

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



A message from the Rector

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.*

We are in the middle of our harvest festivals. In this parish all three churches celebrate this season. We sing favourite hymns. "We plough the fields and scatter..." is one of the best, and is only sung at this time of year. The chorus above is a profoundly simply statement of gratitude and understanding.

Our first celebration was with Freshford pre-school, with Debbie and her team. They climbed up to St Mary's pulling a new cart with their gifts. After singing some of their songs - the conker hunt and the scarecrow were my favourites - they all brought their gifts to the altar. It was somehow a special place to leave them - and so it was natural to say a prayer there. We thanked God and asked him to bless the gifts and the people who receive them. Then they walked (and rolled!) back down the hill. It was a happy time.



Harvest is in one sense a time of the past. Very few of us are farmers these days. One role for harvest services today is to open our eyes to the work of our farmers, and where our food comes from. As one farmer said to me, young people need to understand that vegetables are not grown in Sainsburys or Ocado!

At our service in St Peter's, Wendy Brown, Trustee of the Hub, Bradford on Avon, gave a short presentation of the wide-ranging scope of their work. This parish sends all the gifts we receive in our Harvest services to them. One of her great joys is when someone who has been through their services, and got back on their feet, stays on to help others seeking the Hub's help.

It is good to have our eyes opened to this work, and the needs some people have, and to hear their stories and backgrounds. And although very few of us farm, the principle of giving and helping others is great to instil. And undergirding all that is a sense of thankfulness. We sing this hymn in all our harvest services. “Then thank the Lord...”

Revd Prebendary Nigel Rawlinson

News from St Peter's

It has been a busy month, with some repair work to the lead on the roof and securing some loose slates above the bell tower. It's a great view from there.



And thanks to Rory of Swept Away Chimney Sweep for some great drone pictures...



Thanks to Hugh Warren's patience, a group of new bellringers are learning this art. We practice on Tuesday evenings. We hope to ring for Christmas morning. If anyone is interested in learning, please contact the Rector.

At our harvest festival Wendy Brown came and talked to us about the work of the Hub, where we send our Harvest gifts. Our thanks to her for coming to our service, and to all the team there for their work.

Our next service will be on the 11th October, where Rafferty will be baptised.

Nigel

News from St Mary's

It was a lovely experience to be joined by a group of twelve St Edith pilgrimage walkers at our BCP communion service on the first Sunday of the month. They went on their way with our blessings.

Grateful thanks to Alfie for playing the organ at our Harvest Festival. Please see a note about Alfie below.

The Pre-school harvest celebration was a joyful experience for all involved, as we sang songs about leaves falling, collecting conkers and cabbages, along with a scarecrow and our very own Harvest Teddy. It was a great introduction to coming to church for our very special preschoolers and many thanks to their teacher, Debbie and her able assistants, for putting it all together, as well as giving us such a strong lead. *David*

News from St John's

September has brought various welcome changes to St John's. The scaffolding has been removed leaving the kitchen ceiling and ceiling behind the organ beautifully repaired. There is now a PIR light fitted to light our way in and out of church. The standing microphone is being upgraded, and live-streaming of services is being investigated.

We had our usual first Sunday of the month service, and weekly Evening Prayer services continued on Tuesday in September. On 25th September there was a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Isla Tuck. As well as being a long-standing resident of the village, Isla frequently visited Hinton House as a child when her Great Aunts lived there. They were followed by Isla's parents and then her brother who lived there until the early 1990s. Isla was a walking encyclopaedia of the church and surrounding area and a much-loved resident who will be greatly missed.

Next Sunday 4th October there is a concert in the afternoon – please see the details below.

This is followed by an evening Harvest Festival service at 6pm, and a meal to celebrate Harvest with the farming community. If you would like to come to this please contact Liz or Nigel (contact below) *Liz*

STRING CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HINTON CHARTERHOUSE



Save the Date!

Sunday 4th October 2026 at 3.00pm

**String group made up of 12 string players from
Bath All Comers Orchestra**

A programme of light classical music

**Light refreshments and free entry
(retiring collection in aid of Parish Music Fund)**

News from the School

The new school year is well under way. A big welcome to Grant Swarbrooke, the new headteacher.

As we head into October, once again we look forward to our annual harvest festival service in St Peter's and the "mountain" of gifts that the children so generously bring for us to take to the Hub, where they are always warmly received.

Freshford pre-school children came to St Mary's in September to entertain us with their harvest songs, with David at the piano, along with Harvest Ted. The children thoroughly enjoyed having a good look at the outside as well as the inside of the church with Nigel! They, too, brought their gifts for the Hub, wheeling them up through the fields in a wagon!

Thanks to Kathy Tucker for her wonderful harvest loaf, complete with mouse, which visits all our harvest services!



We are so blessed to have so many children in our midst, and we love welcoming them all to our churches.

Penny

Alfie Parkin

If you find yourself in Bath on Tuesday 13th October pop into the Abbey and hear Alfie Parkin play the mighty Abbey organ as part of a young musicians' recital starting at 1.00pm and lasting about fifty minutes. Alfie has played at all three of our churches for many services and is a Music Scholar at Prior Park school.

Alfie has also recently been awarded the Vicars Close Award by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for achieving the highest mark in his Grade 8 piano examination, only losing a few marks out of 150. Well done, Alfie!

Services

4 th October	12.30pm	St Mary's Limpley Stoke	BCP Holy Communion
and at	6.00pm	St John's Hinton Charterhouse	Harvest Festival, followed by a meal
6 th October	5.30pm	St John's Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
11 th October	10.30	St Peter's, Freshford	Communion and baptism
13 th October	5.30pm	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
18 th October	10.30	St Mary's, Limpley Stoke	Common Worship Holy Communion
Revd Simon Winchcombe			
20 th October	5.30pm	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer
25 th October	10.30am	St Peter's, Freshford	Common Worship Morning prayer
27 th October	5.30pm	St John's, Hinton Charterhouse	Evening prayer

Ladies Wednesday walking group

The next date for the walking group is October 14th, followed by the November 11th and 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. Everyone welcome!

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

Rector

Nigel Rawlinson rector@flshc.co.uk or Tel 07304 498491

Churchwardens St Peter's, Freshford

Roland Birchby birchbyr@gmail.com or Tel: 01225 723432

Debbie Ashcroft debbieashcroft@live.co.uk

Churchwarden St John's, Hinton Charterhouse

Liz Wordsworth hintonwords@icloud.com

Churchwardens St Mary's, Limpley Stoke

Trevor Quartermaine redadmiral7965@gmail.com

David Sibley dssibley38@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Debs Jones contact.parishoffice@gmail.com 01225 720347

Safeguarding Officer

Lesley MacKenzie lesleyjmackenzie@gmail.com

Pastoral coordinator

Rachel Moore rachelfreshford@gmail.com

School coordinator

Penny Murray pennylanemurray@aol.com