

## Services and events for September

7th - Parish Eucharist 10.30am

Evensong at Longstone 6pm

14th - Parish Eucharist 10.30am

14-21st Heritage Open Week (see inside)

20th - Coffee concert (see inside)

21st - Morning Praise 10.30am

28th - Parish Eucharist at Over Haddon

**Harvest Supper is on 4th October at 7pm**



**Copy for October by 20th September please.**

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**All Saints with St. Anne's**

## Parish Pump



SEPTEMBER 2025

### **Being Angry with God.**

The news is bringing us so many stories of human suffering. Night after night we see pictures of people starving, of the destruction of homes, schools and hospitals and people recounting their stories of trauma and despair. The recent mud slides in Pakistan and wildfires elsewhere remind us of how life can be turned upside down in a few hours. Why does God allow such suffering to happen? Why do bad things happen to good people? Throughout history people have asked the same questions but there are no easy answers. The Bible devotes an entire book to dealing with the problem, the book concerns a man named Job.

Job was 'the greatest man among all the people of the East'. He was blameless and upright, he feared God and shunned evil. Life was going well for Job. He had a family of 7 sons and 3 daughters. He was wealthy and widely respected. Then a series of catastrophes changed his life. All his oxen, donkeys and camels were stolen, his servants were killed and his sheep were destroyed by lightning. As if that wasn't enough, a wind then swept in from the desert which destroyed his eldest son's house and killed all Job's children. We might react rather differently to Job. He simply fell to the ground and blessed God saying: "the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away." However, Job's troubles continued, his health worsened and he was afflicted by very painful sores. When Job's three friends came to

comfort him, they wept as they saw him brought so low and sitting on a heap of ashes outside the city. For a week they sat with him and mourned with him before offering well-meant but unhelpful advice. The friends insisted that he must have committed some terrible sin or that he had not prayed hard enough, either way Job's comforters told him that he must have brought his misfortunes upon himself.

In the first chapter of the book, we are told about the hand of the Satan in what was going on, but Job and his friends were unaware of this. Job repeatedly asked God the question 'why me?' but he was never given an answer. Job became aggrieved, he charged God with being angry, unforgiving and destructive and we see Job swinging between times of confidence and despair. Job longed for a sense of God's presence and for a chance to plead his case but God remained silent. Job then turned from his personal sufferings to question God's role in the wider world and the exploitation of needy and helpless people.

Despite his struggles Job remained close to God. His spiritual journey led him towards accepting the limited nature of our human knowledge and understanding compared to the infinite wisdom of God. Job came to accept that he just had to let go and allow God to be God and he came to see that what mattered was not the things that were going wrong in his life and in the world, what mattered was his relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that God "heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." (Ps147 v3) And as St Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Suffering often tests our faith but it also enables us to help others who are going through similar situations. As Job said: "God knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold."

Brenda

to do a music degree. A whole world of new experiences and opportunities is opening up!

There is, for me, a certain poignancy, as a combination of bereavement and invalidity have pushed me into that compound of old age defined by sadness and helplessness where, I am very aware, many of my contemporaries inhabit.

And yet, and yet...I can still share the excitement of my grandchildren's generation as they move towards momentous changes in their lives. I can still share the joy of a meal with friends, or a visit to an interesting and beautiful place (although I can't climb a mountain!) and I can still enjoy a good book, or a film, or a piece of music....and I have become acutely aware of being gently cared for, both by my family and my community. There is so much to be thankful for.

*Roger Truscott*

"Did Moses ever get better?" the girl asked her PE teacher.

"He was never ill," the teacher replied.

"Well, why did God give him those tablets?"

*O M Witherby*

## **A Word from St Anne's**

At St Anne's church, Over Haddon, we signed off the Summer month of August with a Cream Tea held on the grass at the front of the church, overlooking the churchyard and Lathkill Dale. This event was in aid of the small local charity "Friends of St Anne's," appropriately set up chiefly to pay for the maintenance of the churchyard, although it helps to pay for other physical improvements to the church as well. Our next major church event to look forward to will be our Harvest Festival, in early October, but an important village event will be held before that - our Village Show, held at the village hall on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. The hall will be open for visitors from 2.30, so do call in to see the exhibits, join in the games and enjoy some home-made refreshments. You may even like to stay for the auction of produce at the end. This is a genuine, traditional country village show, which are becoming fewer in number, so it is worth supporting.

As the seasons of the year go, September represents the drift from Summer to Autumn, as the year rolls inexorably towards its end. However, to me, after many years spent in education, it represents exiting new beginnings, as the traditional start of a new year at schools, colleges and universities.

This is especially personal for me this year, as my three grandchildren are all caught up in these new beginnings. Two of them have just received, - with trepidation! - their GCSE results, and happily achieved what was needed to go on to VI Form and College respectively. The other one is busy visiting university open days all over the country to decide which ones she wants to apply at to

## **Coffee concert**

On Saturday, 20 September Sue Clarke and David Winder will make a welcome return to All Saints to entertain us with a programme of piano duets. We are very happy to see them again, particularly in view of Sue's serious illness and we are delighted that she is back to good health.

They will play a varied programme of classical music, to include pieces by Mozart and Schumann.

The concert will commence at 11.15am, with coffee and biscuits being served in the Newark from 10.30am. Entry is free, with any donations going towards the general upkeep of the church.

## **Harvest supper**

The Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday, 4 October at 7pm.

This will be a "bring and share" supper.

For organisational purposes please sign up to the form at the back of church, giving an indication of what you intend to bring.

And, please, bring your own drinks.

## **Heritage Open Week**

This year, Heritage Open Week will take place between 14 and 21 September. Various historical properties around the town, including the Museum, Friends Meeting House, the town hall, the visitor centre, as well as the church and the bell tower, will be open to the public. A town trail will guide visitors around the town. There will be an exhibition of vestments in church between 2 and 4pm on the two Sundays, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. At the same times the bell tower will be open to visitors. No charge is made by any of the participants.

## The Church Walk Group

Our walk in August was a shortish (6 miles) but strenuous walk from Errwood Reservoir (the other side of Buxton). Ten of us walked up via the ruins of Errwood Hall and a Spanish shrine to the ridge which is the county boundary with Cheshire. We walked along the ridge, in very strong winds, to Shining Tor, which is the highest point in Cheshire! The views were absolutely stupendous, right across the Cheshire plain as far as the Welsh hills.

After we had our picnic lunch at the summit, sheltering behind a dry stone wall, we took this photo - it is taken from the Derbyshire side of the boundary wall with the group by the trig point on the Cheshire side. The descent was down a track back to the carpark, and within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the carpark the heavens opened and we became a rather moist walk group!

If anybody would like to join the walk group let us know - we go out on the first Thursday of the month and take a picnic in the summer months, while the colder months find us in a pub or café for lunch.

Rick and Kath Naylor



### 100 club

The latest results for 100 club, drawn on 3 August are as follows:-

Annual draw -

1 prize only - 20 - £81

Monthly draw -

1<sup>st</sup> prize - 8 - £42

2<sup>nd</sup> prize - 39 - £21

3<sup>rd</sup> prize - 17 - £10.50

3<sup>rd</sup> prize - 16 - £10.50

The 100 club was set up to raise money towards the organ repairs. We have now achieved that goal. The PCC has agreed that future receipts should be placed in general funds in order to try to reduce the expected deficit in this year's accounts, until a further specific project is identified.

Anyone wishing to join should contact Joyce by e mail - [j.glencross@btinternet.com](mailto:j.glencross@btinternet.com)