

# In Touch

## St Paul's Church

News for the Church and Community on Canford Heath

Issue no. 204 – October/November 2026



Read Online at [www.stpaulscanfordheath.org](http://www.stpaulscanfordheath.org)

## Please help us if you can

**W**e want everyone to continue to enjoy reading our church magazine but there is a cost to St Paul's for producing it. We therefore encourage those who can afford to, to donate the cost of your copy. The cost of each magazine is currently £1.25. The magazine supports the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Church by sharing the latest news, inviting people to groups, services and events, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, and by letting people know that we are here for them, and that they are welcome to join us at any time.

**B**y making a small contribution you will be supporting our ability to continue with our bi-monthly copies and give them away freely.

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**Thank you to this month's contributors. The deadline for the next issue will be Thursday 26th November 2026. John Martindale, Editor.**

## Letter from Rev'd Matt Williams, Vicar at St Paul's

**W**hat is God's will for my life? It is a question all Christians ask from time to time. While it may not be possible to know the precise details of God's will for our lives, we can know the broad brushstrokes because the Bible tells us.

**T**he PCC have summarised what the Bible teaches about God's will for our lives in its Mission Statement. It expresses God's will not only for the church as a whole, but for each individual Christian within it.

**T**he word 'mission' comes from the Latin *missio* which literally means "to send." Theologians often use the phrase *Missio Dei* to refer to "the sending of God." It is an important concept in Christian theology, highlighting the fact that God is naturally a "sending God":

- The Father **sends** the Son (see John 3:16; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 4:9)
- The Father and Son **send** the Holy Spirit (see John 14:26; 16:7; 15:26)
- The Triune God **sends** the church out into the world. For example:

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)*

*"you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

### So what is God's will for our lives? What is our God given mission?

**T**he mission of the Church can be summed up by two of Jesus' statements – the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In The Great Commandment Jesus tells us to love God and to love one another. He says:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)*

This kind of love isn't just a feeling, it is an active and practical love. In other words, genuine love for God and other people is something that we express in our words and actions.

Can I gently encourage you to examine your love for God and other people? Do you love God and other people as much as you should? Is your relationship with God your top priority like it should be? Are you expressing your love for other people in practical ways?

I suspect we all go through times when we don't love God or other people as much as we should. I am currently reflecting on these verses from Revelation chapter 2: *"You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."* (Rev. 2:4-5) Here Apostle John rebukes the Ephesian Church for not loving God as much as they used to. When they first became Christians they loved God so very much, but the struggles of life and faith had taken their toll, their passion and enthusiasm for God had diminished, and they seem to have been just going through the motions. So John calls them to repent and love and serve God like they used to. I wonder if God would say the same to us today? May God keep our love for him and for others burning brightly!

The Great Commission is the other one of Jesus' statements that sum up the mission of the Church. In it Jesus tells us to go and make disciples (people who trust him as their saviour and obey him as their Lord). We do this by spreading the good news about Jesus and teaching God's Word:

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

This is another challenging teaching! Putting it as simply as I can, one of the main things God wants us to do is help other people become Christians. This is supposed to be a major priority for all of us. I wonder how many of us can say it is for them? It is something we need to do through our words and

our actions. Both are absolutely essential! If we try to share our faith through words only (by telling them about Jesus) but we don't 'practice what we preach' by living good and loving lives, then our actions will undermine our witness. But if we live good and loving lives but don't ever open our mouths to tell people about Jesus then how will anyone come to a saving faith in Jesus? Apostle Paul puts it like this, "how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Rom. 10:14)

## Conclusion

**W**hen we speak of the Church's mission, we're really speaking about what God has sent us out into the world to do. You could say it is the reason for our existence! And what does God want us to do?

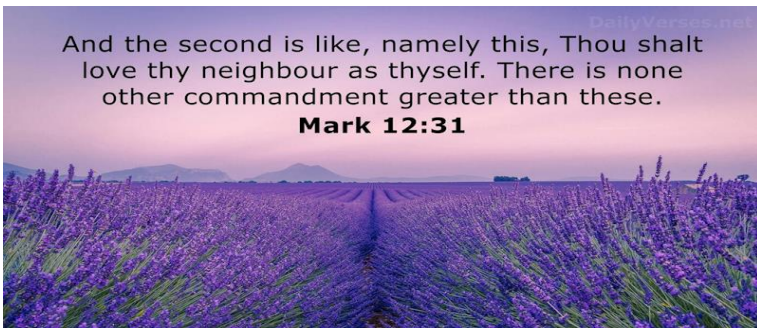
**This is our God given mission. To:**

1. Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. Love people in practical and sacrificial ways.
3. Make disciples of Jesus (i.e. help people become and grow as followers of Jesus!)

**W**e are literally on a mission from God. It is a tremendous honour and one we can only participate in because of Jesus' saving death on the cross. Let's give ourselves to this mission and do our duty.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

**Mark 12:31**



## The Role of Modern Worship Songs in God-Centred Praise, A response. - Revd. Arthur Botham (Ret'd)

### By way of introduction

I read Matt's article in the last issue with great interest. He raised some important questions about the songs we use in church worship, and I found myself reflecting further on the subject.

Music, like all forms of art, can be highly subjective. Our responses to it are shaped by taste, background, experience, and the particular church traditions we have known. With that in mind, I thought it might be helpful to offer a few reflections of my own, drawn from ministry in a variety of situations and styles of church. So here goes!

In churches and homes around the world, Christian worship music has changed a lot in recent years. Traditional hymns still give us strong teaching and deep truth. But modern worship songs also play an important role. They help people today praise God in words and music that feel clear, natural, and easy to join in with.

Music is a powerful way for people to connect with God. Modern worship songs use current music styles, simple language, and easy-to-remember tunes to help people to understand and live out timeless biblical truths in everyday life as well as communicating a living and joyful faith.

When Christians sing about God's faithfulness in words they use every day, the message can feel much more personal and real.

*"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things."* — Psalm 98:1

Many well-known modern worship songs have come from churches in the UK and have influenced how churches around the world worship



together. UK worship leaders often remind us that the main purpose of a song is not to sound modern, but to help people focus on the glory of God.

*"As a writer of worship songs, I have a hunger to write deep songs of passionate reverence to God. Yet I'm aware I cannot sing before I have seen. All worship is a response to a revelation—it's only as we breathe in more of the wonders of God that we can breathe out a fuller response to Him."* **Matt Redman** (UK Worship Leader & Songwriter, *10,000 Reasons*, *Blessed Be Your Name*)

## How Modern Worship Enhances God-centred Praise

**M**odern worship songs can help people focus on God in several clear ways:

- **Focusing on who God is:** Good modern worship songs help people look away from themselves and focus on God—His holiness, greatness, his mercy, and power. Many UK worship leaders warn against songs that focus too much on self and not enough on God.

*"Worship songs can't just be rooted in culture—they won't be deep enough. They have to be rooted in Scripture."* — **Matt Redman**

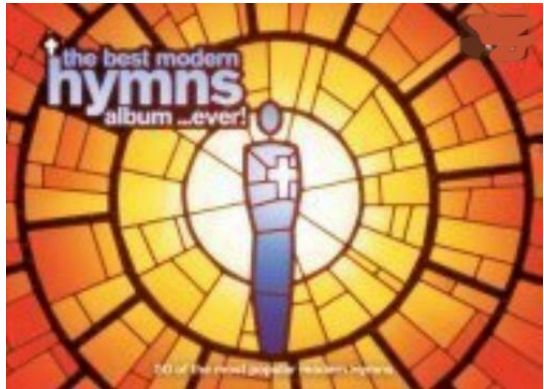
- **Helping everyone take part:** Simple song structures and singable melodies help the whole church join in, even if people do not feel confident singing.
- **Putting worship before performance:** Leaders from UK movements such as Worship Central and Holy Trinity Brompton often remind churches that music, lights, and sound are only tools. The real aim is to meet with God.

*"Some of the most remarkable and profound worship encounters I've experienced have happened in churches with no production, no lighting, no exciting visuals or amplification, sometimes with not even a single musical instrument."* — **Tim Hughes** (UK Worship Leader, *Here I Am to Worship*; Founder of Worship Central)

- **Helping people remember Scripture:** Repeated choruses are a real help to people in remembering Bible truths during the week, especially in moments of hardship or struggles.
- **Bringing different ages together:** Modern worship can bring young and older people together by using current music styles while singing timeless truths about God.

People will always have different music preferences. But the most important question for any worship song is: **Does it point people to God?**

When a modern worship song, for example 'Good, Good Father', is based in biblical truth and easy to sing, it can help people worship with a humble heart, grow in faith, and give God the honour He deserves.



### How does modern worship contribute to the mission of the church?

Modern worship songs can help people who are new to church. They can make worship feel more welcoming and less unfamiliar. In this way, modern music can help people take a first step into church life.

For someone who has not been to church before, old music styles and older words can feel strange or hard to follow. Modern worship often uses music styles people already know and are familiar with, such as pop, rock, folk, acoustic, and ambient music.

Familiar sounds: Guitars, drums, and keyboards can make worship feel more approachable. While clear language, that is, colloquial English, is helpful in understanding the message more easily.

**M**any people today value honesty. Modern worship songs often speak about real feelings such as grief, worry, hope, and longing, while also pointing people to God's promises. "People are searching for authenticity. When a song speaks honestly about pain yet points to a real hope, it speaks a language that anyone—churchgoer or not—can instantly relate to." This honesty can help folk new to church feel that their struggles are understood, not ignored.

**Finally,** Some of the older hymns can be harder to follow because they have many verses or archaic wording. Modern worship songs often include repeated choruses and melodies that people can learn quickly and words shown on a screen are easier to follow for people unfamiliar with them.

**M**usic can reach people in a different way from spoken words. Someone who is unsure about faith may find that a worship song gives them space to think, reflect, and become more open to God.

**The question before us. How might this fit into St Paul's worship and mission?**

**F**rom a personal perspective, this raises an important question: are we content to be a comfortable church, or are we willing to become a church that actively draws in new people?

**F**or many, belonging may need to come before believing. People may first need to feel welcomed, understood, and able to relate culturally before they are ready to explore a deeper relationship with Jesus.

**Why this matters**

**T**hese are significant questions, and they deserve our careful and prayerful consideration. If we long to see our church grow and continue to champion the gospel in our community, we must be willing to reflect honestly on how welcoming, accessible, and outward looking our worship and church life truly are.

With every blessing, Arthur



## Big Church Festival - Helen Allen

I want to write about my experience at the 2026 Big Church Festival – Britain’s largest Christian festival.

Caroline kindly picked me up at 8am on Thursday to make the journey to West Sussex. We arrived around 10:30, put up our tents and collected our volunteer T-shirts and tote bags. Around 4 o’clock, we went to the festival opening and had a look around the different stalls. Then we found the best crumble stall – and ate some before our main meal! I had the millionaire’s shortbread flavour, whilst Caroline had the apple.

In the evening, we had our volunteer talk with Molly, followed by some great worship. We watched a beautiful sunset before going to bed early, eager for the next day.

On Friday, I got up to another wonderful sunrise before preparing for our full day off, with our volunteering due to begin on Saturday. Caroline and I went to the tea gardens to listen to the worship band that had performed at Meghan and Harry’s wedding. On the way, we were distracted by some interesting worship music, so we popped into another tent to see what was going on.

Looking back, that small detour seems incredibly significant. If we had continued along the route we had originally planned, we might have been much closer to where the accident happened.

The pathway we had intended to take was closed, so we took another route towards the volunteer tent. It was at that point that the entire festival went into lockdown. We gathered with friends while we waited for an update, and Molly and the team told us the sad news.



The festival had been brought to an abrupt end following a tragic accident on the site. Just after 3:30pm, a large wooden sign or structure collapsed near the entrance to one of the tented areas during a period of strong winds. A number of people were caught up in the incident. Emergency services responded, including an air ambulance, and six people were taken to hospital for treatment. Tragically, a 41-year-old pastor, Robert Guanco from Eastbourne, died at the scene.

It was a deeply shocking moment. Only a short time earlier, thousands of people had been enjoying worship, fellowship and the festival together. Suddenly, everything had changed.

The Big Church Festival was cancelled. Day visitors were asked to leave, while those who were camping were allowed to remain overnight. Volunteers were also given a choice about whether they wanted to stay. We decided to stay and help.

I cried.

That evening, we were able to serve in a small but practical way by helping some friends take down their tent in the dark and load their belongings into their car. It was a very sad goodbye. The volunteers were looked after too, with hot chocolate, biscuits, fruit, crisps and sandwiches. I don't remember what time we eventually got to bed that night.



The following morning, I woke at 5:30am and saw another amazing sunrise. Although the festival itself had ended, we were still able to help with the clear-up and assist people in leaving the site safely. Eventually, it was time for us to make our own journey home.

What happened had been tragic, and my thoughts and prayers remain particularly with those who were injured, their families and friends, and everyone who witnessed or was affected by the accident. Most of all, I pray for the family, friends and church family of Robert Guanco as they grieve such a devastating loss. I pray that God will comfort them and surround them with His peace.

Yet, alongside the sadness, I will also remember the way people responded. In the aftermath of something so distressing, people came together to care for one another. Volunteers helped others pack up and leave safely. Friends supported friends. People shared what they had, offered practical help and simply stayed alongside one another.

That is something I will carry with me from Big Church Festival. The experience will remain in my heart – both the happy memories and the sadness of what happened. I am very grateful to Caroline for taking me, for being there for me, and for sharing the experience with me. I am also incredibly grateful for the new friends we made there, many of whom we have stayed in touch with.

The festival ended in a way none of us could have imagined, but I will remember not only the tragedy of that afternoon, but also the kindness, friendship, worship and sense of Christian community that surrounded us afterwards. In the midst of something deeply tragic, I was reminded of what it means to be part of the body of Christ: to come together, to care for one another, and to serve when people need help.

As Paul writes:

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”**

*Romans 12:15*



## Praying for the New School Year – Steve Allen

A new school, college or university year brings excitement, opportunities and, sometimes, worries. New teachers, new subjects, new friendships and unfamiliar situations can all feel daunting. Whether you are praying for a child, grandchild, student—or for yourself—there is no better place to begin than by placing the new education year into God’s hands. Here are some things to pray for as a new year begins.



- **Peace when life feels overwhelming**

Pray that God will give them peace when pressures build, help them to bring their worries to Him, and remind them that He is always near. (Philippians 4:6–7; Isaiah 26:3)

- **Protection and wisdom**

Ask God to watch over them physically, emotionally and spiritually. Pray for wisdom to recognise what is good and true, courage to resist harmful influences, and confidence to seek God's help when they are uncertain. (Psalm 121:7–8; James 1:5; 1 Thess. 5:21–22)

- **Good friendships**

Pray that they will find friends who encourage them to make wise choices—and that they themselves will be a good and faithful friend. Ask God to help them notice those who are lonely or struggling and show them kindness. (Proverbs 13:20; John 13:34–35)

- **Strength to face challenges**

**S**chool and university life will not always be easy. Pray for perseverance when work is difficult, courage when they face disappointment, and the strength to keep going rather than give up. (Galatians 6:9; James 1:2–4)

- **A love of learning**

**A**sk God to give them curiosity, diligence and a desire to use the abilities He has given them well. Pray that success will make them grateful rather than proud, and that difficulties will teach them patience. (Proverbs 2:6; Colossians 3:23)

- **Faith that remains strong**

**P**erhaps most importantly, pray that their relationship with God will not be pushed into the background by studies, friendships or activities. Pray that they will know Christ, trust Him, read His Word and have the courage to live faithfully wherever they are. (Colossians 2:6–7; Romans 1:16; Psalm 119:105)

- **And remember the teachers, lecturers, support staff and school leaders.**

**P**ray that God will give them wisdom, patience, compassion and strength as they care for and educate others. (James 1:5; Galatians 6:9)

**T**he new academic year may bring things we cannot predict, but none of them will surprise God. We can therefore pray with confidence, entrusting those we love to the One who goes with them wherever they go. (Deuteronomy 31:8; Proverbs 3:5–6)

Pray at the beginning of the year—but keep praying throughout it.

Our children and young people need more than our good wishes. They need our prayers, and above all, they need to know the God to whom we pray.



## Little Treasures Harvest Celebration - Anne Small

Our Little Treasures numbered 29 children today. We centred our crafts on Harvest and nature. The children made leaf wreaths, scarecrows, leaf rubbing, and flower bookmarks. Matt called in to join us and Tony talked to the children about how farmers grow food for us. He also explained that not everyone has enough food and that the items they had brought in would be given to people who need them.

The families were extremely generous with their donations to the Food Bank. The picture shows how supportive they were. We hope you like the photos of the crafts.



## Testimony - Kieron Sharp



Today I'm being baptised because I've made the decision to follow Jesus.

**G**rowing up, I wasn't a Christian, so faith wasn't a part of my everyday life. For a long time, I didn't really think about God, but looking back, I can see that He was already at work in my life to where I am now.

**B**ut one thing that really did stick with me and kept replaying was the assemblies Matt did when I was at Canford Heath school. At the time, I never knew how much those assemblies and what he was saying would impact me.

**A**round two years ago, I began asking questions and exploring who Jesus is. The more I explored and asked, the more I realised Christianity isn't just about religion or following rules, it's about having a real relationship with God, someone you can go to no matter what.

**I** came to understand Jesus died for my sins, loves me unconditionally, and offers forgiveness and a new life to anyone who trusts in Him. I've chosen to follow Jesus as He has given me hope, purpose, and peace in a way I hadn't

experienced before. I'm still learning every day, but I know I will have someone there for the rest of my life.

I'm so grateful for everything he has done for me and also to everyone who has helped, encouraged and supported me on my journey so far.

I want to be baptised as a way of showing that I put my trust in Jesus Christ and to show that I'm leaving my old life behind and from doing it my own way to stepping into a new life Jesus has given me. Today I am choosing to truly follow Him and to trust Him with my future.

Thank you all for being here to celebrate this special day with me.

***With thanks to Kieron for sharing his testimony in the magazine and I am sure that we all wish him every success and happiness with his future. Ed.***

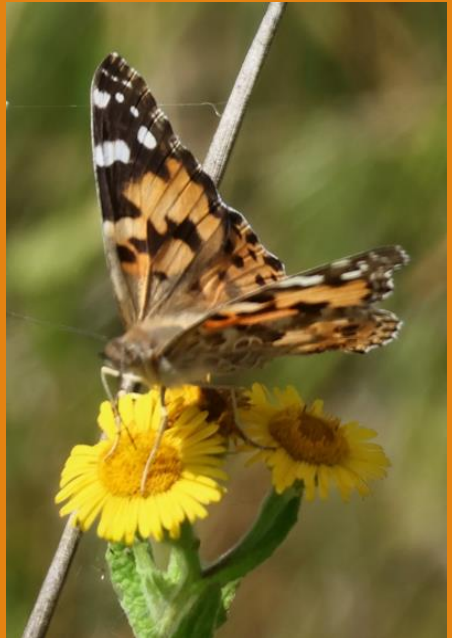


**PACE is a local Christian charity** that works in schools and we support them as a church. Their aim is to help students in schools explore the Christian faith. This happens through lessons, assemblies, lunchtime clubs and other activities. They do really good work, but they are facing a serious financial deficit this year which means they may have to make some of the team redundant and reduce the work they do. They are asking us if we can support them by giving them a one-off donation. Please read the letter below and prayerfully consider whether you can help them. Donations can be made online here:

<https://pace.org.uk> Then select "Give" in the "Partner with us" drop-down.

## Painted Ladies - Debbie Jackson

The UK has been experiencing a once-in-a-decade summer 2026 of "painted Lady" butterflies as they arrived here and bred. Butterfly Conservation have also said this increase is due to warmer weather.



## The Joy of Grandchildren - Angela Armstrong

**M**y precious grandson Oliver who is 17 has recently passed his driving test on his first attempt. This was quite an achievement for him as he suffers with what can sometimes be debilitating anxiety. He has also over the last couple of years come to love Jesus. The evening before the test when I contacted him to wish him luck, he asked me to say a special prayer for him.

**T**hat night I asked God to give him confidence and courage and that if he was ready there would be a positive outcome. It turned out that the examiner on finding out about his anxiety put him at his ease saying that if at any time he felt overwhelmed, he should just say and that he could pull over. However, this wasn't necessary and he passed. I feel that God truly answered my prayers that day. Afterwards I asked Oliver if he had felt anxious during the test his reply was "no Nan I was full of Jesus"

### Heavenly Father

Thank you for the gift of grandchildren. Help us to support them in their challenges and celebrate with them in their achievements.

Thank you, also dear God, for the gift of prayer.

Amen



### Smile Lines – Edinburgh Fringe Jokes

"I remember thinking, as I taped a piranha to my boomerang, this could come back to bite me." – Olaf Falafel

"My paper manufacturing business has folded seven times so I'm pretty sure it can't happen again." – Olaf Falafel

"It's hard to get Ozempic, there are a lot of hoops to go through, and I didn't fit through any of them." – Adam Greene

## Message Board – Read it or Miss it!

### Aid for Ukraine Christmas Appeal

Small acts of kindness  
make a big difference



Help us bring hope and comfort to children and families  
in Ukraine this Christmas.

#### Items needed:

Small toys  
and sweets  
for children



Warm clothes  
and boots



Sleeping  
bags



Tinned  
food



Toiletries



Baby milk



Nappies



Donations accepted from  
1st October – 15th November

#### Where to leave your donations:

St Paul's Church  
Weekday mornings  
9.30 – 11.30am



Canford Heath Library  
Mon, Thurs, Fri.  
11.00 – 1.00pm  
Sat – 10.00 – 1.00pm



The Nest  
coffee shop  
Weekdays 8.00 – 4.00pm  
Sat. 9.30 – 12.30pm



Any queries to Lynn at [lymawarner@gmail.com](mailto:lymawarner@gmail.com)

Thank you for your generosity  
— together we can make a difference



## Canford Heath Residents Meeting

**DATE:**  
Wednesday 21st October

**TIME:**  
10am -12pm

**LOCATION:**  
Canford Heath Library

All  
residents  
warmly  
welcome!

#### GUEST SPEAKERS:

Catherine Brookfield,  
BCP Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

A Dorset Police  
Neighbourhood Policing Team Officer.



REFRESHMENTS:  
Tea, Coffee and  
Biscuits  
on arrival.



This is a great  
chance to meet  
neighbours and  
hear community  
updates.



FREE EVENT,  
no booking  
required.



CONTACT:  
[canfordheatharch@gmail.com](mailto:canfordheatharch@gmail.com)

Scan for  
event information!



# BATMAN SAVES CHRISTMAS!

St Pauls' Church Pantomime

**FRIDAY 27th** **SATURDAY 28th**  
**NOVEMBER 7PM** **NOVEMBER AT**  
**2.30PM AND 7PM**

**TICKETS £6 per person (under 5s FREE)**

Available from the Church Office weekdays & Saturday 10am - 12 noon. Tickets can also be reserved: Ring (01202 605311): St Pauls Church, neighbourhood Centre, Culliford Crescent, Poole BH17 9DW

## HEATH SOCIAL CLUB

**Mark  
Bussell  
On Piano  
Brilliant  
Entertainment**

**FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER**  
**CANFORD HEATH, BH17**

**COST £3.50**  
**PROGRAMME**

**MEET 13:30**  
**13:45 - MARK BUSSELL**  
**14:45 - REFRESHMENTS**  
**15:15 - SOCIAL BINGO**  
**16:00 - END**

## HEATH SOCIAL CLUB



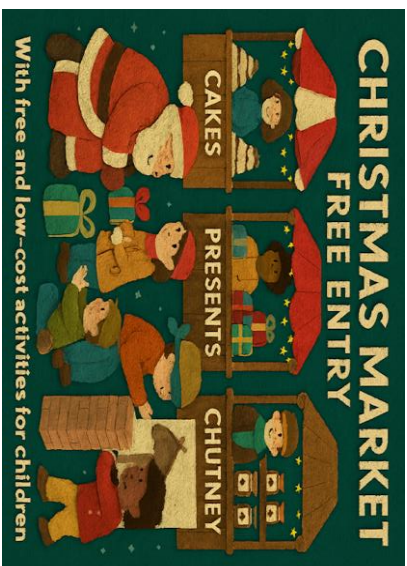
**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2026**

**AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CANFORD**  
**HEATH, BH17 9DW**  
**COST £3.50**

**MEET 13:30**  
**13:45 - 'SCOTT FREE'**  
**14:45 REFRESHMENTS**  
**15:15 SOCIAL BINGO**  
**16:00 END**



**Our Christmas Market** will take place on Saturday 5th December from 10am to 2pm. Local craft stall holders will be at the market along with our own stalls, cake stall, tombola and raffle. Refreshments will be available in the church hall, and we will have free activities for the children. Santa will also be attending. Please come along and support this event. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received.



## Canford Collective Autumn Exhibition

Thursday 8th October to  
Monday 12th October 10:00 - 16:00

The Gallery Upstairs  
Upton Country Park BH17 7BJ

## Warnering Tales: Hayling Island – Sasha Morgan

**H**ayling Island has a special place in Warner history. It was here, in **1932**, that **Captain Harry Warner** opened **Northney Holiday Camp**, planting the seed for what would eventually become the Warner Hotels we know today. From those early chalet camps and communal dining halls to today's adult-only country-house hotels, Warner's evolution mirrors the changing tastes of British holidaymaking. Today, Warner Hotels operate in 16 unique locations — and we've already visited 11 of them, which absolutely qualifies us as seasoned Warnerholics – there is even a Facebook page dedicated for this purpose!

**H**ayling Island sits on the south coast of Hampshire, between Portsmouth and Chichester. Despite being an island, it's wonderfully easy to reach: simply follow the **A3023 from Havant** and cross **Langstone Bridge**, the island's only road link to the mainland.

**B**ut the Sinah Warren site itself has a much deeper story. In the **15th century**, monks settled here and are believed to have run a primitive health farm, making use of the natural landscape and medicinal plants. Warners didn't acquire Sinah Warren until the **1960s**, although this still makes it the **longest-running hotel in the Warner collection**.

**H**ayling Island also holds another claim to fame: it's regarded as the **birthplace of windsurfing**. In **1958**, 12-year-old **Peter Chilvers** built and sailed an early sailboard here, laying the foundations for the sport we know today.

**O**ne of our favourite days out from Sinah Warren is a completely car-free adventure. We walk about **20 minutes** up the road and catch the **little Hayling Ferry** across Langstone Harbour to Eastney. The crossing takes just **3–5 minutes** and is said to be one of the **shortest regular passenger ferry journeys in the UK**.



**O**nce you step off the ferry, a bus takes you straight into **Southsea**, a lively seaside area of Portsmouth with a **three-mile shingle beach**, **Clarence**

**Pier** and **South Parade Pier**, views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, the D-day museum and **Southsea Castle**, built by **Henry VIII in 1544**.

If you fancy a bit of shopping, the bus continues all the way to **Gunwharf Quays**. Or, if you're feeling brave, you can head up the **Spinnaker Tower** for spectacular views.

On this occasion, we hopped off the bus at **Clarence Pier** — the perfect spot to watch the hovercrafts gliding in and out across the Solent to Ryde. It's a wonderfully unusual sight. **Hovertravel**, operating since **1965**, is the **world's longest-running commercial hovercraft service** and **Europe's only scheduled passenger hovercraft route**. The journey to Ryde takes **under 10 minutes**, travelling directly from the beach at Southsea to the beach at Ryde without needing a pier.

After watching the hovercraft depart, we began the walk back to the ferry terminal — almost **three miles**, but filled with cafés, sea views, and plenty of places to pause. Southsea seafront is currently



undergoing a huge **£185 million-plus upgrade** as part of the **Southsea Coastal Scheme**, stretching **4.5km** from Old Portsmouth to Eastney. The work aims to protect the coastline from flooding and rising sea levels while reshaping the promenade and beach. The result makes for a lovely, wide-open, flat and picturesque three-mile walk along the seafront, before catching the little ferry back to Hayling Island and the short walk back to Warners.



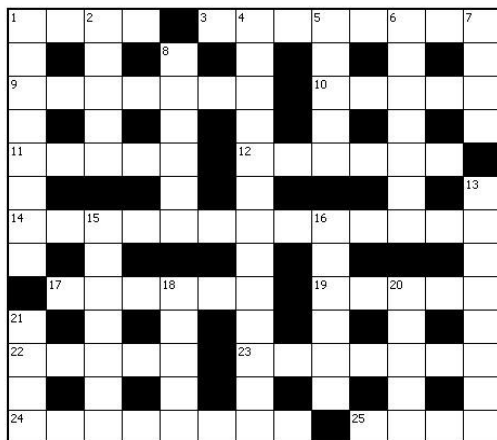
## October Crossword

### Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

### Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)



- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



## Autumn Recipe: Slow-cooked pork, cider & sage hotpot - Anna Glover

**Step 1** - Heat half of the oil in a flameproof casserole dish, and fry the pork pieces over a medium high heat in batches until seared all over, then transfer to a plate. Once all the pork is seared, transfer to a plate and set aside.

**Step 2** - Add another 1 tbsp oil to the pan with a little butter and fry half the leeks with a pinch of salt for 10 mins until tender. Add the garlic, fry for a minute, then stir in the flour.

**Step 3** - Pour in the cider, a little at a time, stirring to pick up any bits stuck to the bottom of the pan and to combine everything. Add the stock, bay leaves and seared pork, then simmer, half-covered with a lid for 1-1½ hrs until the meat is just tender (it will later cook to the point of falling apart in the oven). Can be prepared a day ahead.

**Step 4** - Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Simmer uncovered for a few minutes to reduce the sauce, if you need to – it shouldn't be too liquid or the potatoes will sink into the sauce. Stir in the parsley, chopped sage, remaining leeks, and the cream, then season well.



**Step 5** - Peel both types of potatoes and cut into slices 2mm thick, by hand or using a mandoline. Alternate layers of potato and sweet potato in circles over the pie, or randomly, if you prefer. Dot the cubed butter over the top and bake for 1-1½ hrs until the potato is tender. Nestle in the whole sage leaves, brushed in a little oil, for the last 10 mins. Leave to rest for 10 mins before serving.

### INGREDIENTS

4 tbsp olive oil plus a little extra  
1kg diced pork shoulder  
20g butter cubed, plus a little extra  
4 leeks trimmed and thickly sliced  
4 garlic cloves crushed  
3 tbsp plain flour  
500ml dry cider  
400ml chicken stock  
2 bay leaves  
Chopped parsley & sage  
200ml single cream  
400g Maris Piper or King Edward potatoes  
400g sweet potatoes





**A**fter a brilliant summer of community activities — from our lively quiz night at The Pilot, to the heath walk, to the hugely successful **Canford Heath Community Fete**, which filled the green with music, stalls, families, local groups and an incredible sense of community pride (and even welcomed the Mayor of Poole!) — we're delighted to say our autumn programme is shaping up to be just as exciting.

**A** huge thank-you to everyone who helped make the fete such a success. Whether you donated cakes, set up tables, put up gazebos, ran a stall or stayed behind to help with the clear-up, your support made the day run smoothly. So many people quietly took on small but vital tasks, and we are truly grateful for every bit of help. Many thanks to St Pauls for the loan of the tables.



### Canford Heath Residents Meeting

**Wednesday 21 October | 10:00am–12:00pm Canford Heath Library**

- All residents warmly welcome
- Tea, coffee & biscuits on arrival
- A great opportunity to meet neighbours and hear community updates

#### **Guest speakers:**

- Catherine Brookfield, BCP Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- An officer from the Dorset Police Neighbourhood Policing Team

**Free event — no booking required**    Contact: [canfordheatharch@gmail.com](mailto:canfordheatharch@gmail.com)

**Canford Heath Remembers** continues to be a much-loved annual tradition organised by ARCH to honour those who gave their lives for our freedom.

**T**his year, we will again be overseeing **225+ large poppies** on lamp posts along the main roads of the heath — each one sponsored by local families and businesses in memory of loved ones, and carefully installed by ARCH volunteers.

**I**n the library, residents and local knitting groups will once more be invited to help create a beautiful display of **handmade knitted and crocheted poppies**, sold in aid of the Royal British Legion. Last year's efforts raised over **£1,000**, and we hope to match that generosity again.

**T**he library will also host the exhibition of the **33 fighter pilots** after whom the South Canford Heath roads are named — a powerful reminder of the stories and sacrifices woven into our community.



## Smile Lines – More Edinburgh Fringe Jokes

**“I did my horse-riding training before I did my philosophy degree. I didn't want to put Descartes before the horse.” – David Rose**

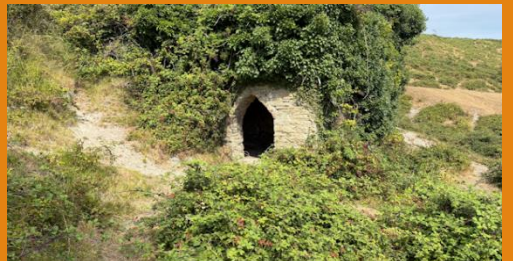
**“I never understood osmosis. Hard to say why, but whenever my teacher mentioned it my brain went from a level of high concentration to a level of low concentration.” – Alex Kitson**

**“I suffer from FOMO. Fear of messing up acronyms.” – Olaf Falafel**

**“I dated a magician – I was seeing him, now I don't.” – Jenny Gorelick**

**“I'm having an awful time at the moment. The back of my car fell off and you'll never guess what you can't buy at a car boot sale.” – Anna Thomas**

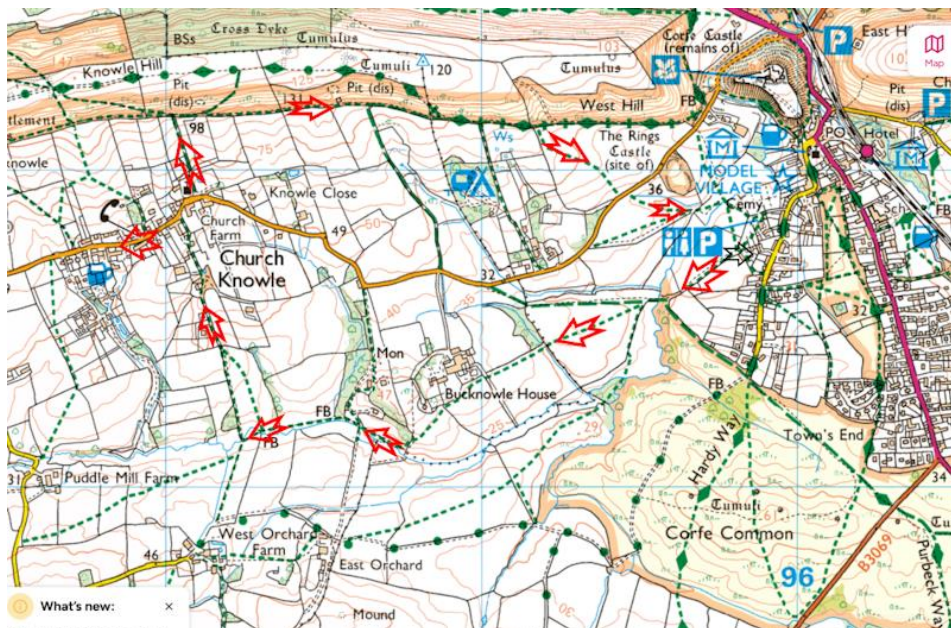
## Corfe Common to Church Knowle circular – John Martindale



For those who like a walk, Corfe Common is a great place for magnificent views of the castle, plenty of animals, thatched cottages and fresh air!

A good starting place is the village car park accessed by turning into the village square then left along the high street. Walk out on the common with your back to the castle and you will pick up the footpath to Church Knowle.

The New Inn, now under new management, has a good lunch menu and is certainly somewhere we will return to. You walk past St Peter's Church (which dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century), to get to the pub. You will need to retrace your steps to walk back to the church in order to take the path onwards towards the Purbeck Hills. There is no need to climb the hill because there is a good path running back to Corfe Castle along its foot. It passes the old kiln shown on the bottom right of the pictures on the previous page.



## Final Thoughts ...

### Autumn Nocturne - *By Nigel Beeton*

**Chopin's quavers** tumble in their chords,  
Nocturnes gently soothing as they play;  
Arpeggios – saying more than words  
As autumn shades replace the summer day.

**Sapphire skies** give way to rainy grey  
The heat is gone from damp and misty air,  
The maple sheds its fire of yesterday  
The moonlight shines on boughs now stark and bare.

**Hands of gentle skill** caress the keys,  
The nocturne soothes our spirits as it's played.  
We sigh not for the baring of the trees  
Nor for the coming of the winter shade.

**Forgotten soon** the frozen frosty ground  
The mem'ry stowed beside our winter coats;  
As warm we sit, enfolded by the sound  
Of Chopin's Nocturne and his graceful notes.



## Crossword Answers – No Cheating!

ACROSS | dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton DOWN | describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

## St Paul's Parish Church contact information

Neighbourhood Centre, BH17 9DW

[www.stpaulscanfordheath.org.uk](http://www.stpaulscanfordheath.org.uk)

Office - Email: [stpauls.canfordheath@btinternet.com](mailto:stpauls.canfordheath@btinternet.com) 01202 605311

### Alpha Courses/home groups - **Activities**

|                                         |                  |               |              |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Heath Social Club                       | Vic Martin       | Church Office | 01202 605311 |
| Sunday Club                             | Natalie Williams | Church Office | 01202 605311 |
| Little Treasures parent & toddler group |                  | Church Office | 01202 605311 |
| Fair Trade representative               | Val Renyard      |               | 01202 682460 |
| Venusians Ladies Group                  | Lynn Warner      | Church Office | 01202 605311 |

### **Clubs & Activities**

|                                                       |                                                                        |  |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Over 55's Lunch Club                                  | Vic Martin                                                             |  | 01202 699282  |
| Sequence Dance                                        | Church office                                                          |  | 01202 605311  |
| Art on the Heath - Vic Martin                         | <a href="http://www.artontheheath.org.uk">www.artontheheath.org.uk</a> |  | 01202 699282  |
| Brownies (Thursday 6:00pm-7:30pm)                     | Sarah Humby                                                            |  | Call in       |
| Rainbows (Thursday 5:30pm - 7:00pm) - Janette Simpson |                                                                        |  | 01202 382187  |
| Guides (Thursday 7:30pm-9:00pm)                       | Sarah Humby                                                            |  | Call in       |
| Pre-School Jumping Jellybeans                         | Debbie Southern                                                        |  | 0770 883 9918 |
| Bournemouth Rehearsal Orchestra                       | Graham Bayne                                                           |  | 01929 551050  |

### **Who to phone for:**

|                                                |                 |               |              |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Hall Bookings                                  | Jill Wellington | Church office | 01202 605311 |
| Weddings, Baptisms and Banns for Marriage      |                 | Church Office | 01202 605311 |
| Practical church issues - <b>Church Warden</b> |                 | Church Office | 01202 605311 |

**St Paul's** is the Church of England serving the whole of Canford Heath. It stands beside ASDA's car-park and is open most weekday mornings. You can usually speak to someone in the church office (605311) on weekdays between 9.30 and 12 noon. That's where to go about hall bookings, banns, baptisms weddings and funerals, or any general church enquiries. There is a post-box in the door

The Vicar Ra

Rev'd Matt Williams can be contacted through the Church Office on 01202 605311 (Weekday mornings) for any enquiries or on 07986 097099 if more urgent.