

## Please Pray For ...

Brenda Quicke, Richard Mumford,  
Chris Brown, Maureen Haynes, Alison Hudson  
Sandi Rice-Berry, Darren Thompson, and the  
family and friends of Barbara Clee.

- ◆ Our churches, in particular for our **Home Groups** and for **Mothers' Union**
- ◆ Churches Together - the **Methodists** in the village
- ◆ **Andover Food bank**
- ◆ The residents of **Station Hill** and **Lambs Close**
- ◆ Please continue to pray for the people in areas of conflict, including, Lebanon, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Haiti, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Gaza and Israel, Iran and other troubled areas, and the many refugees from war.
- ◆ A cessation of hostilities and a renewed effort for a lasting **Peace** in **Gaza**.
- ◆ For the aid agencies taking medicines and food to the sick and starving in **Gaza**, and for their safety.
- ◆ All those affected by the earthquake in **Afghanistan**, the population and the aid agencies.
- ◆ **Peace in Europe**, particularly in **Ukraine** and Russia, for negotiations that bring a genuine, lasting and stable peace.

**Lord, give us your heart for your world**

## Deeper

It has been decided to discontinue Deeper services for the moment. There will therefore be no Deeper service on 14th September.

**David Spencer.**

## The Next Week at St Mary's

### Tuesday 9th

9:00 am Prayer meeting - *in the Upper Church Room - all welcome*

### Wednesday 10th

1:15 - 1:45 pm Open the Book at school  
- *Alison, Jill, Celeste and Lois*

### Thursday 11th

10:30 am - 12:00 pm Coffee and Chat  
- *in the White Hart*

11:00 am to 1:00 pm Art Together  
- *in the Lower Church Rooms*

### Saturday 13th

8:20 - 9:00 am Breathing Space  
- *the meeting room, Overton Surgery*

## Toddler Toys

Please speak to Ann Barker or Margaret Elkins before donating toys to the cupboard in the Lower Church Room. We have limited space for storage and we need to ensure that all toys are suitable for the age group we serve.

## Pastoral Care Team

A reminder that we have a Pastoral Care Team at St Mary's. If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit from one or two of the team do get in touch.

If you would like to join the team, please contact Annabel Russell  
[annabelrussell99@gmail.com](mailto:annabelrussell99@gmail.com)



# The Benefice Messenger

## St Mary's Church Laverstoke and Overton

Striving for more of God in more of our lives

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**Trinity 12**

### Verse of the Week

*"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus."*

Philemon 4,5

### St Nicholas, Freefolk

9:00 am Holy Communion BCP

### St Mary's, Overton

10:30 am Sunday Celebration

Reading Philemon 1-21 (Mike Smith)  
Luke 14:25-33 (Helen Francis)  
Intercessions Janine Smith

6:00 pm Evensong

Readings Isaiah 43:14 - 44:5 (Sue Headley)  
John 5:30-end (Adrian Lewis)  
Intercessions Pauline Wooster

### Rector

Rev'd James Russell 01256 589614  
[revjames.overton@gmail.com](mailto:revjames.overton@gmail.com)

### Administrator

Ruth Williams 07783 632859  
[admin@stmarysoverton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoverton.org.uk)

## Welcome Back!

Welcome back! I hope that you've all had a good summer and are now ready to embrace the Autumn and to engage with this new term.

I'm very glad to announce that our new Overton Benefice website is now up and running and huge thanks to Pete Silverwood and Ian Haynes for bringing this about. Our new web address is: [overtonbenefice.org.uk](http://overtonbenefice.org.uk) Over the next few weeks we will also be unveiling our new branding assets - pop-up banners etc - and these have all been paid for by the money that we've received from the Church Commissioners through the *Growing Rural Parishes Project*.

The 'Messenger' is also in the process of being redesigned to encompass the whole Overton Benefice and Ian Haynes and I are presently in discussions as to how we best do that. All these things are reflective of our new Benefice status and pick up perfectly on the themes of unity that Bishop Philip touched on at our joint service last Sunday.

It's good to remind ourselves of both the privilege and responsibility that is ours as followers of Jesus within the Overton Benefice. There are people in our villages and communities that only you can reach because the Lord has put you here for that very purpose. Remember *'every contact leaves a trace'*. Let's leave all sorts of Jesus honouring traces in our villages and communities here.

Finally, I've been struck powerfully recently by a verse from the hymn 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' It's very familiar.

*Drop thy still dews of quietness  
Till all our strivings cease:  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace*

As men and women our tendency is always to strive, strain and stress but uniquely, as Christians, we know the extraordinary peace of Jesus in our hearts. We want our lives to be the embodiment of the beauty that the peace of Jesus brings – for his glory and the good of all. **James**

## Barbara Clee

Barbara's Cremation Service will be at 12:30 pm on Thursday 11th September, at Basingstoke Crematorium.

A Celebration of Barbara's life will be held in Church at 1:30 pm, followed by light refreshments.

All are welcome.

## Information Packs

If you are new to the village or church, or know someone who is, Information Packs are available at the back of church. Please take one!

## Andover Foodbank

**Updated weekly**  
Urgently needed:



Tinned Soup. Cereal. Biscuits.  
Chocolate Bars. Long-life Milk. Tinned Meat Pies.  
Tinned Fruit. Toilet Paper. Men's Deodorant.

They have plenty of Period Products.

## A Date for Your Diary

Overton Churches Together presents

**An Evening of Songs, Stories and  
Inspiration with Philippa Hanna.**

Supported by local artist Sarah Hawkyard.

Friday 7th November. 7:00 pm here at St Mary's

Tickets and details at [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Around the Benefice

### Sunday 7th September - Trinity 12

**Holy Trinity & St Andrew's, Ashe**

No service

**All Saints', Deane**

10:15 am Matins

**St Nicholas, Freefolk**

9:00 am Holy Communion BCP

**St Michael's, North Waltham**

6:00 pm 'Hymns and Pimms'

**St Mary's, Overton**

10:30 am Sunday Celeb'n | 6:00 pm Evensong

**St Nicholas, Steventon**

No service

### Sunday 14th September - Trinity 13

**Holy Trinity & St Andrew's, Ashe**

11:00 am Holy Communion

**All Saints', Deane**

No service

**St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke**

9:00 am Holy Communion BCP

**St Michael's, North Waltham**

9:30 am Holy Communion

**St Mary's, Overton**

10:30 am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas, Steventon**

11:15 am Holy Communion