

On the struggle for life in a rectory

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in an 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirt-sleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

The Rector Writes 2026

For the love of June

Sisters and brothers in Christ

June is one of those months that feels full of life. The days are longer, the weather is warmer (hopefully!) and everywhere seems brighter. Gardens are blooming, people are out walking more, and parks are full of children playing late into the evening. After the cold and darkness of winter, June can feel like a breath of fresh air.

It is also a busy time of year. Schools begin winding down towards the summer holidays, exams finally start to finish, and many families begin planning trips away. There are village fairs, barbecues, sports days, and of course the arrival of Wimbledon, with its strawberries, cream, and endless talk about the British weather!

In the middle of all this, June can remind us of something important in our faith: God is found in ordinary life. We often think of faith as something connected only to church services or quiet prayer, but God is also present in the everyday moments — sharing food with family, chatting with neighbours, sitting in a garden, or enjoying the beauty of creation.

At this time of year, creation itself seems to point us towards God. Flowers are in bloom, birds sing early in the morning, and the countryside looks alive again. The Bible says in Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Sometimes simply stopping to enjoy a sunny evening or listening to birdsong can help us feel closer to God than we realise.

June also brings Fathers' Day, which gives us a chance to say thank you to those who care for, guide, and support us. For some people, it is a joyful day, while for others it can be difficult or emotional. The Christian faith reminds us that God's fatherly love is constant and steady — like a loving parent who never gives up on us.

This month is also a time when many churches begin looking ahead to the summer season. Choirs prepare for concerts and a well-earned rest, communities organise summer fairs, and plans are made for holidays, pilgrimages, and outreach events. Churches often become busy places in June, filled with weddings, baptisms, and other important celebrations. There is something special about seeing families and friends gathered in joy, reminding us that faith is not just personal, but something shared in community.

Continued p.2

June can also encourage us to slow down a little. Modern life is busy and noisy, and it is easy to rush from one thing to the next without noticing the world around us. Yet Jesus often stepped away from crowds to spend time quietly in prayer and in nature. Perhaps we need to do the same sometimes — putting down our phones, sitting outside for a while, and simply being thankful for the blessings we already have.

Perhaps one of the best things about June is the feeling of hope it brings. Summer is beginning, holidays are ahead, and people seem just a little more cheerful. In a world that can often feel heavy with bad news, that sense of hope matters.

So maybe this month is a good opportunity for all of us to notice the beauty around us, spend time with people we care about, and remember that God is present not only in the big moments of life, but also in the small and simple ones too.

May this June bring sunshine, peace, laughter, and renewed hope to us all.

The Rector

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

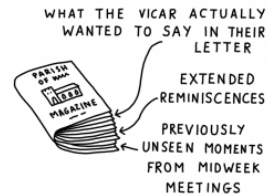
THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



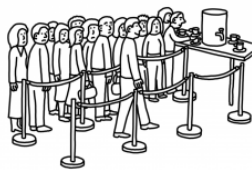
PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



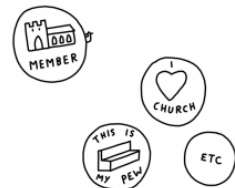
A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



A BADGE, AND SOME STICKERS

CartoonChurch.com

Feed the birds – but thoughtfully



If you enjoy feeding the birds, you are not alone. Up to 60% of all households in the UK regularly feed their wild birds, according to surveys from UK Pet Food. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold.

When feeding wild birds, here are five mistakes to avoid:

Not keeping the feeders clean. This can spread disease. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.

Leaving too much food out. It attracts rodents. Instead, the RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large piece of nut cannot choke baby birds. Avoid putting out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.

Feeding bread. This can lead to malnutrition. Bread is high in carbohydrates, while garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.

Forgetting to provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.

Putting feeders in the wrong place. Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Using an array of feeders will attract a wide range of birds.

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible Colossians

This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: *'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us?* This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: *'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority'* (2:9-10).

He affirms that Jesus is:

Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18).

Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).

Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.



Message from the Mothers' Union Website at <https://www.mothersunion.org.event/150>

In 2026, we will celebrate 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born – and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries. As we look to the future our members will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of everything we do will remain our unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

As we look ahead to this remarkable milestone, we invite you to be part of it. Whether you're passionate about social justice, prayer, community outreach, or simply want to connect with people who care, there will be a way for you to join us and join in.

150th Celebratory Service – St Paul's Cathedral, London. 10th June 2026 at 5:00 PM

Annual Gathering – The Emmanuel Centre (next to Mary Sumner House). 11th June 2026, 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

As a Branch we are having a Celebratory Eucharist on Sunday June 14th at 10am at St Oswald's Church. All parishioners are invited to this service to help us to celebrate. On the same day in the afternoon at 2pm everyone is invited to join in a Messy Church /Mothers' Union Teddy Bear's picnic at St Oswald's Church. Please bring your own picnic – teddy bears not essential!

FROM THE REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Infant baptisms at St Oswald's Church, Guiseley



Charlotte Everly Hope daughter of Oliver and Laura

HOLY MATRIMONY

Those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder



On Friday 22nd June

Steven Paul Jackson and Julie Emma Noble

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon Steven and Julie in their new life together.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts
and a crown upon their heads.
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
awake and asleep,
in joy and in sorrow,
in life and in death.
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen*



Celebrating Fathers

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is *'well pleased'* with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.



Mothers' Union.

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The meeting of the Branch in May welcomed Liz Barker, parishioner and churchwarden from St Paul's Esholt, who introduced us to Bee Keeping.

Liz is obviously passionate about bees and fascinated us with her description of their lives and analogy to the lives of humans! I think we may have to invite her to return in the future because there was so much more she had to say but time ran out and we needed to break for tea and biscuits!! Members all agreed it was a most informative and enjoyable afternoon.

Members were very generous again with their donations of toiletries at the meeting and these have been donated to the Bradford Food Bank. We will continue to collect at future meetings.

To celebrate 150 years of the Mothers' Union there are many events happening worldwide throughout the year. Major events in this country are a service in St Paul's Cathedral in London on June 10th and an Annual Gathering of members the following day in London. I am going to these events.

As a Branch we are having a Celebratory Eucharist on Sunday June 14th at 10am at St Oswald's Church. All parishioners are invited to this service to help us to celebrate. On the same day in the afternoon at 2pm everyone is invited to join in a Messy Church /Mothers' Union Teddy Bear's picnic at St Oswald's Church. Please bring your own picnic – teddy bears not essential!

The Mothers' Union Area President of our Episcopal Area, Daryl Kelly, will be coming to our monthly meeting on Wednesday June 3rd to explain and answer questions from members about Mothers' Union in the Diocese. This will be at 1:30pm in the Guide Hut.

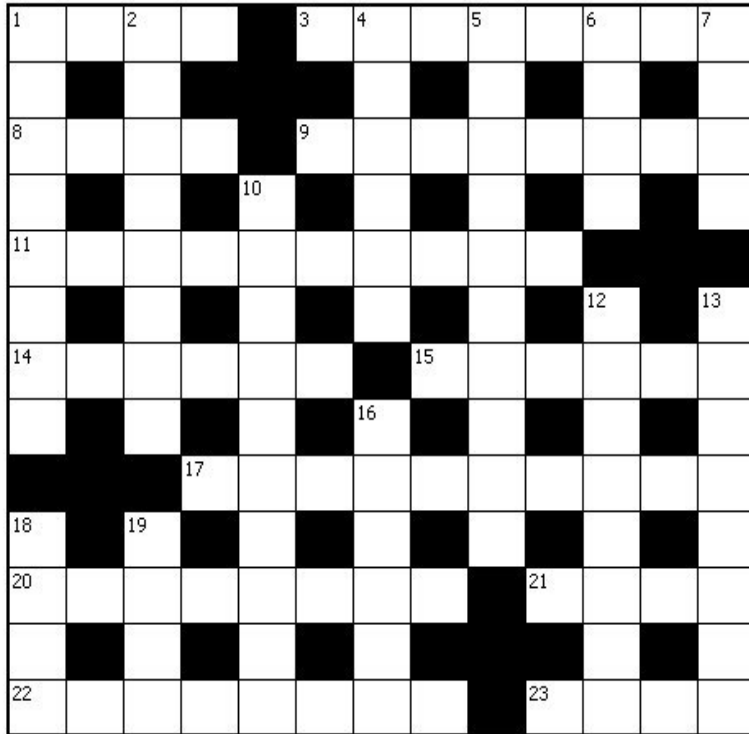
Members are continuing to knit squares for blankets and baby bonnets as our challenge to knit 150 of each during the year.

God Bless

Judith Archdale



Solutions on p.16



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Hawksworth School News

The school theme for this summer term is 'Ey Up Yorkshire'. The local area and environment will be incorporated into many of the curriculum areas. This hopefully allows the children to develop a love for God's own country.

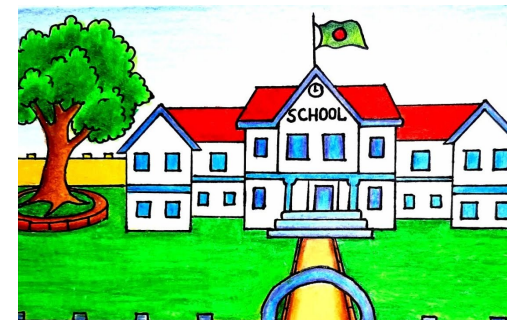
As part of this the children have been working on the position of Yorkshire on a map of Great Britain, using a book by a Yorkshire author Gervase Phinn as their class book and exploring the work of Yorkshire artist David Hockney. All classes continue to have regular Forest School sessions.

Year 6 have been working hard since Easter to prepare themselves for their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs). The children approached these tests with maturity, resilience and determination and hopefully their hard work will be rewarded when the results are published in July.

All the 'Hawksworth family' are appreciative of the beautiful countryside around the school and pleased to help with maintaining the outside spaces. The staff and children are very grateful for the help from parents, grandparents and extended family who readily give up their free time to help tending to borders, filling pots and planters with colourful plants and making equipment for using in the classrooms and the outside areas.

The Friends of Hawksworth have recently purchased some new iPads for school. These will make a welcome addition to assist learning within the classrooms. Staff and pupils are very appreciative of the time one of the parents has spent setting up the iPads ready for use in the classroom.

Photos of school activities can be viewed on the website www.hawksworthceprimary.org and on school's Instagram and Facebook pages.



Seven historical 'Cures'



In the 6th article of this series, we consider:

The Babylonian Skull Cure (Yes, You Sleep With It)

In ancient Babylon, if you ground your teeth at night, doctors believed a **ghost** was trying to contact you. The cure?

Sleep beside a human skull for a week.

And to make sure the spirit got the message:

You had to kiss and lick the skull seven times each night.

Nothing says "goodnight" like some casual bone-kissing.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony

This month we are looking at *Gluttony*. Which food do we find hardest to resist? It is reported that 66% of adults in the UK are overweight or obese. Gluttony is indulgence to excess, usually involving food, but can also include drinking, screen time, shopping etc.

Paul warns us about the dangers of gluttony when he refers to those whose minds are set on earthly things: *'their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.'* (Philippians 3:19). Our struggle with gluttony is often the outward sign of a spiritual hunger for acceptance, love, or self-worth. This desire for satisfaction cannot be satisfied by food alone.

How can we overcome gluttony?

Glorify God with your body: 'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?'

(1 Corinthians 6:19). Paul reminds us that our bodies belong to God; as temples of the Holy Spirit, we should use them to glorify God. While we have freedom in the things we consume, we are also called to honour God in our actions.

Exercise self-control: 'live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16). Paul goes on to list self-control as one of the Fruit of the Spirit (5:23). As we examine ourselves and identify those areas where we lack self-control, we can entrust them to God, asking for the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome gluttony.

We recognise that true satisfaction is only found in a desire for God alone: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).



The Green Team's News and Calendar for June 2026

As we start this summer the theme from A Rocha is to take part in a local Nature event. There are many around but one quite close to St Oswalds is a Green Fair taking place at Guiseley Methodist Church on the 4th of July 10am to 3pm. Come along and see what ideas you can include in your lives towards a more sustainable life.

June 2026 Calendar

01/06/2026: 7pm Green team meeting held at [Ashtofts Mount](#)

06/06/2026: The annual Churches Count on Nature is part of the Love your Burial Ground week This is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. It will start at 11am in St Oswalds Churchyard. Green team members will be involved in identifying and taking photographs of as many plants, birds and wildlife as they see. The photographic results will be uploaded on to the iNaturalist app along with hundreds of other participating organisations throughout the UK

06/06/2026: 1pm to 4.00pm The Repair Café at St Margarets Church Horsforth. <https://horsforthclimateaction.org/discover-the-magic-of-repair-at-the-leeds-repair-cafe-in-horsforth/>

13/06/2026: 9.30am The Parish Walk Please meet at Lakeland Drive LS17 7PJ for a walk to [Eccup Reservoir](#) led by Sarah

27/06/2026: 9am to 11am Church Yard Tidy

04/07/2026: 10am to 3pm 'Earth Dependence Day' Green Fair at Guiseley Methodist in collaboration with St Oswalds Green Team

Eco Tip As the summer heats up please remember that bees and other insects need water, place a shallow dish filled with pebbles or marbles. Refill with fresh water every day.



15th June
Evelyn Underhill
Mystical writer of the 20th century

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died on 10th June 1941 after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first women theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the 'still desert' of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation". Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

Good Faith
Why England Needs the Church
Angela Tilby
Hodder and Stoughton

The history of the Church of England may seem like a fairly esoteric subject to many people, but for those of us are members and regular worshippers it is in many ways part of our very being. Each one of us is rooted in its history by the simple fact that we regularly come together to worship and in so doing follow in the steps of the many millions who down the years have maintained a Christian vision for our nation. A factor that we share with our many ecumenical neighbours.

In this book Angela Tilby, journalist, Reader, Deacon, Priest and Theologian has written a comprehensive history of the church in England with an emphasis on what a colleague of some years in the past described as the *dear old Church of England*.

It is a history that begins in the earliest developments of the nation through the centuries and includes a description of many examples of how its contribution has influenced both civic and religious life. The development of the different English versions of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer that pre dated the Common Worship of today's Church.

It is a history of different theological visions that were often in conflict with each other, though it is also a story of how local parishes have served their communities through the gifts of clergy and laity who maintained and developed a religious vision and outlook.

In the later chapters, Tilby describes how since the 1960's the CofE has seen various upheavals in ways that challenged the accepted status quo, whilst different theological traditions with labels such as liberal, conservative, evangelical, catholic and charismatic sought to offer differing theological and liturgical perspectives.

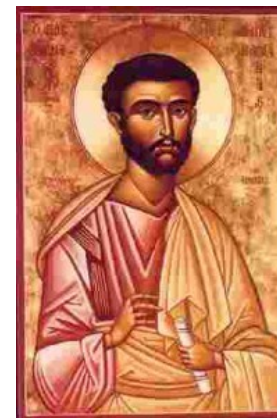
The years prior to Covid 19 and after highlighted the issue of decline in worshippers and led to new models of what is meant by local church. It is in these chapters that Tilby describes the highlights the issues that we face at present and in the future.

This is a very readable and accessible book, anyone with an interest in our shared religious journey will learn much from its chapters, and to return to the comment above, they will find much to celebrate in *our dear old Church of England*.

Revd. Dr. Terry Drummond

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| Monday 1st | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Bells Practice | St Oswald's |
| Wednesday 3rd | |
| 1.30 - Mothers' Union | Guide Hut |
| Thursday 4th - Corpus Christi | |
| 10am - Midweek Communion & Breakfast | St Oswald's |
| 12.30pm - Lunchtime Concert The Fairfax Singers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Choir Practice | St Oswald's |
| Friday 5th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| Sunday 7th | |
| 8am - Said Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 10am - Sung Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 11am - St Paul's Eucharist | Esholt |
| 6pm - Choral Evensong | St Oswald's |
| Monday 8th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Bells Practice | St Oswald's |
| Thursday 11th - Barnabas the Apostle | |
| 10am - Midweek Communion & Breakfast | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Choir Practice | St Oswald's |
| Friday 12th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| Sunday 14th | |
| 8am - Said Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 10am - Mothers' Union Celebratory Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 2pm - Messy Church/Teddy Bears' Picnic | St Oswald's |
| Monday 15th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Bells Practice | St Oswald's |
| Tuesday 16th | |
| 12.30pm - More Tea Vicar? | Parish Centre |
| Thursday 18th | |
| 10am - Midweek Communion & Breakfast | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Choir Practice | St Oswald's |
| Friday 19th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| Sunday 21st | |
| 8am - Said Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 10am - Sung Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 11am - St Paul's Eucharist | Esholt |
| 6pm - Choral Evensong | St Oswald's |

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| Monday 22nd | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Bells Practice | St Oswald's |
| Wednesday 24th - The birth of John the Baptist | |
| Thursday 25th | |
| 10am - Midweek Communion & Breakfast | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Choir Practice | St Oswald's |
| Friday 26th | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| Sunday 28th | |
| 8am - Said Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 10am - Sung Eucharist | St Oswald's |
| 11am - St Paul's Eucharist | Esholt |
| Monday 29th - Peter and Paul, Apostles | |
| 9.15am - Morning Prayers | St Oswald's |
| 7pm - Bells Practice | St Oswald's |



St Barnabas—11th June

Barnabas was a hellenized Jew who joined the church soon after Christ's crucifixion, sold his property, and gave the proceeds to the community (Acts 4:36–37). He was one of the Cypriots who founded (Acts 11:19–20) the church in Antioch, where he preached. After he called St Paul from Tarsus as his assistant (Acts 11:25), they undertook joint missionary activity (Acts 13–14) and then went to Jerusalem in 48. Shortly afterward, a serious conflict separated them, and Barnabas sailed to Cyprus (Acts 15:39). There is no contemporary mention of his subsequent activity, except for a brief reference by Paul a few years later (1 Corinthians 9:6).