August

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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Gary writes.....

A New Government

The General Election is over and there is at least some relief that, despite who you voted for, there might now be a time of calm as the new government begins its work. Some of you will be pleased with the result, some not so. At least our news broadcasters will stop going on about who's ahead in the polls or asking random people in a pub which way they will vote! The reality is that good people, who have faithfully served their constituencies, are no longer employed (they will be paid for a further 6 months), and new MPs, who are starting afresh or have been re-elected following a time out, are preparing to pick up that mantle.

Regardless of our new government, there are some fundamental truths that can guide followers of Jesus at times like this:

All politicians make promises when campaigning, and most enter public service for good reasons. Our media strongly encourages adversarial debates and aggressive questioning designed to catch politicians out, which creates enormous pressure on public figures. We should continue to hold politicians to account, but also show grace and understanding when change takes longer than expected, or some promises fall away entirely.

Change takes time. In politics, in business, and in life, we often over-estimate the impact that a change will bring, especially in the short term. We have a new government, but that doesn't mean we will necessarily see enormous change immediately.

All of our major parties have clearly shifted toward the centre ground over the last decade, and there are now fewer differences between the main parties than we were used to in the past. Ecclesiastes 1:9 reminds us: 'What has been will be again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.' This is not to suggest that we give up or become apathetic, but instead it's a reassurance that, as Christians, our foundations lie in the steadfastness of God, not the transient nature of government.

Faith determines character and character matters more than issues. Having Christians in the Houses of Parliament and the House of Lords, who understand a higher calling, is crucial. Their faith, character, and (one hopes) their integrity can bring positive change. They can do this even if we don't agree with their specific views. It's an honourable thing to be involved in politics. Jesus was not an MP but he was certainly political. He challenged the

authorities, actively stood against injustice, and advocated for a new order. He wasn't aligned with any political party but he constantly engaged with the social and political issues of his time. He didn't opt out of politics, and neither should we as Christians.

We need both stability *and* change! God is 'the same yesterday, today and forever' and we cherish that, but perhaps we sometimes underestimate God's creative desire to do a new thing. God's unchangeable presence and beauty *is* timeless and eternal, but he is always renewing those who are open to him, equipping us as movers and shakers in society, and inviting us to participate, with a fresh and proactive engagement, in our world. Stability *and* change. Ever old *and* ever new.

Revd Gary

Live Stream Services for August

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 August

Date	Day	Readings
		2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a
4 th	TRINITY 10	Ephesians 4.1-16
		John 6.24-35
11 th	TRINITY 11	2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33
		Ephesians 4.25-5.2
		John 6.35, 41-51
18 th	TRINITY 12	1 Kings 2.10-12
		Ephesians 5.15-20
		John 6.51-58
25 th		1 Kings 8.[1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43
	TRINITY 13	Ephesians 6.10-20
		John 6.56-69

New Appointment

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed a new Vicar for Pip & Jim's and St. Stephen's. Subject to the usual DBS checks, Rev Ruth Edmonds will be licensed by Bishop Robert on Sunday 8th September at 3pm at Pip & Jim's. Ruth is currently serving in the Lichfield Diocese and will be moving with her husband, James, and 14 month old daughter, Amara, over the summer. Please keep them all in your prayers as they prepare to move to South Cheltenham.

Revd Gary.

'Notes from the Director of Music'

The music for services is already planned for September through to the end of December, and there are some exciting things to look forward to. We are singing a Harvest Evensong in October, which will include Stanford in



Bb canticles and a wonderful anthem by Malcolm Boyle called 'Thou, O God, art praised in Sion'. In November, we are going to perform the beautiful Faure 'Requiem' as part of an evening service on Remembrance Sunday (hopefully by candlelight - but to be confirmed!), and we have two amazing soloists lined up (Hannah Davey, Soprano, and Aidan Smith, Baritone). That should be a real treat. In December, we are going to put on an Advent Carol service on Sunday 1st in the evening in addition to the normal '9 Lessons and Carols' later in the month. Advent is such a special time of the year, and Gary and I were keen to mark it with a special service of choir music, hymns and readings. I do hope you will all be able to attend these events and, where possible, invite other people along too. Special services such as these are the perfect vehicle to invite people along to church who may not be regular church goers, but who enjoy the special music/liturgy of these types of event.

Dr. Kit Perona-Wright Director of Music

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Wilfred George Walter Gravenell on 6th July Rupert Arthur Frederick Gravenell on 6th July

There were no weddings in July.

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

Pauline Davis on 3rd June aged 91 Norman Charles David Davis on 21st June aged 95 Edward Derbyshire on 9th July aged 91

Memorial Service for Trevor Davies at 2pm on Sat 31 August at Cheltenham College Chapel

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.

Eco News from Ben Gilchrist

I have completed the churchyard survey for another year - what IMMENSELY positive reading! Not only have we gained around 14 new species (though some of these may have been missed in previous years, we must always remember....!) the general biodiversity of the churchyard is much improved - just while conducting this survey I saw more butterfly and moth species than I have ever before in the churchyard, and clearly the bird communities are thriving.

We are also now the proud custodians of a thriving population of pyramidal orchids, a sign of good grassland management and great soil, both things which presage the arrival of other species. All great news!!

I am well aware that I am only seeing the results of a lot of hard work which has not been done by me. I think probably the best thing to be done from this stage is mow/cut the grass at the end of August/September when all the flowers are over and the grass begins to look a bit rubbish - this would probably be most beneficial to the plant life. Frequent mowing throughout the winter is not detrimental and a final mow in early April/May is generally the recommended course, though of course I appreciate that this might not always be possible to follow, and that others who are actually doing the work might know more than me et cetera! 3rd year running! We are amassing a data set to rival many world-leading research institutes.

Ben Gilchrist

Details of Ben's findings can be found on the Parish website

Local Community News

Community Cafe

10am-12pm, The Dug Out Cafe, Burrows Field, Moorend Grove, Cheltenham GL53 OHA
Mon 29th July
Tue 27th August
Sat 21st September

PCSO drop-ins

2-3pm, The Dug Out Cafe, Burrows Field, Moorend Grove, Cheltenham GL53 OHA

Wed 14th August Thur 12th September FRIDAY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS - thanks to generous donations, the lunches in April/May/June raised £250.60 for the Children's Society. There will be no lunches in August, so we look forward welcoming you to the next lunch which will be on FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER.

Sally & Peter

Leckhampton CofE Primary School Foundation Governor Report end of Summer term 2024.

Earlier this year Mark Hambling and I were invited into the school to observe how Christian distinctiveness is manifested. We witnessed years 5 and 6's school worship on the theme of Hope and saw how this theme was integrated and followed up in each of the junior classes. We held a lively discussion with the pupil parliament who spoke genuinely about how they saw their role as listening to their fellow pupils, being good role models and contributing to the making the school the best place it could be. Through their four ministries;-Eco, Wellbeing, Learning and Charity they are not just supporting the school but also reaching out into the wider community.

As well as pursuing educational achievement and excellence in learning for all pupils there is also attention given to their wellbeing. In the summer term there was a special week's focus on wellbeing and mental health through various activities. Additionally - throughout the year, in each classroom there is a 'peaceful place' which the children can use when they need to regulate their feelings. The 'Ows, Wows and Nows garden' also provides a space for the children talk things through with staff and is used at break times especially in the summer. The children are also able to access various extracurricular clubs such as coding, and the young voices choir. The pupils are encouraged to suggest ideas for improvement in the school through the Agents of Change scheme.

In my first year as a Foundation Governor I have seen how committed the leadership team and the class teachers are to making the school a place of excellence for learning and also to creating a caring and inclusive school community.

Sue Laurence Foundation Governor

Little Pebbles

Tuesdays	10.00 to	11.30 in th	ne Cottages	during ter	m time.
Please col	ntact Lar	a Skinner	via the Pari	sh Office f	or details.

Youth News The Youth program can be 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. The socials are: @southcheltyouth facebook.com/southcheltyouth

Ahhia	Marsh	,
roon	NLUISI	ι

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

Fairtrade Fortnight 9-22 September

The Diocesan Messenger is not being produced in August.

Leckhampton Local History Society Programme 2024/2025

Tuesday 24th September 2024 2pm

Tom Denny windows at St. Christopher's Adrian Barlow

Tuesday 29st October 2024

'Witches in Gloucestershire' John Putley

Tuesday 26th November 2024

'Hailes Abbey & the Mystery of the Holy Blood' David Aldred

December 2024

Christmas gathering & Quiz

Tuesday 28th January 2025

'Cheltenham's Iconic Buildings' David Elder

Tuesday 25th February 2025

Member's Evening

25th March 2025

Katherine Parr Gloucestershire's Queen Mike Bottomley

Tuesday 29th April 2025

Malcolm J Watkins

The Birdlip Grave Group, a 2000-Year Mystery

Tuesday 27th May 2025

AGM- Eric Miller "Treasures from the Bendall archive"

Meet at St. Peter's Church, Leckhampton. Last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm

LLHS St Christopher's Church Warden Hill on September 24th at 2pm. Adrian Barlow will talk about the stained glass windows by Tom Denny. All welcome. Please note the change of venue and time.

Heritage Open Days 2024

Leckhampton Local History Society is participating in this year's Cheltenham Heritage Open Days.

There will be a South Cheltenham History Festival from Thursday 5th (evening) to Saturday 7th September, at Bethesda Methodist Church. The festival will include an exhibition covering the Naunton, St Philip and St James' and Bath Road areas, guided walks, heritage talks, a 'Bath Road Now & Then' slide show and displays of local memorabilia. LLHS will have a display about the history of the railway in Leckhampton. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

On Saturday 14th September, Becky Dine will be leading a walk exploring the history of local transport 'Off the rails in Leckhampton – travelling, through time' along the Leckhampton Road, and Neela Mann will be giving a talk in the Cottages entitled 'Leckhampton Rioters – Thugs or Martyrs?' about the riots that took place on the Hill over a century ago.

All these events are free to attend but places for walks and for Neela's talk are limited and booking for those is essential. Full details and booking arrangements are available in the Cheltenham Heritage Open Days brochure, which is also available on-line at https://cheltcivicsoc.org/events/heritage-open-days/

Leckhampton Village Hall - Extension Fund-Raising Events

September - date to be confirmed .Look out for a talk by local historian, Neela Mann on "The Leckhampton Hill Riots".

9th to 12th October - Leckhampton Players' "Our Greatest Hits" concert 16th November - Autumn Fair - free entry

7th December - 7.30pm Quiz Night - tables of 4 - £20

13th December - 10am Christmas Wreath Making - £20 each to include wreath, foliage, tea and coffee.

Leckhampton (and Friends) Ringing Trip to Somerset - July 2024

This year we chose Somerset for our annual long weekend away. One of our ringers (Jon Hill) learnt to ring at Wembdon nr Bridgwater 60 years ago. We planned the trip around this, and visited towers he enjoyed in his early years of ringing. This included the towers where his father was the Rector at Hatch Beachamp & Beercrocombe 1952-57 and Vicar at Wembdon 1963-75. Jon also invited his old 1963 school mate Graham Nabb to join us as he also started ringing in 1964 at Cossington.

We drove down on Wednesday (it is a long weekend!) and visited Yatton, Long Sutton and Huish Episcopi on the way. These were all lovely bells, easy going and nice to listen to. We finished with a delicious meal at Ciao Amore in Taunton. Most of us stayed at the Premier Inn at Rushton, although a couple did brave camping this year. Previously this trip has been in the Autumn, and it was good to be out and about in better weather.

On Thursday, we rang at Wembdon including a Qtr Peal of Beverley & Cambridge Minor, then Bridgwater - where the newly augmented 12 were memorable. After lunch an incident blocking the M5 made driving to Woolavington difficult with traffic queues everywhere,

before we ended the day ringing at Street and Glastonbury.

Friday morning did not promise much weatherwise, but as the day went on it improved, and we had some welcome sunshine. We enjoyed beautiful views of the Exmoor moorland and abundant foxgloves. We rang at Exford, Selworthy and lunch at the Periwinkle tea rooms – gorgeous location and good value, Minehead (lovely 10 bell ring) and Dunster. Last tower of the day was the 1cwt eight at Tolland - the lightest church tower eight in the world. Appropriately Reg & Isabel Hitchings were with us - they ring at Warden Hill in

Cheltenham, the lightest church tower six in the world! Tolland bells went very well and were easy to handle (once you remember not to pull the backstroke!). We finished ringing there with a half course of Superlative, followed by an excellent meal at the very popular Bear Inn, at Wiveliscombe.

Having just had tower tee shirts designed and made we wore them for a group photo at Selworthy. Thanks to Philip (Avon Ropes) for getting these made for us, they are very smart, and will look good when ringing for weddings, as we are in full view of the congregation at Leckhampton. These should also be great for publicising ringing – one of our group had three separate ringing enquiries on the day we wore them.

Our last full day of ringing was around Taunton. We were joined by Philip, Anna and their children for the day. We rang at Taunton St James, Taunton St Mary Magdalen, Taunton Wilton, Hatch Beauchamp and Beercrocombe. We enjoyed all the bells but especially the bells at St Mary Magdalen where we had open ringing followed by a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters for a Wedding – a

glorious ring of 12. The next morning, many of us joined Sunday Service ringing at a local tower, and then made our way home after another successful trip.

A big thank you to all the local ringers that met us at each tower and made us so welcome. Also, to all our ringing friends, without whom we wouldn't have managed the many larger rings on this trip. Thanks also to Stuart, Gilly and Keith for arranging it all – planning and booking the towers, meal venues, accommodation and parking suggestions, donations. A great trip and we look forward to the next one!

Written by Chris Hickey with input from Stuart and Jon.



Selworthy photo **Left**Ringers (left to right):
Bob, Jon, Barbara, Keith, Gilly,
Stuart, Chris, Pat, Paula, John,
Malcolm.

St Mary Magdalene photo **Below** Ringers (left to right): Stuart, Keith, Reg, Isabel, Bob, Barbara, Pat, Gilly, John, Chris, Graham, John, Steve, Philip.



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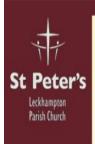
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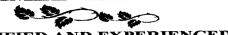
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