

June 2026

## Celebrating God the Father

June's Teatime Church Service is taking place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 4pm – 5:15pm**, which is **Father's Day**. At this service, we will be thinking about God the Father; the father that joyfully welcomes back his rebellious younger son in the Parable of The Prodigal Son, and our own fathers or father figures. At Teatime Church, children will be able to decorate and embellish a large cloak (just like the father gifted to his prodigal son), make party crowns, create Father's Day Cards and fun pig plates, and enjoy farm play in our Teatime Church Tuff Tray!

### The Prodigal Son



**T**he Pharisees and scribes were grumbling about Jesus. ☼ They didn't like the way he welcomed sinners and ate with them. ☼ So Jesus told them this story:

'A man had two sons. The younger son said, "Father, I want my share of the property right now." So the father divided the property up. Before long the younger son took his share, packed his bags and left for a faraway country. **He had a great time spending his money until it was all gone.** Then a famine hit the land. Nothing grew and there was no food. Poor and hungry, the young man took a job feeding pigs in a field. **He was so hungry, he could have eaten the pigs' food!** But no one gave him anything.

'As he sat there, he realised, "My father's workers have enough food to eat. Here I am dying of hunger. I must go home. I will tell my father that I have done wrong before him and before God. **I will say that I am not good enough to be called his son any more.** He should just treat me like one of his workers."

'So the young man set off home. **But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, ran to him and hugged**

him. The son told his father everything he had planned to say, but his father shouted to the servants, "Bring out the best robes, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Kill the fatted calf and we shall celebrate!" ☼ And the party began.

'Now the elder son was working in the field and heard music and dancing. "What is happening?" he asked one of the workers. He replied, "Your brother has come home and your father is holding a party." **The elder brother was very angry.** His father came to speak to him, but the son shouted, "I have worked hard! I have never disobeyed you. You never threw a party for me. He comes back, he's wasted all your money, and you kill the fatted calf for him!" His father answered, "My son, you are always with me, everything I have is yours. **But we are celebrating because I thought your brother was dead, and he's alive. He was lost but now he's found!**"

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

☼ See *Share the Word*.

## Glossary

**The Bible:** The Holy Book of Christians. It has 66 books split into two sections: The Old Testament and the New Testament.

**Gospel:** The four Gospels in the Bible – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are in the New Testament. They tell of the life, ministry and death of Jesus.

**Parable:** A special story told by Jesus through which he teaches and illustrates moral lessons and principles in a way that everybody could relate to, so they knew the right way to live their lives.

**Prodigal:** Someone who is extremely wasteful, reckless, irresponsible, especially with money, time or belongings.

**Inheritance:** Any money or property you receive after the death of a friend or relative is an inheritance.

The parable of the Prodigal Son in the Gospel of Luke is possibly the most well-known of Jesus' parables.

Jesus was telling this parable particularly for the religious leaders of the time to hear. They were upset that Jesus was the sort of teacher who welcomed all types of people to be his followers and they wanted him to be stricter.

The parable also hints at what God is like. In this story, the father never gives up hope that his younger son will come home – he never disowns nor forgets him, but waits patiently for his return.

When the son does come back, the father doesn't tell him off – he gives him a warm welcome and accepts him back into the family with open arms, offering him the best clothes, a gold ring and a fattened calf (the best food on the farm!). This is just like the people with messy lives who had been welcomed back to God through the ministry of Jesus.



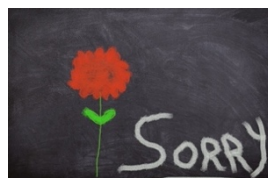
We all get things wrong but God is always ready to forgive us just like the father in this story. God waits for humans to realise what they have done wrong and ask for forgiveness and he welcomes them back when they do.

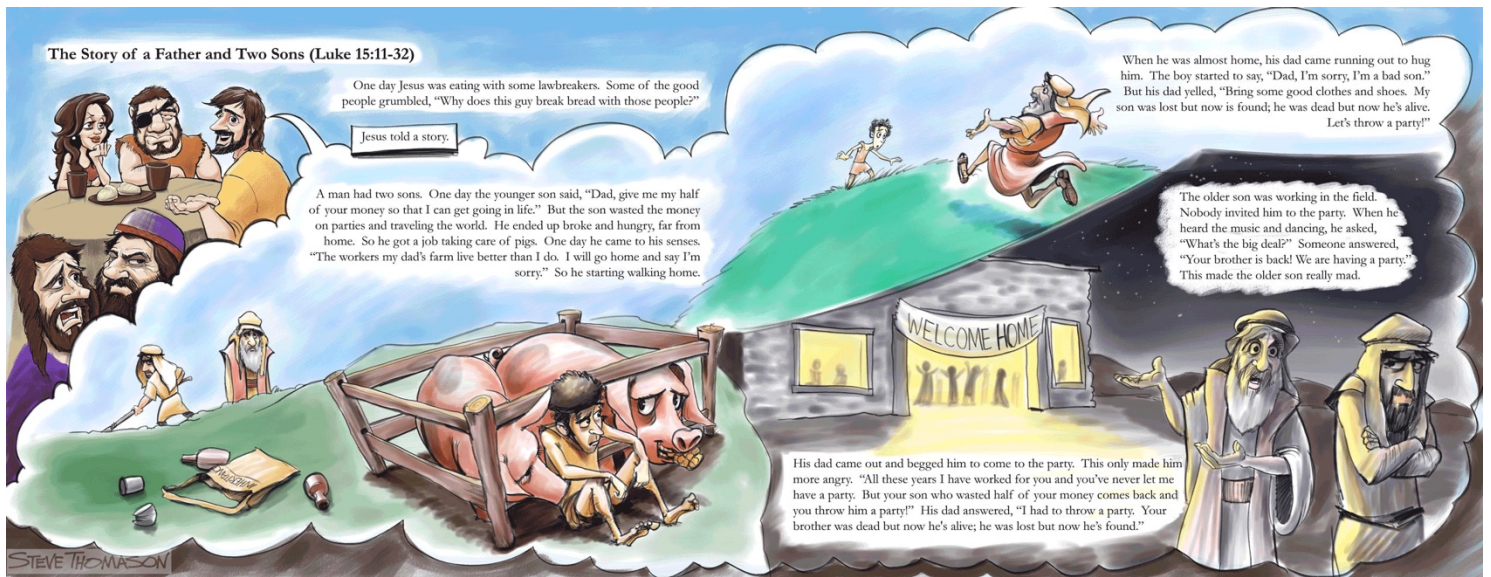
It is the willingness to ask for forgiveness and change one's behaviour that is central to the idea of forgiveness.

In the same way that God forgives humans, so humans have to forgive those around them. If people fail to do so, they cannot expect to be forgiven by God.

*If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.*

Matthew 6:14-15





In this parable there is:

- A father representing God the Father.
- A younger son representing people who do their own thing and disobey God's commands.
- An older son representing people who obey God's commands out of duty and grow bitter.
- The parable teaches that God always forgives people who realise they have made a mistake and are truly sorry. He welcomes all people with open arms.

Please click on the following link for a children's video about The Parable of the Prodigal Son:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zn34239>

## The Prodigal Son: Story summary

**The Prodigal Son**

There was once a man who had two sons.

One day, his youngest son asked him for his inheritance money.

The father thought about it and decided to give his sons their inheritance.

The youngest son moved far away and very soon spent all of his money.



He was very hungry and had no place to live, so he decided to get a job. The only job he could find was feeding pigs.



The son was very sad. Back home, even the hired men were fed well. He decided to go back home and ask his father for a job as a servant.



As the son arrived home his father saw him. Joyously, the father ran out to greet his returning son. He hugged and kissed the boy.



The son expected his father to be very angry with him but instead the father dressed him in the finest robes.



While the younger brother had been away, the older brother had been working hard for his father and saved all of his inheritance. When he heard that his brother had returned with nothing and a great feast was being thrown for him, he felt very angry and jealous.



But the father did not want his son to be jealous and angry. "We must celebrate and rejoice," he told his older son, "because it is as if this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."



## Our monthly prayers



Dear God,  
Help me not to wander away from you and your love.  
If I do, please bring me back safely.  
Help me to remember that you are always waiting for me.  
Amen

Dear God,  
Thank you for stories like the parable of 'The Prodigal Son' that help us to think about forgiveness  
and how you would like us all to live.  
Thank you for being a forgiving and loving God.  
Help us to be kind to others and to value forgiveness.  
Thank you for the opportunities when we are able to make a fresh start.  
Thank you for all the people who look after us and make our lives better.  
Amen.

*Take a moment to think about the amazing forgiveness in the story of 'The Prodigal Son'...  
When people agree to forgive they agree to make a fresh start...  
Think about how the son felt when he was forgiven by his father...  
And how he might have treated other people after he had been forgiven... and given the chance to  
make a fresh start...  
Think about times when you have forgiven... and about why it felt the right choice to make...*

## Community information

### **Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group**

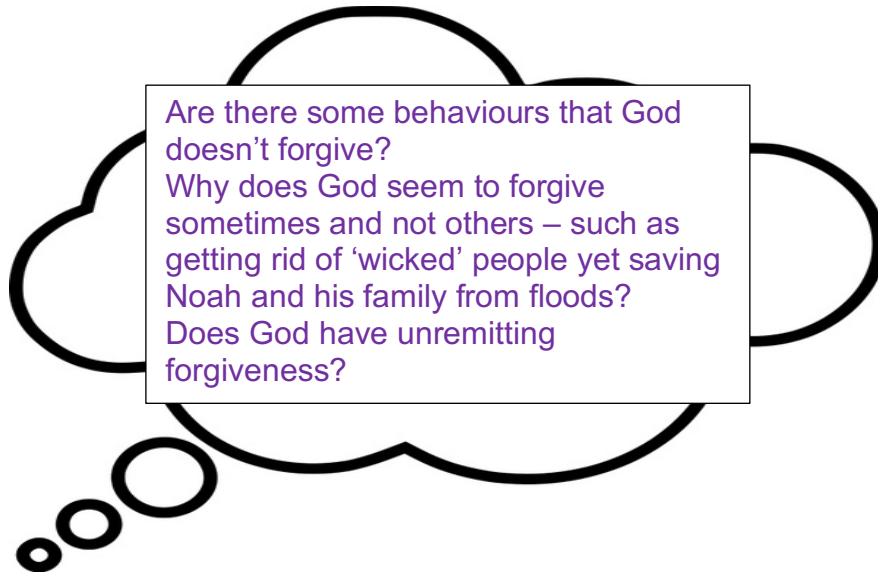


*Toddlers Together*, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. All are very welcome! Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. This term runs until from 4<sup>th</sup> June until 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Cream Teas at the Church**

The Church Social Committee is hosting an afternoon of cream teas and optional guided churchyard tours on 28th June. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased via Lorna on 07729 339 815.

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have.



Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

From Georgie and the Teatime Church Team  
[familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk](mailto:familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk)



**HOLY TRINITY**  
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL

# **TEATIME CHURCH DATES 2026**



Teatime Church is our monthly Sunday Service for children and families. It is a very relaxed service with a range of crafts, toys, LEGO corner, baby area, interactive songs, story and prayer. This is followed by supper for all the children and refreshments for the adults. There is plenty of opportunity to move around the church and make some noise whilst learning about God's love for everyone. All are very welcome!

Teatime Church is held at the back of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym from 4 - 5:15pm but you are welcome to join us during any part of the service.

Please visit our website for more details about specific services.

The dates for 2026 are:

11<sup>th</sup> January  
15<sup>th</sup> February  
8<sup>th</sup> March  
3<sup>rd</sup> April: Good Friday Crafts  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
21<sup>st</sup> June  
12<sup>th</sup> July  
27<sup>th</sup> September  
4<sup>th</sup> October: At the Harvest Festival  
15<sup>th</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup> December

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>

Email Georgie at [familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk](mailto:familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk)

## **Volunteers needed for our work with children and families**



**All of our children's services and events have started the new year with great success and we are always looking for volunteers to support us with our work in this area. We always need volunteers to help us with the following:**

- Monthly Teatime Church Service (helping with crafts or with supper)**
- Toddlers Together (helping with crafts or in the kitchen)**
- Open the Book (a storytelling project where Bible stories are shared in school assemblies in a fun, interactive and memorable way)**
- Barton Camp Annual Trip**

**For all volunteer roles in the church it is a PCC requirement that new volunteers go through a safe recruitment process. The safe recruitment process ensures that everyone is properly equipped to carry out their role. As well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, it helps to protect both the volunteer and the church. The process involves reading and signing a Volunteer Role Description, undergoing a DBS check and undertaking Safeguarding Training. Church Leaders will be able to guide you through this process if support is needed.**

**We are also looking for members of the 10am congregation to attend Baptism Services. The Baptism Supporters will make promises on behalf of the church congregation and hand out the special Baptism Bears. Baptisms take place roughly once a month on Sundays, starting at 12.15pm.**

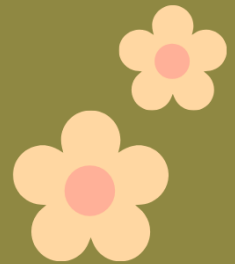
**Please email Georgie in the first instance if you would like more information about volunteering at our children's services or groups or becoming a Baptism Supporter [familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk](mailto:familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk)**

PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR

# TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 11:30 to 1pm**  
**The Vicarage Garden**



**A chance to gather, chat, play and thank those who volunteer at our children's groups and services.**

**Please bring your own baptism bear along with you if you have one or your own teddy bear!**  
**Please bring your own picnic and blanket.**

**For more information and to book your place visit <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/upcoming-childrens-events-and-services/>**



**HOLY TRINITY**  
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL



Do you love to sing?

# JOIN OUR JUNIOR CHOIR

Develop singing and performance skills

Free musical training following the *Voice for Life* scheme of skills, including sight-singing, music theory, reading music and vocal tuition

Modern and traditional songs

Enjoy music and making friendships

Free to attend

No singing experience necessary

Led by professional musicians who are fully DBS-checked

To register your interest please contact

[familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk](mailto:familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk)

stating which day best suits you: Mon, Tue or Thurs.



**Starting Autumn 2026**

**For girls and boys aged 7+ (Y3 - Y7)**

**Held at Holy Trinity Church, BS9 3EQ**

**Day and time TBC**

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/choirs/>