Thyme and Wellbeing User guide

Introduction

The whole life of a minister should speak powerfully about God not only to the worshipping communities in their care, but also to the wider community. Consequently, it is important to develop healthy patterns of prayer, work and rest to be sustained in ministry. This will differ for each minister and will depend upon personal circumstances. Over the last few years a user-friendly tool (*Thyme and Wellbeing*) has been developed to provide a number of differing, but complementary, resources to aid the minister in their duties. These range from administrative tasks (e.g. recording of holidays and claiming expenses) to planning of Sunday Worship (e.g. Service rotas, hymn suggestions and lectionary readings) to name just a few.

Furthermore, *Thyme and Wellbeing* provides the ability for ministers across all denominations to monitor and manage their time. This allows insights to be made into the shape of their unique ministry and aid in the self-regulation of their time. It is further envisaged that the tool can assist in the promotion of wellbeing.

Thyme and Wellbeing also has a number of other key features that have been provided to assist the minister from week to week. These include:

- ability to record holidays, sick leave and sabbaticals;
- Indicate the dates of feasts and festivals throughout the year;
- Provide the time of sunrise/sunset on Easter Day for your locality
- Lectionary Readings for a large number of lectionaries, with ability to search for bible readings within a Lectionary; Lectionary-based hymn suggestions,
- Daily Time Management and Well-being tips
- A simple questionnaire to assess your own wellbeing.

The tool has been developed using LibreOffice Calc¹ (*Thyme Tracker.ods*), but is also available to users of Microsoft Excel (*Thyme Tracker.xlsx*).

An Overview of the Work Sheets

The file contains a number of worksheets (listed below).

<u>Welcome</u>: Welcome Page with general information about *Thyme and Wellbeing* and how to get started.

<u>Settings</u>: Global Settings are modified here (e.g. the current year, the default day off). As there is a huge variety of ministries from parish priest to chaplain and pastor, so the range of activities that an minister will be focused upon will differ. These activities can be edited to reflect an individual's ministry; any changes that are made to these cells are reflected across all sheets and all months.

Leave: The user can enter the start and end days of holidays, sick leave and sabbaticals. These are displayed in a green, red and blue backgrounds (respectively) on the Calendar and Jan, Feb, ... sheets.

<u>Calendar</u>: Provides an overview of the current year displaying Feast Days of the selected Lectionary. The calendar enables the planning of holidays and allows the user to immediately go to any day in the year.

¹ LibreOffice is a powerful office suite and is freely available from http://www.libreoffice.org/

Planner: A variety of wall planners (weekly, monthly and half-yearly) that can be printed out.

Claims: A simple sheet for submitting expenses and travel claims.

Wellbeing: An overview of the daily well-being scores are displayed. In addition, a person's well-being can be assessed through a questionnaire.

Shape: This provides a simple way for a minister to gain an insight into the shape of their ministry by inputting the number of hours (or units) that they might spend across ten activities in a given week.

Hymns: For each Sunday throughout the year web links are provided to external websites to aid in the choice of hymns.

Festivals: This provides a list of the Feast Days and Festivals for the selected Lectionary. To aid in planning, a utility is provided to determine the dates of key festivals for a chosen year. Sunrise and Sunset times (UK Only) are provided for the current day and Easter Day.

Lectionary: For each Sunday (and Feasts, Holy Days and Major Festivals) readings are provided from the selected Lectionary. The Lectionary year (e.g. A, B or C) is calculated from the current year and the corresponding readings are automatically determined. All Lectionary Readings are hyperlinked to the Bible Gateway website (www.BibleGateway.com). This allows readings to be displayed in an external web browser, using a Bible translation of your choice. Simply click on the top Bible Reference, and all passages will be displayed in the browser.

Services: A simple rota planner for church services.

<u>Overview</u>: The Overview sheet collates the times entered in the monthly sheets and displays them in tabular and graphical form to allow the minister to gauge where their time is being spent.

Jan, Feb, ..., Dec: For each month there are four/five weekly sheets enabling the minister to enter the time spent on each activity for that week. The list of activities are set in the Overview sheet.

Rather than use a whole lot of words that are unlikely to ever be read, the user guide takes the form of a number of screen-shots highlighting the main points (see subsequent pages). Each worksheet contains further **Help** – simply hover the cursor over the Help

A few tips before starting

- 1. Think carefully about the activities that your role encompasses. The activities can be edited in the Settings tab (those listed are those that occurred to me).
- 2. Try to account for the hours for each activity in the same way each week (though admittedly this may be different from how others account for their time).
- 3. Complete the Global Settings in the Settings tab and input your holidays for the year.

A Health Warning (compiled by fellow ministers)

This utility is intended for private use only. Use it honestly and do not be tempted to use it as a stick to beat your Church Council, archdeacon, bishop, spiritual director, and (most importantly) yourself. You may choose to use it for a month, a season, a year to gauge whether your perception of how many hours you do each week bears any relation to reality.

Rev. Joe Heaton (22 November 2022).

Welcome >



Viewing Tips

Welcome to Thyme Tracker®

Thyme Tracker Userquide

Introduction

It's important to develop healthy patterns of prayer, work and rest to sustain ourselves in ministry. This will differ for each minister and will depend upon personal circumstances. Over the last few years a user-friendly tool (Thyme Tracker) has been developed to support and encourage ministers across all denominations to promote personal well-being, in particular, when it comes to managing time.

Thyme Tracker allows the minister to track the amount of time spent on a range of activities and hence provide an indication where their time is being spent, and importantly to provide an indicator as to where it isn't been spent (and perhaps should be). By recording the hours spent on activities this resource can provide an insight into the shape of someone's ministry and hence might encourage them to consider re-shaping their ministry and aid in the self-regulation of their time. However, Thyme Tracker is more than just a tool to monitor the use of time, it also has many other features developed to support the minister in their role. In effect a suite of tools I

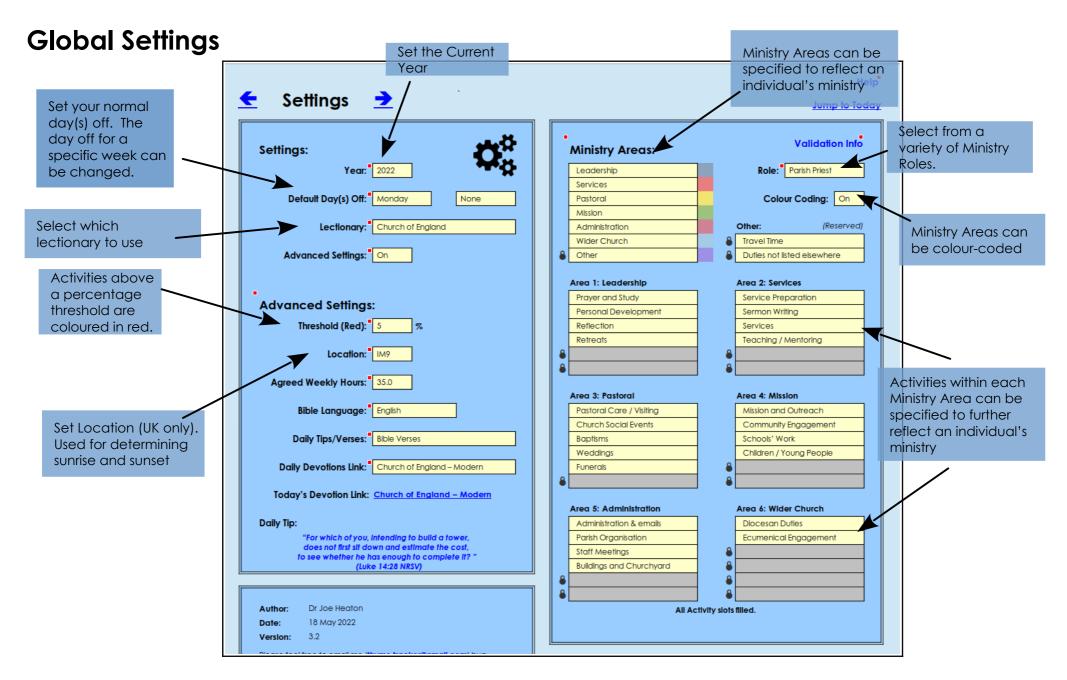
A few important points before beginning ...

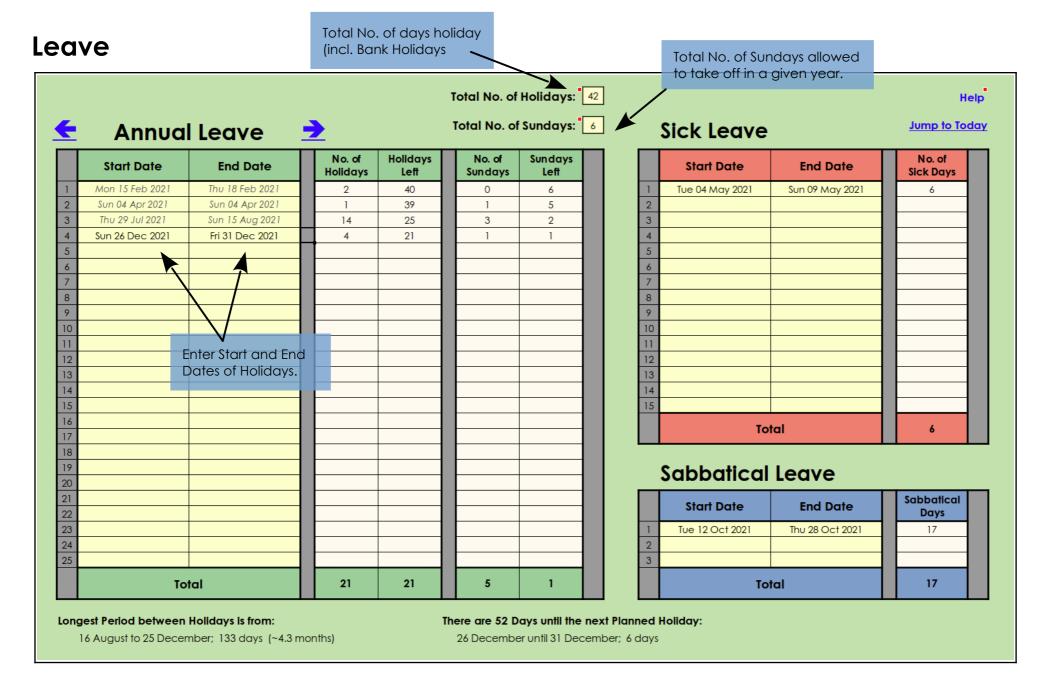
- 1. The current year, day off, Ministry Areas and Activities, etc. needs to be set on the Settings Sheet; changes to dates will then be updated automatically.
- 2. Edit the Ministry Areas (and associated activities) on the Settings sheet to reflect your ministry.
- 3. The spreadsheet makes heavy use of hyperlinks (shown in blue or red). Simply click on the link (or Ctrl+click) and you will be taken to another part of the spreadsheet.
- 4. On each sheet there is a Help button. Simply hover the cursor over the red square (or triangle) and further information will be displayed.
- 5. Please see the Viewing Tips at the top of this sheet to get the best out of Thyme Tracker.
- 6. Thyme Tracker consists of a large number of Sheets that can be accessed by the Sheet Tabs at the bottom of the window. Some of these may not be visible due to the Screen resolution of the computer. However, the Sheets can all be accessed through the hyperlinks on this sheet (see below), or by the arrows (€, →) on each sheet, or by using Ctrl+Page Up / Page Down to move between sheets.
- 7. Do **not** use Cut-and-Paste as it disrupts not only the formatting, but the underlying calculations.
- 8. Sheets can be printed out; it may be necessary to adjust the scaling to fit a print to a page.
- 9. Thyme Tracker is not compatible with Google Sheets, Apple Numbers, or Excel 2007 (and earlier), due to loss of functionality.

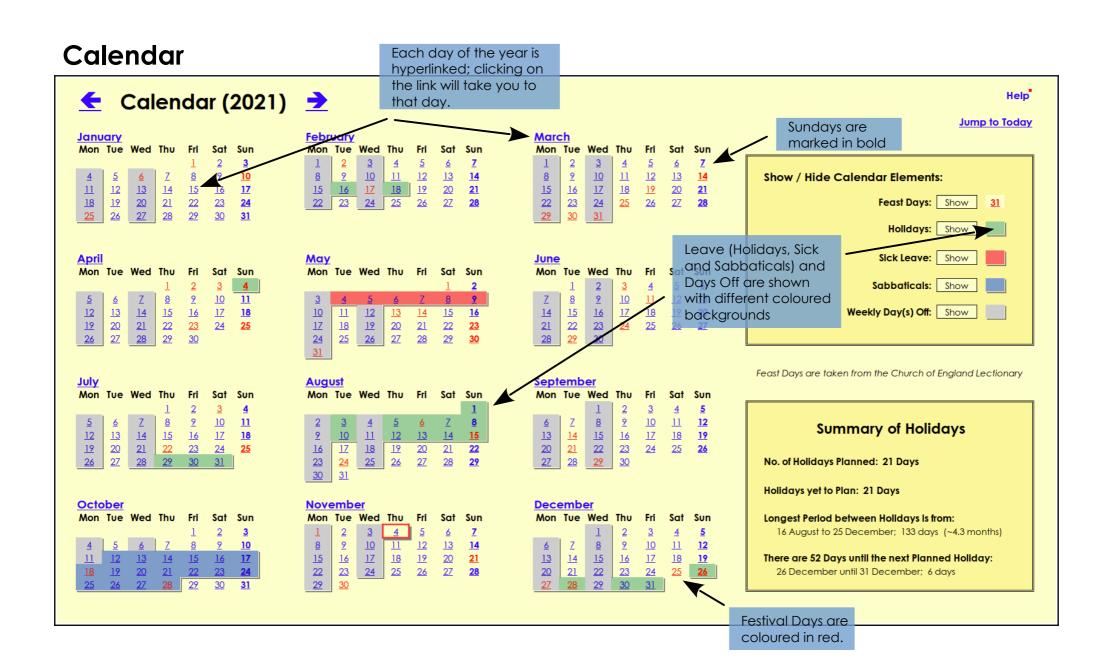
An brief overview of the various sheets is given below. Each Heading is hyperlinked to the appropriate sheet.

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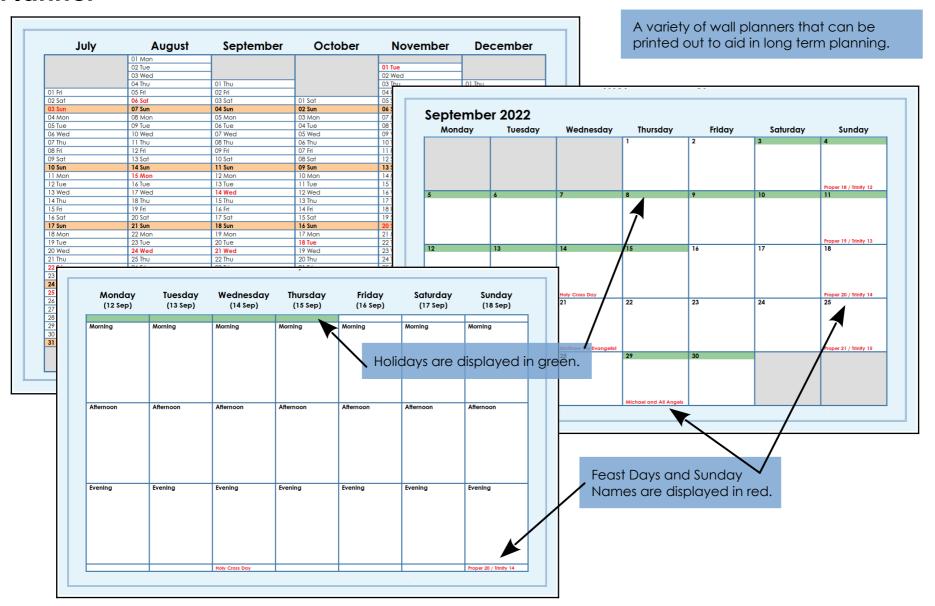
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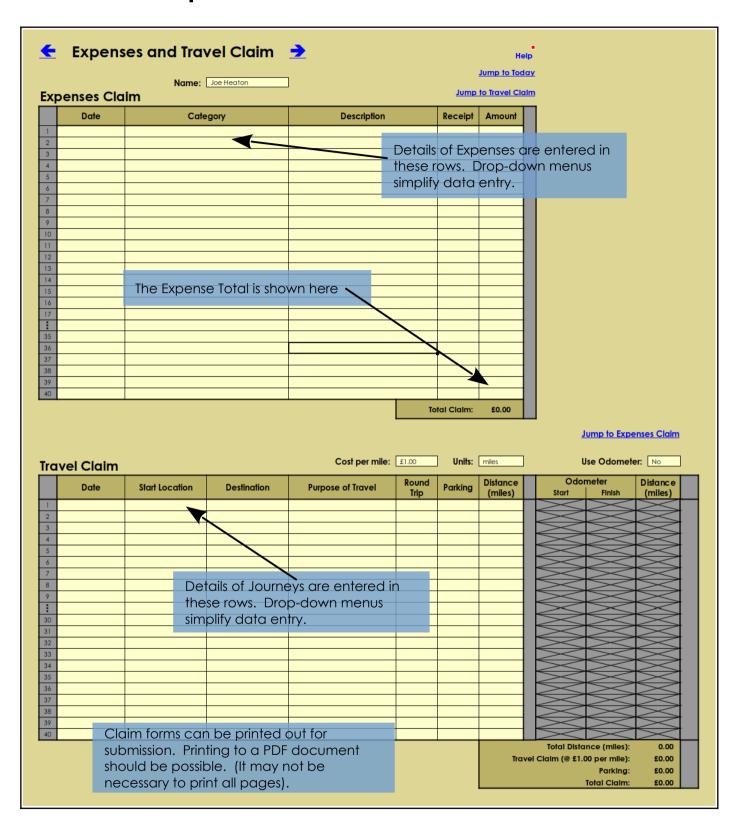




Planner



Travel and Expenses Claim



Well-being Questionnaire

Health and Well-being Questionnaire

Tick which statements apply to you

Work Health

- ☑ I am able to cope under pressure when I am at work
- ☑ I am motivated in my current position
- ☑ I have direction with my career opportunities
- ☑ I am energised at work and mostly able to meet my deadlines
- ☑ I generally enjoy and look forward to work

Physical Health

- ☑ I am my ideal weight
- ☑ I don't have high blood pressure and/or cholesterol
- ☐ I rarely suffer from colds / flu / viruses
- ☑ I generally feel healthy
- ☐ I rarely feel that I lack energy

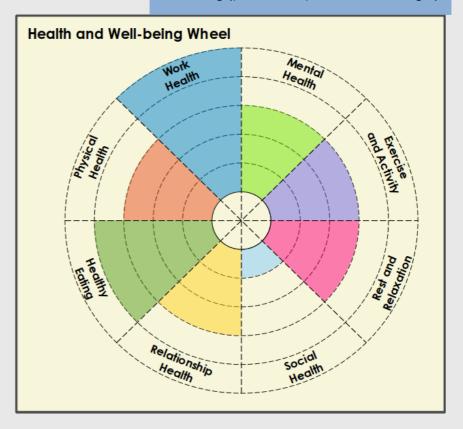
Healthy Eating

- ☑ I eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day
- ☑ I eat out and have takeaways less than 2x per week
- ☑ I nearly always eat meals prepared from scratch
- ☑ I seldom eat foods and snacks that are high in sugar
- ☐ My alcohol consumption is within recommended guidelines

Relationship Health

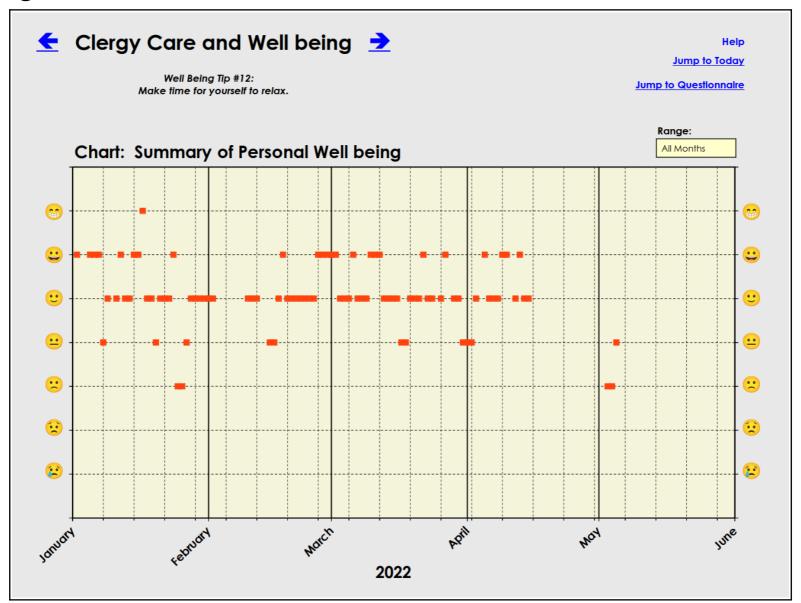
- ☐ I have healthy relationships with my work colleagues
- ☑ Relationships within my family are happy and conflict-free
- ☑ I invest time to maintain healthy and happy relationships
- ☐ I am content with the relationships I have in my life and feel happy and fulfilled
- ☑ I never take my relationships and friendships for granted

A simple questionnaire to assess your wellbeing (provided by Whole Wellbeing®).

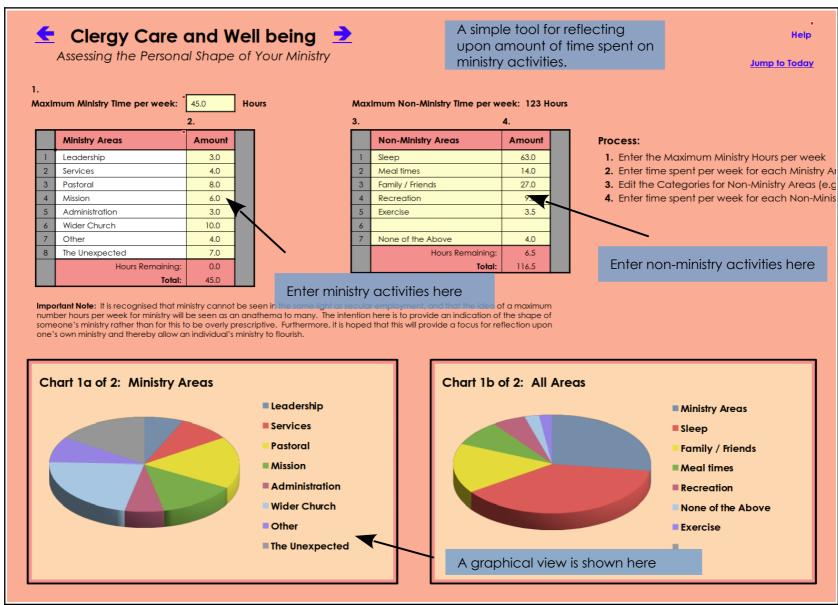




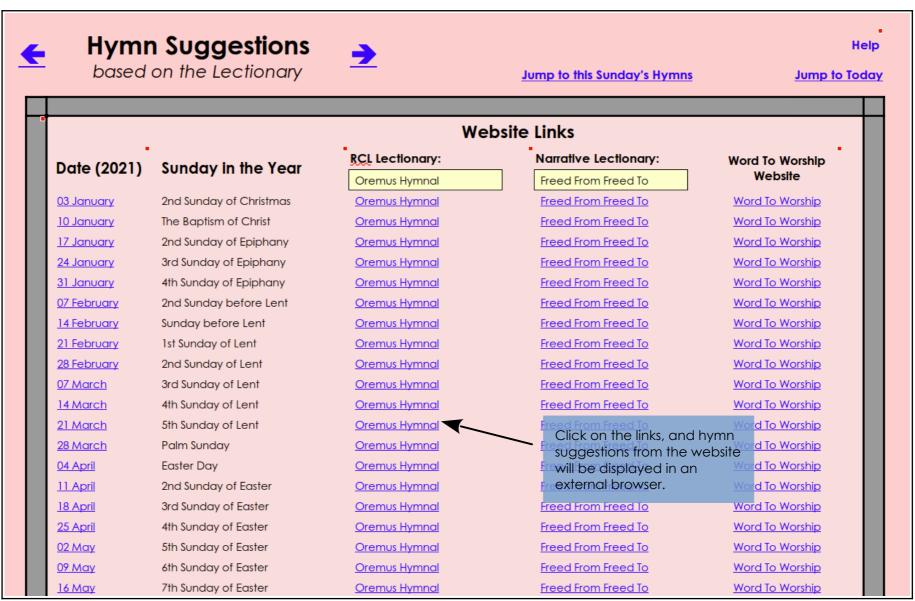
Wellbeing Chart



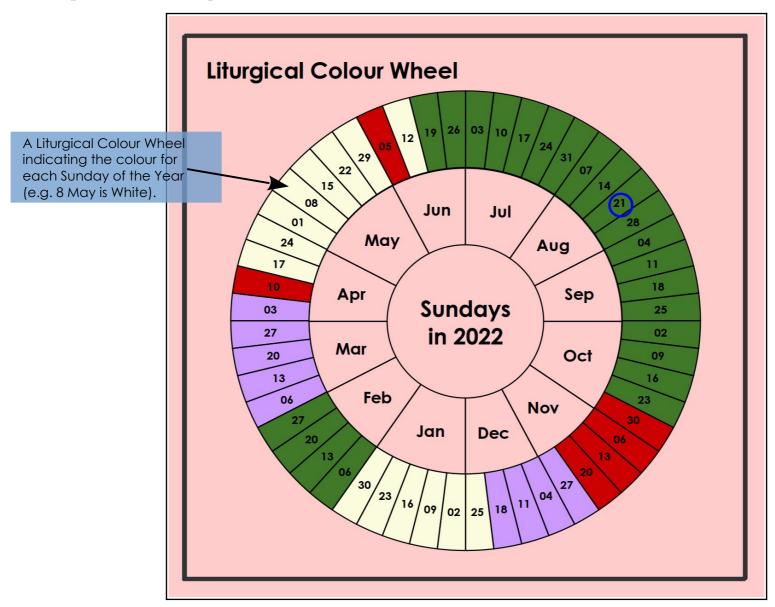
Shape

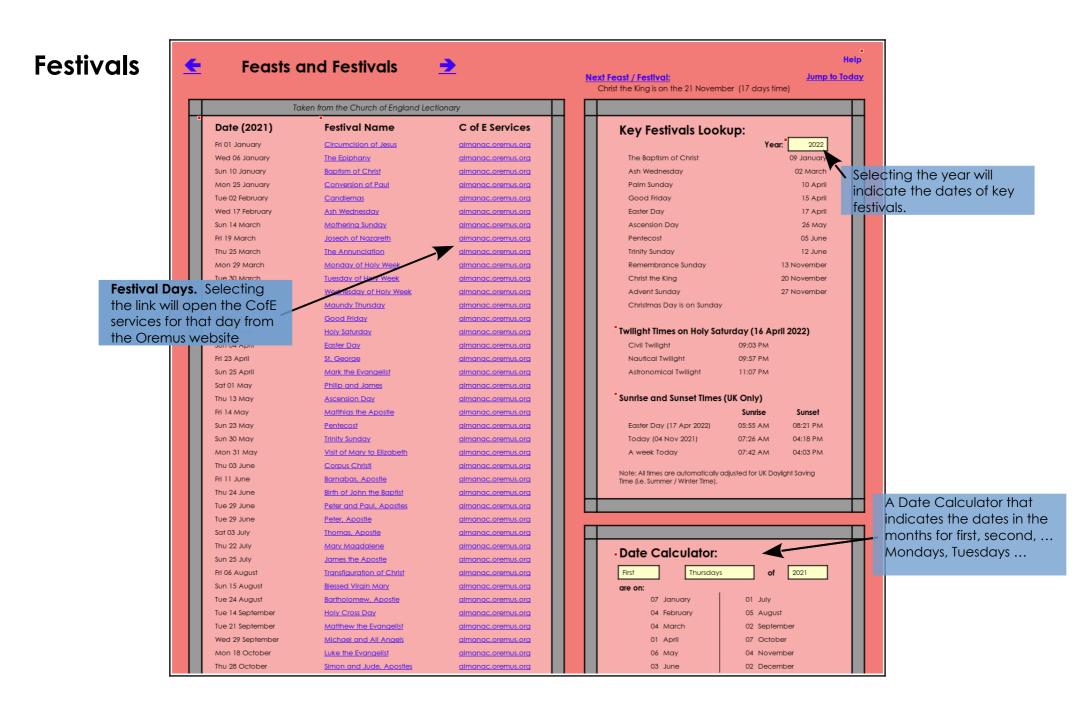


Hymns

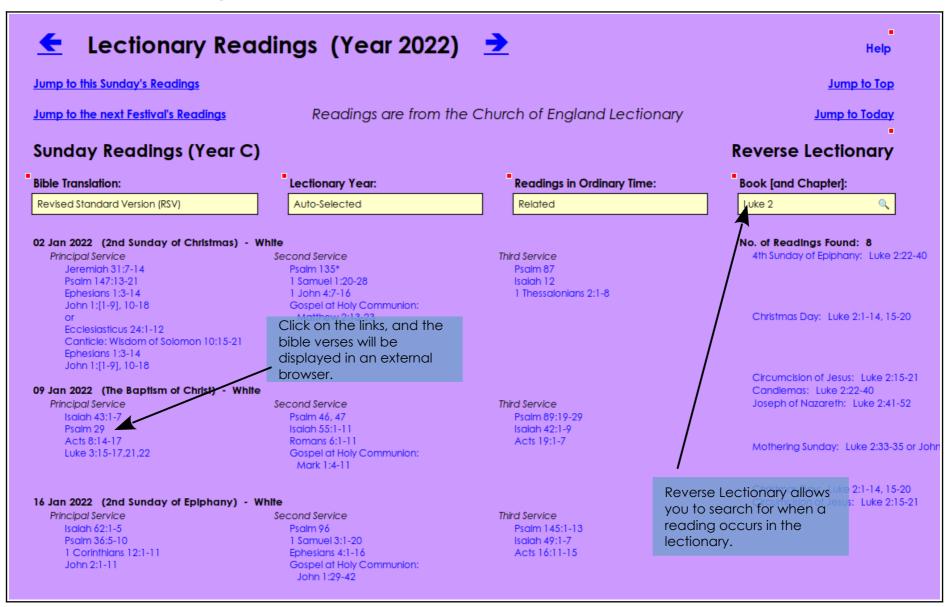


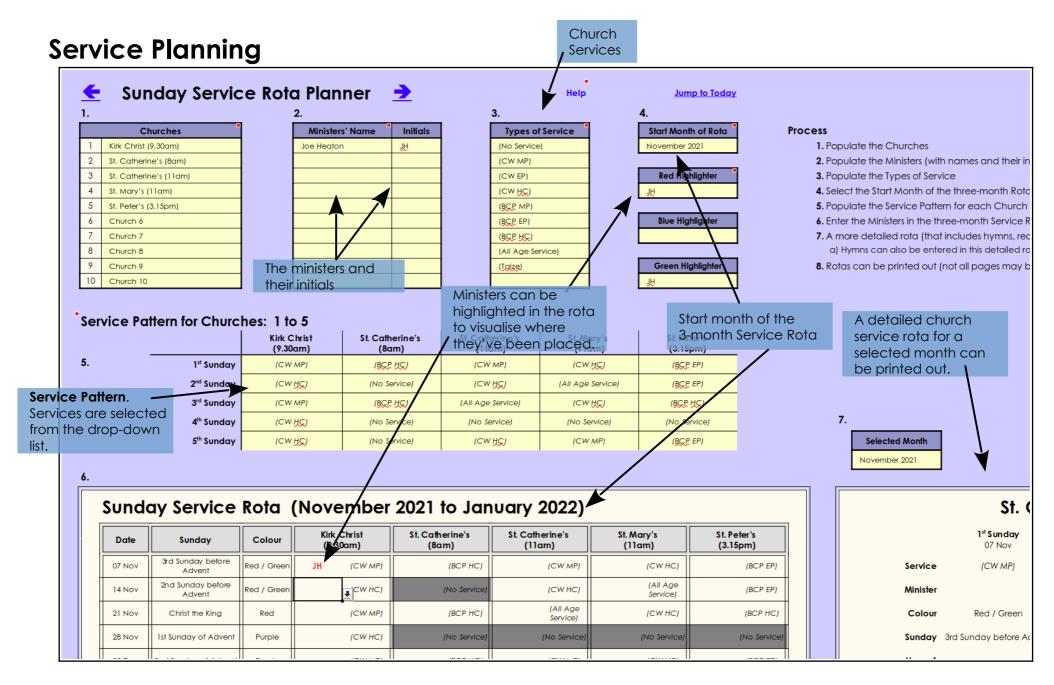
Hymns (continued)



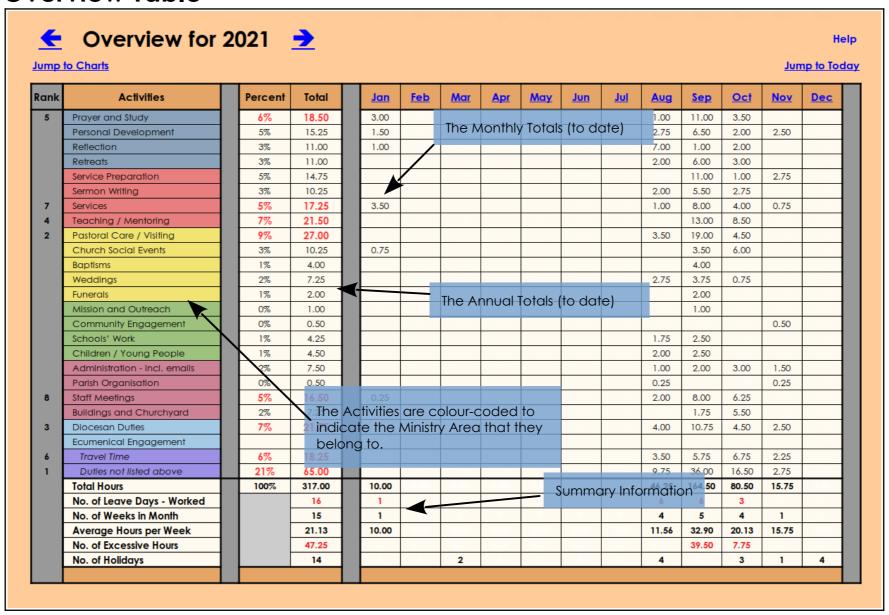


Lectionary Readings





The Overview Table



The Overview Chart

