



**St Thomas', Trowbridge and
St John's, West Ashton,
with Holy Trinity**

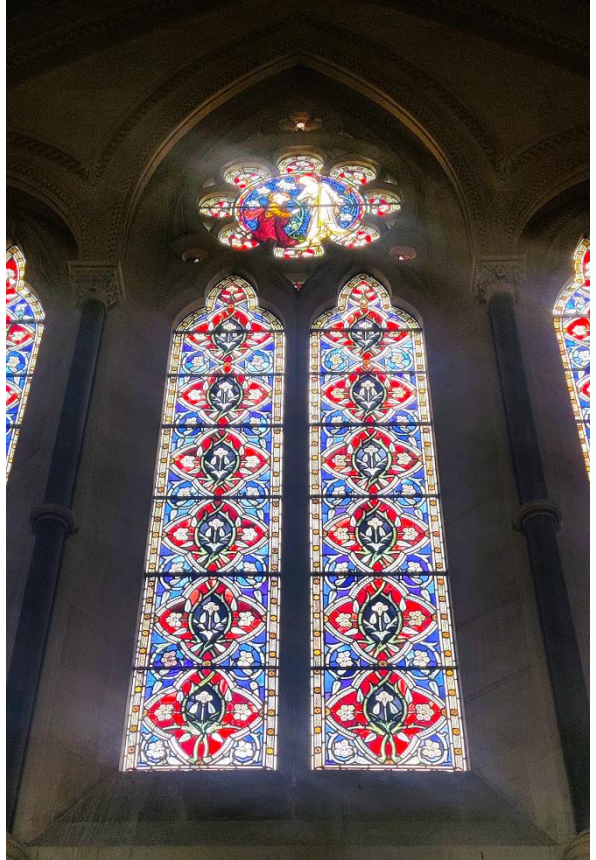
Monthly News July 2026



Song of Songs 2:12 “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

Walking in the Light of the World

As we have prayed before services over recent weeks, the image of light has returned to us again and again. We have noticed it in the light dancing through the East window, and in the promise of Christ, the Light of the World, bringing hope. July often feels like a month filled with light. Long evenings, warm days, and the gentle glow remind us how much our spirits lift when the world is bright. And if there is a little extra cheer from the summer's sport, so much the better!



It's no surprise that Jesus chose light as one of the clearest ways to describe Himself: "I am the light of the world" (John 8.12). Light reveals what is hidden, guides our steps, brings warmth, and makes life possible. It's a simple image, yet one with remarkable depth.

When Jesus calls Himself the Light of the World, He is not offering only a poetic metaphor; He is naming a reality: wherever He is welcomed, things become clearer. Hope becomes visible. Fear loses its grip. The path ahead, even if still challenging, becomes navigable. Light doesn't remove every difficulty, but it changes how we see them.

July is a good month to notice where Christ's light is quietly at work among us. In conversations that bring comfort. In acts of kindness that go unseen by most. In the courage of those taking a new step of faith. In the welcome extended to newcomers. In the resilience of those carrying burdens with grace. These small glimmers are not accidental — they are signs of God's presence in our community. Light shining in the darkness, blessing us with hope.

And perhaps this month, Jesus' words invite each of us to consider where we need His light most. Maybe it's clarity in a decision. Maybe it's peace in a stressful season. Maybe it's healing in a relationship. Maybe it's simply the reminder that we are not walking alone. Christ's light is not harsh; it is gentle, steady, and life-giving.

As we move through July, let's be people who look for the light, welcome the light, and reflect the light. Our town, our workplaces, our families, and our church are all places where God's brightness can shine through ordinary lives lived with faith, compassion, and hope. After all Matthew 5:14-16 says:

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

May you know the warmth, clarity, and courage that come from walking with the Light of the World this month, and be bold to shine it into the world around you.

Be blessed in His light,

Simon

St John's Update

The longest day has gone, in the fields the harvest is ripening and we are mid way through the year. So far we have had a heat wave and a tropical storm -

what will come next - will we be prepared ?

The weather has been kind for the work being undertaken at St John's, the attached photographs tells the story from day one - as in most things the preparation work took some time, but the contractors are on target with their schedule and hope to finish under the four weeks. All walls have been cleaned with an approved antifungal wash to clean the mould growth. The West wall around the organ has also been decorated as a trial panel. So not every wall will look pristine as this one. We trust people will understand this.

It is still envisaged to hold a Holy Communion service on the 19 July but confirmation will be issued in the weekly notice sheet. Thank you for your patience.

Wishing you all a happy and safe July holiday - for those who are excited about your Proms evening, just enjoy; for those leaving school an adventure awaits; and for those graduating, the world is your oyster.

Fear less, hope more. Eat less, chew more. Whine less, breathe more.

Talk less, say more. Love more and all good things will be yours.
(Swedish Proverb)

The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusts in Him.
Psalm 28.

Amen.

Jean



An empty St John's





Poppies appear at St John's



ChurchSuite update - MyChurchSuite

This article is to give everyone a quick update on where we have got to with the implementation of ChurchSuite software at St Thomas', and to explain our next steps. In particular, we want to make everyone aware of the MyChurchSuite online tool which will soon be available to members of the church.

What we have done so far

We are already using ChurchSuite for a number of aspects of church management. Behind the scenes we are using it for:

- Managing all the room bookings and events
- Our membership, contacts and electoral roll

And more visible to everyone:

- All our group e-mails now go out through ChurchSuite
- There is an up-to date calendar of church services and other events on our website.

Let Paul or the Office know if there are any problems with receiving or reading the e-mails. Do get into the habit of using the calendar to find out what is happening: you can find a date if you're not sure, or check whether an event is taking place or not, or find the theme of a service, for example. And do let the office know of any information that is missing or incorrect.

The next step: MyChurchSuite

Our next step is to launch the MyChurchSuite app to the members of the church. Many people will have recently received, or be about to receive, an invitation to register for this, as well as an explanatory e-mail. I'll give a brief introduction here, but you'll find more information in the e-mail and invitation, including a link to a 'MyChurchSuite getting started' document.

MyChurchSuite is an app that allows members to log in to the St Thomas' ChurchSuite system, and is designed to give you access to the kind of information that is useful to people who are involved in the life of the church. You will need to create an individual login, and can then access MyChurchSuite either via a mobile app (Android and Apple) or via a website.

Once you have logged in you will have access to the following:

- **Search for Others** which provides access to an online version of the church address book (this respects the permissions already given for the paper directory about whether people's details appear or not)
- **My Details** where you can see and edit (if needed) the information that the church holds about you, including contact details, contact preferences etc. You can add a picture too!
- **My events** is a personalised view of the church calendar
- **My children** where you can add details of children and young people (details visible only to those involved in children's/youth leadership)
- **My rotas**, which is currently being tested and will become important as we start to move our various church rotas into ChurchSuite. You will be able to see the rotas that you are serving on, record your availability, be reminded when you are next serving, and arrange swaps.

When you receive your invitation, do at least read the introduction and 'What do I need to do? – the simple version', and make use of the more detailed instructions if you need to. If you are a couple who share an e-mail address, then look out for special instructions on this.

Paul E

The New Rooms

(A history of bricks and mortar)

The rooms at the east end of the church were officially opened in 1990 but the story starts a few years earlier.

Back then we had a large Explorer group and a large Pathfinder group neither of which could be accommodated on the church campus. We had lost the use of an old school room which stood behind the cottage so only had the church and hall. It was decided to rent what was then the Halve Clinic rooms. This meant that the children all had to cross roads in order to reach their groups.

One of the parents, Mrs. Chris T R, was unhappy with this arrangement. She was the church treasurer at the time and put a plan before the PCC to build accommodation on site. Hence the New Rooms.

But in order to make it happen there ensued a herculean effort. A fund raising scheme was started and grew like a weed. We had had a 50 – 50 scheme, (50 people paying 50p, practically the whole congregation at the time), we had stalls at various Country Fairs. In order to have some stock for this people made cakes, jams and chutneys but the stalls became famous for jars of Pickled Onions.



Tony Ludlow, Linda Puttock and Hughie Armitage. At Frome

Wendy A, Jean and Tony L sat on the grass outside the church peeling onions so that Wendy could make jars of pickled onions. These became so popular that people came from far and wide. In fact the pickled onion fame travelled as far as Frome where the team took a stall at their Country Fair. Tony L can tell you stories of dressing up in period dress just to sell these things.

The other big push was the Pantos. The fund raising came to its pinnacle in 1988 with the beginning of five years of Pantos. This meant that pretty much the whole of the congregation were involved in one way or another. The first one was held in the Old School Room, (now no more), and was quite an amateurish affair. Doug T R dressed as the Fairy Godmother in holey fish net stockings, a Tutu and waving a spanner as a wand. We wouldn't get away with it today as we rammed the place full of chairs and had the most unstable stage going!!!



The Cast of thousands!! Do you recognize anybody?

It became a great success despite all our efforts to the contrary. We moved on to St Augustine's School hall and then the Civic Hall. Both of which were sold out before the first performance. Val was the rear end of a cow on one occasion. Philip played king and various royalty with his daughter, Katie, as Principal Boy. Jenny G, nee M played the princess more than once. And Tony L played Silly Billy, the farmer and owner of the cow. He can still recite his lines if you ask him!! Of course there was a vast cast of extras and back room crew far too numerous to mention but here's a few: David and Jane B, David G, Stella L, Celia R, John B, Debbie B, (hair, makeup and costume change), and me behind the scenes with the aid of others. I'm sorry if I have missed you off.

Thus the bricks and mortar legend came about. It was hard work but great fun in fact hilarious at times. I just wanted to say a big thanks that we did it especially Chris T-R for her vision and her family for their sacrifice of her time.

Working alone on church premises

St Thomas' Church now has a policy in place to manage the risks around people working alone on our church premises.

Working alone or unsupervised can create increased risk for the individual, including:

- Risk of having an accident
- Risk of being unable to summon help in the event of accident or illness
- Risk from intruders or other third parties

The policy document contains recommendations for how to manage these risks, and we ask that anyone who expects to be alone on church premises should read it first.

The full document can be requested from the Church Office, or downloaded from:

<https://www.stthomastrowbridge.org/content/pages/documents/1-one-working-policy.pdf>.

To summarise the main points of the document:

- *Avoid being alone on the church premises*

But if it is necessary...

- *Keep your mobile phone on your person at all times, and know how to use it*
- *Tell someone that you are working alone, and let them know when you have finished*
- *Take extra care of your own safety, and don't do anything that puts yourself at risk*

Paul E

Praying Over Trowbridge



You are invited to join us from 7.00pm prompt until 7.45pm on Tuesday 14th July 2026, assembling at the Westbury White Horse Car Park, when Trowbridge Churches Together meet to pray God's will and blessing over Trowbridge, Westbury and the surrounding area.

This short but vital time of intercession is open to everyone – men and women.

We would love to see you in person; however, if you cannot be there would you consider linking with us in prayer wherever you are during this 45 minute period? To help, if you are praying at home, we plan to pray specifically for:-

1. Business & Finance, for the businesses and work opportunities in the town.
2. Education & Training, for all school and the college, for staff and students.
3. Health & Wellbeing, for all health services.
4. Media & Entertainment, for BBC Radio Wiltshire & others that there will be truth & integrity in their reporting.
5. Politics & Government, for our MP, Wiltshire Council & Trowbridge Town Council.
6. Policing & Security, for the local police force and Fire and Rescue Service.
7. Community & Family, for church leaders, Town Chaplains, Street Pastors, Storehouse/NEXUS and other unpaid voluntary workers supporting those in need.

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16 (NLT)

“Our only true power is the power of prayer. When we pray, God moves from heaven. When we pray, things happen that would not otherwise happen. By prayer all things are possible.”

Evening arranged by **MENUNITED** Trowbridge

Free entry to Salisbury Cathedral



As summer is here, I thought you would like to know that all those on our parish electoral roll can apply for a Salisbury Cathedral Diocese Card which gets you free entry to the cathedral. To apply, ensure you are on the electoral roll, and request the form from the office. Once filled in, Simon or any member of the PCC can then sign it for you, and you can either take it to the cathedral when you go or send it in to them to be given the card.

Poser Answers

Here are the answers to June Magazine Posers

1 The eldest child is 15

2 I have 119 items

3 All the letters in the words are in alphabetical order

Time now for a summer break

Y noT

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

**“Please do not grow tired of praying for
Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)**

News Across Sudan.

War in Sudan drags on with each side claiming gains but without showing a decisive advantage. Currently the SAF claim to have seized a strategic area in Blue Nile state, in the extreme South East corner of the country, while the RSF claim to have made gains in North Darfur in the centre of Sudan. Probably of more significance is the situation in Kordofan.

Kordofan comprises three states: North Kordofan, West Kordofan, and South Kordofan. Kadugli (both the town and the diocese) is in South Kordofan. Kordofan has a high proportion of Sudan's mineral wealth, such as oil and gold, so is clearly an area it is desirable to control, and this is no doubt why it is being fought over.

Recently we have reported on warfare in such places as El Obeid and Dilling. El Obeid, which is a major city in Sudan, is in North Kordofan, but a little further South, Dilling is within South Kordofan and therefore within Kadugli Diocese. Lately, international efforts to address Sudan's deepening crisis have intensified amid growing warnings from the United Nations and foreign governments about an expanding conflict and worsening humanitarian conditions, particularly in the city of El Obeid, capital of North Kordofan. As previously reported by Radio Dabanga, El Obeid has become the focus of mounting international concern, with diplomats and aid agencies warning that it could face a similar fate to El Fasher in Darfur, where notoriously months of fighting have been accompanied by widespread reports of atrocities and civilian suffering.

Besides the obvious risks of violence, the UN Commission on Human Rights has just published a report that sexual violence has accompanied the geographic spread of the conflict, as well as displacement journeys. It has been used consistently as a tactic to terrorise and traumatise the civilian population. The details of the violence are varied and sickening, and the tactic has been used by all sides, but principally by the RSF.

The Roman Catholic diocese of El Obeid includes the Nuba Mountains. The town of Kauda in the Nuba Mountains is the main centre of the areas of the Nuba Mountains controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, or SPLM-N, which supports the RSF. In Kauda the church looks after a store of medicines and food. Soldiers, probably from SPLM-N demanded the keys, but the priest, Father Youhanna AlAmin, resisted handing them over. They nevertheless broke in and looted the store. Next day, they returned and shot Fr Al-Amin dead. The suggestion is that the crimes should be regarded as more like inter-tribal violence than military action, but either way they reveal a disregard for law and order, and reflect badly on SPLM-N's military discipline.

Kadugli.

Kadugli remains in a dangerous area. Dilling, mentioned above, is in Kadugli Diocese, and although markets have been gradually reopening following the SAF's advance, traders' requests for reinforced security evidence the continuing dangers.

Outside the conflict, normal church work continues. The Kadugli Diocesan Evangelism Department runs a successful football league to engage youth, reach non-believers, and connect with Muslim lads. In the recent final, the Umgroban Archdeaconry Mountain Church of Zion defeated a team from Dongola Aljuz! The diocese also conducted training for 71 pastors, lay readers, and evangelists on the topic "Fasting and Prayer," preparing them for an annual August outreach program.

In the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, the Church often gathers beneath mango trees. This is not by choice. Years of conflict have damaged buildings and made large gatherings risky. Drone threats mean that worship sometimes has to take place away from visible structures. However, on a recent Sunday, around two hundred believers met together in the shade of the trees to sing, pray, and hear the Word of God.

This quiet act of worship captures something important about the Church in the Nuba Mountains today. There is resilience, faith, and a determination to continue sharing the Gospel even in the midst of hardship.

The Nuba Mountains have long been affected by conflict, and the recent civil war in Sudan has intensified the challenges facing local communities. Millions across the country have been displaced, and many have fled into the mountains for safety. During the visit, a team from Relay Trust met families living in an internally displaced persons camp of around 25,000 people, most of whom had fled the nearby town of Kadugli.

Despite these difficult conditions, the Church continues to serve communities across a vast region. The Episcopal Church of Sudan in the Nuba Mountains oversees dozens of congregations spread across an area roughly twice the size of Wales. Priests and lay leaders travel across remote and sometimes insecure areas to care for their churches and share the Gospel.

Education continues, despite the difficulties and lack of funding. We should like to be able to contribute to the children's schooling, but food and medicine are higher priorities, and while we send money to Kadugli, its allocation is best decided locally.

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. The church in Kadugli is intensely grateful for our support, both financial and in prayer. Please continue to give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank: Lloyds Bank Trowbridge
Name of Account: Bradford Deanery
Sort Code: 30-98-75
Account No. 00710285
Reference Kadugli. (N.B. This is important)

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli.

The level of commitment among Christians in Kadugli is striking. In all the hardship and suffering Bishop Hassan says



We thank God for his great love and care for us in this very difficult time. We thank God very much for the new souls who are saved by the grace of the Saviour Jesus.

Your brother in the Lord,

Bishop Hassan James.

Let us join with our brothers and sisters in Kadugli in prayer.

Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Please pray that:

- Pray to stop the bloodshed on the land of Sudan, especially in the fighting areas of Heiban and El Obeid provinces and all of Sudan.
- Pray for a local church and offering God’s comfort to it for the journey of the servant of the Lord, our father John (a priest and friend who had recently died); the Lord gives a message to the church of hope and hope because these circumstances are not the end. There is hope, and hope in our Great God, the Saviour of mankind.
- Pray for the humanitarian situation in Sudan; every day it gets worse, but our Lord is present.
- Pray for the family and children that the Lord will protect them and meet their needs. • Pray for peace and stability in Sudan.

Deadline for submissions for August’s magazine is Tuesday 4th August.

GIANTS of FAITH

NEW TESTAMENT SUMMER SERIES

10.30am



26 July



Peter

Courage on the Waves

2 August



Priscilla

Faith in Partnership

9 August



Lydia

Hospitality and Heart

16 August



Mary

Love that Endures

23 August



Timothy

Faith Passed On

30 August



Barnabas

Encouragement that Builds Up

Holy Trinity Church, Trowbridge

Christ Focused • Community Facing • Church Family

