

March

2024

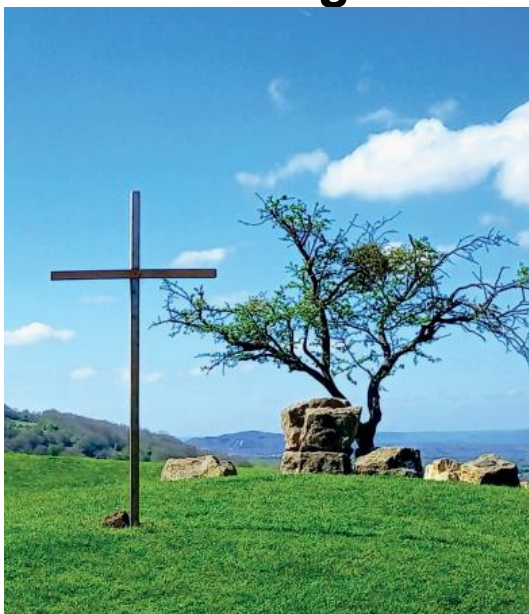


50p

# St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

## Parish Magazine



[www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org)

[parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com](mailto: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*

## **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

+++++



# **St Peter's**

Leckhampton Parish Church

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Date	Sunday	Service	Time	Venue	Minister
3-Mar	Lent 3	H/C	10am	St. Stephen's	Rev Gary
10-Mar	Mothering Sunday	H/C	8am	Church Cottages	Rev Gary
17 Mar	Welcome Back to Church				

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and Emmanuel on a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

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

*Rev Gary.*

### **Live Stream Services for March**

[St Peter's will be closed between 8 Jan & 16 March for re-ordering work. During this time there will be live-streams from the Cottages and from St Stephen's which can be accessed via \[www.stpetersleck.org\]\(http://www.stpetersleck.org\) or \[www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton\]\(https://www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton\)](#)

[Alternatively, you can connect with Gloucester Cathedral live-stream during that time from here: https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship-and-community/services/sunday-eucharist](https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship-and-community/services/sunday-eucharist)

## Readings for March

Date	Day	Readings
3 <sup>rd</sup>	LENT 3	Exodus 20.1–17 1 Corinthians 1.18–25 John 2.13–22
10 <sup>th</sup>	MOTHERING SUNDAY	Exodus 2.1–10 Colossians 3.12–17 John 19.25b–27
17 <sup>th</sup>	PASSION SUNDAY	Jeremiah 31.31–34 Hebrews 5.5–10 John 12.20–33
24 <sup>th</sup>	PALM SUNDAY	<i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Mark 11.1–11 or John 12.12–16 <i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50.4–9a Philippians 2.5–11 Mark 15.1–39
28 <sup>th</sup>	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Exodus 12.1–4, 11–14 1 Corinthians 11.23–26 John 13.1–17, 31b–35
29 <sup>th</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY	The 7 words of Jesus on the Cross
31 <sup>st</sup>	EASTER SUNDAY	Isaiah 25.6–9 Acts 10.34–43 John 20.1–18

## **Gary writes.....**

### **Journey to the Cross**

The Church is great at creating easy to remember lists and formulas, for example: The 10 Commandments, the 7 sacraments, the 3 persons of the Trinity, and for Lent we have Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving as the three things we need to work on during this season.

Lent is a time of prayer, spread out over 40 days; as we pray we go on a journey that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

Lent is a time of fasting. Fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from the things that control or harm us, and enable us turn towards Christ instead. What aspects of yourself are less than Christ-like and can be allowed to die, so that you can be resurrected in a new way?

Don't do too much though; it's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason why the Church works on these things year after year; we spend our entire lives growing closer to God, so don't try to cram it all into one Lent (that's a recipe for failure).

Lent reminds us of our weakness; this can be painful but, by recognising how helpless we are, it makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity. Be patient with yourself though – the temptation is to get angry and frustrated, but remember that God sees us with unconditional love.

Lent is about giving. Almsgiving is about more than putting a few extra quid in the collection though; it's about reaching out to others

and helping them. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion to reach out in charity to those who are in need, so they might experience God's unconditional love also.

Giving of ourselves in these ways during Lent will bring us closer to 'loving like Christ' and enable us to journey through the desert to the foot of the cross, to seek Christ out in our lives, ask for his help, join in his suffering, and then learn to love like him.

Every blessing on 'your' journey to the cross.

*Rev Gary*

**On 31<sup>st</sup> January many of the South Cheltenham Churches congregations joined members of the North Cheltenham Churches at St Laurence, Swindon Village to see Rev Jacqueline's installation as Team Vicar.**



We welcome Rev Jade Scholes back to the South Cheltenham Team as an Associate Priest. Jade will be licensed by Bishop Robert in the Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 27th February at 12.30pm; all are welcome to attend. Thereafter, she will be based at St. Peter's. **For pic see page 25.**

We are pleased to announce that Robert Atkin will start his curacy at CNC Emmanuel in July. Please continue to pray for Rob, and for Becky and Lottie, as he completes his studies (particularly for the dissertation) and prepares for his ordination on Sun 30th June at Gloucester Cathedral.

## **From Taz Jenkins**

TAZ JENKINS – CURACY Taz will be ordained as deacon on 30th June and will serve her curacy at St Michael's, Cheltenham. 'Please hold me and my fellow ordinands in your prayers as we prepare for this next step in God's amazing journey, and for the communities who we will be joining. Both St Christopher's and St Peter's have been my spiritual homes for the length of my discernment and training, and I am grateful for all their love and support over the past number of years.'

Taz has asked supporters to give her a small white or cream button which she will stitch onto her ordination stole (a gift from her late mother) in the shape of a dove, to represent her church family. 'Last day for buttons will be Easter Sunday so I can get sewing! Love and blessings, Taz

## *From the Parish Registers*

*There were no baptisms or weddings in February*

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

Christine Heather Hart on 4<sup>th</sup> January aged 71

Rosemary Grazebrook on 17<sup>th</sup> January aged 89

Margaret Vivien Archard on 20<sup>th</sup> January aged 95

Reverend John Spiers on 24<sup>th</sup> January aged 68



[AtaLoss.org](http://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](http://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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Children's Society

I am delighted to report that the box opening in November 2023 for the society raised £321.74

The Society provides specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope.

Young people come when they have low self-esteem. Refugee and migrant children land in this country alone and look to the society for guidance. Some teenagers come wanting to quit using drugs or alcohol.

They have professionals ready to listen to cover a range of issues.

If you would like to have a box for all that loose change or to make a donation please do contact me.

Thank you everyone for your support.

*Sue Marlow*

01242 581661 [suejmarlow48@gmail.com](mailto:suejmarlow48@gmail.com)

## 'Notes from the Director of Music'



The month of March sees us all return into our beloved St. Peter's Church. The choir will start rehearsing again regularly on a Friday night, and we look forward to providing sung worship on a Sunday from March 17th. That first Sunday back in church is Passion Sunday. To mark both that time in the liturgical church year, as well as celebrate being back together again in St. Peter's, we are performing John Stainer's 'Crucifixion' in the evening at 6pm. It is a wonderful work, full of drama and poignancy, and is set for choir and organ with a tenor and bass soloist throughout. There are a number of hymns throughout for the congregation to join in with (including some of the great Stainer hymn tunes for words that will be familiar - 'Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow' and 'All for Jesus'). We will welcome some of our extra singer friends to join us in the enlarged choir, and I hope that you will come and support this special service.

As for the remainder of the month, the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is a wonderfully rich period for a church musician! We have a number of new anthems that the choir will be singing as well as familiar favourites, and the service of Maundy Thursday will be particularly moving. The liturgy, intertwined with the music for that special day in the church year never fails to be a moving experience. We will be singing a number of lovely items for that service, including movements of Gibbons 'short communion service' as well as anthems by Tallis and Byrd, and psalm 22 whilst the altar is stripped at the end of the service.

So, we are all greatly looking forward to returning to our familiar surroundings and schedule, and it seems appropriate at this stage to say a huge thank you to those members of the choir that have continued to join in with the services at St. Stephen's. We will be immediately coming back to a busy schedule with lots of music to learn this month, so I am immensely grateful to be able to work with such lovely people in the choir!

*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.

The Craft Group warmly welcomed silk painter Angela Tomkins on Wednesday 21st February who presented her beautifully hand painted silk scarves and paintings whilst talking about her journey from lecturer in tourism to professional artist.



We thoroughly enjoyed her visit which was encouraging, enjoyable informative and inspiring.

*Helen Shill* coordinator

**Men's Group** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Wheatsheaf, in addition to the Skittles.

*John Laurence*

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

## Reordering Update 9<sup>th</sup> February



The old joists have gone and the new ones are in position. A few of the old joists were rotting, were not as substantial as the replacements, and were supported by dry brick pillars.

The ply flooring has been partially laid in this picture, and to the left the top of the heating tunnel, covered by concrete posts, is visible.



Looking towards the vestry, with the wooden flooring partly laid. At each end there is an

inspection hatch for future builders, architects, wardens (!) to look underneath the floor.



The wooden flooring is virtually complete and awaiting the oak edging. The stone flooring to the left will be a level stone surface from the vestry door to the choir stalls. The cracked monument in the floor by the vestry door will be repaired and relayed.



When complete, with the oak edging, the wooden floor will be carpeted in red, hopefully to reflect the red in the stained glass windows.

Along the front edge, just visible, are square sockets to support the altar rails. By the vestry wall there are matching sockets for safe storage of the rails when not in use.

The builders are awaiting a delivery of locally sourced stone to complete the flooring.

The work is on schedule, so there will plenty of time to join the cleaning party before reopening!

David Webber Churchwarden

# FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

**Friday 22 March** (earlier in the month than usual as Good Friday is the 29th!)

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!

The lunches in the autumn raised £292 for the Children's Society thanks to generous donations.

## 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](mailto:peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk) or check the Stewardship page of the church website: [www.stpetersleck.org](http://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!***

## **Lent through the Lens**

The Lent talk was truly fantastic. Dr Jane Williams' insightful perspective on Lent through the Lens set us up for the season. A big thank you to St Christopher's for being such gracious hosts. It was wonderful to see so many from across the churches.

*Rev Gary*



### **Leckhampton Local History Society**

Tuesday 25th March 2024

'John Nevil Maskelyne- Gloucestershire's Master  
of Magic & Mystery' Andy Mellor

This will take place at Belmont School Warden Hill at 19.30

All welcome.

Guests £2

More information Sue Marlow 01242 581661



## And going for Gold.

### **The Messenger, March 2024**

#### **An Easter message from Bishop Rachel**

In January, I unintentionally sparked media interest in my criticism of major stores putting Easter eggs on the shelves during the days of Christmas. Yet as retailers lurch from mince pies to Easter eggs, I do of course want to encourage people to live and share the connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we journey towards the suffering of the cross and beyond to the joy of the empty tomb, I wonder how well we encourage people to join the dots, not simply in a story with sequential chapters but as a mystery to be entered into as we live the laughter and tears of life.

Christmas, Good Friday and Easter reveal the truth that the light of Jesus Christ cannot be overcome by the darkness, and that the love and life of God is stronger than even death itself.

Strangely, the retailers don't seem to encourage us to look beyond Easter to Ascension Day and Pentecost, yet amid the celebration and pain of life these next dates are vital landmarks as we seek to live life in all its fulness as offered us in Jesus Christ, sharing the resurrection hope of Easter through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and around us.

May our hearts be expectant and hope filled as we walk the coming days.

**Outstanding Ofsted judgement for Christ Church CofE Primary School**  
The Cheltenham school is celebrating having been awarded an Outstanding rating in all five areas of effectiveness in an inspection.



The glowing report states that, 'Pupils love to attend this school, and rightly so. They receive an excellent start to their education. This is because staff have the highest ambition for every pupil to become 'the very best they can be'. Pupils leave the school highly equipped for the challenges of secondary education.' The school belongs to the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust, which it joined in 2022. It is one of 21 primary schools in rural and urban locations throughout the Diocese.

Canon Rachel Howie, Chief Executive Officer of DGAT, said, "I am delighted that this external judgement from Ofsted validates what the headteacher and Trust leaders know about the quality of education that the children at Christ Church get on a day-to-day basis. The staff and local governors work terrifically hard, doing their very best for the children they serve, and this judgement is a well-earned reflection of this."

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/outstanding-ofsted-judgement-for-christ-church-c-of-e-primary-school/](https://gloucester.anglican.org/outstanding-ofsted-judgement-for-christ-church-c-of-e-primary-school/)

### **New local network for creative Christians**

A social website has been created by a Gloucester-based Christian to bring together people who enjoy being creative and exploring ways that God speaks to us and reaches others through art. The Gloucestershire Christian Creative Collective (GCCC) is 'a non-denominational community for Christians who want to find new ways to spread the Gospel and celebrate the Word through creativity and collaboration'.

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/new-network-aims-to-bring-creative-christians-across-the-diocese-together](https://gloucester.anglican.org/new-network-aims-to-bring-creative-christians-across-the-diocese-together)

### **Bishop Robert appointed as a Deputy Lead Safeguarding Bishop**

**Bishop Robert's appointment as a Deputy Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England will focus on liaison with diocesan bishops on behalf of the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG).**

Bishop Robert will work closely with the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Joanne Grenfell, and the National Director for Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje, to continue to develop the Church's safeguarding practices. He will also work closely with Bishop Julie Conalty, Deputy Lead Bishop who has a focus on survivor engagement.

Along with being a member of the NSSG, Bishop Robert will also sit on the National Safeguarding Panel, attend the House of Bishops and be a member of the Theology of Safeguarding Group and the Safeguarding Programme Board.

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/new-deputy-lead-safeguarding-bishop-appointed](https://gloucester.anglican.org/new-deputy-lead-safeguarding-bishop-appointed)

### **Get the latest news from around 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>

### **Events and training**

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

### **Youth worship night**

**Trinity Cheltenham, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NW  
1 March, 7pm to 9.30pm**

A collaborative youth ministry project dedicated to gathering young people from across the area of Cheltenham to worship Jesus. During the night, whether it's their first time or not, we'll help young people worship, connect with the Bible and journey into deeper faith.

[gloucester.anglican.org/youth-worship-night/](https://gloucester.anglican.org/youth-worship-night/)

### **A night at the opera by candlelight**

**Gloucester Cathedral**

**1 March, 7.30pm**

London Concertante presents an evening at the opera with an array of opera arias and overtures, performing works from Puccini, Verdi, Rossini, and Mozart.

[gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24](https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24)

### **Make a potted plant for Mothering Sunday**

**Gloucester Cathedral Learning Hub, 2 St Mary's Street, GL1 2QR**

**9 March, from 10.30am**

Come along to the Cathedral for a family activity day to decorate and plant up a pot, then make a card for someone special for Mothering Sunday.

[gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-planted-pot-and-card-for-mothers-day](https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-planted-pot-and-card-for-mothers-day)

## **Easter wreath making**

**Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester, GL1 LX**

**19 March, 10.30pm and 1pm**

Learn how to make your own Easter wreath in the magnificent surroundings of the Medieval Chapter House. You will learn how to use a mix of fresh foliage and sundry supplies to create a show stopping wreath to take home. Includes hot drink and a treat.

**[gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-wreath-making](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-wreath-making)**

## **Have your say**

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or event.*



## **STOP PRESS: Last minute entries**

### **Decorating the Glebe Cottages**

Many thanks to the working party who responded to the churchwarden's request to redecorate the cottages, and to those who provided food and refreshments.

It now looks smart and fresh for new carpet to be fitted.

*One of the 12 volunteers. Great team work!*



We welcome Rev Jade Scholes back to the South Cheltenham Team as an Associate Priest. Jade was licensed by Bishop Robert in the Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 27th February. Thereafter, she will be based at St. Peter's

## St Catherine Tree

A *Sorbus acupira asplendifolia* (rowan) tree was planted in the SE corner of the churchyard on Sat 24th Feb by members of the Eco Church Group, as part of the 'Going for Gold' programme, to provide more diversity in the churchyard. This tree has particularly straight roots, so will not impact the local graves or walls, and in time it will provide berries for the local wildlife. Why St. Catherine? Well, she is the patron saint of preachers, philosophers, teachers and students, as well as those who work at mills or with wheels, but the real reason is because the tree was originally due to be planted on 25th November (St Catherine's Day) but didn't arrive from the supplier in time!

