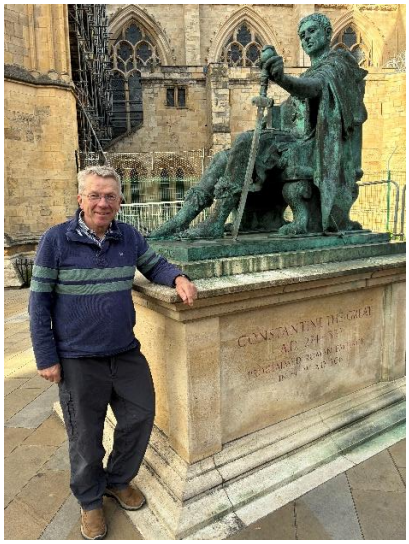
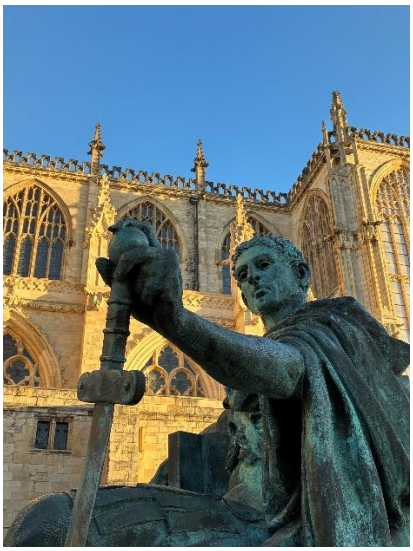
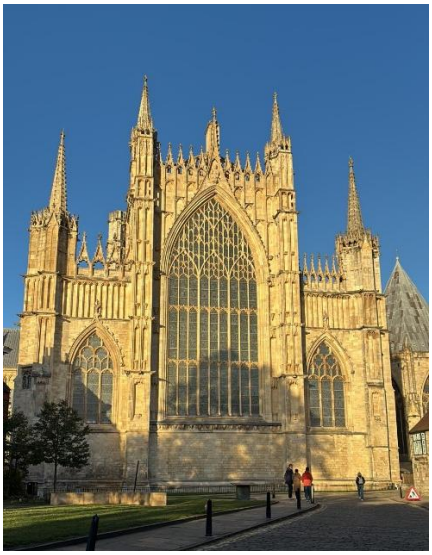
The Parish of Freshford with Limpley Stoke and Hinton Charterhouse – Newsletter – November 2026

A message from the Rector

Last week we drove up to Beauly, Inverness-shire. We went via York and visited York Minster – a cathedral called a "minister" because of its intentional outreach to support local churches. We were amused to see that Constantine was proclaimed Roman Emperor in York in AD36. As we have reflected in our creed sermon series, he would move to clarify the Christian creed a few years later. (325AD – Nicene Creed)







The colours were stunning – blue sky and trees turning golden in the sun.







We then travelled to Edinburgh to see our daughter Anna-Fleur. She has a new flat there. After lunch we tackled the A9 trunk road. So we passed through many town and villages. We saw many houses "decorated" for Halloween – a sometimes-elaborate display of images and dark themes. I think I noticed it more this year as I began to look ahead to our Advent programme.

Eva Uddin, for International House, London writes: "The origins of Halloween can be traced back to Samhain, an ancient Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season. Celebrated on the night of October 31st, it was believed that the boundary between the living and the dead grew thin, allowing spirits to roam freely. To ward off malevolent entities, bonfires were lit, and costumes were donned. Samhain laid the eerie foundation for today's Halloween traditions". Pranks and pumpkins became part of it. (https://www.ihlondon.com/blog/posts/2023/the-history-of-halloween/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23539313476&gbraid=0AAAAAD2ZUl5BK1YDm0MUNIX0WJF0MMVTb&gclid=CjwKCAjwuobXBhBXEiwAYUalldzAJLScw4zP-kwN1BXdmul-Vdru2ZH-IE03hqLu7u4L5JKb8_a0DxoCSGUQAvD_BwE)

For many this is "harmless fun" – though "trick or treating" can turn unpleasant, with properties damaged. I know of some, especially the elderly living alone, who are fearful of the doorbell ringing on this night. And for others there can be a more sinister aspect – dabbling in spiritual areas best avoided. And those areas are fundamentally hopeless.

I was disturbed to hear that this year more money is spent on Halloween decorations than Christmas. So, I returned to the parish's Advent programme with renewed enthusiasm! The month of December is the start of the Christian year. I have found many people, of all ages, looking for the hope and peace that is to be found in faith – as the bible says, "a peace that world cannot give". And our world is causing anxiety at the moment.

Many will be praying on October 31st for protection and safety, for themselves and others, out and about. At least that is "for one night only". Advent looks ahead to the birth of Jesus, Son of God, our Saviour – and He is for life. Everyone is welcome to our Advent events and Christmas services. And if this month's message sparks a question, please email me. I would be delighted to chat more…

Nigel

Revd Prebendary Nigel Rawlinson

News from St Peter's

We had the joy of Baptising Raffy…. during the Sunday service on 11th October.

It was a very happy affair, and it was lovely to welcome Raffy's family and friends to the church to celebrate. Measurements have been taken to form a quote to have the pews removed and the AudioVisual box moved. We are now waiting for the quotation and specification for this work and final permission from Historic England. We do hope this will be able to go ahead before Christmas.

You will notice that the church yard at St Peter's is looking very tidy. This is thanks to Peter Dodge who has been working hard to tackle the back log of jobs.

Our next services at St Peter's are on Sunday 8th November. This is our Remembrance service and will be attended by Cubs and Scouts. Come early to get a seat! We have two services in November on the 22nd and 29th November. The service on the 29th November will be an Advent celebration.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Peter's for all or any of the services. *Debbie*

News from St Mary's

St Mary's welcomed Revd Simon Winchcombe to our parish communion in October and we had a good congregation including a young family which was lovely to see.

Urgent! On November 11th at 10.50 we are holding a short Remembrance ceremony at **St Mary's** rather than at the war memorial as Middle Stoke is closed all week.

We then have our usual 10.30am service on the 15th.

If you weren't able to get to the three concerts in St Mary's and St John's, or even if you did, you might like to come to the concert given by Bath AllComers Orchestra on Saturday 28th November in St Luke's church, Wellsway at 7.30pm. The programme includes works by Beethoven, Chabrier, Meyerbeer and Arnold along with an operatic medley of some well-known melodies. Entry is just £5.00 on the door and includes refreshments. *David*

News from St John's

Sunday, 4th October was a busy day at St John's. There was a concert by a group from the strings section of the AllComers Orchestra which was organised by David Sibley. After an enjoyable selection of music, we had drinks and nibbles outside in the sunshine. This was followed by our Harvest Festival service to which we were delighted to welcome some farmers. About 40 people stayed for a hot meal after the service which was much appreciated by all. The Tuesday afternoon service continues at St John's though may soon relocate to The Glebe which is considerably warmer. So far, the trees and gutters have survived the storms which have caused so much damage in parts of the country. *Liz*

News from the School

Harvest Festival - We were able to send a huge amount to the Hub in Bradford on Avon from the school and the preschool whilst celebrating God's abundant love for us all as we celebrated Harvest in St Peter's. Many thanks to all.

In just a few short weeks, we will start planning our school Christmas service, as well as welcoming the pre-school children to sing their songs at one of the Wednesday afternoon teas sessions.
In the meantime, Nigel and I will continue to go into school to take part in collective worship on Tuesdays. A wonderful way to meet the children on their "home ground" and help bridge the gap between church and school. *Penny*

Services

Services November

Sunday Nov 1st	10.30	St John's HC	Holy Communion (CW)

Tuesday	17.30	St John' s HC	said Evening Prayer
Sunday Nov 8th	10.30	St Peter's F	Remembrance service With the cubs and scouts.
Tuesday	17.30	St John' s HC	said Evening Prayer
Sunday Nov 15th	10.30	St Mary's LS	communion – alternate BCP
Tuesday	17.30	St John' s HC	said Evening Prayer
Sunday Nov 22nd	10.30	St Peter's F	Holy Communion (CW)
Tuesday	17.30	St John's HC	said Evening Prayer
Sunday Nov 29th	10.30	St Peter's F	Celebration service
Tuesday	17.30	St John's HC	said Evening Prayer

Ladies Wednesday walking group

The next date for the walking group is on November 11th and our last one for this year is on the December 9th.

Wednesday afternoons - Tea, cake & chat

Please do come and join us in the Old Bakery on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 – 4.00 for tea, coffee.

Zoom sessions

If you don't get out much and feel like a chat, a small group of us zoom together for 45 minutes on a Monday morning. To give it a try, please contact Penny Jones on jonespennyg@gmail.com. *Penny*

Need a lift? Think LINK

A reminder that the Limpley Stoke and Freshford LINK service is available to residents in both villages who lack the means to get from A to B. Volunteer drivers will transport you to a doctor's appointment or local hospital, as well as to shopping or social visits. The service includes the delivery of prescriptions from the Galleries for those unable to collect them. If you have a car and some free time, why not consider becoming a LINK driver. Details at freshford.org.uk or you can contact the LINK co-ordinator on 07714 169216.

List of contacts

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