

May

2024



50p

# St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

## Parish Magazine

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St. Peter's will take place on Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm in the church.

[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

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**Gary writes.....**

## **Holy Spirit**

Easter was early this year (it will be late next year) so we will be celebrating the great moments of Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday all in the month of May.

During Morning Prayer, from now up until the end of July, we will be exploring the gospel of Luke, and offering a daily reflection on the passage and exploring the themes that are emerging.

Luke tells Jesus' story from the unique position of a Gentile, a physician and as the first historian of the early church. He preserved accurately the stories of eye-witnesses so that the foundations of Christian belief could be passed on intact to subsequent generations.

And, more than any other gospel, Luke give specific instances of Jesus' concern for women.

Luke addresses his gospel to *Theophilus*, which means 'one who loves God', so the gospel (and Acts) are not written to a specific person but to anyone who fits that description. This means they're personal and when you read or hear that name, it means 'you'.

As a medical doctor, Luke knew the importance of being thorough, and he used his skills in observation and analysis to thoroughly investigate the stories about Jesus, and he diagnosed the Good News of Jesus Christ as being 'true'.

You can therefore read his account of Jesus' life with confidence knowing that it has been written by a clear thinker and thoughtful researcher.

Because the Good News is founded on historical truth, our spiritual growth must include careful, disciplined and thorough investigation of God's Word, so that we can understand how God has acted in history. If this study is not yet a part of your life, then Luke encourages you to find a church or a minister who can help you with this.

Luke refers to the Holy Spirit more than any other gospel writer and, because Luke also wrote the book of Acts, we know he was thoroughly informed about the work of the Holy Spirit, and how the Holy Spirit's work directed the beginnings of Christianity and guided the early church.

I hope you're able to see the signs of the Holy Spirit at work in your life, your home, and in the community this month as we journey through these special moments in the church calendar.

*Rev'd Gary*

### **Live Stream Services for May**

We will be live streaming the 10am service from St. Peter's most weeks. This can be accessed via [www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org) or [www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton)

### **Readings for May**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Readings</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	ROGATION SUNDAY	Acts 10.44-end Isaiah 55.1-11 John 15.9-17
9 <sup>th</sup>	ASCENSION DAY	Acts 1.4-11 Luke 24.44-end
12 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER 7	Acts 1.15-17, 21-end Ezekiel 36.24-28 John 17.6-19
19 <sup>th</sup>	PENTECOST	Acts 2.1-21 Ezekiel 37.1-14 John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15
26 <sup>th</sup>	TRINITY SUNDAY	Isaiah 6.1-8 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

## Jade writes.....

Hello everyone! I am very pleased to be joining South Cheltenham team as an Associate Priest and very much looking forward to getting to know the congregation at St Peter's where I will pre-dominantly based. I live locally in Leckhampton with my husband Rupert, and our three children – Oliver, Peter and Scarlett. We moved to Cheltenham 20 years ago as at the time I was working for a medical sales company that was based in Cirencester and my new role as a company training manager meant I needed to be based in head office. We started a family here and feel very much part of the community having all our children go through the local schools. I don't know where the time has gone but now our eldest, Oliver has left for university, Peter is currently doing his GCSE's and Scarlett is just finishing primary school.



After a return to my Christian faith I had a career change and went back to nursing in 2011 after a significant spiritual experience in church one Sunday. This led me into emergency nursing and from here an awareness of the imbalance of physical and mental health within healthcare and a desire to do something about it. I learned that there is never an equal distribution of power – we must give it away, and that means those who are subjugated need our voice and to be seen and heard. So I guess the great spiritual traditions of Christian faith closest to my heart are the Social Justice and the Incarnational traditions – I wonder what yours are?

I felt God's call to ordination into the church in July 2013 having no previous theological study and so went on quite a journey! I trained at Cuddesdon College on the Gloucester pathway and served my curacy in St John's in Churchdown and Innsworth under Reverend Jacqui Hyde before coming to St Peter's. The location of the church has significance for me as one of the most inspiring people of faith for me was the late Edward Wilson who lived just up Crippett's Lane and I already feel at home here.

My job as an emergency nurse practitioner is now based in Cirencester Minor Injuries and Illness Unit which I have just recently started and so am finding my way there as well. Please do introduce yourself to me at Church, I can't promise I will remember everyone's name at first but in time we will get to know each other and walk this extraordinary life our beloved Jesus of Nazareth showed us together.

Your Sister-in-Christ, *Jade*

## 'Notes from the Director of Music'



The month of May sees a succession of feast days in the liturgical church calendar, which makes for a particularly rich selection of lovely music to choose from! Whilst Rogation Sunday is a moveable feast we are recognising it at the beginning of the month, and then in fairly quick succession we have Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity. The rich dramatic nature of the liturgy and associated texts come across in all the music performed - whether hymns or anthems.

The anthems we are performing this month include 'Come down O love divine' by William Harris. These beautiful, familiar words (that we sing to a different hymn tune as a congregation) are set to a different melody performed by upper voices, lower voices and ending with the rousing full choir. Harris is a fabulous choral composer (other well-known items include 'Holy is the true light', 'Faire is the Heaven' and 'Bring us, O Lord God' - all wonderful in their own right. Have a listen if you don't know them...!), and held posts at Lichfield Cathedral, New College and Christ Church Oxford, and finally at St. George's Chapel, Windsor in the first part of the 20th Century.

Another item is 'Listen Sweet Dove' (for Pentecost) by Grayston Ives. We have just started singing the 'Salisbury Service' as our congregational communion setting by Grayston Ives, and this short work is both beautiful and poignant in its simplicity. For Trinity Sunday, we are singing an anthem by William Mathias. We sang a lively, rhythmic piece by him back in the autumn for 'Christ the King' (entitled 'Lift up your heads') which everyone seemed to enjoy, and this is a very different type of piece. It is very slow moving, with a gradual build up to the climax in the middle, working through some mysterious enharmonic chord changes, but it finishes with the same sense of quiet awe and wonder with which it started. I am very fond of Mathias's music, as he has been able to carve out a unique style for himself - which was an increasingly difficult thing to do in the 20th Century.

The very first anthem you will hear the choir sing for Rogation Sunday is called 'Sing Gently' by the modern American composer, Eric Whitacre. Again, if you don't know any of his music, look it up online and have a listen (you will enjoy items such as 'Sleep' and 'When David Heard'). 'Sing Gently' is a beautiful, lilting piece of music for piano and choir written during COVID. The composer's own notes for the piece are as follows: *As the COVID crisis began to unfold around the world, it became clear that this moment in history was going to be remembered as one of great suffering for many people, as well as a time for growing division and dissent. It seemed that as the global community began to isolate physically from one another, the same kind of isolation was happening on a social level, that the very fabric of society was tearing at the seams. In that spirit, I wrote the music and words to 'Sing Gently' with the hope that it might give some small measure of comfort for those who need it, and that it suggest a way of living with one another that is compassionate, gentle and kind.*

The text is as follows:

May we sing together,  
Always,  
May our voice be soft,  
May our singing be music for others,  
And may it keep others aloft.  
Sing gently, always,  
Sing gently as one.

Finally, the choir has its own YouTube channel now (you can search for it under St. Peter's Choir, Leckhampton on YouTube). Clearly not everything we do will appear on there (!), but we will gradually add to the video clips on there from some of our services that get recorded. For example, the Stainer Crucifixion is on there for those who wish to go back and watch/listen. Do log on and have a look through the handful of videos that are on there should you wish to hear more of our lovely choir!

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



## *From the Parish Registers*

*We congratulate those who were recently baptised:*

Romilly Primrose Autumn Stephens on 7<sup>th</sup> April

Frederick Alexander Beck on 20<sup>th</sup> April

Heath Jackson Hayman on 21<sup>st</sup> April

*There were no weddings in March.*

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

Constance June Read on 20<sup>th</sup> March aged 95

Valerie Barbara Oakley on 25<sup>th</sup> March aged 97

Gavin Richard Hughes-Jones on 16<sup>th</sup> March aged 74

Jean Mary Gregory on 1<sup>st</sup> April aged 96

[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.

## Ringling away from home

One of the great pleasures of church Bellringing is being able to ring at other towers. There are some amazing churches that we ring in and the number of bells, their weights and the 'feel' of them does vary hugely. Some are ground floor rings, like at St Peter's, but for the majority the ringing room is up in the tower, often quite a long way up. At some of the bigger churches and cathedrals, there are often multiple flights of spiral staircases and passageways to walk along to access the ringing room.

While we couldn't ring at St Peter's from early January until mid-March (due to the building work) it seemed only natural to see if we could continue with our Monday evening practices at alternative towers. I searched through my copy of the G&B Report (Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Bellringers) to find suitable local towers and to get contact details. Following email and phone exchanges, I ended up with the following schedule of towers: Badgeworth(six), Elkstone (six), Brockworth(six), Upton St Leonards(eight), Cheltenham Minster(twelve), and Painswick(twelve). The number of bells at each tower is in brackets. As you can imagine, ringing on the two twelve bell towers was quite an experience, especially for our learners. As is customary, we leave a small donation (£15 - £30) at each tower to help with future maintenance costs.

The bells at Painswick include a complete ring of ten bells cast in 1732 by Abraham Rudhall, one of four generations of Rudhalls who cast many rings of bells at their foundry in Gloucester up until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The walls of the ringing room at Painswick have records of long length peals (continuous ringing for up to nine hours) that were rung there by the 'Painswick Youths' between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These were great feats of physical and mental endurance and quite a spectator sport back then (with no TV or other screen distractions), often attracting quite a crowd to greet them when they finished. Imagine the organisation required to get ten or twelve ringers assembled on a particular date/time back in those times. Some of the ringers probably had a few miles to travel to get there, either walking or on horseback. Below is a local history society link that has pictures of some of the peal boards and bands (all in their Sunday best).

We are now back ringing at St Peter's and appreciating just how musical and relatively easy the bells are to ring.

[https://painswicklocalhistorysociety.org.uk/images/PLHS/Exhibition/PLHS\\_Bellringing.pdf](https://painswicklocalhistorysociety.org.uk/images/PLHS/Exhibition/PLHS_Bellringing.pdf)

*Stuart Tomlinson*

## Request from Helen Pearne

You may or may not know that I had two heart attacks in 2017, and was diagnosed with SCAD (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection). I have received a lot of support from the Beat SCAD charity since. In particular, they have provided me with invaluable advice and information about SCAD, which was hard to find when I was first diagnosed as it is a very rare condition which affects otherwise healthy people.

James and I are doing a sponsored walk together in Leicestershire on 15th June in support of the Beat SCAD charity:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-pearne-1711911434585?newPage=true>

Many thanks and best wishes,

*Helen Pearne*

*The above appears with Rev Gary's approval and with the editor's. If you wish to sponsor Helen please follow the link.*

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for St. Peter's will take place on Thu 16th May  
7.30pm in the church.  
Please put this date in your diary.

## **An advance date for your diaries.**

### **Film night at St Peter's - Tuesday 9th July @ 7:00pm**

Come and see 'The Letter - a message for our earth' in St Peter's on Tuesday 9th July!

No, not the 1940s film with Bette Davis, but the 2022 story of a journey to Rome of people from very different faiths and backgrounds to discuss the climate crisis.

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote a papal letter called 'Laudato si' which encourages everyone to care for the earth - our common home - and care for the poor. He outlines what is happening to the earth with pollution, loss of biodiversity and global inequality, before discussing the gospel of creation and the human roots of the ecological crisis. He advocates an ecological approach that appreciates everything on the earth is connected. We must realise this and not act in silos as if our activities are all independent.

In this powerful documentary film, Pope Francis invites representatives of indigenous people (the Amazon), the poor (Senegal), the young (India) and wildlife (Hawi'i) to come to Rome and then on to Assisi. They share their experiences of climate change and discuss the implications for all people. It brings to life the struggle by many people in the world who are submerged - literally by the effects of climate change.

Come and see the film, then read 'Laudato si' and its sequel 'Laudate deum'!

*Richard Kerr-Wilson*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Little Pebbles**

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

## FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2023

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

**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!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Men's Group

The next Men's Group will be 7.30pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at The Wheatsheaf..

*John Laurence*

### 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>



**St Peter's**

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## 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

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

Young people in Year 6 are also invited to come along on Tuesdays during term-time 7-8.30pm at Emmanuel church. Click to see the programme for the summer: <https://southcheltenham.wordpress.com/youth/> Abbie Marsh, the team Youth Worker, can be contacted on 07708 540732 or via email at: [abbie@cnc.church](mailto:abbie@cnc.church). The socials are: @southcheltyouth facebook.com/southcheltyouth

*Abbie Marsh*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Leckhampton Local History Society**

Tuesday 30th April 2024 Members Evening

Tuesday 28th May 2024 AGM followed by 'Leckhampton and further afield in Old Prints' Eric Miller

The meetings will be held in St Peter's Church Church Road Leckhampton at 19.30

All are welcome

Visitors £2

Further information from Sue Marlow 01242 581661

## **The Messenger, May 2024**

### **Big Mission Weekend, with the Archbishop of Canterbury**

Over the May Bank Holiday, Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will be coming to the Diocese to join in with our mission and vision.

#### **Friday 24 May**

Archbishop Justin will start by having breakfast with farmers in the North Cotswolds. They will have some big conversations about issues affecting farmers, environmental considerations and care for creation.

He'll then meet children at two of our Gloucestershire schools, answering their questions and joining in with singing and worship on an environmental theme. After lunch, he'll visit a church where the community have set up a thriving café and shop and get to know some of the team who volunteer there, as well as being trained up to make a delicious latte.

At 5pm, Archbishop Justin will be joining Evening Prayer at St John Baptist Church in Cirencester. All are welcome to this service.

Dinner will be at The Grace Network, which supports social enterprises that reinvest profits into their local communities. Guests will have the chance to put their questions to the Archbishop and find out more about how his faith has shaped the person he is today.

#### **Saturday 25 May**

The day begins with a service of morning prayer and a Messy Church session in Gloucester. The Archbishop will have a go at some crafts, singing and chatting with the children and families who worship here.

He'll set off on a prayer walk through Gloucester, stopping for an ice cream on the way to chat to some local Christian business owners and see how their faith plays out in their business. He will be popping into a not-for-profit community café, before getting a steam-punk angle on Gloucester's Tall Ships Festival.

At 1pm to 3.30pm, the Archbishop will be involved in a community fun day run by Sportily, full of lots of sports and activities, at Longford Skate Park. Come along for a coffee and an ice cream and practise your map-reading skills in our treasure hunt.

As a diocese, we believe that people deserve to live in homes that are safe, stable, sustainable, social and satisfying. The Archbishop will find out more about how the Diocese is locally supporting better housing provision.

Young people in Cheltenham have invited the Archbishop to come and join in their regular worship session and then he will end the day with a meal with partners from across the diocese. Bishop Rachel will interview Archbishop Justin and there will be a question-and-answer session about Christian faith and mission.



## **Sunday 26 May**

Archbishop Justin will travel to Tidenham in the Forest of Dean to join in worship, which is open to the local community.

The weekend ends with a celebration diocesan Eucharist (Holy Communion) service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm. Please do come and join us for this joyful service of celebration and thankfulness.

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury](https://gloucester.anglican.org/big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury)

## **Light up the world in prayer: Thy Kingdom Come, 9–19 May**

**New resources and tools are available for the Church of England's annual 11-day prayer initiative. How will you be joining in this year?**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Every person, household and church in the Diocese of Gloucester are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

Last year, Churches Together in Lydney invited people to drop-in prayer sessions. Christ Church School in Cheltenham created a dedicated prayer space for children during SATS week. St Catherine's Gloucester led a prayer walk around the area, praying for every street in the parish, St Michael and All Angels in Bishop's Cleeve put on a Prayer Breakfast, while Trinity Cheltenham provided resources on their social media channels to inspire people to 'Pray for 5'.

There are so many ways to take part. Download the Journal and other resources to join in as a church, group or individually.

Visit: [thykingdomcome.global/new-2024](https://thykingdomcome.global/new-2024)

We'd love to hear the ways are you praying for Thy Kingdom Come this year.

Share with us by emailing [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk)

## **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>

## **Events and training**

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

## **Branch youth worship event**

**Forest of Dean Community Church, Cinderford**

**4 May, 7.15pm to 9pm**

A monthly worship for secondary school-aged people.

[gloucester.anglican.org/event/branch-youth-worship-event-may24](https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/branch-youth-worship-event-may24)

### **West End musicals by candlelight**

**Gloucester Cathedral**

**17 May, 7.30pm**

An evening of musical theatre with live orchestra London Concertante joined by some of West End's greatest singers for a spectacular musical concert.

**[gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/west-end-musicals-by-candlelight-17-may-2024](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/west-end-musicals-by-candlelight-17-may-2024)**

### **FireWatch Pentecost youth event**

**St Mary deCrypt Church, Gloucester**

**18 May, 6pm to 7.30pm**

An alternative youth worship night with candles and contemplative prayer, aimed at those from more Anglo-Catholic traditions.

**[gloucester.anglican.org/event/firewatch-pentecost-youth-event](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/firewatch-pentecost-youth-event)**

### **Wanted: people to do a short training to become Rural Domestic Abuse Champions**

Hairdressers, publicans, parish councillors and priests wanted to target rural domestic abuse. The aim is to improve understanding of domestic abuse and ensure participants are able to respond appropriately when victims confide in them. No previous knowledge needed. Contact Clare Joynes on

[Clare.Joynes@greensquareaccord.co.uk](mailto:Clare.Joynes@greensquareaccord.co.uk) for more information.

### **Have your say**

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at

**[kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk)**, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on

YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website **[Gloucester.anglican.org](http://Gloucester.anglican.org)**

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