

January

2024



50p

St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

Parish Magazine



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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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



St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

In this January issue...

Contents	Pages
Cover Picture: Rev Gary with Martha, Bishop for the Day	1
Services and Readings	4
Leaving the Building	5 – 6
Gary Writes..... Something New	7
Parish Registers	8
Notes from the Director of Music	9
Friday Lunches	11
Magazine Subs due!	12
The Diocesan Messenger	13 – 16
Rota for 8 o'clock <i>Printed copy only</i>	16
Parish Directory <i>Printed copy only</i>	23
Contacts <i>Printed copy only</i>	24

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Live Stream Services for January

The 10am Epiphany Sunday service will be live streamed from St. Peter's. This can be accessed via www.stpetersleack.org or www.facebook.com/stpetersleackhampton

St Peter's will be closed between 8 Jan & 11 March for re-ordering work. During this time there won't be a weekly live-stream, however, you can connect with Gloucester Cathedral live-stream during that time from here: <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship-and-community/services/sunday-eucharist>

Morning Prayer is live-streamed at 9am each morning (Mon-Thu) from www.stpetersleack.org or www.facebook.com/pipandjims
(Though not while the church is closed for reordering)

You can also join in person: Mon – Pip & Jim's, Tue – St. Christopher's, Wed – Emmanuel, Thu – St. Peter's.

Readings for January

Date	Day	Readings
7 th	EPIPHANY SUNDAY	Isaiah 60.1–6 Ephesians 3.1–12 Matthew 2.1–12
14 th	EPIPHANY 2	1 Samuel 3.1–10 (11–20) Revelation 5.1–10 John 1.43–end
21 st	EPIPHANY 3	Genesis 14.17–20 Revelation 19.6–10 John 2.1–11
28 th	EPIPHANY 4	Deuteronomy 18.15–20 Revelation 12.1–5a Mark 1.21–28

Leaving the Building *(amended)*

We have been given the 'green light' to complete the final phase of the reordering project, which will refurbish the nave altar area, remove some of the levels at the front, provide an update to the electrics, have a new (red) carpet fitted in the nave and chancel, and update the altar furniture.

This will require the church to be fully closed for a period of 9 weeks, with no access to the interior of the church whilst the works take place. This means that we will need to worship elsewhere for a short period of time, before returning on Passion Sunday, 17th March.

Our final Sunday will be Epiphany Sunday, 7th January. This Sunday will also mark the last Sunday that Rev Jacqueline and family will be with us, ahead their move to the North Cheltenham Team where Jacqueline will be the Team Vicar of St. Lawrence, Swindon Village and St. Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke.

We will continue to provide the following services during this time as follows:

- 8am Holy Communion services in the Church Cottages on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
- 10am Holy Communion services at St. Stephen's on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Date	Sunday	Service	Time	Venue	Minister
14-Jan	Epiphany 2	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary
21-Jan	Epiphany 3	H/C	10am	St. Stephen's	Rev Gary
28-Jan	Epiphany 4	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary
4-Feb	Candlemas	H/C	10am	St. Stephen's	Bishop Robert
11-Feb	Sunday before Lent	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary
14-Feb	Ash Wednesday	H/C + Ashing	7.30pm	St. Christopher's	Rev Lauren
18-Feb	Lent 1	H/C	10am	St. Stephen's	Rev Gary
25-Feb	Lent 2	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary
3-Mar	Lent 3	H/C	10am	St. Stephen's	Rev Gary
10-Mar	Mothering Sunday	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary

Please do continue to connect with the service you are most used to and, when there isn't one that week, please take the opportunity to **join in** with the worship at one of the other churches in the South Cheltenham Team:

There is a 10am service at all of the other churches each Sunday, with an 8am Holy Communion service at Pip & Jim's on a 1st Sunday and Emmanuel on a 3rd Sunday.

Do let a Churchwarden know if you like help with transport during this time.

Rev Gary.

Something New

Have you made a New Year's resolution yet? Is that even a thing anymore?

January is a time where we can think about doing something new, or perhaps pressing the reset button on something which is not healthy or not working.

It's a time when we think about the journey the Magi made to meet the Christ child in Bethlehem, and a time when we can evaluate our own life journey and think about what's right and what's wrong, what's important and what's not.

It's also a time where we are called to walk alongside one another, and show love and kindness; to shine a light into the dark corners of this world, and to shine with the light of Christ for those who feel like they're walking in darkness. Perhaps you can shine that light for another person during January? Or perhaps you need to find that light for yourself?

It will also be the time when we bless Rev Jacqueline and family on their onward journey as they take a new path towards North Cheltenham and Jacqueline is licensed as a Team Vicar in that team; thank you Jacqueline for being a great colleague and friend, and for being a wonderful priest in the South Cheltenham Team.

As the church of St. Peter's, we will also be taking a journey out of the building for a short while as the final parts of the reordering are completed. I wonder where this journey will take you on a Sunday?

The New Year will hold difference and change for all of us; the good news is that God's love is steady and irrevocable, and enables us to meet these changes with hope and in the knowledge that we never do so alone.

Every blessing for your 2024 journey and all of the new things that will come your way.

Rev Gary.

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Georgina and Gracie Theis on 3rd December

There were no weddings in December.

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

Keith Edwin Hale on 6th November aged 93

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.

'Notes from the Director of Music'

Well, first and foremost - Happy New Year to you all! As we are all aware, the first part of this calendar year will feel a little odd, given we are unable to maintain our usual pattern of worship in St. Peter's



during the re-ordering. That also applies to the choir too, who will not be undertaking its usual pattern of weekly rehearsals and sung services. However, we are delighted to be joining with the choir at St. Stephen's Church for a number of services, and so we will still be able to use our musical gifts in a different venue. I am grateful to Fiona Brown (Director of Music at St. Stephen's) for allowing us to join with her choir for these few services, as we will all feel a little bereft during these couple of months not being able to sing together as we normally would!

Despite the period of being 'out' of St. Peter's feeling strange for us all, my hope is that it will make the return (in March) all the sweeter. To that end, I have been planning the music for the services with Gary already - and I am excited that we will get to be back in our wonderful church together for the profoundly moving and powerful period of Lent (well, some of it!) and Eastertide. The music and liturgy that goes hand in hand with this period of the church year is just so fantastically rich, it is such a pleasure to plan the services. I've been like a young child in a sweet shop choosing some wonderful music to most closely fit the readings/themes. As ever, I've tried to strike a balance between introducing new items for the congregation and choir as well as selecting some brilliant tried and tested repertoire. More of that in future magazines as we get closer to our return to St. Peter's!

For now, I look forward to seeing you all at St. Stephen's every other week in January and February where our wonderful choir will continue to bring glory to God - just under a different roof!

With warmest wishes, as always,

Dr. Kit Perona-Wright **Director of Music**

Activities in the Cottages are not affected by the church closure so can continue as normal.

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

Craft-T-Time

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 coordinator

Men's Group

The next gathering will be at the Wheatsheaf on Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm

John Laurence

Youth News

The Youth program can be all found here: <https://southcheltenham.wordpress.com/youth/>

Leckhampton Local History Society

Meetings for January, February and March will not be held in church as it will be closed for reordering work. The LLHS committee will announce alternative plans in due course.

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

Friday 26th January

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!

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:
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930>

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.

Magazine Subscription

For those who have the magazine delivered, your annual payment is now due!

The cost remains the same at **£6** for 2024

Please would you send your payment to St. Peter's via one of the following methods:

1. CAF Bank
St Peter Leckhampton PCC
Sort Code 40-52-40
Account number 00006604

(This slightly different from last year.)

2. By cheque, payable to: **St Peter Leckhampton PCC**

Please send to: The Treasurer, c/o St. Peter's Parish Office, Church Road, Leckhampton, GL53 0QJ.

3. By cash:

Please put the cash into an envelope and deliver, in person, to the above address.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Parish Magazine.
Any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 01242 513647.



And going for GOLD.

The Messenger,

Family baptised together at outdoor service

One Sunday, in November 2023, in a tent in the churchyard of St Mary's Kempsford, three young candidates experienced a special baptism service.

The family service at St Mary's Kempsford meets outdoors all year round and focuses on learning about God and worshipping him in the beauty of creation. A team from St Mary's, along with the Revd Kim, plan and facilitate the service, with the children and their connection to God and His creation at the forefront of the planning each month.

In a first for this worshipping community, two families asked if they could have their children baptised in the outdoor setting. After some planning, the service took place, in the late-afternoon darkness.

Rory, age 10, was baptised first as he was also going to be godfather to his cousin, Magdalena, age 2. He made the sign of the cross with oil on Magdalena's head while the Revd Kim gave the blessing, and he and his sister, Eden, age 7, also anointed one another. The children came forward to blow bubbles in celebration at the end, before going off to search for bats with their torches and toast marshmallows in the fire.

Kim says, "It was a wonderful experience as we thought together about Jesus coming as light in the darkness, and how He is with us through all the ups and downs of life."

Read more: <https://bit.ly/BaptismOutdoors>

Could you have a gift for chaplaincy?

Chaplains are people who step out in faith to listen, show compassion and be alongside people in their joys, sadness and ordinary lives.

Sometimes serving prisons, schools, hospitals or sports clubs, they represent God's love to the people they find themselves among.

The Revd Canon Simon Witcombe, Senior Chaplain, University of Gloucestershire, said, "I've been a University Chaplain for six years now. It's a great role, very different from my previous life as a parish priest – and I love it. There are so many things that you could say about chaplaincy. It's a way of being with the 95% of people who don't usually come to church, it's a witness to the presence and the love of God 'out there' – where people meet, where they work, in places of need, in all sorts of places and it gives us new opportunities to listen to people and to today's culture."

There are a huge variety of chaplains in our diocese and county. As well as the better-known chaplaincies in hospitals, prisons, schools and universities, there are also waterways chaplains on the canals, racecourse chaplains, services and cadet chaplains, Anna chaplains working with older people, wellbeing chaplains, agricultural chaplains and many others.

Simon continues, “I would love to see us encouraging chaplaincy in many more areas – law courts, shopping centres, towns and villages, festivals, industrial sites – the possibilities are endless. And I also believe that in our churches there are many people who have the necessary gifts. I hope that our new network will become a springboard for many more working in this wonderful ministry.”

Simon has created a network for all those who work in chaplaincy – lay and ordained, voluntary and paid, full time or just a couple of hours a week. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 31 January from 3.30pm to 5pm in the Chapel at Francis Close Hall Campus, Cheltenham. All those involved in chaplaincy of any kind are welcome to go along. For more information, please email Simon on switcombe@glos.ac.uk.

If you are interested in becoming a chaplain, please speak with your Incumbent in the first instance. The chaplaincy team at Gloucestershire Hospitals is running a training course for potential candidates to join the volunteer team, starting on 10 January, 9.15am – 12.30pm. For more information, visit: gloucester.anglican.org/hospital-chaplaincy-training-course

Three ways to connect in with your Diocese in 2024

Get the latest news from the Diocese on WhatsApp

Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events, straight to your phone. Simply visit: <https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>

Get involved in Eco Church

When it comes to caring for Creation, we all can make a difference. From simple things like recycling to helping to create a wildlife area in the churchyard ... you never know, you might help your church qualify for its first Eco Church Award.

Find out more: <https://bit.ly/EcoChurch24>

Find a church near you

One website to bookmark this year is ‘A Church Near You’ – churches across the Diocese of Gloucester list their regular services, events and news on this handy website, helping you connect into a church where you are:

achurchnearyou.com

Events and training

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

Runaway Deer Trail

Gloucester Cathedral, College Green, Gloucester

Until 7 January

Twelve colourful, six-foot tall reindeer statues, customised by local artists, have been hidden in various places around the city, including at the Cathedral.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/runaway-reindeer-trail

Clear Vision – Kick-start your year

Trinity Cheltenham, Portland Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NX

20 January, 10am to 4.30pm

Would you appreciate taking a day to hear God's heart and words for the year? This workshop includes worship, teaching/preaching input and space for you to hear God for yourself. Accessible prayer exercises you can continue to use.

<https://trinitycheltenham.churchsuite.com/events/j3mgv9tu>

The Merchant of Venice

St Philip & St James Church, Grafton Road, Cheltenham

25 January, 10am to 12 noon

The first of three meetings to discuss three plays by Shakespeare through the lens of religion.

gloucester.anglican.org/shakespeare-and-religion-love-power-and-forgiveness

Quiet Day

Hartpury Old Chapel, Hartpury GL19 3DE

27 January, 10am to 1pm

Come along to the beautiful surroundings of Hartpury Old Chapel for a quiet morning with God. Leave all your planning, preparation, diaries, and strategies behind.

Have your say

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