**November** 

2023



50p

## St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

## **Parish Magazine**



Lest we forget.

#### **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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www.stpetersleck.org

parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com

part of the South Cheltenham Team Ministry

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



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#### **Live Stream Services for November**

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

This can be accessed via <a href="www.stpetersleck.org">www.stpetersleck.org</a> or
<a href="www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton">www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton</a>

#### **Readings for November**

Date	Day	Readings
5 <sup>th</sup>	ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7.9-end
		1 John 3.1–3
		Matthew 5.1–12
12 <sup>th</sup>	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Amos 5.18–24
		1 Thessalonians 4.13–end
		Matthew 25.1–13
19 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end
		1 Thessalonians 5.1–11
		Matthew 25.14–30
26 <sup>th</sup>	CHRIST THE KING	Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24
		Ephesians 1.15–end
		Matthew 25.31-end

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

#### Gary writes.....

#### **Looking Ahead**

In 1 Corinthians 3 we read that Paul *planted*, Apollos *watered*, but that it is God that brings growth. Paul goes on to say: 'The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, for we are God's servants, working together.' (3.8)

It has been wonderful to be a part of the South Cheltenham Team for the past 7 years and I have enjoyed getting to know all of the churches in that time, and truly value the breadth of worship and diversity of traditions we have in the team.

At my recent interview for Team Rector, I outlined my vision for the team in the following 3 areas:

#### 1) Team

God has drawn us together as one team, into a relationship with one another. We have all worked really hard over recent years to embed 'who we are' as a team within our churches and communities. We are also very blessed in our partnership with Cheltenham Network Church, and the recent coming together of CNC and Emmanuel.

We are also a wonderfully diverse team in our worship, ecclesiology and locations, and this is a blessing as it offers a spiritual home for all who live in (and around) our communities. But there is more to do and we cannot be complacent or lose momentum. Building Kingdom communities means breaking down barriers and enabling mutually transforming relationships to be shaped through team work, friendship, reconciliation and love.

In many ways we represent (most of) the breadth of the C of E right here, but we are also branches together abiding in Christ, the true vine. When a vine grows wild, its fruit rots, so a good vineyard keeper will spend time tending to it. It will need to be pruned and encouraged to grow in a different way so it can be there for the long term; for that it will need good posts and strong wires to support it.

We cannot address the challenges we face today with same kind of thinking as when we created them; that same thinking will not solve them. Our focus needs

to be on 'unity not uniformity' and how we use our resources, people and buildings, our seasonal calendar and our locations, to support ministry and grow the Kingdom in this place. This means being more collaborative and 'doing' things together. So let's continue to celebrate our difference and diversity but focus on what unites us. We are stronger together.

#### 2) Sustainability

How does having a relationship with Jesus help us to live a sustainable life?

We are still recovering from Covid. Our churches are still rebuilding their rhythms, processes and finances, and discerning how these now work in a post-pandemic world where societal behaviours have changed, none more so than among families with young children. Your clergy are still recovering also, and we have not seen the bounce back of volunteers in our churches that we hoped for; which is a national pattern also.

Structures and governance are important, but they need to work for us. We need to be willing to change and adapt, continue to develop lay leadership, nurture disciples of Jesus Christ, and reach out in love as God's people in a sustainable way.

Sustainable patterns of worship across the team, good pastoral care systems for all ages, and the encouragement of people to volunteer and explore lay leadership is therefore key to our health.

#### 3) Mission

Why are we here? What is God already doing? How can we join in with God's mission to bring in the Kingdom?

A clear mission plan for the team will help us to prayerfully connect with God's mission 'as a team', and I am keen to revisit our team strategy once we have filled the vacancies we hold.

It was wonderful to welcome Rev Lauren Gate to the team, in October, as the new Associate Priest of Warden Hill and Missioner, and it is hoped that there will be a new Team Vicar at P+J and St. Stephen's in the first half of next year (with interviews booked in for January).

We already have good vision and mission statements for the team, underpinned by an agreed set of values, so are not starting from scratch and can look at how we build on them for the future. I am hoping for evolution not revolution!

Our work to actively engage children and young families, through our schools ministry and youth work, is crucial to this and an area of strength in the team which is already bearing fruit; we are very blessed to have Abbie Marsh, who joined us in April as our new Youth Worker, to lead us forward in this ministry.

So, team, sustainability and mission.

We have some amazing people & churches in the team and have an opportunity to shape ourselves imaginatively for the coming years. A transformation in our relationship with Christ *will* lead to a transformation not only in our lives but also in our churches. I feel passionate and energised to do some 'planting and watering' with you and to see what will happen!

Rev Gary

#### FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

#### 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!

**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

### From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Riaan Isaac Shah on 8<sup>th</sup> October Benjamin Aran Wickett on 15<sup>th</sup> October Amelia Mae Reid on 29<sup>th</sup> October

We congratulate those who were recently married:
George David Knowles and Danielle Zara Stevens 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

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

Toby James Coates on 7<sup>th</sup> September aged 53 Julie Anne Ward on 9<sup>th</sup> September aged 53

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 <a href="https://www.ataloss.org">www.ataloss.org</a> 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.

#### 'Notes from the Director of Music'

First and foremost, my thanks must go to both the regular members of the choir - as well as the handful of extra singers that joined us - for the wonderful evensong for Harvest in October. It was a wonderful



service filled with glorious singing, and it was made all the more special by being able to welcome into the choir four new choristers (who all received a certificate and their surplice) - Kai, Xin, Molly and Toby. Now we just need to work on finding some more children to join them to have even more in the choir stalls!

This month sees a variety of music, ranging from a glorious piece of Renaissance polyphony by Luis de Victoria for All Saints 'O Quam Glorious', through to music for Remembrance when we sing Peter Aston's 'So they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth' (a beautiful anthem incorporating extracts from the Last Post in it...), through to joyful, rhythmic anthems such as the William Mathias 'Lift up your heads' for the feast of Christ the King at the end of the month. With December just round the corner, our thoughts - rather like the supermarkets already - will turn to the huge amount of music to learn and prepare for our Advent and Christmas services, and I hope we will be able to welcome our extra singers to join us then too.

We have some really exciting future plans for the music at St. Peter's, ranging from singing an evensong at Gloucester Cathedral next year (the date is booked already for June 2024!), through to getting an anthem commissioned for us by Thomas Hewitt-Jones. However, none of this is possible without the wonderful support of the church community, and also having such a loyal, talented choir. We're always looking for new members to join us - so do send any interested people my way!

Kit Perona-Wright Director of Music

Congratulations to Kit on being awarded his doctorate.

**Little Pebbles** Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.30 in the Cottages during term time. Please contact Lara Skinner via the Parish Office for details.



Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October Cheltenham Sinfonietta directed by Gordon Busbridge. An incredible £1028 was raised, which will be split between St Peter's and Open Door.

Concert in church on







On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October Rev Lauren Gate was licensed by Archdeacon Phil Andrews as part-time Associate Priest at St Christopher's Warden Hill. A warm welcome to Lauren as the new member of the South Cheltenham Team.

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

#### **Leckhampton Village Hall events**

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

- Free admission
- Cake stall
- Book stall
- Toys and aifts

- Grand raffle
- Tombola
- Games
- And more...

#### Quiz Night SAT 09/12/23 7.30PM

Licensed bar

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

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

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#### Men's Group

The next gathering of the Men's Group will be at The Wheatsheaf on Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

John Laurence

#### Leckhampton (and Friends) trip to the Lake District September 2023

This year we chose to visit the beautiful Lake District to enjoy the scenery and hospitality of the local ringers and their bells. Twenty of us, including two non-ringers, received a warm welcome everywhere.

We started our trip with ringing at Lancaster Priory and Morecambe on the way up and then headed on to Kendal where we had a good meal at Ye Olde Fleece Inn. We were glad that the threatened storm Agnes largely passed us by - the wind and rain were impressive, but not as bad as expected.

On Thursday we drove to Barrow-in-Furness where we enjoyed the 12cwt eight. These bells went well, and we managed a variety of methods from rounds and call changes to three leads of Bristol. Next was Dalton-in-Furness, where everyone had the opportunity to ring on this easy going and pleasant ten. Lunch at The Brown Cow Inn was more substantial than expected. We certainly eat well on our trips - most of us were also having a cooked breakfast and a pub dinner in the evening! After lunch, we rang the six at Ulverston, the eight at Flookburgh and the six at Cartmel Priory – what an amazing and atmospheric building and such an unusual ringing room. We are so fortunate to visit some incredible, historic buildings. We ended our day with an excellent meal at the Pheasant Inn in Allithwaite.

On Friday we moved on to the Central Lakes area. We started our day in Kendal at Holy Trinity. Again, easy going and pleasant to listen to and we managed everything from rounds and call changes up to a lead of spliced Yorkshire and Little bob on the 23cwt ten. Next was the eight at Bowness-in-Windermere followed by lunch, with gorgeous views of the lake and the mountains.

Our next tower was the bright little eight at Hawkeshead - some chose to get there via the ferry crossing whilst others chose the drive up and around Ambleside – pretty much a dead heat!

At Hawkeshead we admired the long lengths displayed on the peal boards. The bells ring beautifully, and are fast, so it is clearly a good place for such attempts. Next was the 7cwt six at Brathay where we rang Brathay Delight minor. We finished the day on the 32cwt eight at Ambleside. These are a joy to ring, and to listen to. Special mention to Harry who rang the tenor for a half course of Yorkshire - they go wonderfully, but they are big bells (for us!). We finished the day with a lovely dinner at Zeffirellis vegetarian restaurant – some of us hadn't realised it was vegetarian until we tried (and failed) to find any meat/fish on the menu!

For our final full day, we started in the Northwest Lakes at Irton - a special place, well off the main road and surrounded by peaceful countryside with wonderful views towards Wasdale. We had a friendly welcome everywhere, but especially here, where drinks and snacks were provided by the local ringers. We found these bells the most challenging of the trip, but we managed to ring some reasonable triples and plain hunt on seven. The eight at Egremont are on plain bearings but were kindly oiled by the local ringer for our visit. They soon settled down and rang reasonably well. The 13cwt eight at St Bees were a joy to ring - another lovely building. Chips and sandwiches were enjoyed at the Manor Inn and then on to the lovely twelve at Whitehaven (yet another amazing building) and finally to Workington to the best facilities of the trip (we counted at least three toilets!), in the remodelled church following a devastating fire. Everyone was tired by then, so perhaps we didn't do justice to the very good bells, but we did enjoy ringing them.

On Sunday morning, most of us rang for service ringing at Cockermouth and/or Keswick. We had an amazing time and thanks to all the local people we met in pubs, restaurants and towers. A great place for an outing. Special thanks to Stuart, who did a heroic job planning and booking everything, both towers and pubs/restaurants. It all went like clockwork. Looking forward to next year's trip already!

#### Stuart Tomlinson



Stuart, Isabel, Barbara, Gilly, Harry, Chris, Keith, Steve, Reg, Mike, Jon, Bob, Pat at Whitehaven

## Leckhampton Local History Society Programme 2023/2024

Please make a note of the programme as it will not appear in full in every subsequent issue of the magazine, but it will be accessible in past copies on the church website. DRW

#### Tuesday 28th November 2023

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

#### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

#### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Youth News

#### Youth Worship Evening Fri 10th Nov, 7-9.30pm at Trinity Church GL52 2NW

An event organised together with churches across Cheltenham. Free chip bar, games, worship music, short talks, card games, and more. More information can be found here: https://www.fabricyouth.com/youth-worship-night or ask Abbie Marsh, the team Youth Worker. A letter to parents about the event is at the back of church and on the St P's website:

https://stpetersleck.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/10/Letter\_for\_worship\_eve.pdf

The Youth program can be all found

here: https://southcheltenham.wordpress.com/youth/

#### **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: <a href="mailto:peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk">peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk</a> or check the Stewardship page of the church website: <a href="mailto:www.stpetersleck.org">www.stpetersleck.org</a>.

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: <a href="https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930">https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930</a>

There is still the opportunity to make a donation towards the new furniture, which is part of the reordering! It is now under construction by Waywood Furniture.



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For more details speak to Sally, Peter, Stephen, Kim or Rob



And going for Gold!

## Climate Change and You - a talk by Petra Crofton from A Rocha

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good".

A Rocha is a Christian Conservation Charity, which originated in Portugal when a curate began to work there. Looking for how he could best involve himself with the concerns of the local community, he found that their major problem was the threat to build golf courses and tourist housing along the estuary and wetlands on which their lives and livelihoods were based. He formed A Rocha (which means The Rock in Portuguese) to fight the development. The estuary was saved and is now a protected region, providing a stopping off point for huge numbers of migrating birds. Petra was in Portugal on a gap year; she got involved and has been part of the charity ever since.

A Rocha see our responsibility for the environment as being the necessary Christian response to God's creation, and their object is to bring healing and hope to the planet. They believe that what our faith requires of us is that we should act. Indeed, working to conserve the planet could be considered a necessary spiritual discipline.

A Rocha acts by promoting and supporting conservation and rewilding, lifestyle choices and campaigns. For example, Petra wanted us to consider our clothing choices in a world which is in danger of being suffocated by fast fashion. She had had a 'clothing fast' for a year; this has led her to suggest buying less but of good quality, and making good use of charity shops.

A Rocha's main practical strands are Eco Church, Farming God's Way and Climate Stewards. St Peter's, of course, already has silver status and is working towards the gold award under the Eco Church scheme. Farming God's Way promotes in Africa efficient farming with a light footprint, which often also has good economic and educational benefits for the communities involved. Climate Stewards enable one to offset one's own Carbon Footprint. Petra was aware of degree of cynicism in connection with offsetting but assured us that Climate Stewards do substantial ecological work including planting native trees and avoiding monocultures.

Petra's fundamental message is that our faith requires us, both individually and corporately, to take part in the healing of God's creation. Perhaps a good place to start is with the carbon footprint calculator

https://www.worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator/individual/

Jacqueline Dunlop

#### The Messenger, November 2023

#### Vicar voices podcast sharing Christian perspectives on life

Alongside supporting a new parish ministry in Bishop's Cleeve, the Revd Nat Garrett produces a weekly podcast for a digital project pioneered by the Church of England.

As well as being an Anglican minister, since 2022 Nat has worked part-time for the Centre for Cultural Witness in Lambeth Palace Library, London, producing a podcast for their digital magazine, Seen & Unseen. Nat, with her husband, the Revd Tim Garrett, and their two daughters, moved from Twickenham to Gloucestershire in January 2023 when Tim became Team Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Bishop's Cleeve.

Nat says, "Having worked as an actor before I felt called to ordination, it was clear to me that I wanted to bring to ordained ministry my creative gifts while keeping one foot firmly in parish ministry. While I was training, I started going out with the curate from the nearby church and we fell in love and got married. Marrying a vicar means I will have a life based in the parish, which is wonderful.

"The aim of Seen & Unseen is to talk about the things that people are really talking about, gathering what is good about the heritage of the Anglican Communion and the Christian tradition and repackaging it in a way that will reach today's secular audience.

"I am so grateful to be able bring my creative skills and experience to the CCW, while still being deeply involved in parish life here in Gloucestershire. We have been made to feel very welcome by our new worshipping community and are loving the easy access to countryside walks from our home.

"I produce the Seen & Unseen Aloud podcast so that people can access our content anywhere – on the bus, doing the washing up – but also, importantly, so that our material is accessible to individuals who find reading content on a screen challenging for whatever reason. It's wonderful to be part of this dynamic organisation."

Read more at: gloucester.anglican.org/vicar-voices-podcast-sharing-christian-perspectives-on-life

#### Pray Like Hannah

For the month of November, the Diocese of Gloucester is encouraging Christians to be part of our new campaign to Pray Like Hannah.

Hannah was a woman in the Bible who prayed intensely for God to give her a child. In her case, her prayers were granted, but the story isn't really about that, it's about the depth and the strength of her love for God and how it transformed her world.

The prayers are based around the ordinary things that are happening in our lives and encouraging us to pray for the children in our own communities and beyond.

If you pray regularly, or even if you don't, we'd love you to join. Follow us on:

Instagram: instagram.com/glosdioc

Facebook: facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester YouTube: youtube.com/c/DioceseofGloucester

#### **International Men's Day**

Sunday 19 November is an opportunity for people in the UK to celebrate men and boys in all their diversity. The Revd Nick Bromfield, Team Rector of North Cheltenham, explains more about the day and how worshipping communities can get involved.

"International Men's Day (IMD) was founded as an attempt to positively set the tone of masculinity in today's world. Some 40% of men have never spoken to anyone about their mental health, despite over three-quarters suffering from anxiety, stress, or depression, so its significance is even more important now than ever before.

"The uncertainty and confusion about men's roles in a fast-changing society are too rarely talked about. In recent years there has been particular focus on male suicide, accounting for 3 in 4 of all suicides in the UK, and which is now recognised as the second biggest cause of death among men aged under 19.

"There are lots of fantastic opportunities for worshipping communities to celebrate Britain's men and boys by running events and activities, raising money for relevant charities, or by offering opportunities for men to get together. For ideas, visit **ukmensday.org.uk/how-to-mark-imd-in-2023**."

#### Safeguarding Sunday

The safeguarding awareness-raising campaign for churches also falls on Sunday 19 November. Thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions across the UK will come together to reflect on their own safeguarding

journey, and to highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done by so many to protect vulnerable people.

For helpful resources, register for a free pack:

thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday

## Events and training More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

#### Monks, manuscripts and mayhem

4 November, 10.30am to 3.30pm Gloucester Cathedral

Discover more about the fascinating studies the monks undertook as part of their daily lives at the Cathedral. There will be a number of activities on offer. The perfect half-term activity for visitors young and old. No booking required.

#### Carbon awareness training

11 November, 9.30am to 3pm The Lounge, Church Centre, St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Churchdown, GL3 2JT

A 4-hour course enabling participants to explore questions around engaging with climate change in church life, and being better equipped to make positive changes in their own household and feel more confident engaging both with church and others to encourage more people to take this seriously.

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

#### Godly Play local network

15 November, 12.30pm to 2.30pm

St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, Southgate Street, GL1 1TP

Explore how we use Godly Play in our different settings and learn more about the resources and stories. Led by Alison Summerskill, Godly Play trainer, and Jo Wetherall. Senior Children and Families Connector.

gloucester.anglican.org/godly-play-local-network-november-23

#### Creative journalling

30 November, 10am to 2pm The School Room, Rudford, GL2 8DT

Join priest and artist Rebecca Spear, who will guide us through approaches to creative journaling using different media and techniques. gloucester.anglican.org/creative-journaling



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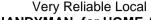
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