WELCOME!

BCI Churches







Your weekly guide to worship, faith, and community in Blendworth & Horndean (East); Chalton and Idsworth

From the Ministry Team:

Safeguarding Sunday. Please don't sigh, or groan (even inwardly). We won't be talking about training commitments, form filling, and administration, which we all know must be done. We are richly blessed in Janet Laws who commits massive amounts of time and care, to ensure we adhere to what is needed – thank you so much, Janet!
But all Janet's, and our, work in that quarter means nothing, unless we have our hearts and ears and minds open and alert to protecting one another. Unless we respond actively when something doesn't look, sound, or feel right. Or listen to and act well if someone shares with us that they are now, or have been in the past, harmed or controlled. Love is alert to the needs of those around it and acts in response.
'God is love' and 'love' is a verb: real love is action. Effective safeguarding is love in action: caring for and about, watching over, protecting, responding. Safeguarding Sunday – a time to reflect together on how we protect and help to care for each other.

Blessings,
Wendy
Revd Canon Wendy Kennedy

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You may or may not be aware that the three PCCs in the Benefice are exploring the possibility of amalgamating into one PCC. The PCCs will be discussing a proposal paper from the Archdacon and myself this month. The Archdeacon is coming to meet with anyone who wishes to discuss this proposal further at an **Open Meeting at Holy Trinity, Blendworth on Monday 30th November at 7pm.** Please make a note of this in your diary and come along.

Bible verse: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' John 15 v 12

Collect:

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 15th November

8am BCP Communion at Blendworth
9.30am Chalton Holy Communion
9.30am Idsworth Mattins
11am Blendworth Formal Parish Communion

Readings

This week:
1 Corinthians 13;
1 John 3 and
John 15. 12 -17

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Next week:
Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24
Psalm 95.1-7
Ephesians 1.15-end
Matthew 25.31-end

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Next Week...
Saturday 22nd November
Christ the King

8am BCP Communion at Blendworth
9.30am Chalton Morning Prayer
9.30am Idsworth Morning Worship
11am Blendworth Parish Communion

Upcoming Events

Sunday 15th November - **Safeguarding Sunday** in all churches.



Saturday 28th November - **Christmas Fair** - 10am at Blendworth Church Centre

Sunday 29th November - **Advent Sunday**: morning services at both Idsworth and Blendworth at the usual times.
Advent Carol Service at St Michael's Chalton at 6pm.

Christmas Tree Festival - This year the festival has been extended to Friday 11th - Sunday 13th December and will finish with our Christingle service. Trees from all church groups are welcomed and the theme this year is Alice in Wonderland. Please ask Janet Laws for more details and if you belong to an outside organisation that you think might like to participate; please ask Janet for more details.





Love Protects: The Meaning of this Year's Safeguarding Sunday

Let's be honest, when you hear the word "safeguarding," what comes to mind? Policies? Paperwork? Training sessions that eat into your Saturday morning?

For many of us in church life, safeguarding can feel like something imposed from the outside - a box-ticking exercise to keep the Charity Commission happy. But what if we've been looking at it all wrong? What if safeguarding isn't about compliance at all, but about the very heart of what it means to follow Jesus?

In its simplest terms, safeguarding is the protection of those in our care. In 1 Corinthians 13, we're told that love protects. Safeguarding isn't an external pressure or 'thing to do', it's an act of love. And love is central to our faith.

The Most Natural Thing in the World

When you love someone, protecting them isn't a duty — it's instinctive. Think about a parent with their child, or how you'd naturally shield a friend from harm. You don't need a policy to tell you to keep them safe.

You just do it, because that's what love does.

Paul knew this when he wrote those famous words in 1 Corinthians 13. Right in the middle of his description of love, alongside patience and kindness, he says, 'love protects'. Always. Not sometimes. Not when it's convenient. Always.

Love as our foundation

The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8). Not "God is loving," or "God sometimes loves," but God IS love. He is the source, the definition and the very expression of love itself. Before anything else existed, there was God. Which means before anything else existed, love existed.

As Christians, we're called to love others as God loves us (John 13:34-35). Not because we're naturally brilliant at it, but because He loved us first (1 John 4:19) and he shows us how to do it. And if God's love protects, then ours must too.

There are no exceptions to love

Jesus says to 'love your neighbour' (Matthew 22:39). And when questioned, he reveals that "neighbour" means everyone (Luke 10:25-37). Your neighbour isn't just the person who looks like you, thinks like you, or makes you comfortable. It's everyone - the confident leader and the quiet newcomer. The teenager who's finding their feet and the elderly member who's been with you for decades. The person who's easy to love and the one who isn't.

Throughout Scripture, God consistently shows special concern for those most at risk:

the child (Matthew 18:6)

the widow (James 1:27)

the foreigner (Leviticus 19:33-34)

the fatherless (Psalm 82:3)

God pays attention to those who need protection, and if we're serious about following Him, then so must we. There are no loopholes. His love protects everyone, and so should ours.

For your Prayers

Christians who maintain their faith in difficult circumstances throughout the world.

The World: For all those who suffer in places of conflict — we pray for peace.

The Parishes - we pray for the Horndean mission and for our churches to grow in confidence to spread the good news of the Gospel.

The Sick Dayle , Kevin, Diana

For those who mourn: Jean Bradley, Molly Schillemore, Liv Johnston

The Funeral of Liv Johnston will take place on Friday 27th November at 1.00 p.m., St. Michael and All Angels, Chalton.



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Safeguarding

The Parishes of Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth are fully committed to safeguarding all of God's people. The Benefice Safeguarding Policy was agreed at the Benefice Standing Committee meeting held on 15th June 2026. If you have any questions, or to report a safeguarding concern, please contact Revd Joy, 07521 862285. If you prefer to contact somebody from outside of the parishes, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm Email: safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org, 023 9289 9665 or Out of Hours advice can be sought from the Thirtyone:eight helpline on 0303 003 1111, selecting option 2.