

Dates for the Diary

10th September – Alpha Course starts at Station Hill Baptist Church 7pm

13th September – Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride

St Pauls Church Board Game Night

First Thursday of the month 7.30pm in St. Pauls Church Hall

All ages welcome

Bring your own game or play one of ours

Please Pray

Pray for the team involved in the interview process for our new vicar. Pray for God's wisdom, discernment and guidance for all involved and that God's peace would flow through the process as it progresses.

Contact Details

We are in a period of interregnum, contact the office

Facebook@harnishchurch

Some of our Lay Ministers

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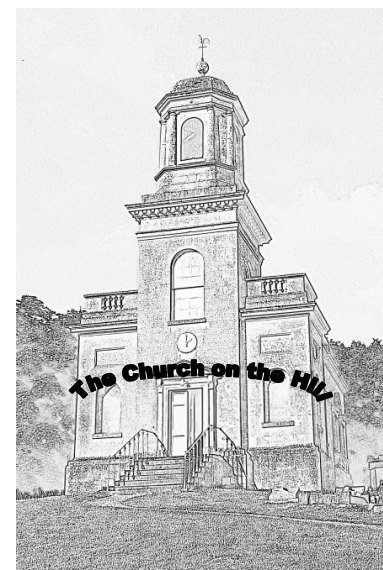
Greenways Group of Churches

St. Nicholas News September 2025

The Rt Rev Maurice Wood (1916-2007)

Bishop Maurice Wood prayer seems appropriate for Hardenhuish:

"Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden; so that men and women and children may find Christ as the light of the world, and his church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord"



Sunday	7 th September	4.00pm	Afternoon Praise
Sunday	14 th September	4.00pm	Afternoon Praise with Communion
Sunday	21st September	4.00pm	Afternoon Praise
Sunday	28 th September	4.00pm	Afternoon Praise

Ministry Musings

Please Pray – Team Rector Vacancy

Dates for the Diary

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

The Alpha Course

Greenways Benefice weekend away April 2026

A Beautiful Coda: Bishop Viv's Calling

Ministry Musings

September, the month when many of us, young and not so young, start on a new phase in our lives. Some go off to new places of learning, some face work in their chosen place in the world. For them it can be a challenging and interesting time!

This set me thinking about those we read of in the bible, especially those who encountered Jesus or His disciples and were healed by them. How their lives were changed!

One special case we remember clearly, possibly because of the catchy song we used to sing:

*Peter and John went to pray
They met a lame man on the way.*

The man begged for money as was his custom, and imagine his surprise when instead of some coins he received healing!

There is plenty for us to learn from this lovely story. Firstly, we can think back to the story told in Matthew's gospel. A man brought his son to Jesus, asking Him to heal him. The young lad had seizures putting him in danger often of falling into water or fire. He suffered greatly and his life was miserable so his father had asked Jesus' disciples to heal him. They couldn't do so, but of course Jesus could –and did. They later privately turned to Jesus asking why *they* couldn't drive out the evil demon which was terrorizing the boy. Jesus seemed quite disappointed and replied: *Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.* Matthew 17:14-21

Peter and John are so changed when we meet them later! So strong is their faith that now they show no hesitation in healing the lame man, who gets to his feet and goes off *walking and leaping and praising God*.

So what do we make of this man? You can find his story in Acts, chapter 3. We are told that he had been crippled from birth, and friends carried him

each day to the Beautiful Gate so he could beg from those going into the temple. When he saw Peter and John approaching he inevitably begged money from them. Some passers-by gave, some didn't. These two men were different however. They looked him straight in the eye, as if looking straight into his very soul. *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk*, Peter tells him, helping him to stand. His feet and ankles were made strong, and he accompanied the disciples into the temple, walking and praising God.

What a sensation his healing must have caused! Peter was quick to point out that the healing was due totally to his Master Jesus. *By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong*, he told the crowd of astonished onlookers.

It must have seemed strange for the man himself. He had no memory of life other than as a cripple. He didn't ask to be healed. Is that why Peter and John looked so hard at him to start with? Were they almost assessing him before passing on Jesus' blessed healing to him? He himself did not have faith that he would be healed. How would healing change his life? He would now have to take responsibility for his own life, earn a living, but he had no trade or special skill. Until then he had simply sat and begged, taking whatever he was given, until his friends took him back home at the end of the day.

It seems that the man praised God for his healing, and importantly this gave Peter and John an opportunity to speak about Jesus and proclaim Him as the Christ, the Messiah. Peter also accused the crowd of being responsible for Jesus' death, all be it acting in ignorance. He bid them turn to Jesus and glorify God.

So this story is quite exciting! It shows how *our* faith can grow, and how we can use it to tell others about Jesus, just as Peter and John did. And it also gives hope to those of us held in the grip of any kind of disability. If we trust in God and allow Him to work in us, we too may find ourselves changed and God will use us, in our frailty, as witnesses to His love.

Strangely as I write this I discovered that the Church of England 'Prayer for Today' is this:

*Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May that be our prayer. Enjoy September, and may you know God's blessings always

Barbara

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

Are once again holding their annual Ride and Stride event on **Saturday 13 September**

It is a great opportunity to visit some of the beautiful churches in our county and good exercise for anyone taking part, whether riding or walking.

The Alpha Course

Interested in exploring the Christian faith? Got friends who would like to find out more we will be hosting a table at the upcoming Alpha Course at Station Hill Baptist Church. Come along for a chance to ask all those questions you didn't realise you had starting 7:00pm on Wednesday 10th of September. Please use the following link to sign up guest to help with catering: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alpha-course-tickets-1326251868039>. Please talk to Nick or any leaders for more information.

Greenways Benefice weekend away April 2026

From 5pm Fri 17 until 3pm Sun 19 April 2026, Northamptonshire

A Beautiful Coda: Bishop Viv's Calling

On 1st September 2025, the Rt Revd Vivienne Faull retired as Bishop of Bristol following her announcement in February this year. To honour her dedicated service, individuals from across the country gathered at Bristol Cathedral on Saturday 30 August to celebrate her time as Bishop and wish her well in retirement.

Bishop Viv was enthroned as the 56th Bishop of Bristol at Bristol Cathedral on 20th October 2018. Under her leadership, the Diocese has seen tangible growth in its transformational values of bravery, creativity, generosity, and openness. She has championed inclusion, sustainability, and the flourishing and founding of Church communities across Bristol, Swindon, South Gloucestershire and North Wiltshire. Much of this progress is a result of the 'Transforming Church. Together' strategy, established in 2021.

In tribute, The Very Revd Dr Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol, said that Bishop Viv has been "an inspiration to women in ministry since the 1980s. Noting her gratitude for Bishop Viv's "encouragement over the years, firstly in the Diocese of Leicester, and most recently in Bristol."

A Champion of Progress and Justice.

Throughout her ministry, Bishop Viv has been a pioneer. She was the first female Chaplain of an Oxford or Cambridge college, proceeding to become the first woman to lead a Cathedral, namely Leicester, the first female Dean of York and, finally, the first female Bishop of Bristol. Since 2021 she has also served as one of the lead bishops for Church and Cathedral buildings. In addition to this, Bishop Viv has been a passionate anti modern slavery

campaigner, regularly raising the topic in the House of Lords, where she has sat as a member throughout her time as Bishop.

At Saturday's farewell service, Bishop Viv gave the sermon, encouraging members of the diocese to pursue equality and inclusion in the Church and to "continue to sing the song that all are welcome". Following the sermon was a reflection on Women's Ministry which included a contribution from The Revd Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson, the first woman to be ordained priest in the Church of England.

At the end of the service, Bishop Viv handed the diocesan crozier to the Vice Dean, who placed it on the High Altar, symbolising the end of her episcopal ministry.

As Bishop Viv retires to Herefordshire, the Diocese enters a 'vacancy in see' period. During this time, the Bishop of Swindon, the Rt Revd Neil Warwick, will serve as Acting Diocesan Bishop. The process to appoint the next Bishop of Bristol is already underway, having begun with a Diocese-wide consultation which helped to shape the Statement of Needs, a key document in the process of selecting the next Bishop. There will also be an online consultation meeting on September 8th which is open to all members of the diocese and will support the drafting of a Memorandum to accompany the statement of needs. You can sign up to the meeting at the link at the bottom of this article.

The Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon, reflected on Bishop Viv's time in Bristol, saying: "I am deeply grateful for the transformative impact Bishop Viv has had on our Diocese and our communities - leading us with vision, compassion, and hope - always reminding us to listen to people on the

margins, to less heard voices. Viv has lived out the call made at a Bishop's consecration to: 'proclaim the gospel boldly, confront injustice and work for righteousness and peace in all the world.'"