

Tea, Cake and Chat

Sunday September 20th 2.30 - 4pm Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Do come and join us for a cuppa, homemade goodies and a chat.
Come and bring a friend too. All welcome.

Eco News – Churchyard Moths and Bats

As darkness descended on a Thursday in mid August, shadowy figures were seen creeping around Holy Trinity Churchyard. Not a cheap vampire video being shot surreptitiously or Burke And Hare resurrected. This was a gathering of Holy Trinity Eco Group members, friends, spouses, and grandchildren who were dragged along, and several local wildlife enthusiasts, all there to set up a moth trap and to look for bats.

In the capable hands of Kate Dixon (NCC), moth trap expert Gerry and assisted by Claire (from The Seed Exchange – look out for this event again in the Autumn), the trap was erected on one of the table tomb graves. A bright light shone all night attracting unsuspecting moths into the trap. At 4am Kate returned and covered it with a sheet trapping the unwary Lepidoptera.

Meanwhile, after setting the trap, a group of 22 gathered for the main event. With bat detectors set and following a short explanation, we strolled around the churchyard and down to the Cow Port in the Walls, but the bats were not playing ball. We only recorded 3 pipistrelles and a tawny owl that flew over laughing at us.

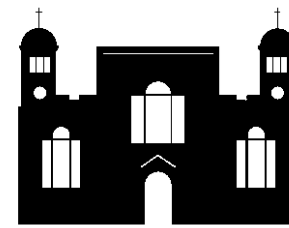
Next morning, a group of 8 people assembled at 8.30am to count and identify the moths before they were released unharmed. The final tally of moths was much better. 12 species were identified with 49 moths lingering long enough to be counted.

Heritage Open Days 2026

Friday 18th September, Saturday 19th September, Sunday 20th September

The church will again be playing an active part in Berwick's Heritage Open Days which are part of a nationwide event promoting the wide variety of local heritage. The church is, of course, always open to visitors but this is an opportunity to offer an additional welcome and explain more about the history and life of the church.

There is a programme of short tours of the church and churchyard over the weekend. We hope many of you will be interested in volunteering as welcomers/stewards over the long weekend. You don't need to be part of the regular welcomers' programme. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of the church later in August. If you want any further information please speak to Trudy Gray.



BERWICK

PARISH CHURCH

Monthly Messenger

September 2026

Dear friends,

There's a song that's always in the back of my mind at this time of year, and shock it's not a religious song. "Wake me up when September ends," by Green Day always slips into my mind, "summer has come and passed, the innocent can never last," is how it opens, it's a meditation on the lead singer's loss of his Father in September when he was 10 years old. You might think that's not a particularly uplifting way of starting this month's messenger, but September is often a bittersweet month.

As the summer draws to a close there can be that sense of loss, loss of a bit more freedom, especially for students, loss of the warm weather (although this year some might be grateful for that) and a return to structure and perhaps the inevitability of life. I must admit, I was never a big fan of September until recently.

In the Church year, September is the continuation of the season of Trinity, and yet it has three great Feasts in it that, for me at least, cut through the potential downturn. On the 8th we celebrate the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, remembering the beginning of a life that was given in obedience to God. On the 14th we mark the Feast of the Holy Cross, a day when we remember not only what Christ did for us on the cross but what the cross mean to us now. And at the end of the month, on the 29th, we celebrate St Michael and All Angels as a reminder of a world beyond the physical one. Michaelmas is also a traditional time for ordinations, I'll be marking 9 years of being ordained a deacon and 8 years a priest this year, and I know others will be celebrating quite big anniversaries.

All of these inject a sense of new life into a month that can feel like the loss of summer innocence. They remind us of the stability of the faith that Christians hold and its continuity. That life and faith go on, even when the visitors have gone (phew), the nights draw in and the autumn beckons.

September isn't a month to sleep through but to celebrate the ongoing and changing rhythm of life.

With my love and prayers

Fr Lee Taylor

Vicar of Berwick

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Services during the week:

Sunday

8.30am: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am: Parish Eucharist
6.00 pm: First Sunday of the month - Sung Holy Communion (BCP)
Other Sundays - Choral Evensong or Sung Evening Prayer

Monday to Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday:

10:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Monthly Services

Last Tuesday of the month, Julian Prayer Group 11.15am-12.15pm
All are welcome in this time of stillness and silence together, with Mother Julian as our guide. We meet in the choir room at Holy Trinity.

Live streaming of services

Our regular Parish Eucharist is live streamed every week on You Tube.

<https://youtube.com/@holytrinityberwick/streams>

The stream can either be watched live or as a recording later.

Our privacy policy on live streaming is on the notice board.

Contact Details:

Father Lee Taylor 01289 306136

Churchwardens:

David Mason 07860 360074.
Ann Mawer 01289 763096
Joyce Currie 07407 549543
Roger Barrow 07872 677457

Lay Pastoral Chair Gwynneth Guthrie 01289 308580
Parish Administrator Linda Foley 07810 611521

Musical Events at Berwick Parish Church

7.00pm, Wednesday 16th September

Oda Voltersvik is an internationally renowned Norwegian pianist, having performed at top venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Norwegian Opera House. She has a significant discography and performs at festivals throughout Europe and the USA. We are thrilled to be welcoming an artist of her calibre

7.00pm, Wednesday 30th September

Alana Brook the Australian Assistant Director of Music of Wakefield Cathedral will be giving the last of this year's Summer Organ Recitals. Formerly Organ Scholar at Ripon and Assistant Organist at Lincoln, she is much in demand as a recitalist.

Charity for this Month 2026 September Church Homeless Trust

Church Homeless Charity is a grant-giving organisation that helps homeless people to rebuild their lives away from the streets.

Everyone's story of homelessness is different.

So the solutions to help shouldn't be one-size-fits-all. Grants of up to £200 are awarded to individual homeless people to help them take the next step in their journey towards a home of their own. The trust also funds the courses, clubs, skills and projects the homeless need to help them gain the skills, self-esteem and confidence they need going forward.

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials: Looking at Church Registers

A project looking at some of the church registers is planned for the coming months. This is a joint project with Berwick Archives and involves producing transcripts of marriage registers for both Holy Trinity and St Marys. While many Parish records are held in the Berwick Record Office and can be searched locally, others are currently only available at Woodhorn.

The work will provide a useful resource for anyone wanting to explore their family history locally. Training will be provided and it is a good opportunity to learn more about the archives and the fascinating information that can be discovered. If you are interested please speak to Trudy – and look out for further details.