

September

2024



50p

# St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

## Parish Magazine



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

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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*

## **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

+++++

*Cover pic: Why a picture of Windsor Castle on the front of our magazine?  
See pages 4 and 5.*



# St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

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## Trip to Windsor Castle

We had an absolutely brilliant day at Windsor Castle on Saturday 27th July. The weather was sunny and warm and we enjoyed watching the Changing of the Guard outside St. George's Chapel before diving into layers of history in the Castle itself. I stood about 2 feet away from King Henry VIII's suit of armour, which was incredible.

Thank you so much to everyone at St Peter's who contributed to a fabulous treat.

Love from Jacqueline, David, Eleanor and Martha.

We had a great time in Windsor! I really liked seeing all of the portraits of past monarchs, especially after being taught about it in lessons at school. Brown's was really delicious, thanks for a great day out!

From Eleanor

Thank you to everyone for our wonderful day out in Windsor. We had an amazing time learning more about the history of Windsor castle and seeing famous things like Queen Mary's dollhouse. The afternoon tea was an excellent choice and we enjoyed it thoroughly. Thank you

From Martha



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

### **Acts of Evil**

This month we reflect on the evil that has taken place during August on the streets of this country. Rioters, misled by mistruths about faith communities and immigration, by those who think it is ok to pit fellow citizen against fellow citizen, especially against those who don't look or think like them.

Bishop Rachel, Bishop Robert and Dean Andrew write:

“The celebration and sharing of life, lived in all abundance, is, for those who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, at the core of who we are called to be. In Jesus, we see God coming to live with us in our homes and on our streets, challenging us with the question ‘who is your neighbour?’ and challenging us to be champions of the Kingdom, of justice, mercy and peace.

The murder of three children and the vicious wounding of other children and adults at a dance party in Southport was an act of evil. It was a deep scar on the life we are all – as citizens of this country, as men, women and children from every nation, made in God's image – called to share. An evil rightly responded to by so many in that community and beyond, coming to offer comfort and solidarity, and to build unity with a light that darkness cannot overcome. We have seen in these two things the worst and the best of humanity.

Yet, while there are those who have come together to build community and to celebrate life in these days, we have seen also those from the far right who have used these tragic events as an opportunity not to seek life but to destroy it. Those who have sought to further divide communities, to sow distrust, to spark violence and engender hatred. That some who have done this, see themselves as somehow defending Christian values is deeply offensive. Such attitudes and behaviour are the very opposite of the Gospel of Peace that Jesus proclaims, and the Kingdom for which Jesus calls us to work.

As Christians, committed to life for all, our first response is prayer for those children lost and their families in their deep grief, for all injured both at the dance party and in the subsequent violence, not least our police as they seek to ensure the protection of others. Then a redoubled effort to work with all of good

will from every community, from all faith traditions, to strengthen the bonds of community and to build unity.

While we have not thankfully seen such violence in the communities of our diocese, we know that we are not immune. We know that our Muslim communities in particular are anxious and alarmed. The whole diocese stands with them in our common humanity, our commitment to work for peace, and to live well together, seeking abundant life for all.”

Let us not be complacent about the evil that has stalked our streets in recent weeks, or accepting of the lies and mistruths about immigration and other faiths, lest we somehow become, even in the slightest way, complicit with this evil far-right ideology.

And so we pray:

Loving God, help us to have humble hearts, be willing to listen, willing to learn, and willing to care. Teach us to love one another deeply, just as Jesus did.  
Amen.

*Revd Gary*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Licensing**

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.*

## Live Stream Services for September

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 September

Date	Day	Readings
1 <sup>st</sup>	TRINITY 14	Song of Solomon 2.8-13 James 1.17-end Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23
8 <sup>th</sup>	NEW BEGINNINGS	Numbers 13.27-14.4 Revelation 21.1-7 John 10.11-17
15 <sup>th</sup>	TRINITY 16	Proverbs 1.20-33 James 3.1-12 Mark 8.27-end
22 <sup>nd</sup>	CLIMATE SUNDAY	Psalms 65.9-13 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-21
29 <sup>th</sup>	ST MICHAEL	Genesis 28.10-17 Revelation 12.7-12 John 1.47-end

**FRIDAY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS** - thanks to generous donations, the lunches in April/May/June raised £250.60 for the Children's Society. We look forward welcoming you to the next lunch on **FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**.

*Sally & Peter*



## 'Notes from the Director of Music'



Following the August break from singing for the choir (and some Sundays off for me too!), we are all raring to go and hit the ground running now September has come round. I can't quite believe a whole year has gone by since I started running the music at St. Peter's - it has gone so quickly - and I am so proud of everything that the choir has achieved during our first year together. They have risen to the challenge of learning lots of new music in a variety of styles, and the standard of their singing has been consistently high. They are a wonderful group of people to work with - we are all so lucky to have them leading the sung worship at our church, and I am looking forward to reaching new heights with them this coming year too!

We are hoping to welcome some new singers to our ranks - both young and old. The choir is an intrinsic part of the St. Peter's family/community (not separate from it...), and we need to look at how we can grow as a church in any way we possibly can. I am pleased that the choir is a small area of growth and a way of getting more people to join our church. As ever, do suggest the choir to other people you may know (friends, neighbours, family, etc) should they be interested in singing. They would be assured of a warm welcome!

At the end of the summer term (July), someone asked me about the congregational communion settings we have been using and whether there would be additional new ones due to the fact they felt they had been required to learn lots of new music as a member of the congregation. No is the answer! As I said last summer when starting, the intention was always to introduce two new settings, and then spend time embedding them. We will revert to using the Philip Ledger 'Classical Communion Service' from September (as per last year), and then use the Grayston Ives 'Salisbury Service' later in the second half of the year. So, we will use the same two congregational settings during this next year and I hope these will become more familiar as we sing them again.

September will see the choir singing some wonderful music for you. Our first anthem is a setting of the words 'Love Divine' by the modern composer

Howard Goodall (famous for lots of TV themes such as 'The Vicar of Dibley' and 'Blackadder', etc). It is a beautiful arrangement, gradually building up throughout the piece to a triumphant ending. We then sing the Latin text 'Crux Fidelis' (faithful cross) by John VI of Portugal, a stunning acapella piece shifting harmonically through various slow chord progressions. Climate Sunday will see us perform the lovely, catchy setting of 'For the beauty of the earth' by John Rutter. Finally, we will sing the liltingly beautiful 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by the French composer Gabriel Faure. A musical feast for you all, and all the accompanied items will be on our new Yamaha Clavinova (digital piano). The other instrument I had been using to accompany the choir was borrowed from my school, and we made the decision to trade in the upright piano (which was taking up space and not being used due to its size and the fact it was on a raised side platform by the choir stalls and not able to be easily moved around) for this new digital instrument. I hope you will agree it is both aesthetically pleasing from a visual perspective as well as sounding beautiful when accompanying the choir. Its versatility will come in handy if we want to move it round for concerts or other events, and it has a variety of different sounds which we may use on occasion (such as a harpsichord, etc).

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

Please see late entry Concert info at the end of the magazine.

## **Local Community News**

### **Community Cafe**

10am-12pm, The Dug Out Cafe, Burrows Field, Moorend Grove, Cheltenham GL53 OHA

Sat 21st September

### **PCSO drop-ins**

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

Thur 12th September

## *From the Parish Registers*

*There were no baptisms or weddings in August.*

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

Jean Elizabeth Fidderman on 23<sup>rd</sup> July aged 92

Patricia Eleanor Wilson on 24<sup>th</sup> July aged 84

Bryan Roy White on 27<sup>th</sup> July aged 91

Sylvia Anne (Sally) Crabb on 28<sup>th</sup> July aged 91

[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.

### **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](mailto:abbie@cnc.church). The socials are: @southcheltyouth facebook.com/southcheltyouth

*Abbie Marsh*

## Landscape and Sacred Places

For our distant forebears landscape was so much more than scenery. It was where they lived and died, grappling with the cycle of the seasons. For them, the land was loaded with lore and spiritual connections, linking them to the realm of their ancestors beyond their horizons. Many of the natural features around them had a significance we can only guess at, now overlaid with myth and memory.

Whole swathes of southern Britain became ritual landscapes where the cursus, henge or standing stones were built for the veneration of now long forgotten deities. The first Neolithic enclosure on Crickley Hill had a long-ditched causeway within it for ritual use, with later burials in the parallel ditches, its purpose still not fully understood.

In the Iron Age Celtic gods were frequently linked to the land with attributes related to war, fertility and healing. Cudis, the mother goddess, was connected to the Cotswolds and Sulis to the healing springs of the Severn valley, while Nodens overlooked the lower Severn. Rivers were regarded as sacred and the Druids thought those flowing West to East particularly so. Valuable objects were thrown in them and many have been recovered from the Thames, but far fewer from the Severn.

We know something of these late Iron Age gods as literacy arrived with the Romans and spiritual use of the landscape continued in various Romano-British cults. Sulis became Sulis-Minerva at Aquae Sulis and Nodens received a temple and a fine mosaic, the remains of which can still be seen at Lydney Park.

With the arrival of Christianity, the link between the sacred and place loosened. St Paul wrote, 'Do you not know you are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you?' (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). It was taught that God's presence was not in any one place but in the people of the Church. The church was to be universal, Catholic. It was not that St Paul was topophobic, or insensitive to the landscapes through which he must have travelled. His view was more that the sacred was in the spreading number of people who formed the early church. Under frequent threat of persecution, it must have been difficult for them to concentrate and build. This changed with Constantine, first hailed as emperor in these islands, who had place very much in mind when he founded basilicas just outside Rome to venerate the burial sites of St Peter and St Paul.

When Augustine came to Britain in AD597 to convert the English, he had instructions from Pope Gregory to destroy all places of pagan worship, be they ancient tree, shrine, grove, well or temple. This mandate was later modified to make use of such sites of earlier spirituality.

In the far west, where the Celtic church had kept the faith alive through dark times, a great attachment to holy places had developed, linked to specific saints, martyrs and miracles. Many Welsh sacred sites remained draws for pilgrims in the medieval period, St David's shrine and St Winifred's well prominent among them. Remoteness and asceticism rendered many small islands sacred, with Bardsey Island, Caldy and Iona still attracting travellers today.

Once Christianized, Anglo- Saxon England soon took a similar path with holy wells, shrines and burial routes spreading over the country. Miracles, visions, and martyrs provided a magnet for pilgrims, Hales Abbey with its relic of a phial of Christ's blood, being one of the major ones whilst Winchcombe still has a holy well dedicated to St Kenelm. Indeed, before many of our village churches were built, priests travelled from minsters to preaching crosses set in the landscape. The Word was often heard in the open.

The Reformation brought another separation from the sense of sacred place that for centuries had brought the faithful to so many parts of the natural landscape. Many sites were suppressed or destroyed like Hales Abbey and its relic. Local customs and tradition muted the effect of this disruption and non-conformist preaching returned to the outdoors in its early days.



However, our parish churches became, fittingly, our local sacred spaces, some 16,000 of them continuing as an integral part of our landscape. The continuity of worship and the care given to these beautiful buildings, along with a sense of the lives lived around and in them, bestow a strong sense of the sacred as one quietly enters them. Our own St Peter's is no exception.

'Earth is crammed with heaven  
And every common bush afire with God  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.'

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

*Peter Liver*

# Leckhampton Local History Society

## Programme 2024/2025

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 2pm**

Tom Denny windows at St. Christopher's  
Adrian Barlow

### **Tuesday 29<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

'Witches in Gloucestershire'  
John Putley

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

### **December 2024**

Christmas gathering & Quiz

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

'Cheltenham's Iconic Buildings'  
David Elder

### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Member's Evening

### **25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Katherine Parr Gloucestershire's Queen  
Mike Bottomley

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Malcolm J Watkins  
The Birdlip Grave Group, a 2000-Year Mystery

### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Little Pebbles

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

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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.

*Helen Shill* coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fairtrade Fortnight 9-22 September

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## Celebrate or Commemorate with Flowers

The Flower Guild would like to give you the opportunity to celebrate a special occasion or commemorate someone by sponsoring a pedestal of flowers at the high altar in church. The flowers would be of the colour appropriate to the church calendar or a colour of your choice if the calendar permits. We would appreciate a donation of £20 towards the flowers. The occasion can be acknowledged in the church news sheet or can be kept confidential – the choice is yours. If you would like to mark a special date in this way please have a word with Averil Murray (Flower Guild Co-ordinator) or Sally Marlow (Flower Guild Treasurer) or email [sally.marlow@softcopy.co.uk](mailto:sally.marlow@softcopy.co.uk).

*Sally Marlow*



## **Cheltenham Sinfonietta Charity Concert of Bach & Vivaldi - Sunday September 22nd 6.00pm - St.Peter's Leckhampton**

Cheltenham Sinfonietta will be performing Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3 in G major, and the A minor Violin Concerto with soloist Charlotte Pinder. James Thompson will be the soloist in the Viola Concerto in G major by Telemann, and the programme will also include Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in B minor, and the Corelli Concerto Grosso in D major.

Entry to the concert will be free, and all the musicians will be giving of their services to support this wonderful hospice at Leckhampton Court.

*Gordon Busbridge*

**Forthcoming event with Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Pete Atkin, former Radio 4 producer and singer/songwriter.**

**Title:** *Words and Music, Poems and Songs – Rowan Williams and Pete Atkin in Conversation and Performance*

**Date and Time:** Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024. 7.00 to 9.00pm

**Venue:** St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham

**Time:** 7.00 to 9.00pm

**Ticket Price:** £12.00 (£6.00 for Under 25) Phone 01242 522658 to book or scan QR code on poster in St Peter's Church.

**Interval:** for refreshments

Rowan Williams will be known to many. Pete Atkin's name is not so familiar, perhaps, but for many years he had a critically successful song writing partnership with the poet Clive James; a relationship to which both returned in the latter years of James's life.

## **The Messenger, September 2024**

### **Young people make up half of baptisms at St Andrew's annual baptism service**

**"Each candidate shared such varied stories of why they wanted to get baptised... Jacob, aged 19, came to faith after hearing the Vicar give a simple Christmas talk for the sixth form assembly. He said, 'I've no idea what John said, but I remember thinking it made sense, and I found myself coming to church'."**

The annual adults and teenagers' baptism service at St Andrew's Churchdown took place on 7 July, with five of the baptisms featuring young people.

The Revd John Monaghan, vicar of St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's Churchdown, said: "This year, we had ten candidates roughly from ages 12 to 60, all suitably dressed in swimming shorts and t-shirts, ready for the big celebration.

"Each candidate shared such varied stories of why they wanted to get baptised. Some had come to this point through attending our annual Alpha course after Christmas. Jacob, aged 19, came to faith after hearing the vicar give a simple Christmas talk for the sixth form assembly. He said, 'I've no idea what John said, but I remember thinking it made sense, and so I found myself coming to church'.

"For Tamsin, who is in her 20's, it was about coming back to a living relationship with Jesus after a time of walking her own way.

"For Cameron, who is 30 years old, it was by starting to come to church afterwards. Cameron found that, when he sang the hymns and songs, the words about Jesus suddenly became real to him.

"Other teenagers talked about wanting to say a big 'yes' to Jesus, more so than living their own way and doing what all their friends at school were doing.

“After the tenth candidate had shared their story, there wasn’t a dry eye in the place!”

This year’s event continued the church’s tradition of gathering at an outdoor pool, provided by a couple from the congregation.

“The service allows people to publicly say ‘yes’ to Jesus, go down into the waters of baptism, and come up again to a rapturous applause by their new church family”, John explained. “We really felt like we were caught up in the rejoicing in heaven – Luke 15 – that was happening that day.

“Let’s continue to pray for people of all ages across our diocese to come to a living faith in Jesus, and please pray that all of our churches would be helped to have a culture of nurturing new disciples, as we all continue to grow up into maturity in the Lord (Heb 6:1) together.”

### **Bishop Rachel’s podcast series: ‘Holding the key: A series of conversations to unlock the door to doing prison differently’**

**Bishop Rachel has released two episodes so far in her podcast series, which discusses the purpose of prison sentences and the possible alternatives.**

**Episode #1:** In this first podcast of the series, Bishop Rachel is joined by Andrea Coomber, Chief Executive for the Howard League for Penal Reform, and Pia Sinha, CEO of the Prison Reform Trust, as they reflect on what they learnt during their visit to the Netherlands to discover more about the Dutch criminal justice system. They discuss their key takeaways from the meetings that took place and the visit of PI Alphen aan den Rijn prison.

**Episode #2:** Bishop Rachel talks to Tom Wheatley, President of the Prison Governors’ Association, and Mark Icke, Vice President of the Prison Governors’ Association. Tom and Mark bring over 57 years combined experience working in Prison leadership roles, and they discuss their experience of the effectiveness of the justice system, as well as their hopes for what the future might hold. Listen to the podcast episodes by visiting <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/podcast-holding-the-key-a-series-of-conversations-to-unlock-the-door-to-doing-prison-differently-2/n.org> or visit our Spotify or Apple Podcast channel by searching ‘In conversation... Diocese of Gloucester’.

## **Journey to Planet Mars at Gloucester Cathedral this October**

Experience Luke Jerram's incredible artwork Mars: War and Peace within the sacred walls of Gloucester Cathedral between Tuesday 15 October – Sunday 3 November. Expect a packed programme of activities for all ages, from evening viewings to stargazing and special tours. Find out more at:

[www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on)

### **Events and training**

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

#### **Classic car show, Stanway House, GL54 5PQ, 14 September, 2pm to 5pm**

A classic car show to raise money for the benefice churches of Toddington, Stanway, and Didbrook with Hailes.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/classic-car-show/>

#### **Renew Weekend, St James Church, 1 St James Square, Bream, GL15 6HB, 20 to 22 September**

A weekend of biblical teachings led by Mike Skevington, a seasoned international minister and former Vineyard Pastor in Cape Town, featuring sessions on Friday evening and all-day Saturday, with meals provided and a concluding BBQ on Saturday evening.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/renew-weekend-for-the-church-from-the-church-at-bream-church/>

#### **Ageing Gracefully – a practical theology of later life, St Lawrence Parish Centre, Church Lane, Barnwood, GL4 3JB, 1 October, 4.30pm to 6.30pm**

A course for those who are ready to face up to the reality of ageing, using biblical themes try to understand God's purposes in a long life.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/ageing-gracefully-a-practical-theology-of-later-life/>

#### **Faithful generations, Cathedral Green, Gloucester Cathedral, 1 February 2025, 12pm to 4pm**

Save the date for this fun and creative afternoon where grandparents and grandchildren can explore Christian faith and spirituality together. There will be prayer spaces, story, activities, dance, interactive worship and more.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-event/>

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