

## Dates for the Diary

- 6 May** Seek First benefice prayer and worship evening at St Paul's. 7.30pm  
**17 May** St. Nicholas APCM following the afternoon service  
**11 July** St. Nicholas Summer Family Event 2 to 4pm

### St. Nicholas Summer Family Event

Please Join Us For A Summer Family Fun Event  
St. Nicholas Church Hardenhuish Chippenham  
Saturday July 11th 2 - 4pm  
Refreshments ...Tea / Coffee / cakes  
Children's Craft  
Church Crypt Tours  
Children's trail through the woods  
Baby and toddler soft play inside the church .  
All Welcome

### Seek First

Please join us for our benefice prayer and worship evening on **Wednesday 6 May** 7.30pm at St Paul's. Tea, coffee and cookies served from 7.15pm. This is an important opportunity for us to come together and seek the Lord for the way forward. Seek First will be happening on the first Wednesday of the month. We'd love to see you there!

### Contact Details

Facebook@harnishchurch

#### Rector

Revd Andrew Gilmour tel: 07503 200495 www.harnish.org.uk  
greenwaysvicar@stpaulsweb.org.uk

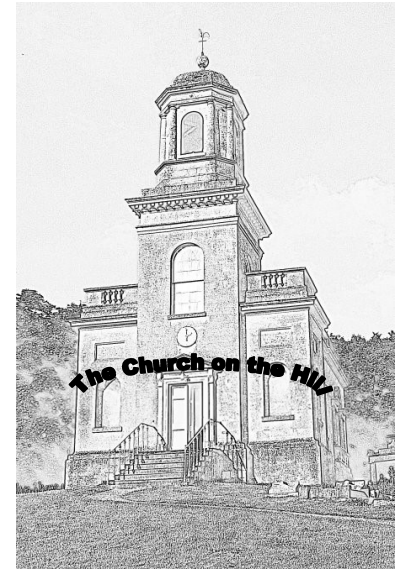
### Some of our Lay Ministers

Judith Eckersley Tel:443317 juditheckersley1@gmail.com  
John Moncrieff  
Barbara Wood Reader Emeritus  
Newsletter, Mark Sheppard Tel: 07834 453544 sheppardfamily@bybridge.uk  
or Dick Wood Tel: 655413 dickwood@talk21.com

## Greenways Group of Churches

# St. Nicholas News May 2026

*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"*



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Praise</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Praise with Communion</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Praise</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Praise</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Praise</b>

### Ministry Musings

Seek First

Dates for the Diary

St. Nicholas Summer Family Event

Updating the Electoral Rolls 2026

Easter worship marked with music and ceremony at Bristol Cathedral

## Ministry Musings

As I was thinking about what to write about for May's musings the beautiful story of Simeon and Anna came to mind. It seems a strange story to use when we are thinking about the gifts of God's Holy Spirit, but then I realized that it was just perfect for that theme.

The two elderly people had lived and worked in the temple for much of their lives. They were awaiting the redemption of Israel, living in a world of patient hope where suffering and hardship were simply a way of life under a foreign nation's unforgiving military law.

When Mary and Joseph appeared in the temple with their tiny child the older people instantly recognized Him as what, or who, they were waiting for. This child was the 'Salvation' they awaited, the Messiah of whom God's Holy Spirit had told Simeon. They could now meet death with the contentment of a fulfilled life. How wonderful that must have felt!

Simeon had come to the temple that day, led by the Spirit. When Mary and Joseph brought their child to him, Simeon took the baby in his arms and blessed Him. The words Simeon used are familiar to many as what we call the Nunc Dimittis, known in and beyond the walls of churches everywhere. 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.' The words in the Book of Common Prayer resonate with so many of us. For Simeon his work on earth was done, but not before he made Mary aware of the hardships she would face as mother of God's Son. 'A sword will pierce your own soul too,' he warns. He also announces that the salvation He brings is for all nations. No wonder Jesus' parents 'marvelled' at what they heard!

But there is more! Anna comes to greet the Holy family. This old lady prophetess had spent years worshipping and praying in the temple. We can almost sense her excitement as she recognizes Jesus as the Saviour of the world, and she gave thanks to God. From then on she tells of Jesus to all like-minded people. Accounts of Anna's role in this story is probably kept to a minimum in our bible because of the limited worth given to women in those days.

The Holy Spirit was already at work – as it is today. God's Spirit doesn't wait for instructions to guide His people. Pentecost undoubtedly marked the day when Jesus' disciples acknowledged His presence and attributed their gifts to Him, but He is there to answer our prayers for help and for praise whenever we call on Him.

The story of Simeon and Anna is helpful in bringing the Spirit closer to our consciousness. The Holy Spirit communicates with us when we need Him – and when we don't think we *do* need Him. He will liberate us from our fears and worries and help us through situations we don't think we can face!

May God bless you whatever you face today and always.

**Barbara**

## Updating the Electoral Rolls 2026

In the Church of England there is a requirement to hold a list of a parish's register of electors, the Electoral Roll. Every person who regularly attends church and is 16+ is eligible to be on the Electoral Roll, this means you can attend meetings, vote and be an active member of church life.

If you have signed up to the Electoral Roll in the past year, or were already on it, you do not have to do anything else unless you need to update your contact details.

Signing up to the Electoral Roll can be done in the following ways:

- St Nicholas: Mary Clarke, see Mary in church
- St Peter's, Langley Burrell: Hazel Sheldon email: [hazeloneill2@gmail.com](mailto:hazeloneill2@gmail.com)
- St Paul's: Maddy Crook email: [membership@stpaulsweb.org.uk](mailto:membership@stpaulsweb.org.uk) or our weblink [www.stpaulsweb.org.uk/members](http://www.stpaulsweb.org.uk/members)

## Easter worship marked with music and ceremony at Bristol Cathedral

People from across the Diocese gathered at the Cathedral and parishes over Easter to celebrate Christ's resurrection, sharing in worship marked by rich symbolism, music, and joyful ceremony.

The Cathedral's journey to Easter began earlier in Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday service, which recalled the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another. This act of remembrance set a prayerful and reflective tone as the Diocese entered the final days of Lent.



On Holy Saturday, worshippers gathered at dusk for the Great Vigil of Easter, led by the Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Acting Bishop of Bristol. The service opened in the Cloister Yard with the lighting of the new fire, from which the Paschal Candle was lit. As the candle was processed into the darkened

Cathedral, **light spread gradually through the congregation, marking the passage from darkness into light.**

Inside the Cathedral, the ancient Easter proclamation, the Exsultet, was sung, and readings traced the story of God's saving work through scripture, interwoven with prayer and reflection. The turning point of the Vigil came with the Easter Acclamation, proclaimed with the ringing of bells, fanfares, and the lighting of the altar candles. **Baptisms and confirmations followed, each candidate receiving a candle lit from the Paschal flame,** before the service concluded with the first Eucharist of Easter.



Celebrations continued on Easter Sunday when the Cathedral was filled for the 10am Festal Eucharist led by the Very Revd Dr Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol. The Easter Candle, lit the night before, was carried in procession as the congregation sang traditional Easter hymns. Choral music, confetti cannons, and the joyful sprinkling of water blessed at the Vigil marked the service, as **Bishop Neil preached on the meaning of the resurrection for Christian life today.**

Across the Diocese, churches marked Easter in many different ways, united in proclaiming that Christ is risen.