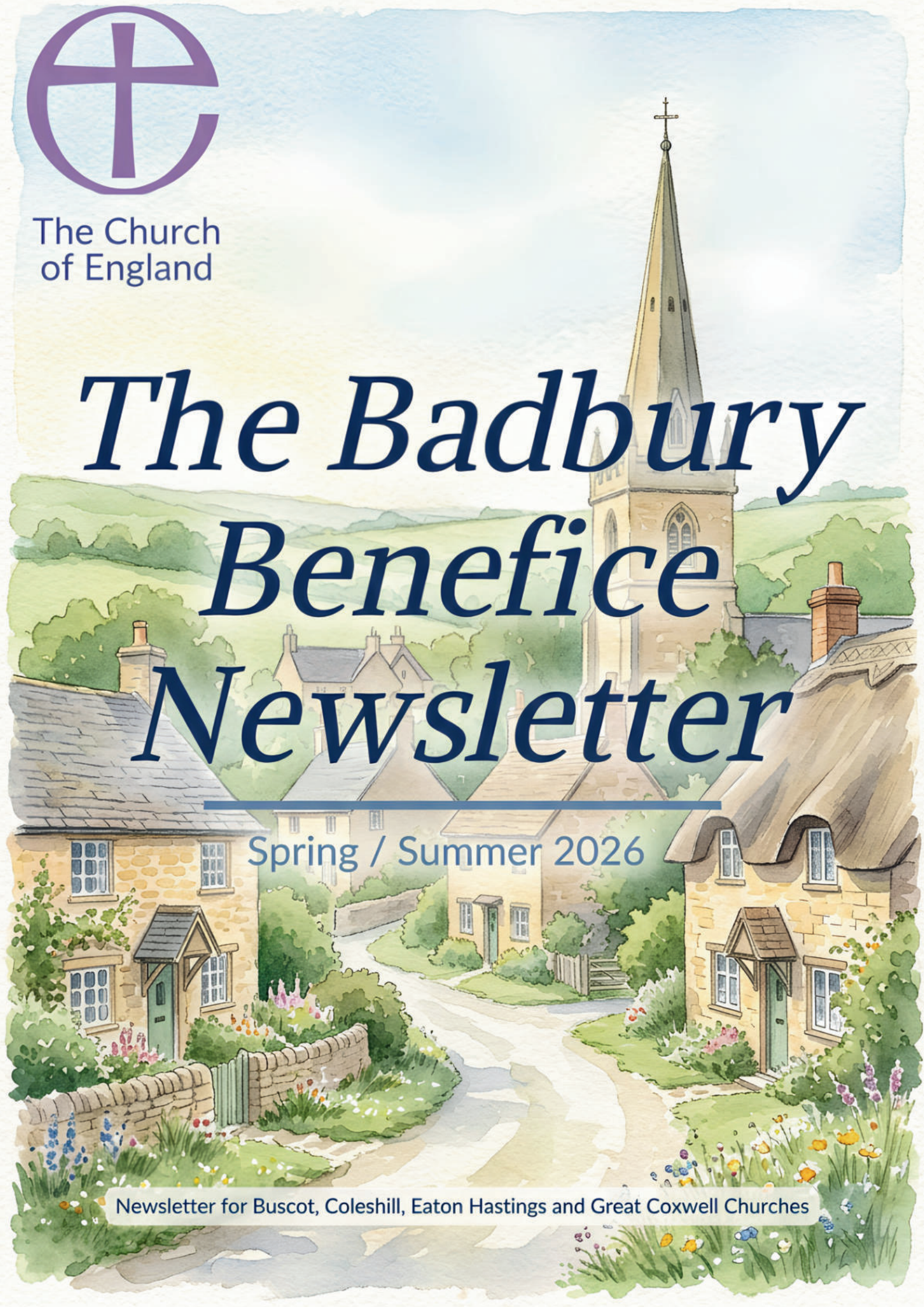
The Church of England

The Badbury Benefice Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2026



Newsletter for Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell Churches

Communication

As you know, Maureen, our much-loved vicar, retired at the end of February. We expect to have a replacement towards the end of the year or early in 2027. The appointment process is long and drawn out (not by us), but we hope to make the formal appointment in September. All four parishes will be involved and will be kept informed throughout.

Sue Homersham
(Senior Church Warden)

In the meantime, we are very fortunate to have the support of our old friends, the Revds Dick Whittington and Chris Etherton, who have kindly offered to help on a regular basis. We also have offers of assistance from our Archdeacon, the Bishop, and the Chaplain at the Defence Academy, Catherine Gillham.

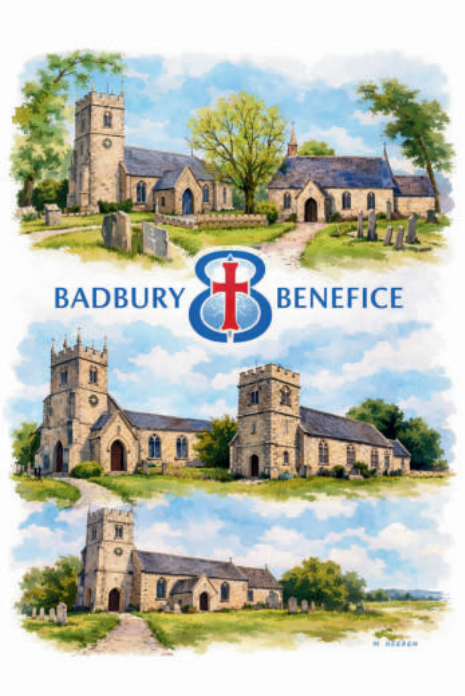
Overall, attendance has been good, though a few services have been rather thin on the ground. Jan and I are conscious that our visiting clergy may be less enthusiastic about giving their time if only a handful of people attend the services they lead. All of them are exceptional preachers and are willing to shape services in each parish according to the wishes of the congregations.

Please help us to fill our churches and show that we are worthy recipients of their generous support.

Thank you, Sue Homersham and Jan Hall

Benefice Vacancy Update

We are pleased to let parishioners know that the process of appointing our new Vicar is continuing. Advertisements for the post are expected to be published during August, with interviews anticipated in September. The appointment process is being carried out in partnership with the Diocese, the Patron, and representatives of the churches within the benefice.



What does the Interview Panel do?

The interview panel represents the churches of the benefice and works alongside diocesan representatives and the Patron to identify the person best suited to lead our churches and serve our communities. The panel's role is to ensure that all candidates are considered fairly and prayerfully, taking into account their calling, faith, experience, character, and suitability for the role. The panel is committed to conducting the process with integrity, openness, and respect for every applicant.

The Person We Hope to Attract

As a benefice serving four churches and a wider rural community, we are praying for someone who will be a faithful priest, an encouraging pastor, a visible presence in our villages, and a leader who can help us grow in faith and service.

We warmly welcome applications from all who feel called to this ministry. We believe that God's call is not limited by ethnicity, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, or background. We hope to attract a diverse range of candidates and are committed to ensuring that every applicant is treated fairly and judged on their gifts, vocation, and ability to serve Christ and our communities.

In the meantime, we are deeply grateful to the priests who come each Sunday to lead Communion services. They have also generously supported us by conducting occasional services, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Their dedication and willingness to serve are invaluable, and quite simply, we could not manage without them.

Above all, we seek the person whom God is calling to join us for the next chapter in the life of our benefice. Please continue to keep the appointment process, the interview panel, and all prospective candidates in your prayers over the coming months.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
— Proverbs 3:5

Churchwarden Wanted!

St Giles Church, Great Coxwell

We're looking for a friendly, organised volunteer to help care for our church building and support Sunday worship. The Churchwarden is a key role in keeping services running smoothly, coordinating routine maintenance, and liaising with the vicar, the PCC, and the treasurer.

Key Responsibilities

• Prepare the church for services and help with simple after-service tasks (recording attendance and collections)

• Keep essential supplies topped up (communion wine/wafers, candles, batteries, stationery) and pass invoices to the treasurer

• Manage basic building routines (heating settings, occasional safe emptying) and help coordinate contractors

• Support annual requirements such as insurance renewal checks, inventories/returns and routine maintenance planning

• Attend a small number of meetings each year (PCC/APCM and occasional churchwarden meetings)

• Help oversee churchyard basics (grass cutting, weeding, gutters/lights checks) with support from others

Time commitment: Varies throughout the year; typically a little time around services, plus seasonal admin and arranging a few annual checks.

Good fit if you are: Practical, reliable and happy to coordinate small tasks; comfortable making calls/emails; and able to handle basic money-handling procedures with care. You won't be on your own - the vicar, treasurer and PCC members can help!

Interested? Chat to Sue Homersham at homcourt@icloud.com

Buscot: Church of St Mary the Virgin

Buscot and Buscot Wick, consists of sixty-nine houses, with one hundred and forty eight voters, the Church electoral role has thirty names upon it and a typical Eucharistic service would have an attendance of twenty. The church building is grade one listed, remote from the village, with the old rectory (now owned and let by the National Trust) adjoining. The river Thames meanders past the garden of the Rectory and path to the village of Buscot and the lock and Weir pool. The Trust owns Buscot village and the surrounds of the pool. It draws tourists and bathers during the summer months many visit St Mary's and leave charitable donations. The congregation was historically drawn from farmers and farm workers. Although more than half of regular service goers are now from nearby Lechlade, Highworth and Faringdon, drawn to the beautiful setting and traditional service. The church and churchyard are well maintained and financed. The church has benefitted from a strong, happy and well supported PCC completing a major project in complete restoration of the Burne-Jones designed 'Good Shepherd' east window in the past year. The churchwarden of the past five years is Jonny Farnol, he is well supported by, his predecessor of many years' experience, John Burrows.

Visitors to Buscot - St Mary's

St Mary's is open to visitors throughout the summer, courtesy of our dedicated volunteers. Each morning during British Summer Time, our volunteers unlock the church to welcome visitors, ensuring the beacon of light above the south door is switched on.

In total, we welcomed 340 visitors who logged their visits last summer. While many hailed from nearby towns, a noteworthy number travelled from much farther away, including Colorado, Las Vegas, and Little Rock. The photograph above features a family from the USA. Visitors journeyed from across the globe, noting their travels to St Mary's from Poland, Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine, and even as far as Australia and New Zealand! Numerous guests commented on the beauty and tranquility of St Mary's, with words like "beautiful", "lovely.", and "peaceful" frequently appearing in their remarks. One of our favourite testimonials came from a couple in Hexham, Northumberland, who expressed, "What a treasure." Additionally, many expressed their gratitude for the church being open, clean, and well-maintained, which is a testament to the dedicated volunteers who keep our church tidy. However, it's essential to remember that St Mary's is a church, not merely a tourist destination. Many visitors find the church spiritually uplíting, allowing them to meditate and reflect. They give thanks to God and to us for maintaining the church as a serene space for prayer.

Coleshill: All Saints Church

Coleshill consists of seventy-three houses and four farms with one hundred and twenty- eight voters. The Church electoral role is twenty-seven with an attendance at Eucharist of fifteenish. The church building is grade two listed and set in the heart of the village. Coleshill overlooks the Cole river which forms the boundary with Wiltshire.

The 18th century village and the Coleshill estate with its model farm was given to the National Trust in the 1950's when Coleshill house was destroyed by fire. The village still principally houses Trust farm estate pensioners and employees. The Trust runs courses for artisan crafts at the model farm; this attracts like-minded people to the village. The church has a very experienced and capable Churchwarden, Sue Homersham, who is particularly adept at organising services and events that appeal to children. This is significant as the village school building was recently sold to the financial benefit of the church. Sue along with the PCC hope to make the church building the hub for the village by making improvements with the addition of a kitchen, lavatory and meeting room well as improving access and heating.

Easter Joy at Coleshill Church!

We are grateful to everyone who helped prepare the activities, decorate the church, and support the service. It was a beautiful example of our church family coming together, and we hope the images captured will continue to bring a smile to your face.

Easter at Coleshill Church was a truly joyful celebration this year, filled with colour, laughter, and a wonderful sense of community. The photographs say it all: our children threw themselves into the activities with enthusiasm, from the Easter crafts to the egg hunt in the churchyard. Their smiles and energy brought a special brightness to the day and reminded us all of the hope and new life that Easter represents.

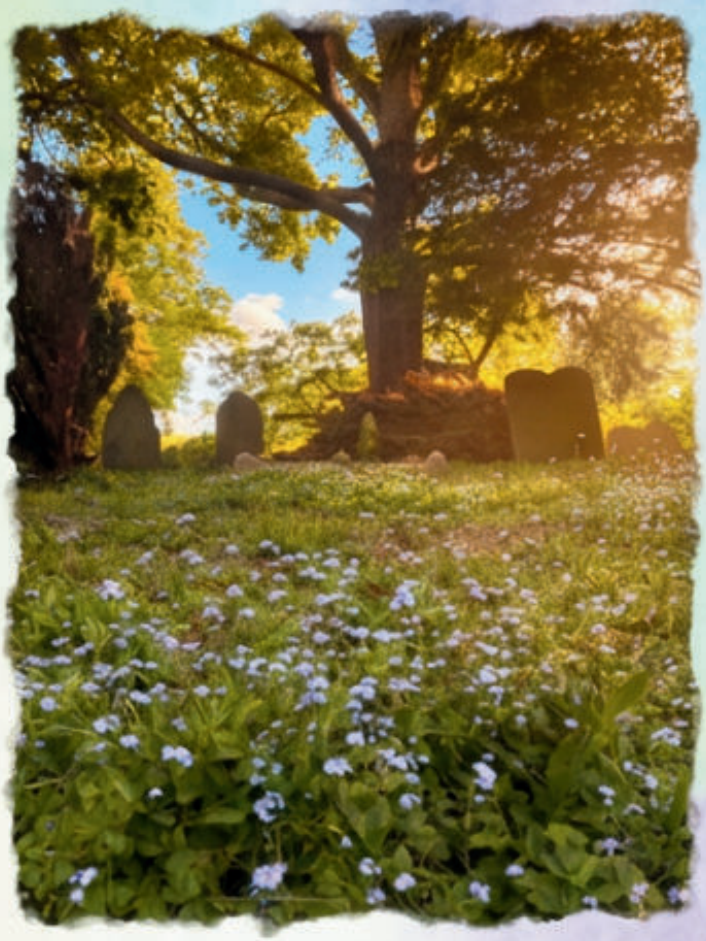
Thank you to everyone who made Easter SO much fun!

Eaton Hastings: St Michael and All Angels Church

Eaton Hastings is a tiny village, but the most widespread of the four parishes. It is situated between Buscot to the west, Faringdon to the east and hugs the Thames along its northern boundary. The parish consists of thirty-two houses with fifty-eight voters, an electoral church roll of sixteen, with a typical attendance at Eucharist of between twelve and fifteen. The church building dates from the eleventh century, is grade two listed and stands on the banks of the Thames. It is very much visited by Thames path walkers and those interested in the William Morris stained glass windows. Despite being very rural and spread out, the community, with the managerial skills of Churchwarden, Suzanne Tearle, can still muster an enthusiastic group of regular worshippers who favour the Prayer Book service. There are several farming families and three working farms in the parish, which is almost completely owned by the National Trust. The Benefice patron, Lord Faringdon, has his home at Buscot Park (also National Trust owned) with its extensive grounds stretching across this and the neighbouring parish of Buscot.

National Treasures of Eaton Hastings

Nature's treasures in Eaton Hastings
This spring a fascinating survey was conducted by the Oxford Wildlower Group, as part of their research into churchyards across the county.



Thanks to an introduction from Chris Leniec, who with his brother Dave has cared for upkeep of our churchyard for many years, we were delighted to learn that we are home to more than 90 species of trees, plants and wildflowers. We are well known for an abundance of snowdrops cheering the weeks of February, with primroses flowering everywhere for Easter. But did you know we also have three varieties of speedwell, white bryony and teaself? And could any of us identify the nipplewort?!

One project this spring was to prune our yew trees and allow more light to the ground. Whilst we waited for the rains to stop and allow removal of all the brash, a blackbird made her nest in one of the piles. Expertly spotted by Dave and left in peace, she sat tightly on her clutch who have now successfully fledged. A wonderful example of the circle of life.

St Michael's was recognised by the A Rocha Eco Church scheme in 2022. With a mission to care for God's creation on church or neighbouring land, we are playing our part in better understanding and supporting our biodiversity.

Great Coxwell: The Church of St Giles

Great Coxwell is the largest village in the Benefice consisting of one hundred and fifteen houses with two hundred and forty-four voters. There are 22 on the church electoral roll and average Eucharist attendance varies between fifteen and twenty.

Great Coxwell remains a vibrant and dedicated part of our Benefice. At the heart of village life is Saint Giles, our beautiful twelfth-century Grade II* listed church. The local council maintains the churchyard, and the nearby contemplation garden is lovingly cared for by volunteers from the village, providing a peaceful space with stunning views across the countryside.

We would like to express our gratitude to Sue Homersham, who is currently serving as acting Churchwarden during the vacancy, and is supported by former Churchwarden Mike Heathcoat and other volunteers.

The village benefits from the Reading Room, a small but well-utilised hall that hosts various events throughout the year, including afternoon teas, Arts Weeks events, weekly coffee mornings, and the men's monthly meet-up.

The village also has an historical tithe barn built by the monks of Beaulieu back in the days of yore. It is an atmospheric large, covered space now managed by the National Trust. Each Christmas a life-sized illuminated crib is installed by the villagers and the blessing of the crib on Christmas Eve has become a local tradition attracting more than three hundred people to a torch lit Carol Service.

St Giles Church, Great Coxwell

Spring in the Contemplation Garden

Painting by Jacqueline Pumphrey

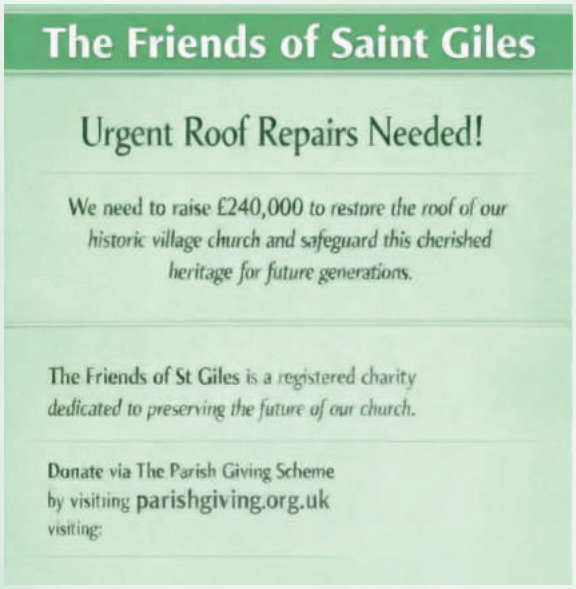
As Spring sprung the garden adjacent to the churchyard in Great Coxwell thrived, showcasing a variety of native flowers and nest boxes prepared for the season's birds. Pruning was completed along the southern boundary, enhancing the breathtaking view of the Ridgeway. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for a generous second donation from Revd Ian Beckwith, who served as our incumbent from 1997 to 2002. The garden is currently maintained by Anne Hamling, Mat Dempsey, Lindsay O'Kelly, and Jacqueline Pumphrey. For more information, please reach out to anne.hamling21@gmail.com.

Join the Friends of Saint Giles in Preserving History

The Friends of Saint Giles invite you to help preserve a significant piece of history by supporting the restoration of the Parish of St Giles church in Great Coxwell. This remarkable church, which dates back to the 12th century, has served as a cornerstone of our community for generations.

Sadly, St Giles urgently needs roof repairs to continue being a vibrant part of our village life for years to come. Our aim is to raise £240,000 to fund these crucial repairs and enhancements.

Your support can make a difference, whether through a one-time donation or a recurring gift. Please consider contributing to sustain the legacy of Saint Giles for future generations.



Arts Weeks at Great Coxwell

Seven artists exhibited their work in various venues in the village, from the magnificent Great Barn down to the 12th-century Church of St Giles. Karen Vogt, Annie Jenkin WOA, Anne-Kathrine Rayson SOA, Val Hughes, Robert Therpe, Yvonne Robinson OAS, WOA, Ruth Gerring WOA

Karen Vogt

Karen, on behalf of the Great Coxwell Artists, expressed heartfelt thanks to the PCC for hosting this year's Artweeks exhibition in the church. She noted how well the space worked for both artists and visitors, who appreciated seeing all five artists together. The group was grateful for the flexibility shown by the church and hopes the event helped raise awareness and support for the tower project. They also praised the flower team for their beautiful arrangements, which greatly enhanced the exhibition. The artists were delighted with the experience and would be very happy to return in future.

A heartfelt thanks to Pam and her fellow Community Fund colleagues, Pauline and Mandy, who worked tirelessly to bring this event together. They have worked behind the scenes to organise the lunches and cakes for the event, with Mandy this year coordinating the flower ladies who did a wonderful job of decorating the Church, which locked beautiful. Many people from the village contributed delicious cakes, donated to buy food, and worked a shift at the pop-up café, making this a truly brilliant village event. Their efforts have become a cherished part of this event, bringing people together to enjoy good food and company.

Thanks to their dedication and generosity, all proceeds raised have gone into the village community fund. Over the years, this fund has supported numerous initiatives and projects that have benefiited the village in so many different ways, strengthening the community that makes Great Coxwell so special.

Pam Smith & Pauline Durham

Pam, Pauline, Mandy, and all those involved deserve enormous recognition for their commitment, energy, and kindness.

Their contributions have made a lasting difference, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed. On behalf of everyone in the village, thank you.

Thank You

The Flower Ladies of Great Coxwell: St Giles Church

Sylvia Athawes

For many years, the flower arrangements and cleaning at St Giles have been lovingly carried out by a small, faithful rota of village volunteers. Their thoughtful displays have welcomed a steady stream of visitors and been appreciated by our vicars over the decades. Great care is taken to reflect the Church's seasons and the colours of the altar frontals, especially during Easter and other significant festivals.

Mandy Burns

Although a few new enthusiasts have joined from time to time, the number of helpers has gradually declined, making it increasingly difficult to cover every week of the year. Thankfully, the team has found a sustainable way forward by using exceptional artificial stems and suitable containers, ensuring that St Giles remains beautifully adorned throughout the year.

The Community Village Fund has generously sponsored both faux and fresh flowers. Fresh arrangements are created at four key points in the year — Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival, and Arts Weeks — with additional greenery and flowers kindly contributed by villagers from their own gardens. Thanks to this shared effort, St Giles continues to be filled with colour, warmth, and creativity.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mandy Burns for her exceptional leadership and coordination of these special church events. Her dedication to organising Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas, and Arts Weeks has brought our community together in joy and celebration. The displays she oversees are consistently imaginative and professional, enriching our shared experiences.

Mandy, your hard work and vision are deeply appreciated. Thank you — and sincere thanks to all the ladies to create these wonderful displays and for making these occasions so memorable for all.

Generosity in Action

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is like a superhero in disguise, swooping in to help churches collect donations effortlessly through Direct Debit, Credit and Debit Cards, and even Apple and Google Pay! We're all about making life easier for churches, while turning everyone into confident giving champs who feel like rock stars. Want in on the action? Just head over to parishgiving.org.uk!

Looking after our churches isn't just about patching up walls; it's about safeguarding a treasure trove of heritage that fills our communities with warmth and character. Your help—be it through donations, rolling up your sleeves, or spreading the word—keeps these hallowed halls echoing for generations to come. Thank you for thinking about this important cause and for your generosity in nurturing the spiritual and cultural heartbeat of our churches.

Badbury Parish Calendar of Services June to December 2026
Morning Prayer (MP) Holy Communion (HC) Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Date	Service	Church	Time
28th June Peter & Paul	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
5th July Trinity 5	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
12th July Trinity 6	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
19th July Trinity 7	HC	Buscot	10.30 am
26th July Trinity 8/James	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
2nd August Trinity 9	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
9th August Trinity 10	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
16th August Virgin Mary Patronal	HC	Buscot	10.30 am
23rd August Trinity 12/Bartholomew	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
30th August Trinity 13	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
6th September Trinity 14	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
13th September Harvest	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
20th September Harvest	HC	Buscot	10.30 am
20th September Trinity 16	Evensong	Eaton Hastings	6.00 pm
27th September Harvest	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
4th October Patronal & Harvest	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
11th October Trinity 19	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
18th October Luke	HC	Buscot	10.30 am
25th October Patronal	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
1st November All Saints	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
8th November Remembrance		Eaton Hastings (War Memorial)	9.00 am
8th November Remembrance	HC	Buscot	9.40 am
8th November Remembrance		Coleshill (War Memorial)	10.50 am
8th November Remembrance		Great Coxwell (War Memorial)	12.00 noon
15th November 2nd before Advent	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
22nd November Christ the King	HC	Coleshill	10.30 am
29th November Advent Sunday	HC	Buscot	10.30 am
6th December 2nd in Advent	HC, BCP	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am
13th December 3rd in Advent	HC	Great Coxwell	10.30 am
19th December	Carol Service	Coleshill	5.00 pm
20th December	Carol Service	Buscot	5.00 pm
25th December	HC	Coleshill	9.00 am
25th December	HC	Eaton Hastings	10.30 am