

April

2024



50p

St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

Parish Magazine



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

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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St Peter's

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Gary writes.....

The Easter Story

It has been a privilege once again to take part in the Easter services held in our schools, they have been so well organised and thought through, with the children connecting with the themes of joy, sorrow and hope which emerge.

My part was to provide some reflections on the story and give a blessing at the end. It went a bit like this:

There are moments in our lives which are amazing! What amazing moments have you had?

It was an amazing moment when Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey, and all the people sang for joy with cries of 'Hosanna' which means 'Save us'.

But sometimes things go wrong and bad things happen.

The cries of 'Hosanna' soon turned into cries of 'Crucify' and when Jesus died, people were sad and confused and upset.

We too have these moments of sadness and confusion, and it's ok to 'be sad', but we should never suffer alone, there is always someone that they can help. Who is that person for you?

And there are moments in life which we simply can't explain, when something happens that we can't quite believe!

Just like on that first Easter Day when Jesus was rose from the dead. It was a miracle but part of God's plan to say 'heaven is real' and that he loves us so much that he wants us to be there with him, and our loved ones, one day.

I wonder, what do you think of when you hear the word Easter?

At this point, I held up an Easter egg and encouraged all present to think about love, forgiveness and new life, and to spot these things in their lives and around them in the coming weeks.

Do look out for these things in your lives this Easter time also, and be blessed.

Rev'd Gary

Live Stream Services for April

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 April

Date	Day	Readings
7 th	EASTER 2	1 John 1.1 – 2.2 Acts 4.32–35 John 20.19–end
14 th	EASTER 3	1 John 3.1–7 Acts 3.12–19 Luke 24.36b–48
21 st	EASTER 4	1 John 3.16–end Acts 4.5–12 John 10.11–18
28 th	EASTER 5	1 John 4.7–end Acts 8.26–end John 15.1–8

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

Friday 26 April Friday 24 May Friday 28 June

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!

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Catherine Eleanor rose Conquest 17th March

There were no weddings in March.

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

Elizabeth Jane Marx on 1st March 2024 aged 98

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.

Little Pebbles

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

'Notes from the Director of Music'



April sees us fully immerse ourselves into the feast of music available as part of the Easter season. That includes some of the great hymnody available (lots of 'alleluia's...!) as well as choral music. We will be introducing a new congregational communion setting for the Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei - our final one for the year - which will see us through to the end of August. It is called the 'Salisbury Service' composed by Grayston Ives. Ives was organist at Magdalen College, Oxford for the majority of his musical career, having held other posts including being a member of the King's Singers between 1978-1985. I hope that you will enjoy learning a new setting along with the choir. It is very singable with some memorable melodies, and it will help to enhance our collective worship. My intention is to have three settings of the communion music so that we can use one per 'term' (autumn, spring and summer) throughout a year. This new Ives setting will complete our collection (along with the Thorne 'Mass of St. Thomas that you used to use at St. Peter's before my arrival, and the current Ledger 'Classical Communion Service'). Our first Sunday of the month music will remain the same throughout the year for consistency - and that will mean we have a rich variety of music for the congregation to enjoy participating in alongside the wonderful hymns that we all share together too.

The three anthems we will sing during April (no choir on the first Sunday of this month - as they will be having a well-earned rest after the busy Easter period!) are Elgar's 'Ave Verum' (a familiar favourite), Goodall's 'Psalm 23' and Aston 'I am the true vine'. The latter two are new items to the choir. The Goodall is - perhaps - better known as the theme tune to the 'Vicar of Dibley' TV sitcom. However, it is beautifully written for a choir, and I hope you will enjoy listening to it as much as we will performing it. The Aston anthem is chosen to echo the theme of the readings that Sunday, and we last sang a piece by Aston at Remembrance. I am fond of his work, it is always well written for voices and with his own unique style.

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

Reordering

The reordering project, which we started in earnest in 2015, has now been completed, and it looks impressive. It took longer than anticipated because of the Covid Pandemic, which prevented meetings with architects and other professionals, the gas boiler finally gave up so time and resources had to be redirected to a new system of heating, which meant that 3-phase electricity had to be routed under the path from the road to the church, faculty applications had to be submitted and approved by the chancellor.

From this.....



When the old pine flooring was removed it revealed joists supported by columns of bricks without any mortar, a lot of dumped rubble, including a bag of cement, a rotten joist under the left front pew, a tunnel leading to the old boiler room below the vestry and a large pipe coming from the organ,

(Various explanations, including for a water-powered bellows for a previous organ.)

.....to this!



The approval of the carpet posed problems. Our original choice was not allowed as it contained the wrong type of glue. Fortunately we found a supplier in Winchcombe who could meet the requirements.

The particular red was chosen because it ‘echoes’ the red of the stained glass windows.

Before the carpet was finally laid we placed a Time Capsule, with various artefacts relating to St Peter’s, through one of the inspection hatches in the floor. Not to be opened until 2074.

Interesting fact: To apply for the faculty for the Chancellor’s approval Gary and I submitted **sixty-one** documents. The Completion Certificate will be number **62**.

David Webber Churchwarden

Men's Group

Thursday 4th April 12.30 lunch at The Wheatsheaf

John Laurence

The Men's Group combined with The Ladies Group for a skittles evening at The Somerset, organised by John Laurence. The joint winners of the main game were Steve Whittingham, Hermione Mason and David Webber, and the overall winner of Killer was Hermione. (*pictured below*)



In the cold winter season
And you're sad for no reason
The dark days drag on
And your old friends are gone
GO PLAY SKITTLES

When the rent is due
And the pennies are few
If you've just had the 'flu
And are stuck in a queue
GO PLAY SKITTLES

Are you feeling alone
Have the grandkids gone home.
Does the cupboard look bare
But you really don't care
JUST PLAY SKITTLES

But now it is Spring
And the pretty birds sing
The snowdrops shine bright
Like the stars in the night
TIME FOR SKITTLES

As you're eating your toast
What's this in the post ?
A group of good neighbours
Writing "Thanks for your labours"
Come out next Monday
T'll be a good fun day
WE'RE PLAYING SKITTLES



Poem submitted by Alan Booth

Leckhampton Primary School Spring Term 2024

Foundation Governor Report

The children made a great start to the new term. They have signed up for new clubs.

The termly event Teacher Stories, when another teacher visits the class to read to the children, has taken place.

Open Classrooms takes place once a month so the children can share their work with their parents and carers. House cross country for all year groups took place at the end of January.

Once a week each class leads worship for the whole school. Pine Class told the story of A Hundred Dresses which helped to further develop the children's understanding of forgiveness. Hornbeam class showed how important it is to show encouragement to others.



Earlier this month a working party met to lay a few bags of gravel on the childrens' Ows, Wows and Nows Garden and it is hoped the space would be open soon for them to use.

Y3 delivered three performances of their show Peter Pan.

In March the school is supporting a special fundraising day for Blue Skye Thinking, a brain tumour charity, which was set up by parents of pupils at Leckhampton School.

On a personal note I want to say thank you to children's choirs and staff for an amazing performance at the Rotary Concert in December. They sang beautifully and are a credit to their school.

Sue Marlow

Foundation Governor

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>

Strictly Fun Dancing!

Cheltenham American Square Dancers are looking to recruit new members, singles or couples welcome. 'Come and Try' evening on Fri 5th April at Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, Charlton Kings, starting at 7.45pm

Square dancing is done in groups of eight with constant interaction between all the dancers as they follow the beat of the music, and move around following the Caller's instructions.

What our members say: "You meet a great new set of friends"; "I like the camaraderie";

"the exercise keeps mind and body active"; "wonderful new pastime which I wish I had started earlier"; "I have 2 left feet, but can square dance with the best!".

For more information: www.cheltenhamsquaredancing.co.uk

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

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, along with St Christopher's and members of the wider congregation knitted and crocheted 86 crosses to be given at Easter to Care Home residents and staff in Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve as part of the latest project for CaBiC,

Helen Shill coordinator

Picture failed to download so I will attempt to include it next month. DRW

The Messenger, April 2024

“People are surprised to see a DJ in a clerical collar”

A vicar from Tetbury is using his love for music to share God’s love through DJing at festivals and events. The Revd Steve Bullock shares how he developed his ‘musical ministry’ and the reactions he gets from listeners.

The Revd Steve Bullock was ordained priest in June 2023 and is serving his curacy in the benefice of Tetbury, Long Newton, Beverston and Shipton Moyne. Steve is also a trained DJ, who goes by the name ‘Rev Steve’. Steve says, “I have a musical background, classically trained as a clarinet and piano player from an early age and a member of a high-performing church choir, I appreciate all this genre has to offer. However, over the years I have found that other genres of music have helped me connect with God also, especially different styles of dance music.

“This eventually drew me into exploring how I could get hold of such music and play around with it, to help me and others connect with God, through the spirituality which is often found in such music. This led me to get hold of my

first DJ decks and I have been steadily developing my skillset, undertaking courses and being mentored by Mark Spence from DJ Gym, Birmingham, to get to the standard I'm at today."

Steve is mindful of the songs he plays and that his music brings joy.

"I prefer not to play at parties and weddings, as the music is usually dictated by the audience rather than the DJ and it is harder to keep watch of the content of the messages in the songs. This is important as I want my mixes to be positive and pointing towards joy and hope. In fact, at one of my gigs last year, I was playing in a back room, with another DJ playing in the other space. It was noted there was a difference between what we played. Someone noticed that there was a contrast between light and dark, which I thought proved what I try to do with the music.

"So far, I've had some great feedback to my mixes and mini gigs. People are usually surprised to see me wearing my clerical collar, which immediately gets people's attention. I'm one for trying to debunk stereotypes and if I can use it to make people think more about Christ, wherever they are, that is great."

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/people-are-surprised-to-see-a-dj-in-a-clerical-collar

Get the latest news from the Diocese

Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>

The Great Big Green Week (8-16 June)

Organised by The Climate Coalition, of which A Rocha UK is a member, the week aims to show decision-makers that people from all walks of life are stepping up to take action on climate change – and that we need decision-makers to step up too. We'd love to hear your stories about how you are taking part during Great Big Green Week. Send them to kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk

Take time out at a Christian retreat or quiet day

A Christian retreat is ideal for anyone looking to step out of the routine of a busy life, spend time with God and be spiritually renewed. With a choice of venues to choose from in and around Gloucestershire, there is a retreat or quiet day for everyone – to suit all budgets and needs. Take a look: gloucester.anglican.org/retreat-centres

Bream C of E celebrating 'good' results for first time in 22 years

Bream Church of England Primary School, near Lydney, has been awarded a 'good' rating across all areas in its latest Ofsted inspection.

Under new headteacher Nicky Brice, it's progressed rapidly since the last

inspection in 2019 where the school was rated 'inadequate'. This is the first time in 22 years the school has been judged to be 'good'.

In 2021, the school joined the Severn Federation Academy Trust, led by Trust CEO Rachel Dare, with Louisa Davies as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Nicky Brice took on the post of headteacher, coming to the role from Aylburton Primary. Since this time the school has rapidly improved in all areas.

She said, "We are all so proud of our children who show such a love for this school and enthusiasm for their learning, the staff who have worked tirelessly and for all of our families for their ongoing support and backing throughout this rapid journey of improvement."

Jane Borgeaud, the Diocesan Director of Education, said, "The transformation that has been achieved for this school, as a result of the staff's dedication and ambition, enables its pupils to live out the school's vision, being the best that they can be and growing from acorns to oaks, flourishing in God's love."

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/bream-cofe-celebrating-good-results-for-first-time-in-22-years

Events and training

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

Easter through the ages

Gloucester Cathedral

2, 3 April, 11am-3.30pm

Discover how the Easter festival has been celebrated throughout history. Crafts, cookery and more to make and take home, including: Medieval easter egg decorating, making a Victorian Easter Card and taking part in a Tudor feast.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-through-the-ages

Little Lamb Adventure Trail

Gloucester Cathedral

23 March – 7 April (excl. Good Friday)

Take part in this fun trail this Easter, while discovering the history of this beautiful space. The trail is free to take part in and there is no booking required.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/little-lamb-adventure-trail

Keep calm and arrange flowers

Apperley Village Hall, Gabb Lane GL19 4DP

4 April, 7.30pm

Floral art demonstration at Apperley Village Hall GL19 4DP. Whether you're a seasoned arranger or a flower enthusiast just starting out, this event offers both

fun and learning opportunities.

gloucester.anglican.org/keep-calm-and-arrange-flowers

Dvořák: Mass in D and Fauré: Requiem

St Mary's Church, High Street, Fairford

13 April, 7.30pm

Fairford & District Choral Society is an amateur group performing choral music from the 15th to the 21st century. Tickets £15, under 18s £5. Call 01285 713681 or pay on the door.

fairfordchoralsociety.org.uk

Have your say

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