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# The Messenger

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

Issue 416 March 2026

## Revd Daile writes -

I am a reformed chocoholic. My family will tell you that chocolate has always been my first love. I don't like white chocolate, and I am not always impressed with some of the newer luxury brands. I am old-fashioned and love Cadbury's or Galaxy, and the familiar classics.

For years, when Lent comes around, I am always impressed when people say they have given something up — whether it is alcohol, chocolate, or something else. The act of giving something up, or taking something up, is supposed to help us draw closer to God. But I have never quite understood how giving up something I love, like chocolate, would draw me closer to God — when I have tried, it only ever made me grumpy (which Paul will testify to!).

I am also impressed with those people who take something up for Lent — again, something I struggle with. We live busy lives, and taking up something new can just feel like adding another burden.

I know that for many, giving something up or taking something up during Lent is important and genuinely helps them in their faith. But for me, it has always been something I wrestle with.

A few years ago, I tried something



different.

There is a book written by Stephen Cottrell called *The Things He Carried*. It contains meditations for Lent and Holy Week based on the items that Jesus carried with him to the cross — a cross, a crown of thorns, a robe, our sorrows, a broken heart, and his followers' disappointments.

It made me wonder: instead of struggling to give something up or take something up, what if I carried something with me through Lent — wherever I went? Something I could hold or touch during the day. Something to remind me to pray, or simply to pause and breathe.

That's what I did — and it has become my Lenten practice.

Throughout Lent I carry something with me that reminds me to stop. To **Stop**, to **Pause**, to **Reflect**, to **Ask**, and to **Yield** — which, if you notice, forms the acronym PRAY.

Among the things I have carried are nails and small crosses, but it could be anything: a wooden dove, a holding cross, a Bible verse written out, a stone, dried flower — in fact, anything that has meaning for you.

I have introduced this idea in churches where I have served, and I have many stories of people showing me the crosses in their pockets — even weeks

after Easter has passed — because it has been such a transforming experience.

One man even drilled a hole in the nail I gave him and now wears it as a necklace.



So my question is not: What are you giving up for Lent?

But rather: What are you going to carry with you as you journey with Jesus to the cross?

Blessings, *Daile*

## Church Services

### You are invited to join us ...

**March 2026**

**1st March**

10am Holy Communion in Holy Trinity

**8<sup>th</sup> March**

10am Holy Communion in St Barnabas

**15<sup>th</sup> March**

10am An All Age Celebration for Mothering Sunday in Holy Trinity



**22<sup>nd</sup> March**

9.45am for 10am

Cafe Church in Cleeve Village Hall

(An informal service which starts with breakfast)



More information - Tel: 01934 904765



**Easter 2026**

**Palm Sunday Group Service**

29<sup>th</sup> March - 10am Holy Communion  
St Mary's Yatton

**Maundy Thursday in St Barnabas**

2<sup>nd</sup> April - 7pm Holy Communion

**Good Friday in St Barnabas**

3<sup>rd</sup> April - 2pm An Hour at the Cross

**Easter Sunday in Holy Trinity**

5<sup>th</sup> April - 6.30am Sunrise Service

*followed by breakfast*

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



## Midweek Services at Holy Trinity

At 9.30 every Thursday morning apart from 19<sup>th</sup> March which will be at 9am

### Yatton Benefice Services

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY** - 1st March

8.30am St. John's: BCP Holy Communion

10.00am St. Mary's: Holy Communion

11.00am All Saints': All Together

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY** - 8<sup>th</sup> March

8.30am All Saints': BCP Holy Communion

10.00am St Mary's: Holy Communion

11.00am St. John's: All Together

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY** - 15<sup>th</sup> March -

#### Mothering Sunday

10.00am St. Mary's: Morning Prayer

11.00am All Saints' - Family

Friendly Mothering Sunday

Service for Kenn and Kingston Seymour

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

10.00am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am St John's Kenn YM

Benefice Service of Holy

Communion with Breaking of

Bread and Hot Cross Buns

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** 29<sup>th</sup> March

#### Palm Sunday

10.00am St Mary's - Group Service

Holy Communion

#### MID-WEEK SERVICES on

Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

8.15am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Contact Mike Cooke for the link.

### PANCAKE LUNCH



coming together for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to send £320 to Clevedon Foodbank, £320 to the Mothers' Union to help with their work in the UK and abroad and £320 to Cleeve and Claverham Parochial Church Council to help maintain their work and outreach within our two village communities.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event, and also to those who worked so hard and helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable and successful.

Lin

#### Happy customer Elke Davies says -

*I take my hat off to the cooks - a huge choice of fillings for both the potatoes and the pancakes. Don't know how they do it. All very tasty!*

On the last Thursday before Lent, there was a super turnout of parishioners, villagers from Cleeve and Claverham, together with Mothers' Union members from nearby branches who all enjoyed a filled jacket potato and two sweet pancakes, plus a convivial chat with friends and neighbours at Cleeve Village Hall.

The fact that we could not hold the event on Shrove Tuesday did not deter over 90 folks



## HOLY TRINITY - Lent Lunch



Holy Trinity's 2026 Lent Lunch is to be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** in the Church Room.

Lunch will be from 12 noon until 2pm – a choice of home-made soups, followed by a cheese roll, a sweet, plus tea/coffee.

**Tickets, which cost just £6, are available from Lin on 838515 or Gill on 832917.** You can pay on the day, but numbers are needed for catering purposes

All funds raised on the day will be donated to the Clevedon and District Foodbank.

Come along and enjoy a good wholesome lunch and support a local charity doing great work in our community.

PS – if anyone would like to bring along a donation of food or goods for the Foodbank, we will gladly deliver it to them.

## Archdeacon's Visitation Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** Archdeacon of Bath, Charlie Peer will be spending the day in the parish. The aim is for senior clergy to get to know us and an understanding of the joys and challenges of ministry in our Benefice, as well as perform Daile's clergy Ministry Development Review.

The day will begin at 9am at the Thursday Morning Holy Communion to which all are welcome – **please note the earlier time.** He will be visiting Court de Wyck, the Warm Room, St Barnabas and Holy Trinity. Charlie will be at the Warm Room between 12.30- 1.30pm. If you would like to speak with him do join us for lunch. In the afternoon he will be meeting with the deputy Churchwardens and members of the PCC.

On Sunday **22<sup>nd</sup> March**, Charlie will be joining us for Café Church from 9.30am, and will be speaking to us about his visit. Please do try and attend so that we have a full house.

### A new thing...

Thinking of a Spring de-clutter? Most people have items that they no longer want or need in their homes, things that have been upgraded and are mouldering in a cupboard collecting dust although perfectly useable, things bought on impulse and regretted, etc.

It has been suggested that we have a Messenger spot each month for people to list things that they either want to rehome or that they are looking for. This may prevent useable items being sent to landfill, and may save recipients some money. It will be run on the lines of a Freecycle but with a donation to church funds.

The logistics of the scheme are still being worked out and there will be further details in the April Messenger.

*Ed*

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, a group of us spent the day with 'The Crafty Vicar'.



Daile and her friend Sue gave us a beginner's course in wet felting and after a delicious bring and share lunch we had a tutorial in needle felting.

It was a wonderful day, with good company, good food and an opportunity to learn a new craft. No experience was necessary, as Sue and Daile guided us through.

The day was so enjoyable we asked the Crafty Vicar to plan more in the coming months – and she has booked the following Saturday dates - **7<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May**. The time will be 10-4pm, come for the whole day, or just part of the day.

At the March date we will be learning more about wet and needle felting, plus there is the opportunity to bring your own crafts and spend time doing them in good company.

The outline for the day in March will be:

- 10am Arrive, coffee, show and tell, own crafts or try a different craft that is provided.
- 10.45am Tutorial for wet/needle felting project or do your own thing!
- 1pm Bring and Share lunch
- 2pm Continue with project, try another craft or do your own thing.

As spaces are limited, we are asking for £5 to reserve a space. This will go towards the resources we use. If you would like to book a space, sign up on the list in church, or contact Daile or Gill. Why not invite a friend along, as it is a great way to introduce people to the church. Nearer the time we will organise what people need to bring for lunch so we don't all bring the same thing.



## Cleeve and Claverham Village events.

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

Helen Mortimer will be running in the 2026 TCS London Marathon in aid of the Alheimers Society

If you would like to help to support her fund-raising efforts, we are holding a Pop-Up stall, selling cakes and pies at 40 Cleeve Drive on Saturday 14th March between 10am and noon. Helen hopes to be with us on the day, following her Saturday morning Parkrun  
If you can't come along, but wish to support Helen, as well as enjoying delicious pies and cakes, you can pre-order cakes/pies by ringing us on **838515**.

Thank you in advance for your support for Helen.

*Lin and Dave Mortimer*



## FOCOS BINGO EVENING

### FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – CLEEVE VILLAGE HALL

**One of the main fundraising events to pay for the FOCOS Mystery Outing in 2026 is our BINGO NIGHT, but it is a brilliant night out for everyone.**

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

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

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

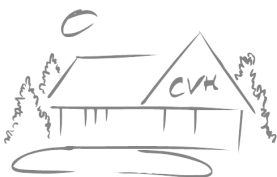
## Wonderwool Wales

The North Somerset Embroidery and Textile Group is going on a trip to Wonderwool Wales (<https://wonderwoolwales.co.uk>) on **April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**. Wonderwool Wales is the largest Wool, yarn, natural fibre and textile festival in Wales and the UK and takes place at the Royal Welsh Showground just outside Built Wells. There is a popular Street Food area with delicious food choices in addition to 5 coffee outlets across the halls, a bonus at such a busy craft fair.



The group has hired a coach and there are a few spare seats available at the cost of £10 per person (this does not include the entrance ticket, which can be bought at the door or online beforehand). The coach will be picking up in Clevedon (by the small carpark next to Lidl) at 8am and we will be leaving Wonderwool at 4pm. If you are interested and want to book a seat, please contact Elke Davies at [elkedavies@btinternet.com](mailto:elkedavies@btinternet.com) by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**Claverham Ladies' Guild** went down memory lane last month with a very enjoyable slide show about the 'Carry On' films!



This month they are meeting on **Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm for tea, cake and a talk from a charity that they supported last year – 'North Somerset Parent Carers' and also have an Easter sales table.

This month's Market at Claverham Village Hall will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** from 10am – 12 noon. Always good to meet friends, have a chat over a cup of tea, with lots to see and tempting things to buy, a visit is always a congenial experience!

## Forthcoming Yatton Events

### Feb/March Music Concerts at St Mary's Yatton

**Saturday February 28 at 7.30pm** CarmenCo – 'A Pocket Opera' St Mary's  
Performed by Emily Andrews mezzo/flute; David Massey & Francisco Correa.  
CarmenCo will have the audience in turn laughing out loud and listening in absolute silence to the immersive and evocative music and performance. It's a brilliantly accessible and fun way to present classical music. A fun-filled evening of fantasy, comedy, drama and wonderful music



**Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm** Alastair Penman (saxophone) and Jonathan Pease (piano)  
Alastair is Professor of Saxophone at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and a regular guest tutor at conservatoires in the UK and abroad.



His musical life covers solo, ensemble, orchestral, jazz and composing. His accompanist Jonathan Pease is also a composer and active conductor and church musician. He has worked with musical groups including Royal Opera House, Garsington Opera and Glyndebourne. Their first album as a duo in 2023 has been described as "an extended dazzling display of talent"

Their concert will be an eclectic programme for us to enjoy the fantastic melodies that can be created by the saxophone.

Tickets price £15, YMS members and students £10, accompanied children under 16 free.  
Details of this concert are on the Yatton Music Society's website [www.yms.org.uk](http://www.yms.org.uk)

### Yatton Local History Society

**Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>** talk on Avon and Somerset Police by Alan Vowles before AGM and refreshments 7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April** The varied and interesting history of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School in Bristol from 1586 to the present day by Guest Speaker, Steve Ryan.

[yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com](mailto:yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com)

!

## Cleeve and Claverham Mothers' Union



**MU 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Today we welcomed Julia Bush, from Kenn, to speak about her friendship with The Blay family, of Kumasi in Ghana.

In the mid 1980s Julia visited a dermatologist, who she sensed had something special about him. She found him to be very involved in trying to do God's work; for a month each year he would take off to teach medical students in third world countries.

He wasn't long back from Ghana, and mentioned his particular concern about the well-being and hunger of students there.

Thus she found herself helping a particular family by sending out parcels of clothing for their three children, later to grow to six! They were delighted to be able to clothe their children well enough to send them to school, and were particularly proud when a length of pink Laura Ashley fabric was made into a dress for their daughter's first communion.

She noticed that the girls were all educated locally up to the age of 15, and were always in work; whereas the boys all went on to further education and training, but there weren't the career opportunities for them at this level.

This became a longlasting friendship, with Kenn people raising funds to clothe the children, and now the children's children. Julia was regarded as their English 'mummy' and still helps with the widow and children of the eldest son, for whom the youngest brother, Michael, has taken on responsibility.

Their eldest girl has gone on for further education, soon to be followed by two of the boys. This has been quite a struggle for Michael on top of his own partner and two children. What a lovely example of the importance of family.

The church has always played a large part in their lives, and once when Julia hadn't heard from them for a while she was able to make contact through their Roman Catholic priest.

This has been a super experience for Julia and her friends, watching the children growing into adults and knowing what a large part she has played in this process.

*Hazel Bassingham*

### **Future Meetings:-**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March - Lunch at the Strawberry Line Cafe - 12 noon with the annual 'MAKE A MOTHERS DAY COLLECTION'**

**17<sup>th</sup> March - Refugee Centre with Josie Ellis -HT at 12 noon**

**21<sup>st</sup> April My connection with the Air Ambulance with Jennie Pascoe HT at 12 noon.**

### Claverham MP's surgeries

The MP for Claverham and Yatton is **Tessa Munt**, who will be holding the following surgeries in this area during March

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - Disati Café, Kenn - 14:30-15:30

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Congresbury Community Café – 09:30-10:30

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** - Note Warehouse, Yatton - 10:00-11:00

All surgeries operate on a first come, first served basis and no appointment is necessary.

### Memory Lane

In the most recent All About Cleeve I noticed an article reprinted from 1995 by Ted Loveridge, a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity.

Ted was a very enthusiastic contributor to the Messenger until his death in 2007. In fact after a while he had a slot of his own called 'Ted's Bit!' He usually sent me poems, sometimes of his own composition.

Coincidentally whilst sorting out a pile of old paperwork last week I came across an antique Messenger from 2007 which included this poem, originally posted in the Messenger in 1996 which I am including in Ted's memory!

### God's Garden

Bless O Lord this strip of earth  
As each seedling comes to birth  
May the rain and sunshine bring  
Beauty to their blossoming  
Bless my toil with spade and hoe  
Helping loveliness to grow  
And among my apple trees  
Golden dusted honey bees



In the garden let me see  
How to labour, Lord, with thee,  
How to work with tireless care  
Making lawns and borders fair  
When the daylight hours have run,  
And I walk at set of sun  
In my garden, thankfully,  
Lord of Gardens, walk with me.

### An Easter Morning Diary Date

*As usual there will be a full breakfast served at 6.30am on Easter morning, the 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Church Room at Holy Trinity.*

*It is always a wonderful start to our Easter Celebrations so why not set your alarm and come and join us!*



## Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

Kath Hunt Alan Hunt	March 1st
Gill Roe Helen Bailey	March 15th
Carole Perrott Jennie Ford	April 5th
Jenny Haworth	April 19th

## Daft Funnies

**Ron reports** -At my keep fit exercise class I was told to wear loose clothing. Well if I had any I wouldn't be going would I?

Wife asked me what I thought of my experience of the YMCA. Well, it was alright I suppose. But I wouldn't make a song and dance about it.

**Clive's contributions** – Scientists got very bored watching the Earth rotate for 24 hours. So they called it a day

A man died recently after falling into a giant vat of coffee. His wife says that he didn't suffer because it was instant.

## Useful Church Contacts

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

## Life Instructions from children -

**Always** wear a hat while feeding seagulls

**Never** tell your mum her diet isn't working.

**Sleep** in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning.



**Never** try to baptize a cat.

**Don't** pinch your sister when she is holding a cricket bat.

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

The April edition will be published on the last Sunday of March so any contributions for the March edition should be with me by **Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

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

If any reader who currently has a printed copy of the Messenger would like to have it delivered by e-mail instead please e-mail me at the above address. *Ed*