

Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary - August 2026 Part II written by Graham Warr

The main theme for this half of the month is 'Reflections on Time Out- taking a break' - because Dan and I have just got back from a few days in the West Country, some 'DDTT' Dad and Daughter Time Together.

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith – StF, Hymns and Psalms – HP, The Methodist Hymn Book – MHB, Song Book of the Salvation Army – SBSA. Prayers from the Methodist Prayer Handbook – MPH, Methodist Worship Book, - MWB. Other Sources are as noted.

Sunday 16th - Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Byfleet 10.30am, West Horsley 10.00 am, Cranleigh 10.30 am, and all who participate in person or online.

Monday 17th - Both Dan and I are trained historians, and we set out for Chedworth Roman Villa near Cirencester.

We had a good journey up and enjoyed experiencing the mosaics and almost 2000 years of life revealed in the excavations.

It reminded me that over the centuries God has always been part of our lives.

Pray and reflect upon these words - (from StF628):
Faithful One, so unchanging, Ageless One, you are my rock of peace, Lord of all I depend on you, I call out to you again and again. You are my rock in times of trouble. You lift me up when I fall down. All through the storms your love is the anchor, my hope is in you alone. (Brian Doersken).

Tuesday 18th - Today Dan indulged me as we took a ride on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway. It was a very happy time reflecting on my past. I was six when I saw the Golden Arrow Express hauled by Britannia Class Locomotive 7004 on it's way to Dover. I have been an ardent trainspotter ever since. I've got about 50,000 numbers to date from across Europe.



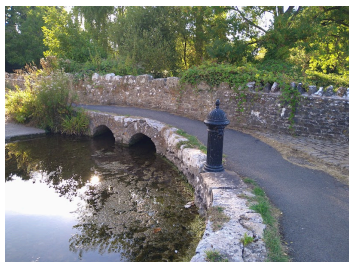
Dan entitled this one 'A trainspotter in his natural habitat...'

We then visited Tewkesbury Abbey which has been of significant interest to me since I was at School in Cranborne, Dorset. I was asked to read the 'Birth of Jesus' passage from Luke 2 in a school church service. Whilst waiting for it to begin I noticed some 'old' wall paintings and discovered they were painted by monks in the 15th century who were from Tewkesbury Abbey and were based in Cranborne.

This brought to mind these words by John Bell and Graham Maule (StF746)

For all the saints who showed your love in how they lived and where they moved, for mindful women, caring men accept our gratitude again. Bless all whose will or name or love reflects the grace of heaven above. Though unacclaimed by earthly powers, your life through theirs has hollowed yours – take time to name those who you know and thank God for their example and witness.

We had booked a night's stay in Blagdon near Bristol, a quiet rural hamlet by a 'rippling' stream. It was so peaceful. It reminded me of when I sang with the chapel choir at Bishop Otter College in Chichester. We were invited to lead Choral Evensong in the Cathedral and sang the Anthem; *'Like as the hart desireth the water brook, so longeth my soul after Thee, O God. Psalm 42 (StF 544)*



The millstream at Blagdon.

Wednesday 19th - We went for a walk around Chew Valley Lake (a reservoir). We saw lots of flora and fauna; butterflies and birds. Two ornithologists showed us three types of egret - The Great White, the Little and the Cattle - all together on the lake shore.

We went back to the restaurant by the lake for dinner and to 'experience' the eclipse.

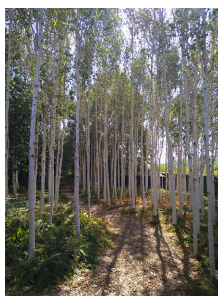
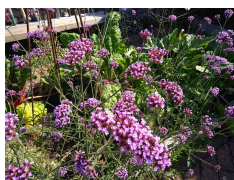
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works your hand has made – now sings my soul my Saviour God to you how great you are. (StF 82)



Chew Valley Lake, post-Eclipse

Thursday 20th - We visited Yeo Valley Organic Garden. We saw the farm, with Frisians ready for milking, and then the beautiful gardens. Some of the gardens were drought resistant, some fed by the natural stream. We climbed the steps of an observation platform to view the wider picture. I was reminded of the words of a hymn I first sung at the Methodist Chapel in Crendell (Dorset). Sadly this hymn isn't in StF but it is in HP (363).

Yes, God is good - in earth and sky from, ocean depths and spreading woods – the sun that keeps its trackless way and downward pours its golden flood, nights sparkling hosts, the merry birds, balmy air, falling rain, the breeze, the hills, the echoing sky and roaring seas all swell the chorus God is good.



Yeo Valley Organic Garden

For all your gifts I thank you Lord, but chiefly for our heavenly food, your pardoning grace your quickening word, these prompt our song that God is good. Amen.

Friday 21st - On the way to our last destination, but spiritually the 'best'. We left Blagdon and set out towards Salisbury. As we journeyed, we could see the effects of the drought, and lots of diverted traffic because of the New Forest wildfires. Salisbury is very significant in my life – back in the early 1930s, my Mum trained to teach at Sarum St Michael's Teaching Training College, which is situated in the Cathedral Close. When we moved to Dorset, Salisbury was our nearest large town for shopping, entertainment, etc. In 1963 I attended the Salisbury and South Wiltshire College of Further Education on a two-year Commerce Course. I joined the College Choir and sang with them in the Cathedral for the annual Carol Service – a very spiritual experience.



Salisbury Cathedral at dusk.

Saturday 22nd - After breakfast we drove into the city and then strolled to the Cathedral Close.

We stood and admired the building, inside and out. In a small side chapel, we lit candles in memory of members of the family, now passed. It was a time for a moment of reflection and loving memories.

We experienced the exuberance of the [Joyful Noise](#) exhibition.

As we walked back to the car park, we could feel the heat rising from the pavements. Fortunately, we had parked undercover, but with the diversions and weight of traffic, it was a hot, uncomfortable journey home.

As I look back on the past six days, I know I have been drawn closer to God, with the 'we' time Dan and I have enjoyed, it has added to the refreshing of my soul and spirit.

Now, even more so, my heart sings – *'my Saviour God, to you, how great you are, how great you are!'*

Sunday 23rd Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at: Godalming
10.30am, Sheerwater
10.30am, Walton-on-Thames
10.00am and All who participate in person or online.

Monday 24th The Apostle Bartholomew (many Scholars today believe he was also known as Nathaniel) who after the Ascension of Jesus is believed to have travelled to preach Christianity in Armenia, India and Mesopotamia and it is believed that he was savagely martyred. Pray for all those who are persecuted for their faith today.
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

Tuesday 25th Reflect on these words from StF 88: - *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him for God is my health and salvation! All you who hear, brothers and sisters draw near, praise God in glad adoration.*

Pray for those you know who need that uplift.

Wednesday 26th Our 'time-out' was an amazing blessing, it provided us with time to stop, look, listen, and be aware of the wonders around us in nature, sculpture, art, music and each other. We both thoroughly enjoyed that precious father – daughter time.



Thursday 27th - We are now back in the hubbub of life which enfolds us. **Reflect on some of the words that speak to you, and pray for God's guidance.**

Friday 28th Choose a Bible Verse and reflect on its meaning for you.

Saturday 29th - *I thank you Abba Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me.* - A prayer of Jesus from John 11.

Sunday 30th - Pray for all those who lead worship across the Circuit today, that God will bless them, and All who participate in person or online.

Monday 31st - May the Lord bless you all. Amen.

Photos: Dan Warr Schori