

October

2023



50p

St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

Parish Magazine



www.stpetersleck.org

parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com

part of the South Cheltenham Team Ministry

Our Vision Statement

St Peter's Church Leckhampton
exists to love and worship God,
to serve our neighbours and
to pass on the faith in Jesus Christ.

The Parish Prayer

Loving God
Open our eyes that we might see you.
Open our ears that we might hear you.
Open our hearts and minds that we
Might respond to you and bring others to know you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
Our Lord who lights our way.
Amen

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Cover picture: Rev Gary after his Institution as Team Rector of the South Cheltenham team at P&J church

The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the PCC or the editor, but are those of the individual contributors.



St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

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Printers: Parish Office

Live Stream Services for October

We will be live streaming the 10am service from St. Peter's most weeks.

This can be accessed via www.stpetersleck.org or
www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton

Readings for October

Date	Day	Readings
1 st	HARVEST SUNDAY	Deuteronomy 26.1-4,12 Galatians 5.22-23, 25 Mark 4.30-33
8 th	TRINITY 18	Isaiah 5.1-7 Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-end
15 th	TRINITY 19	Isaiah 25.1-9 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14
22 nd	ST LUKE	Isaiah 35.3-6 2 Timothy 4.5-8 Luke 10.1-9
29 th	BIBLE SUNDAY	Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-6, 8-12 Colossians 3.12-17 Matthew 24.30-35

Morning Prayer is live-streamed at 9am each morning (Mon-Thu) from www.stpetersleck.org or www.facebook.com/pipandjims
You can also join in person: Mon – Pip & Jim's, Tue – St. Christopher's, Wed – Emmanuel, Thu – St. Peter's.

Refreshments after church. The new rota covering August to October is now on the board in the Cottages. If you can help with refreshments after the 10am service occasionally, please add your name to the list. All newcomers very welcome. Any queries please get in touch: Ro Baillie – 702617 or 07717 002752 or Joey Kerr-Wilson – 578575 or 07990 813122

Reflections from the Curatage

Summer has been and gone, in what seems to have been a mixed cycle of rain, a heatwave and a return to “normal” temperatures. We feel the transition of the seasons more keenly when the differences are so diverse. Autumn marks the start of something new, which I for one anticipate with excitement and a sense of *joie de vivre*. The colours of the leaves, the crisp mornings and the shorter days remind us that nothing stays the same. Whilst we have enjoyed glorious sunshine, warm evenings and perhaps the chance of a holiday, October heralds a change in pace, both in nature and our lives.

Autumn gives us opportunity to appreciate and admire the beauty of the world in which we live. It's important to take the time to stop and look at our surroundings and make the most of the here and now. We live busy lives and the hustle and bustle often prevents us from reflecting on the things which we might take for granted. This is the time where we look forward to slowing down, to letting go of the frenetic activities of the summer months. We may not be quite ready to pack away our summer clothes or banish the camping equipment to the garage or attic for yet another year! But just as nature shifts, it is important that we change with seasons too. As we celebrate the harvest of crops and fruits, we gather in ourselves and our energies to refocus on what lies ahead.

Winter seems a long way off, but creation is preparing for the colder months. Nature begins to let go of the things it doesn't need in order to sustain itself and be ready for growth in the Spring. Animals and birds begin to store food for the winter. Perhaps we could use autumn as a period to let go of the extraneous things which are preventing us from growing, whether that's emotionally, spiritually, or socially. After all, “change is inevitable, growth is optional.” (John McKewan)

In our churches, we celebrate Harvest as both an ending and a beginning. Endings are not always synonymous with sadness but can be a celebration of what is to come. If we walk through our transitions with hope and faith, the new seasons in our lives will be full of anticipation rather than trepidation. God is beside us, even in those moments when we find life difficult. The steadfastness and predictability of God's love for everyone means that we can feel enabled to let go of the things which are holding us back from being who God intends us to be.

“Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” (James 5. 7-8)

Rev'd. Jacqueline

Team Rector

Congratulations to Rev Gary who was instituted today (24th Sept) as Team Rector of the South Cheltenham Team by Bishop Rachel.

One of his first tasks was to give out the notices and he was able to announce that Rev Jacqueline has been appointed to The North Cheltenham Team where she will be vicar of St Lawrence, Swindon Village and St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwick, so congratulations to Rev Jacqueline as well!



Photograph by Rob Grady



DW: Bishop Rachel, we present Gary to be instituted as Team Rector of the South Cheltenham Team.

Bishop Rachel: I thank you for your presentation. I welcome Gary and will gladly admit him.

Rev Lauren Gate will be licensed as the new Associate Priest & Missioner for Warden Hill by Archdeacon Phil on **Thu 12th Oct**, 7.30pm at St. Christopher's.

Junior Church Is Back!

Children – pre-schoolers and juniors– There are things to do in the carpeted area and on the activities table each week in church. If you have any queries or would like to be on the Junior Church team, please contact Liz Johnson via the Parish Office.

'Notes from the Director of Music'



Firstly, thank you all for making me feel so welcome. I've greatly enjoyed our first few services together during September, and the choir have been a pleasure to work with. It has been lovely to welcome a number of new choir members, both adults and children, and we will continue to spread the word of our wonderful choir and church and see if we can encourage any more people to join us in the future too. Mind you, having said that, the next problem we may run into will be how to fit them all into the choir stalls which are already pretty full to bursting (!) - but that is a fabulous problem to have!

Secondly, I wanted to highlight the choral evensong that we will be offering on **the 1st Sunday of October**. We have some great music lined up - the Smith Responses (a Tudor setting), psalm 67, the rousing setting of the canticles in D major by Brewer (who was organist of our local Gloucester Cathedral), and the wonderful anthem 'The Heavens are Telling' from Haydn's Creation. I know we will have some extra singers coming to enlarge the choir for this special service - so it promises to be a great occasion. I hope we see many of you there to join us in joyful praise.

Kit Perona-Wright **Director of Music**

.....and a note from the Social Committee that there will be Pimms after the service!

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Eloise Penny Rose Millard on 10th September

We congratulate those who were recently married:

There were no weddings in September at the time of printing, but one for the end of the month, which will be recorded in the next issue.

We offer our sincere sympathy to the families of those who have recently died, especially:

Georgina Prout on 3rd May aged 83

Shirley Bindley Latham on 18th July aged 96

Gabriella Haywood on 8th August aged 61

Rev Brian Legg on 9th August aged 86

Julia Stenner on 10th August aged 77

Jean Mary Butler on 30th August aged 88

A former St Peter's Parishioner, Maureen Perris, has died recently. Her family are asking if they all can be remembered on October 11th, the day of her funeral.

AtaLoss.org is the UK's most comprehensive hub of bereavement support and information for anyone bereaved and for those supporting them. You can easily search using filters according to age, location or relationship to the deceased and find support from the many hundreds of services listed, confident that the details are accurate, up to date and offer choices from a wide range of support available. Useful things to read, helplines and a FREE live-chat counselling service are also available on www.ataloss.org to help anyone deal with their loss, whatever the circumstances and whatever their faith or none.

Bereavement Support Please contact one of the clergy if you would like to talk about a bereavement. Please visit the church Wellbeing webpage for more details.

Reordering Update

A number of people have enquired about the progress with the reordering, so here is another update.

To recap: The Faculty was granted by the Chancellor and the work is being completed in phases. A lot goes on behind the scenes. Covid was obviously a big barrier to progress as we were not able to meet architects, contractors or Diocesan representatives for some time, but Rev Gary and I have recently met with the architect and our favoured contractor and are now awaiting the final price and starting date for the last phase, which is the removal of the old pine flooring by the altar, installation of new wooden flooring ready for carpet, the levelling of the stone floor at the front, and the provision of two removable altar rails. This will dispense with the trip hazards we have at the moment as the floor will be level from the vestry door to the choir stalls. The children's area will also be carpeted afresh. So far: the old gas heating system has been removed, all the cast iron radiators and a lot of the pipework have gone, under-pew heating has been installed and to facilitate that we had to have 3-phase electricity cabling laid under the path from the main road. (We were not allowed to do this in term time to avoid affecting the school run so we had one week's half-term holiday to carry it out. (Ironic, when you consider the many other roadworks and road closures in the area!)

Two pews have been removed and a cupboard moved forward to make more room by the Giffard memorial, and a beautiful surround, matching the altar, has been installed. We are also expecting delivery of new clergy and servers' seats imminently. There is still time to make a donation towards these if you wish.

The sound and audio system has been replaced, we have new screens which give us more options for events and worship, and the new cameras above the west door will shortly be put into action. We also now have WiFi in the church, which means you can download the order of service and any concert programmes onto your phones.

The last phase is the biggest, so it will necessitate the church being closed for several weeks as it will become a restricted building site, and obviously we need it done before the wedding season begins. The tentative start date is early January 2024. Rev Gary will provide guidance about alternative plans for worship when we have a definite date.

David Webber Churchwarden (In consultation with Rev Gary)

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

Friday 27 October
Friday 24 November

12.30 – 2pm at the home of Sally & Peter Marlow
1 Vineries Close (off Kidnappers Lane)

Donations for The Children's Society will be welcome
Please come and join us!

Concert At St Peter's, Leckhampton

Sunday 8th October
6pm

Cheltenham Sinfonietta

In aid of Cheltenham Open Door and St. Peter's.
See poster in church and on website Noticeboard.

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Concert at St Matthew's, Cheltenham

OCEAN OF LIGHT

Saturday 14th October

7.30pm

Cantores Chamber Choir

**Gorgeous choral music from the combined voices of Cantores and
Cantamus choirs featuring a fabulous selection of varied chamber works by
Byrd, Whitacre, Howells, Stanford and Dove.**

**Tickets £15 available through www.cantores.net
or on the door**

For more info speak to Sally, Peter, Stephen, Tabitha, Rob or Kim

Eco-church: Going for Gold

Where would you look for creeping Jenny? Do you know where to find Aaron's beard? Would you like some garlic mustard? Thanks to Ben Gilchrist, these can all be found in St Peter's churchyard. We are very grateful to Ben, who has now completed and documented his second survey of all the plants surrounding the church. Helped by our new land management policy of less mowing, he has found an increase of over 20 new species since last time. The results can be found on the St Peter's website.

Ben's survey is part of our overall plan of being good stewards of God's creation, preserving biodiversity and preventing environmental destruction. As part of our effort to do this, we are taking part in A Rocha's Eco-church awards, and thanks to everyone's efforts, we have achieved a silver award. The main remit of A Rocha (which means The Rock in Portuguese) is to restore the natural world; the Eco-church programme began in 2016 and is just one of their projects. It is open to churches of all denominations. To achieve an award, we need to complete a survey, which can be found at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk.

We would now like to go further and aim for a gold award.

However, this is considerably more difficult than achieving a silver. Less than 1% of churches with awards have a gold. On average, it takes two and a half years to go from silver to gold. The nearest church to us with gold is Bethesda Methodist church. To reach gold, we need to provide supporting evidence for our answers to the survey, including our impact on the local community, as well as our plans for the future. Once we have submitted our survey and dossier of supporting evidence, we will receive a visit by an A Rocha team of four to review and confirm our submission before being considered for a gold award.

So we will need the support of all the congregation.

The Eco-church group at St Peter's consists of Rev Gary, Richard Kerr-Wilson (chair), Jennie Hawdon, Jacqui Dunlop, Penny Piggott, Sheila Pedley, Ursula Hart and Joey Kerr-Wilson. Please look at the survey and let us know of any ideas or suggestions you may have - and don't forget to do your carbon footprint (eg footprint.wwf.org.uk)!

Meantime, to inspire you, come and listen to Petra Crofton from A Rocha talk about 'Climate Change for All' in St Peter's at 7:30pm on Thursday 5th October!

Richard Kerr-Wilson

Men's Group

Just a reminder that the next Men's Group meeting will be at 12:30 pm, in the Wheatsheaf, on **Thursday 5th October**. I look forward to seeing you there, if you are free.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind members that in the evening, on the 5th October, there is a talk by Petra Crofton on "Climate Change for All". An intriguing title!

Both Reverend Gary and Richard Kerr-Wilson, (leader of the St Peter's Eco-Church Group), have expressed the hope that Men's Group members will be able to attend this too.

John Laurence

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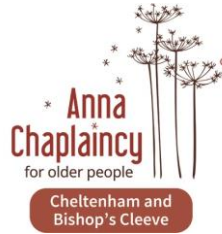
Shoebox Appeal 2023

This year's appeal is now under way. Last year the charity delivered over 26,000 Christmas shoeboxes to some of the most impoverished people in Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. If you'd like to contribute a shoebox of small gifts, please pick up a leaflet (one per shoebox) from the back of church or download here. The leaflet provides full instructions for filling and sealing your shoebox, but if you need more information, see www.linktohope.co.uk, or contact Steve Whittingham (07514 986386 or steve_whittingham@btinternet.com). Completed shoeboxes will be collected from church up to and including Sun 29th Oct.

Steve Whittingham

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Little Pebbles Will be back on Tuesday 5th September. A big thank you to Lara Skinner and the team for leading this over the past year
Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.30 in the Cottages during term time.



Anna Chaplaincy training course

Are you interested in supporting older people spiritually? CaBiC Anna Chaplaincy is going to be running the national Anna Chaplaincy training course in Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve for people who are interested in becoming involved in the ministry of Anna Chaplaincy to older people in the local area.

Who is the course open to?

This course is open to anyone who would like to become involved in the growing ministry of Anna Chaplaincy amongst older people in Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve. You might already be involved in ministry with older people, but would like to find out more about how being part of a national network might benefit your ministry. Perhaps you have come across Anna Chaplaincy and would be interested in finding out more about becoming either an Anna Chaplain or an Anna Friend.

Please note: it is important that participants in the course have the support of their local minister when considering Anna Chaplaincy ministry.

What does the course cover?

This weekly course (delivered mainly in person – at a location in Cheltenham - but possibly with one or two on-line sessions) will run over 6 weeks, beginning on Monday 23rd October (finishing on Monday 27th November) and is designed to cover the broad scope of Anna Chaplaincy. It will help you to discern whether you would like to be involved in the ministry of Anna Chaplaincy in Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve.

If you would like more information, please contact CaBiC's Anna Coordinator, Gill Ford, at gillian.ford@cabic.co.uk.

The History of Leckhampton Church

By Eric Miller

One Sunday early in 1984, as I was leaving the morning service at St Peter's church in Leckhampton on the outskirts of Cheltenham, Canon Smith, the parish priest, asked me quite out of the blue: 'Would you write a history of the church?'. I was taken aback, as I had never tackled anything like that before. My only credentials were producing a visitors' guide, cobbled together from what others had written. Still I persevered. Luckily I had a colleague who was chairman of a local history society in a neighbouring parish. He handed me a long list of sources, which I looked up on Saturday mornings or during the odd half-day's leave in Cheltenham Library or Gloucestershire Archives, fortunately nearby. A request locally for any information that might help me was rewarded when a member of an old Leckhampton family brought me some early parish magazines and – best of all – a thick ledger crammed with a variety of details transcribed from early parish registers.

Nearly three years later I had written out the text in longhand, using a fountain pen. I took this draft to a typing agency and presented the result to Canon Smith, who as a sideline operated an offset litho printing press in his rectory. An assistant retyped the words, and these pages and some black and white illustrations were then transferred to metal plates. It was quite a thrill to see the resulting book, illustrated with a reproduction of a 19th-century woodcut on its cream cover. A second printing was soon needed, and altogether some 750 copies were sold, not only in church but also in one or two local businesses.

In due course a second edition was called for, enlarged to include newly-discovered information. By then I had invested in an Amstrad word processor and an Epson printer. These enabled me to do all the type-setting myself and I printed the text and pasted the illustrations on A5 sheets of paper. A colleague in our local history society – we had formed one in 1992 – who had regular business dealings with a commercial printing firm, added the book to his own orders, which kept down the cost. Everything had to be presented as 'camera-ready'. The cover was pale blue, for which I had photographed a summer sky, and the front was graced with a colour photograph of the church.

Now the time has come for a third edition, further enlarged. Thanks to the internet, on-line access to archive material is straightforward. For example, from the Lambeth Palace Archive I have been able to download plans of the church interior as it was before its 19th-century reordering. The Church of England Clergy database has enabled me to refine the list of incumbents, while on eBay a colleague bought a 19th-century drawing in full heraldic colours of one of the effigies in the church, which led to further discoveries.

The printing arrangements have been straightforward. On the internet I found a printing company's website on which I gave the book's specifications and obtained an immediate quote. I sent off PDFs of the cover and contents and within a week took delivery of 250 beautifully produced books. The launch is scheduled to

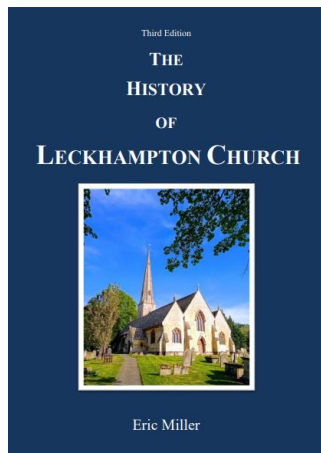
coincide with Harvest Festival, so we hope to sell many copies in aid of church funds.

On a personal note, Canon Smith's few words set me off on a hunt for knowledge that has never stopped and I am immensely grateful to him for shaping the second half of my life in a way that I would never have envisaged before.

Book Launch

A new edition of the history of St Peter's and its parish has just been printed. Distinguished by its Oxford blue cover, it has on the front a sunny photo of the church taken by the Reverend Gary, and on the back a full-colour image of Sir John Giffard. Inside are over 50 photos showing details and aspects of the church as it has evolved over the years. The text includes a lot of new information gleaned since the previous edition came out, nearly 20 years ago.

The book, priced at £5, will be launched in the Glebe Cottages after the 10 o'clock service on **Sunday 1st October**, when Eric will be signing copies. No regular worshipper should be without a copy!



A Surprise Meeting

Several months ago I had left my umbrella behind after the 10 a.m. service and went back to church to collect it after the 11.30 a.m. service had finished. There I met a lady who was looking round and taking photos and I soon discovered that that she was Mrs Joan Tucker, a member of the British Association for Local History who had been given the task of reviewing my *History of Leckhampton Church*. What a happy coincidence!

Her review, which also gives her impressions as a visitor to the church, appeared in the latest issue of *The Local Historian*, and is reproduced below.

“St. Peter's Church, Leckhampton, has a lovely site on the lower slopes of the steep Cotswold scarp about two miles south of Cheltenham. The parish is large but the church is isolated in a rural setting, overlooked by the former manor house and with no modern encroachments in sight. Not surprisingly, many people from outside the parish choose this as their last resting place. The churchyard has been extended to over three acres, dominated by the slender 'broach' spire. This church guide is very different from the usual booklet, for Eric Miller has been a member of the congregation for forty years, and has researched and compiled this book with love and affection touching on every aspect that the parishioner or visitor would

want to know. Norman foundations seen below floorboards at the foot of a Norman carved half-column indicate the origins of the church. In the fourteenth century the lord of the manor, Sir John Giffard, added the south aisle, and the tower with spire between the nave and new chancel. He and his lady have a splendid carved tomb at the back of the church. In 1865-1866, when the population of Cheltenham was increasing, the church was enlarged by extending the nave and building the north aisle, giving it the Victorian aspect it has today—yet this is not the elaborate Victorian style, but one which is cool, functional and comfortable, with no embellishments. The pews are kept but the church appears modern. Some dormer windows and a free-standing altar in the nave are the only recent alterations.

“It seems child-friendly, and children are depicted in many of the high quality stained glass windows which Miller catalogues. The bells have two pages and an appendix. Monuments and the organ are described in detail. When submitting this book for review the author included his previous edition from 1987, commenting ‘how technology has improved’. It had 65 pages, and though the text is largely unchanged there are now more photos, some of them replacing drawings. The plans and drawings made in 1864 by the architect John Middleton, and now in Gloucestershire Archives, have been consulted. Above all, the author has done the typesetting and layout himself. On New Year’s Eve 2006 the visitor’s book had an entry by a Yorkshire lady stating that her daughter wanted to be married in St. Peter’s. The lady had bought this guide, and it will be a memento for the family to cherish—other visitors will also wish to keep this excellent church history.”

Copies of the book are still available, price £2 (or £3 to include postage). With regard to the ‘many people from outside the parish who chose this as their last resting place’, I have written about some of them in an article entitled ‘Eminent Cheltonians commemorated at Leckhampton’ for the latest Cheltenham Local History Society *Journal*, price £3.50.

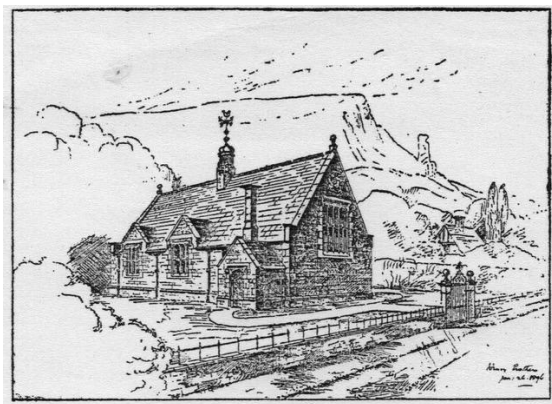
Mrs Tucker kindly gave me an old picture postcard of the Church. On the back was written “June 1911” and the following prayer, which she said she would like to be passed on:

“Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Grace Thy servants are enabled to fight the good fight and ever prove victorious, help us to think wisely, to speak rightly, to resolve bravely, to act kindly and to live purely. Bless us in body and soul and make us a blessing to others. Let the assurance of Thy Presence support us in life and comfort us in death. O Lord our God, accept our prayer, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”

Thanks to my serendipitous meeting with Mrs Tucker, the unknown writer of the prayer, offering a glimpse of a past age, has been able to speak to today’s congregation.

Eric Miller

Leckhampton Village Hall events



Thursday 5th October
7.45pm
Leckhampton Village Hall
“Leckhampton and beyond in
old prints and drawings” - a
talk by local historian, Eric
Miller

Autumn Fair SAT 18/11/23 10AM-12PM

- Free admission
- Cake stall
- Book stall
- Toys and gifts
- Grand raffle
- Tombola
- Games
- And more...

Quiz Night SAT 09/12/23 7.30PM

- Licensed bar
- Max 4 people per team
- Raffle
- To book your table, call 01242 243035

Joey Kerr-Wilson,
St. Peter's Village Hall Committee Rep.

**Leckhampton Local History Society
Programme 2023/2024**

Tuesday 31st October 2023

'Bankers, Brewers and Barons' The story behind the memorials of St. Mary's Minster and St. Peter's Leckhampton. -Neela Mann

Tuesday 28th November 2023

'King Arthur in the Cotswolds and the Surrounding Region'
Anthony Nanson

Tuesday 30th January 2024

'A Gloucestershire Odyssey, the history of the formation of the county'-
Tony Conder

Tuesday 27th February 2024

'The Cotswold Way: 100 miles of history'
Steven Blake

Tuesday 19th March 2024

St. Christopher Church 2.00pm
Tom Denny Windows- Adrian Barlow

Tuesday 30th April 2024

Members Evening

Tuesday 28th May 2024

'Leckhampton and further afield in Old Prints'-AGM
Eric Miller

**Meet at St. Peter's Church, Leckhampton. Last Tuesday of the
month at 7.30pm**

Craft-T-Time began in September 2017 as part of the LIFE Project.

This year we have knitted christening blankets, made bookmarks and Easter baskets, continued our personal art projects and welcomed new members

We are beginning to make Christmas decorations from September .

Do join our friendly and supportive group on Wednesday mornings from 10-12 in the Cottages. All are welcome to join, even if just for a 'cuppa' and a chat.

Helen Shill

The Messenger, October 2023

Rugby – an evasion sport with the potential to encounter God
During the Men’s Rugby World Cup 2023, Richard Witham, Head of Sport and Faith for Sportily, shares how his passion for the sport links with his passion for his Christian faith.

“As a child, I found a love for sport, especially Rugby Union, long before a love for Jesus. It will come as no surprise that I am pretty excited about the Men’s Rugby World Cup, which runs to 28 October – work colleagues and family might find me harder than usual to get hold of.

“I look back at those moments of epiphany where rugby and faith have collided for me:

“In sixth form – When I had just started out on the adventure of following God as a sixth former in Bristol and looking at the touch line to see a youth leader from church giving up their Saturday afternoon to come and watch me.

“In scripture – Enjoying and accepting Romans 12, verse 1. Our worship is always in response to what God has done for us and for who God is. For me, this sense of giving my whole self to God is true and proper worship was transformative especially this direct link to my physical body. Of course, this is not just around physical activity and sport but worship for me is hugely rooted in this.

“Through coaching – I have re-learnt how to coach others and it is very different to how I was taught. I can picture where I was standing as the coach educator talked us through creating a positive learning environment, letting the players play conditioned games and then as a coach asking the right question to help the players truly learn and encourage them to question what they are doing and why. This sounded very much like the way Jesus taught his disciples – through them doing, joining in and through two-way questions. I can trace this moment to the birth of ‘Play sport talk life’, a phrase at the heart of the what and the how of Sportily.

“During the Rugby World Cup, I will be aware of the natural conversations that can come from it with friends, family, those at the rugby club and young people through Sportily, around success and disappointment, enjoyment, beauty and creativity.

“I will enjoy the post-match hymns and prayers from some of the countries and players and join in when they openly give glory to God. I will enjoy watching some top-class rugby and be thankful to God. And each match I watch I will pause and pray for those countries – for the challenging situations they face, maybe for people and organisations that are linked to those I know.”

Read Richard’s testimony in full: gloucester.anglican.org/rugby-an-evasion-sport-with-the-potential-to-encounter-god

Rebuilding life after prison

At the start of Prisons Week, on 9 October, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons, invites worshipping communities to a special event at Gloucester Cathedral in partnership with The Welcome Directory and The Community Chaplaincy Association. This is an opportunity to learn more about how, working together, we can reach out in faith to those seeking to rebuild their lives after leaving prison.

Register: gloucester.anglican.org/rebuilding-life-after-prison

St Mary’s celebrates first full immersion baptism

St Mary’s in Wotton-under-Edge held its first full immersion baptism – which coincided with the 740th anniversary of the church’s dedication.

Full immersion baptism, as the name suggests, is when a person is fully covered in water by submerging under the surface as part of the baptism ceremony, signifying their new life in Christ.

Rachel Tooley, who has been a member of the worshipping community at St Mary’s for a year, decided she wanted to be baptised and chose full immersion baptism.

The Revd Lesley Hewish, Priest in Charge for Tyndale Benefice, says, “Rachel joined our congregation last summer, along with her life partner, Shelley, who has already been baptised. It has been a real joy walking with these two women on their journey with Jesus.

“Shelley helped me baptise Rachel, so we all got very wet; and so did the rest of the congregation as everyone renewed their baptism vows, which involved a branch of rosemary and lots of baptism pool water being shared.

Lesley says, "We are praying this will be the first of many full immersion baptisms and more members of our community explore together what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We are therefore confident that more candidates will join them for confirmation next year. God is doing amazing things."

Read more at: gloucester.anglican.org/st-marys-celebrates-first-full-immersion-baptism

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Digital media training

6 October, 10am to 7.30pm

Hatherley Manor, Down Hatherley Lane GL2 9QA

Join the national Digital Labs team for free interactive sessions taking participants from the basics of setting up internal and external communication channels for worshipping communities, through to a seminar-style session to discuss current issues facing church comms.

gloucester.anglican.org/digital-media-training

Carbon awareness training

11 October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud GL5 1DF

Explore questions around engaging with climate change in church life. Participants will be better equipped to make positive changes in their own household as well as feeling more confident to engage both with church, and others to encourage more people to take this seriously.

gloucester.anglican.org/carbon-awareness-training-october-2023

'Light eternal: Yesterday, today, forever'

19 to 28 October

Gloucester Cathedral GL1 2LX

Experience the Cathedral like never before. This medieval space will be transformed by a light and sound installation, with dazzling projections throughout the building. Journey into the Cathedral's 1,000-year-long history, examining its breathtaking architecture and stained glass, as well as its more recent life as a famous filming location.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/light-eternal-by-luxmuralis

Wholeness: Being well day

28 October, 10am to 3pm

St Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 7LS

St Mary's will be filled with creative opportunities for people of all ages and stages of faith, or none, to explore different approaches to finding healing and wholeness.

gloucester.anglican.org/being-well-day

Have your say

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Parish Giving Scheme

A great way to support St. Peter's is through the parish giving scheme, which enables you to give, and for St. Peter's to receive, a monthly donation towards the mission and ministry of the church and parish. This is administered through the Diocese of Gloucester, so every penny comes back to St. Peter's and is gift-aided also. This provides the church with a regular income and a means with which to plan ahead. It is especially important in 'times like these' when services, bookings and income are reduced. For further information, email Peter Marlow: peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk or check the Stewardship page of the church website: www.stpetersleck.org.

You can now enrol in the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 to set up a regular donation. All you need is your bank account details and our parish code *LKPT*.

You can also support St. Peter's by making an online donation at:

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There is still the opportunity to make a donation towards the new furniture which is part of the reordering!



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The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the PCC or the editor, but are those of the individual contributors.

STOP PRESS

As you will have read on page 6 Rev Jacqueline has been appointed to The North Cheltenham Team where she will be vicar of St Lawrence, Swindon Village and St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwick, Congratulations to Jaqueline on her appointment and best wishes to David, Eleanor and Martha as they all start a new chapter in their lives and move into a new home.

Jacqueline won't be leaving us quite yet, so there will be plenty of time for more details and proper goodbyes!

DRW



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