August, Christopher Sparkhall.

150 YEARS OF Mothers' UNION

Join us, Join in

Lighting the way for generations to come

2026 marks 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire by Mary Sumner. She was a home-educated young vicar's wife with a powerful vision. She dreamed of women, regardless of class or status, coming together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the church.

From that small flame of an idea, a global movement was born. Today, Mothers' Union has around 4 million members in 84 countries. We work to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. At the heart of all we do is the belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16)

Shining a light is what our members do. Whether someone finds themselves unexpectedly in hospital, a family is grappling with a parent in prison, or a baby is born prematurely, Mothers' Union members are there offering care, support and love without judgement. We speak out against injustice, create safe places for conversation and run parenting support groups – all helping to build stronger, more resilient communities.

All of our work is guided by three core pillars of transformation:

*Ending Violence - promoting peace and safety,
Ending Injustice - advancing gender justice and
Ending Poverty - fostering self-reliance and resilience.*

Our global programmes include literacy and savings groups, parenting and resilience training, and domestic abuse awareness campaigns. These initiatives are rooted in local communities – we listen first, then respond with practical, faith-led action. Every day, globally, our members carry out thousands of quiet acts of service that bring hope and healing.

Mothers' Union today reflects the diversity of the modern world. We are a movement that continues to evolve, welcoming people of all backgrounds and identities. While we are a women-led movement, men are welcome to join! 150 years of courage, care and community, and we are just getting started – so why not **join us?**

Here at Wimborne Minster, in August we will be jointly holding a celebration day with Claire and young Minster families. Further details of this event to follow. **Please join us and join in!** In the meantime, you can find out more about us on our noticeboard in the Minster, our webpage or contacting Di Hiscock (tel. 01202 887947).

Minster Fair 2026

The weather finally settled for the Fair and Folk Festival, to everyone's relief. For this year only, Claire organised the tables for the Minster stalls, for which we are all very grateful. They were laid out around a central play area for young children, which was popular through the day. Much preparation was done beforehand, which meant that setting up on the Green could begin later and was still ready in good time. In general, stallholders found that visitors took more time looking and tended to buy less this year, perhaps in response to the economic situation. However, the teddies took flight again from the tower, and Godspace offered a quiet time when needed. Shown below: plants and bric-a-brac (the Friends), jewellery (Sarah Steele), books (Rosalind Jensen with a series of volunteers), and the Flower Ladies.



The ecumenical Service on the Green on Sunday was well-attended as usual. A huge thank you to everyone who helped this year's Fair to be so successful. If you have comments or suggestions, please email the Churchwarden or PCC members.`
(Photos: Rosalind Jensen, Anthony Oliver)

Pilgrimage to Rome, the Vatican City and Assisi - May 2026



After a very early start – 3.15am at Canford! – and transfers through Heathrow and Rome airports which considerably tested our patience, nineteen pilgrims from Dorset and elsewhere, led by Rev Andrew Corke and Canon Chris Tebbutt, arrived in central Rome on 1st May to be welcomed by our knowledgeable and solicitous guide, Giorgio. Our pilgrimage was to travel in the footsteps of Saints Peter and Paul and the early Christian Church. We were staying in a very centrally located guest house run by nuns around the corner from where Julius Caesar was assassinated. We visited the Mamertime prison where it is thought both saints were imprisoned, the extensive Catacombs of St Callixtus, the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls under which it is believed Paul is buried, along with several other basilicas and churches. The highlight for many of our group - including us - was to celebrate communion in the Catacombs, which was a very simple yet moving



experience. We also saw many of the ancient Roman sites, including the Coliseum, the Pantheon and the Palatine Hill. A day was spent at St Peter's Basilica with a visit to the Vatican in the afternoon, gazing up

at the amazing Sistine Chapel ceiling. We had a day trip to Ostia Antica, the ancient port of Rome previously at the mouth of the Tiber, and which rivals Pompeii and Herculaneum in its detail of Roman life, including the bar serving hot and cold food as well as the brothel above! Our dinners in Rome were had together in various restaurants, with much testing of suitable wines. Our last two days were spent in the beautiful old town of Assisi, on top of a hill with beautiful views over the valley. We were staying in a Franciscan nunnery guest house located in the old town, where we had generous breakfasts and dinners and used their chapel for meetings and communion. An American friar showed us round the

Basilica of St Francis followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Clare which houses the crucifix where Francis received his call. Staying in Assisi was a gentle change from the busyness of Rome, and we had time to revisit the two basilicas to absorb the astonishing Giotto frescoes. Our thanks go to Andrew and Chris for leading us so carefully and thoughtfully, as well as to Georgio and his son for their extensive knowledge, and amazingly colloquial English. It was a lovely trip combining the amazing sites of ancient Rome and Assisi with sharing a spiritual experience with other Christians.

Jan Miller and Melanie Fawcett



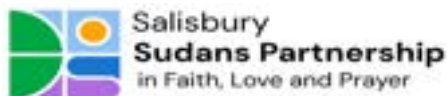
A Psalm for Stormy Seas

On a recent cruise in the Norwegian fjords, Carol Jarvis heard this version of Psalm 23 used in a shipboard service. There are several versions online, and it is usually attributed to the Mission to Seafarers or to The Seafarers' Charity.

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift,
 He guides me across the dark waters.
 He steers me through deep channels.
 He keeps my log.
 Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders and tempests of life,
 I shall dread no anger, for He is with me;
 His love and His care shelter me.
 He prepares a quiet harbour before me.
 He anoints the waves with oil.
 My ship rides calmly.
 Surely sunlight and starlight
 Shall guide me on the voyage I take,
 And I will rest in heaven's port for ever.

Wimborne Deanery Links with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) in Yambio and Nzara

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9)



Wimborne Deanery has well established links to South Sudan, made through personally-funded visits to Yambio and Nzara, from individuals who have been called to support both pastoral ministry, teaching and healthcare. Historically, funding from the Deanery has included school buildings and medical support as well as ministry and pastoral care. The Mothers' Union in South Sudan has been at the forefront of efforts to provide emergency relief to communities, as well as long-term development programmes to help bring hope to families in this troubled country. The legacy of the late Sheila Soper continues through support from Wimborne.

In April 2025 the ECSS celebrated 100 years since the Cathedral in Yambio was built. (British missionaries introduced the Christian faith into South Sudan). Wimborne Deanery (the Minster and St Michael's Church) raised funds to complete a 5-bedroomed building to accommodate guests for the 100-year celebration, which was then converted to be used by the Mothers Union.

In October 2025, the Sudan's Partnership were informed about 1,000 families from Nadiangere who were displaced because of the insecurity in that region. The families who travelled

105 miles from Nadiangere on foot to Yambio were suffering with lack of food, clothes, blankets and the basics for daily living.



A short-term appeal raised funds and because of our close partnership links, we were able to send funding directly, which reached many of those families before Christmas. From arriving in the area with nothing, 121 families were provided with: 2 gallons of maize flour, 3 kg of beans, 1 Litre of cooking oil, 1 kg of salt and 2 bars of soap each. Families were also provided with rolls of material and clothes.

A message from Bishop Emmanuel (The Suffragan Bishop for Nadiangere Area Diocese, Western Equatoria Internal Province):

"We don't know how to thanks and appreciate you much but, dear brethren and all the other brethren whom you have raised and contributed this money for us at this crucial moment of living as IDP's.

You have shown us what it really means to be the believer/follower of

Jesus Christ in words and actions – supporting us out of the love of God and one another.

It's our prayers that may God continue to protect each one of you and your entire family members and bless you all more abundantly as said by Jesus in (Matthew 25: 35-45)"

The work of the Mothers' Union has been supported over the past year by St Michael and All Angels Church, who raised £950 for the purchase of 9 bicycles to support the outreach work in Yambio and remote areas. A team led by Jill Beech collects used cards, cuts the fronts and remounts them on fresh cards which they sell at various events. The bicycles were presented at the MU Conference in 2026, where the topic was "Strong Families Build Strong Churches".



Members within the Wimborne Deanery hugely support the work of the **Salisbury/Sudan Medical Link**. The Medical Link continues to send out medicines to the 16 Health Clinics supported by the ECSS, three times a year. Ongoing fundraising is essential to support this life-saving work, as each consignment costs approx. £20k. Sadly at this current time, the drugs often run out after 2 months because of the influx and needs of the internally displaced peoples from Sudan. Continuous fundraising by groups such as Lunch and Chat (Friday lunchtimes in Church House) provide vital on-going funds. The Medical Link also supports local people in South Sudan to be trained as clinical officers, nurses and midwives to work in the health clinics. Costs for this 4-year training amount to £1,800 per year and are now funded by individuals, churches or parishes. Please take a look at the Salisbury Sudan Partnership website which gives an overview of this incredible link between Salisbury Diocese and the countries of Sudan and South Sudan.

www.salisburysudanspartnership.co.uk

The Medical Link is seeking individuals from across the Deanery to join their team. It may be of special interest if you have a background in healthcare.

Please contact Anne Salter (Volunteer for the Salisbury/Sudan Medical Link) if you would like further information. Tel 07985509732.

Photos from the website: refugees – more than 10 million people in South Sudan struggle with severe hunger – and supplies at a medical centre.

Allendale House Donate IT hub up and running

Simon Barfoot and DonateIT are well-known to the Minster, thanks to the Minster Environment Group working with Simon to run two collections a year of used domestic IT kit and phones. DonateIT is a charity dedicated to refurbishing or recycling electrical items. Refurbished items are either sold or donated to charities. Any data on the IT kit are wiped clean.

Now you can drop these items off at Allendale House (home to East Dorset Heritage Trust, EDHT) Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (<https://www.edht.org.uk/>). You can see what

you can and cannot bring on the DonateIT website: <https://donateit.co.uk/>. This is an exciting step forwards.

Linda Bunting, Chair of Planet Wimborne said, "We are so grateful to Sarah and the team at EDHT for agreeing to become the DonateIT hub in the town. We have worked with Simon for many years and know DonateIT provides an excellent and vital role in finding new homes for redundant IT kit. You can also find refurbished IT kit to buy on the BlackmoreIT website (<https://www.blackmoreit.com/>)".



You may have seen the free magazine for the charity Child of Hope, which is often available in the Minster. I learned more about the charity at an event in Wimborne recently. Child of Hope, a Christian charity registered with the Charity Commissioners, runs schools and wraparound family support in the Namatala slum of Mbale, a city in eastern Uganda, and was founded over 20 years ago; one of the founders, Becks, grew up in this area, and has been visiting to spread knowledge of and build up support for this work. Child of Hope now has 1,050 children in their schools or supported in tertiary education. They also fund fostering for children at risk, help families set up

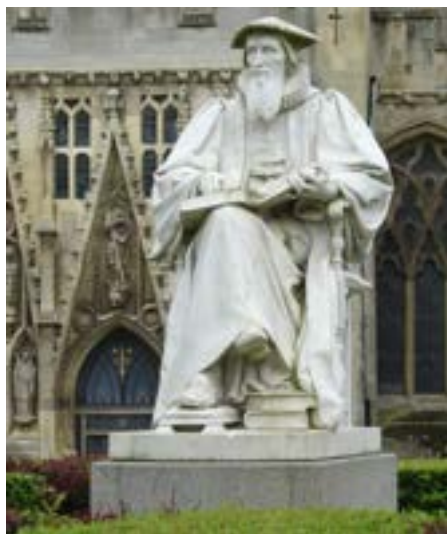
micro-businesses, and provide health and welfare workers for children and their families. Regular support from this country is vital, and there are different ways you can sponsor – a specific child, a teacher, medical supplies, for the cost of fostering – or simply donate towards running costs.

The website <https://www.childofhopeuganda.org> gives a full and clear explanation of how the charity works. It is a truly impressive project, which has an impact in so many ways, and I feel it is well worth supporting. For more information, speak to Heather Lowe (usually at Minster Praise), who is a Trustee of Child of Hope.

- Rosalind Jensen

Richard Hooker, great theologian of the Anglican Church

Jayne and I were recently in Exeter for a concert by Harry Christophers' Sixteen in the Cathedral, when we stopped at a statue of Richard Hooker (1554–1600). The name was familiar. Whilst waiting to go into the Cathedral, Jayne suddenly said “we have his book!”. In fact, when we got back, we looked in our index and we actually have two copies of his seminal work, *Of the Lawes of Ecclesiastical Politie*; the first was printed in London by Stansby in 1617 and donated by Prowse and the second, published by Scott in London in 1682, and donated by Roger Gillingham, cofounder of the Chained Library.



Hooker was one of the most important English theologians of the 16th century, whose work established a distinctive Anglican theology balancing scripture, reason and tradition. Hooker is seen by many as treading a *via media* (middle way) between Protestantism and Catholicism, arriving at a new

Anglicanism – which, however, really took shape only in the 17th century. His best-known work is *Of the Lawes of Ecclesiastical Politie*, the first five books of which were published between 1594 and 1597, and the remaining three books after his death. It is generally considered the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English. In these volumes, as well as promoting a *via media*, Hooker

- defended the Church of England against both Roman Catholicism and Puritanism;
- advocated a “threefold cord” of authority: scripture, reason and tradition;
- developed a philosophy of natural law, emphasizing God’s eternal wisdom as the foundation for both ecclesiastical and civil governance.

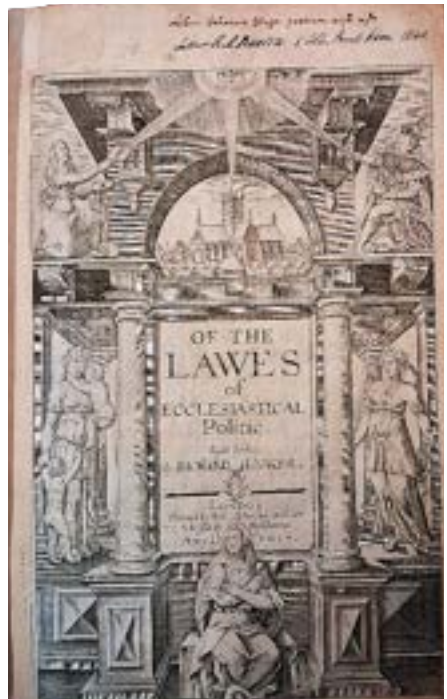
Hooker’s theology emphasized that scripture holds absolute authority where it is clear, but reason and church tradition guide interpretation when scripture is ambiguous. He viewed the Church as an organic institution, capable of adapting its governance to circumstances while remaining in continuity with historic Christianity. Hooker was born in Heavitree, near Exeter, in a modest family; however, he benefited from an influential uncle, and the help of another Devonian, John Jewel, bishop of Salisbury, who funded his education at Oxford. Hooker was ordained in 1579, and in 1581 was appointed to preach a public sermon at St Paul’s Cross (outside the cathedral). In London, he married the daughter of a well-off merchant. Meanwhile, he came into conflict with some Puritans over his preaching, and began writing his great work,

which is a critique of the Puritans and their attacks on the Church of England and the Book of Common Prayer. While he still lived in London, he did spend time in Salisbury and made use of the Cathedral Library. When he became Rector of two parishes in Kent (Bishopscombe and Barham, only 5 miles from Canterbury) in 1595, he moved there with his family and continued to focus on revising the final volumes of the *Laws*. He died in November 1600, leaving a widow and four daughters, and is buried in the church. In his will he left money for a 'newer and sufficient pulpit' in the church, a simple wooden one which is still there today.



The Laws was influential not only in theology but also in political theory, for instance in his defence of human reason. It was also important for the development of English prose, although the Librarian of Exeter Cathedral, in her notes about Hooker, comments that the first page and a half consists of just two sentences! In the context of fierce theological argument in the late 16th centuries, Hooker's 'moderation and civil style of argument' have also been commented on. Hooker is commemorated in the Church calendar on November 3, the day of his death.

- Mike Twomey, Senior Librarian,
Chained Library
(with biographical details added by
Rosalind Jensen)



*Images: Statue of Hooker outside Exeter Cathedral;
Top right: Bishopsacombe Church, Kent;
Above: Frontispiece of 1617 edition of the Laws, Chained Library
Reference:*

Laws, Emma, Exeter Cathedral Librarian (2024), 'Richard Hooker: Inventing Anglicanism', <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk>

Book Review

America As It Happened (2025), What on Earth Publishing, £25 hardback)



I was fortunate to receive a copy of this book from the publisher for the school library, in return for a review online. The book runs through US history from the

century to dip into at random, rather than beginning at 'the beginning', or follow up the events that have happened in your own lifetime. At this confusing and distressing time in American history, it is well worth learning more about the past centuries, how this country was formed and has changed. While I do recommend sharing this with Middle School-age children in your family, for whom it was designed, I think

prehistory of the continent to the present day.

Each double page spread has newspaper articles, reporting events as current news. To help you, there's a timeline, and a specific colour of page edge for each century.

Though 'history as news' is a slightly old-fashioned layout – particularly when many people don't read newspapers! – it does work well. The 11- and 12-year-olds I showed it to were impressed and interested. There are good illustrations, drawings initially, of course, but photographs for later centuries. It's also useful to have some events highlighted, when they had repercussions later on or in the modern period.

There is good coverage of different points of view, such as the treatment of Native Americans and, of course, slavery. It was disconcerting to come across some Pacific history until I realised it was leading up to the time when Hawaii became one of the 50 States! You might like to choose a



any adult reader is also guaranteed to find out something new about the USA! - **Rosalind Jensen**



Have you been enjoying a book recently? Have you made a special reading discovery of your own that you'd like to share? Why not write a review or just a brief comment for the magazine. We'd love to hear from more of our readers! (Image: Library of Congress)

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