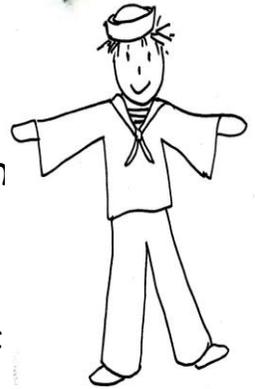




Why have a nautical scarecrow competition?

It's part of our churches' 'Casting the Net' celebrations – we want to do things a bit differently and build relationships within the community, reconnecting with families and the parish councils. We want to build on our benefice mission statement of 'Making Christ Visible'! Our Benefice has six beautiful churches: - Turnworth, Milton Abbas, Houghton, Stickland, Clenston and Whitechurch. There is a happy congregation in all of them who work hard to keep these churches relevant and an active part of their village



The inspiration for Casting the Net came from the story of Jesus telling the fishermen (who had failed to catch anything) to throw their nets over the other side of the boat. When they did this, the nets came up full fish. *They had to do things differently!* So what could be more different than *Nautical Scarecrows* in the middle of the Dorset countryside – some distance from the sea! Really, it's all a bit of fun and people loved touring around the villages finding the 40 plus scarecrows that we had two years ago. I wonder if we can have more this year?

The rules are in each church along with the judging criteria. Pay attention to these as we have tried to make the judging as objective as possible (☺). Do have a go – or get together with friends and make one. If you want to enter more than one scarecrow – there is a group category this year. More importantly – have a go, have fun and do bring them to church on Sunday 29th July (if you can) so that we can celebrate together!

There will be lots of events taking place between 14th– 29th July - when our churches cast their nets. – Do have a look for the posters and come along. We would love to see you!

