

Reflections from sunny Balterley

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Although, I may not be popular when I say it was too hot for me. As usual, the weather dominates conversations in farming circles, the heat and drought making for difficult and uncertain conditions for farmers again.

The new academic year, when the new school year starts, brings a flurry of activity for families with children at school. It always proves an expensive and busy time for families. I hope your children settle into school life happily and their teachers are feeling rested and ready to start the new term.

In the church calendar as we approach Harvest, where we thank all involved for bringing the harvest home, I believe that the speaker for the next Tea Set should be a representative from the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy. Our collection from the Harvest Service is donated to this cause, being a rural parish.

For me, I am lucky enough to have several swallow families at home and on the farm. The young are learning to fly and they will soon be ready to leave on their return journey to South Africa. They fly for approximately six thousand miles, a journey that takes them six weeks. This is an amazing feat. When this happens, I know the end of the summer is coming. As longer nights and shorter days approach, I eagerly await their return next year.

Once again, we find ourselves saying a sad and final farewell to an unprecedented number of members of the congregation and of our community. Laurence Wood, Saul Cooke, Glenda May, Muriel Cork, and Avril Lawson. May they all rest in peace. We wish their families and friends our sincere condolences. Everything changes, but nothing changes, in the circle of life.

Dates for your diary coming up

Sunday 6th September, 3pm – 5pm a Harp Concert with Harpist Lauren Scott will be held in church. There are still tickets available £15 including a glass of fizz. Under sixteen's half price.

Our Harvest Festival this year is held on Sunday 27th September 10.30am.

The annual Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 3rd October in the village Remembrance Sunday is 8th November 2026 with our service at 10.30am.

All good wishes ,Lucy

From The Rectory

During November 2024 Bishop Sam came to see me part of that meeting was taken up with my future with retirement age creeping up. Pleased to say they have allowed me another five years subject to various things one of which the Bishop described as “critical” was that I find somewhere to live. This has been on my mind since but then I went to help at a service at St Barnabas Church, West Street, during their Interregnum last November. They now have a vicar but his vicarage has been split into two one of which he lives in and the other part to be rented out it having been totally made into a three bedroom property all work now completed within.

This I showed interest in, the result being with the Bishop and Archdeacons approval it has been accepted my family move into the property which has been completely updated etc. This does save me a big headache of having to find somewhere which I certainly would have to do in due course. So the plan is that I remain Rector of Barthomley but based in the vicarage in Crewe.

Nothing actually changes here services etc all stay the same. The Rectory here in Barthomley however will be rented out by the Diocese until I officially retire when a new priest will be appointed. In a way I had no option other than do this it will be for me rent free till I retire but then I can carry on in ministry even returning to Barthomley if asked to help till a new priest is appointed.

More people actually telephone me than knock at my door so am only a phone call away though now it will be by my mobile phone which many use anyway.

Like I say we have no option but to do this it does save me much time and headache trying to find somewhere. I could have officially retired but then Barthomley Rectory more than likely would have remained empty for an unknown length of time as it did before I arrived. But I have no wish to retire and am sure you understand it would not be wise not to accept the house in Crewe. We are planning to move first week in September.

With Every Blessing

Peter

Summer Lunch

The magnificent Summer Lunch was a real highlight of the year for so many of our community. On behalf of everyone at St Bertoline's I want to extend our very grateful thanks to Mark & Marie Oulton, Kaye Moran and all members of her team for the dedication, hard work and time they invested into this highly successful event. A fantastic sum of £7,707 was made which is being shared between The Christie Charity and St Bertoline's Church. The Church's share will be directly invested in several key projects scheduled for this year including improvements to the external path lighting and window protection to preserve our building. We are very fortunate indeed to have such wonderful friends and supporters.

Sandy Griffin, Treasurer, St Bertoline's PCC

Following a successful fete in June we made just over £600. With some surplus from last year we are making 2 donations with the profits;
£100 to the "last wolf" for their continued support with the car parking for the fete - their chosen charity is "The Air Ambulance"
£1400 to be made to support resurfacing of the Church / village hall drive in Barthomley.

Thank you again for everyone's support in making our village fete a Community celebration .
Sally Walsh (Chairperson Village Fete Committee)

BARTHOMLEY TEA SET

TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2-00 till 4-00pm
BARTHOMLEY VILLAGE HALL £5 per person
Speaker HELEN RUTTER Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy
Coordinator
Includes Afternoon tea following the speaker
£5 per person including Afternoon Tea ; there is also a Raffle
Everyone is welcome

OCTOBER TEA SET

TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2-00 till 4-00pm
BARTHOMLEY VILLAGE HALL £5 per person
Speaker JONATHAN HALES POVEY
" Aid to Disaster Zones"
Followed by Afternoon Tea and Raffle

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 3rd October 2026
7.00 for 7.30pm
In Barthomley Village Hall
Tickets £17-50 under 12s £10
Bring your own drinks
Raffle and entertainment following the meal
Tickets available from Janet Peacock 07778428796 and Chris
Bailey 01270 873253
This is a joint Village Hall Committee and Parochial Church
Council event.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Flight of the Angel

solo harp recital ~ Lauren Scott



An afternoon of uplifting music by harpist, Lauren Scott

Join Lauren Scott for a serene solo harp recital in the beautiful
acoustics of St Bertoline's Church, Barthomley.

This uplifting programme journeys from Renaissance pavaues and
romantic works by Franck, Gounod and Debussy to traditional
Welsh melodies and sparkling contemporary pieces, including
Lauren's own compositions and works by outstanding female
composers.



Let the pure tones of the harp
lift your spirits

Sunday 6th September
3:00 pm

St Bertoline's Church

Radway, Green Road

Barthomley

Crewe CW2 5PE

Tickets: £15 (includes a glass of fizz)

Juniors: £7.50 Tickets available online or on the door.

To reserve in advance
please contact **Simon Gresty**: 07766 655066
simonmgresty@gmail.com

