

SHARING JESUS - SERVING COMMUNITY

23RD AUGUST 2026



**A warm welcome to everyone here today - both visitors and regulars.
Please stay for tea, coffee and biscuits after the service.**

Our service this morning is led by our pastor, David Jewell.

Our Pastor, David Jewell,
can be contacted on
07443 907454 if you would
like to speak to him or ask for
prayer - or you can speak to
any of the Deacons.

The **Duty Deacon** today will
be the person who read the
notices at the beginning of
the service.

If you wish to give money
before the Sunday service,
for work in and through this
church, the offertory plate is
on the entrance table. The
money will be blessed during
the service.

Thank you for your gifts.

Our Charity of the Month
for August - where we
donate the collection from
our *Communion Service* and
Come for a Cuppa - is
Weston Hospice Care

Please let **TRICIA** know of
items for the next **BULLETIN**
by Thursday 27th August
**Would you like your Bulletin
via email?**

Tell *Elizabeth* if you would
like yours sent to you.

Alison receives email
newsletters from the **URC**
and **BU**.

If you would like these
forwarded on to you, please
speak to her.



Please sign up
for the **Coffee Rota**
on the
entrance table

EVENTS THIS WEEK...

Tuesday: 7.30pm, Zoom Bible Study. Contact Alison for the
link to take part.

Wednesday: 10am – 12 noon, Children's Summer Pop-in

Saturday: 2.30pm – 4pm, Come for a Cuppa.

PASTOR'S VIEW: Recently, I have been looking afresh at the book of Ruth and one thing which has stood out is that things were very different in the times when she lived and the area she lived in! Sometimes we read the Bible as if it was written yesterday, by people who had supermarket runs, refrigerators, and a vague understanding of what yeast does. And then we wonder why certain phrases feel either confusing, dramatic, or oddly aggressive. A lot of the time it isn't that the Bible is being weird. It's that we've quietly imported modern meanings into ancient words and missed the point entirely.

Take the moment when Jesus calls people "the salt of the earth" in Matthew's Gospel. We hear "salt" and think blood pressure, French fries, and health hazard. But salt in the ancient Near East wasn't a seasoning, it was a preservative. It stopped meat from rotting. It kept things from decaying when there was no refrigeration and no backup plan. Calling someone salt was calling them essential. The thing standing between life and corruption. That is very different than "adds flavour."

When elders sit at the gate in Book of Ruth, that's not a casual area where people happen to meet. The gate in effect was the debating centre, the courtroom and a community centre. Decisions happened there. Covenants were witnessed there. So when Scripture talks about righteousness or justice at the gate, it's talking about how power is used, not where people are sitting.

All of this to say, the Bible isn't vague, It's specific. We just aren't always fluent in the world it came from. When we slow down and let the original language and culture speak, we often find the message is sharper, heavier, more beautiful, and sometimes more uncomfortable than our modern readings allow. God didn't write a book meant to be skimmed between errands. He wrote the Bible which He meant to be entered, stepped into and lived with. And sometimes corrected when we realize we've been reading ancient words with modern assumptions and calling it close enough.

God bless, David

...DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 30th August: Our service at 11am will be led by Rev. Yvonne Stone.

Tuesday, 1st September: 7.30pm, Zoom Bible Study. Contact Alison for the link to join in.

Wednesday, 2nd September: 10.30am, Mid-Week Service.

Wednesday, 9th September: 2pm – 4pm, Knit & Natter.

Saturday, 26th September: 2.30pm-4pm, Come for A Cuppa.

**NEED A LIFT TO CHURCH
OR ANY OF OUR ACTIVITIES?**

Contact:

Alison on 844401, *Elizabeth* on 733886, or *Tricia* on 843481.

