



**23rd August 2026.**

We extend a warm welcome to  
Rev Ian Souter, and to all our  
members, friends and visitors



---

**For meditation:** *God of love, awaken our souls. God of power, protect us in temptation.  
God of forgiveness, cleanse us by the blood of Christ.  
God of saints, let us share in their inheritance. God of rest, let us be yours for ever.  
Mary Gilbert, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Gilbert (died 1768, aged 16)*

---

## **NEWS AND VIEWS**

Tomorrow is St Bartholomew's Day – he lived and died in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century in Palestine. He is reputed to have been flayed alive and is, therefore, known as the patron saint of butchers and tanners. In London, a great fair used to be held at Smithfield, dating back to 1133, in honour of the nearby hospital of St Bart's founded by Henry I's jester. At this fair (which was eventually banned in 1855 due to bad behaviour) the forerunner of today's toffee apples were served – windfall apples, skewered on sticks and dipped in honey. An appropriate tradition, since St Bartholomew was also the patron saint of bee-keepers and honey-makers.

---

## **A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

Lord Jesus, you are the key to our joy, and we praise you. You are the key to our healing and we worship you, You are the key to our future and we trust you. You are the key to our uncertainty. Come into our hearts to unlock within us all that needs to be set free, Amen  
On a local note we remember David Button, at home with care after a spell in hospital – and Marion and the family too.  
*We are remembering the residents and staff at MHA Stratton House in our prayers this week..*

---

## **LECTIONARY READINGS – 30<sup>th</sup> August**

Exodus 3: 1 -15  
Psalm 105: 1 -6, 23 -26, 45c  
Romans 12: 9 -21  
Matthew 16: 21 -28

---

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."  
Matthew 16: 13 -17

*There is no one else who is seriously bidding for the heart of the world except Jesus Christ. There is no one else in the field. Anonymous*

---

## **DIARY**

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

**Café** 9.30 –12 noon

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Morning worship** 11.00am

led by Cathy Edge

**Welcome service** 6.30pm

for Rev Andrew Goodhead at **Walcot Chapel**- led by Rev Marcus Torchon

### **Psalms 124/125**

**- paraphrased by Leslie Brandt**

What cowards we are,  
Who claim to be the sons of God!  
How insipid is our faith  
In an insecure and faithless world!

The pressures are increasing.  
The old props are falling away.  
Many of the old traditions and standards  
we held so dear  
are no longer relevant  
in our rapidly-changing society.  
Even the proclamations and exhortations,  
the prophecies and promises,  
that excited and supported us in our youth,  
sound hollow and empty, frightfully inadequate  
in these times in which we live.  
The little boxes we wrapped around God  
are breaking up;  
we can no longer hold onto to Him  
in our expanding, exploding universe.

Though we cannot hold on to God,  
He does hold on to us.  
Those who trust in the true God are more secure  
than the great mountains that rise  
above the clouds that cover us.  
Though everything changes about us,  
our great God cannot be changed.  
Though the sands may shift around us,  
even our institutions and governments  
and the ideals and aspirations of men,  
our great God is not subject to the  
impermanence of our temporal world.  
Though the storm sweeps in upon us,  
our relationship to our loving God is for ever.

What cowards we are, we who claim to be  
the sons of God!  
We don't have to be afraid.  
Let us have faith in God.

