

November

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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**Cover: *In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row.***
John McCrae 1915



St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

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Gary writes.....

Spiritual Muscles

Are you in good shape?

Are you in good shape, physically? How about spiritually?

In today's society much emphasis is placed on physical fitness (and rightly so) but you could argue that our spiritual health is equally, if not even more, important.

We are encouraged to walk and take physical exercise, and there are a variety of 'keep fit' programmes which we can engage with, either in person, on our phones, on our TVs, or via the internet, etc.

But what about your spiritual fitness?

Good physical health will help us with injury or illness, and perhaps even our longevity; but are we developing our spiritual muscles, which can help us with other things, such as forgiveness, reconciliation, grief, loss and tragedy?

Highly skilled and talented athletes will lose their abilities if their muscles are not kept toned by constant use! The same is true for our spiritual health if we don't connect with good teaching or guard against those things that cause us to dilute or reject aspects of our Christian faith.

As we enter into the month of November, we will once again find ourselves journeying through the season of Remembrance, which will engage, connect and probably challenge all of us in some way.

So, how are you keeping yourself in good spiritual shape? And how can you get even fitter?

Do speak to one of the clergy team if you would like to explore this further.

Blessings,

Revd Gary.

Live Stream Services for November

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 November

Date	Day	Readings
3 rd	ALL SAINTS	Isaiah 25.6-9 Revelation 21.1-6a John 11.32-44
10 th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Jonah 3.1-5, 10 Hebrews 9.24-end Mark 1.14-20
17 th	2 ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	Daniel 12.1-3 Hebrews 10.11-25 Mark 13.1-8
24 th	CHRIST THE KING	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33-37

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2024

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

Friday 25 October

Friday 29 November

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!

Sally & Peter Marlow

Recommended resources for education on 'Experiencing homelessness'

(following Rev Jade's sermon on 13th October.)

More details and some comments on the content can be obtained by emailing Liz in the church office (the handout Jade left out at the back of church on Sunday 13th October)

1. Going Beyond – Homeless link practice podcast
<https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/going-beyond-homeless-links-practice-podcast/> **A Podcast to support people who work with those who experience homelessness**
2. Artist David Tovey's work <https://davidtoveyart.co.uk/about>
3. Museum of Homelessness (MOH) in London podcast on Criminalisation and Homelessness
<https://museumofhomelessness.org/news/our-first-ever-podcast-is-live-join-us-in-person-for-the-next-deep-dive> **A small grass roots organisation working with communities who experience homelessness in London. They have a politics and current affairs programme.**
4. Bible project – Podcast episodes on 'God and Money' and 'What does Jesus say about money?'
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/story-god-money/> **The Bible project takes the form of conversations based on scripture.**
5. Locally we have Emmaus Gloucestershire - **there is a new shop opening on bath road and their website site has some excellent information about how you can support those who experience homelessness.** Also CCP, Open Door and the Salvation Army.

Revd Jade Scholes

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Zara Angharad May on 6th October

We congratulate those who were recently married:

Hanna Stuercken and Thomas Sharp on 12th October

Zara Angharad May and Jonathan Peter Bass on 19th October

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

Jeremy Lancelot Prince on 25th August aged 76

Robert Alun Ifor Isaac on 25th September aged 72

Elsbeth Mustard on 16th September aged 82

Margaret Collins on 4th October aged 85

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.

'Notes from the Director of Music'



What a veritable feast of music there is in store for the month of November! November is an interesting liturgical journey, travelling from 'All Saints', via Remembrance, through to 'Christ the King'. It affords musicians the opportunity to enrich worship with a wide variety of styles, and that is what we hope to achieve at St. Peter's this month.

The anthem on the first Sunday of the month is based on the theme of 'All Saints', and is by Ernest Bullock entitled 'Give us the wings of faith to rise'. The more reflective outer sections book-end a more fanfare-like, grand central section. Our anthem for Remembrance Sunday morning is a wonderful setting of the 'The Souls of the Righteous' text. The music has been written by a contemporary composer - Geraint Lewis - and he wrote the piece originally for the funeral of his Welsh composer friend and mentor - William Mathias. The funeral was held in St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and as you listen to the slow moving reflective passages with sustained low notes, you can imagine the piece 'wafting around' in that huge acoustic. The whole middle section builds up to a huge climax before returning to the reflective, tender music of the beginning.

The anthem on the third Sunday is one of my very favourites! It is 'Geistliches Lied' by Brahms. Originally written for string accompaniment, the music is in the form of a double canon and written as a contrapuntal exercise by the composer. The choir will sing in German, so the translation is as follows:-

Let nothing afflict you
with grief;
be calm!
As God ordains,
so may my will
be content.

Why worry today
about tomorrow?
The One
is in charge,
who gives also to you
what is yours.

In all your doings
be steadfast;
stand firm!
What God decrees
is, and is acknowledged,
the best.

The final Amen is as wonderful a section of Brahms as you will ever hear!

Our final anthem for this month (and for the theme of 'Christ the King') is 'Let all the world in every corner sing' by Vaughan Williams. It is the final movement from his '5 mystical songs', and is a joyous outpouring to 'my God, and King'.

There is a real spread of styles for the organ voluntaries as well this month! Given our first Sunday is around the time of the US presidential election, I have programmed the famous 'Washing Post March' by Sousa. Clearly I have no idea who will win the election and will play the piece anyway regardless, so the choice of this piece does not reflect my own personal political persuasions in any way! Elgar's 'Nimrod' will conclude the Remembrance Sunday service in the morning, and a slow piece which gradually builds to a loud conclusion by the Belgian composer Joseph Jongen entitled 'Chorale' is the piece for the end of the third Sunday. For 'Christ the King', I will play the fantastic 'Prelude and Fugue in C' by J. S. Bach.

The final thing to highlight this month is our service on Sunday 10th November at 6pm to mark Remembrance when we will be performing Faure's beautiful 'Requiem'. We are interspersing all the musical movements with a variety of meaningful readings - including scripture and non-scripture. Gordon Busbridge is accompanying us on the organ, and we have two amazing soloists coming to sing the soprano and bass solos. Hannah Davey and Aidan Smith are both top-class professionals, with very busy, high-profile performing careers - and we are very fortunate to have them join us for this service. We are hoping to do the service by candlelight (as far as we can...), and the hope is that it will be a very moving, reflective occasion for everyone involved. I do hope that you are able to join us. Do share the event widely, and bring family and friends along. It promises to be a very special occasion.

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

YOU AND YOUR FOOD – IS YOUR FOOD ‘LOAF’?

In our quest to gain the ECO Church gold award the St Peter’s Eco group undertakes several surveys on the different aspects of church life. We have recently been looking at the ‘Lifestyle’ category, part of which involves food consumption. The question asked is whether ‘our church encourage members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-Friendly, Fairtrade)’?

Resources on the Eco Church website www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk ‘You and your food’ provide very good reasons why we should attempt to buy ‘LOAF’ food when possible. These include:

Impact on people: As Christians we should consider how what we eat affects God’s creation. As a church we are aware of the hard work that goes into producing items such as tea, coffee and sugar and therefore we should use Fairtrade items in order that farmers in the producing countries will receive a fair wage for their labour. As a Fairtrade church, all the tea, coffee and sugar used on church premises is Fairtrade. Most supermarkets now stock a range of Fairtrade goods, so it’s worth buying these whenever possible.

Impact on animals: If we eat poultry, and meat, do we know whether these animals and poultry have been reared outdoors or intensively farmed and kept indoors in squalid conditions? It’s worth asking questions and perhaps buying the more expensive free-range chicken less often. You can find out more about standards set by some animal welfare assurance schemes by going onto the ‘farm animals section’ of the Compassion in World Farming website <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/your food/>. Does the fish we buy come from a sustainable source? Are there some that we should be avoiding as stocks are low? The Marine Stewardship Council Website (<https://www.msc.org>) has information on sustainable species.

Impact on the planet: Buying food locally (and in season) reduces the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting food. Shopping for apples recently at a local fruit and veg shop, I found 10 different varieties of British apples, whereas I had to look really hard to find any British apples at a supermarket. Some of these imported ones came from as far away as South Africa and New Zealand. The use of some pesticides in food production also has an adverse effect on the planet, upsetting biodiversity and causing the loss of birds, bees, bats and butterflies. Buying organic will help to protect them.

Grow your own: Whilst this does not sit neatly within the ‘LOAF’ acronym, making some space in our gardens, or even in pots and window boxes to grow

some veg will ensure zero 'food miles' and be truly organic. It may also taste better!

Trying to do the right thing environmentally can come with a price, so as individuals we have to make choices about what we can do. The problems can seem overwhelming but even small actions will help to make a difference.

Joey 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.***

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

Leckhampton Village Hall - Extension Fund-Raising Events

www.leckhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

Autumn Fair

Saturday 9th November 2024 10am – 12pm

Cakes - Tombola – Books – Raffle – Gifts – Tea – Coffee

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 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. All welcome. Visitors £3

Further details: Sue Marlow 01242 581661

Stuart Tomlinson - 50 years ringing at Leckhampton

Stuart was recognised for 50 years ringing at St Peter's Leckhampton with a presentation from Rev Gary Grady during the Sunday morning service. A bell themed handmade card signed by members of the current band was also presented by Barbara Pettit. Stuart then spoke for a few minutes about how he started ringing and here are some details from his talk.

Stuart started ringing at St Peter's in Sept 1974 and was taught by Eric Taylor and his family. He became interested as his sister Lesley (Tucker) had started a couple of years before at St Mark's Cheltenham. At that time and over the next few years there were lots of youngsters learning at St Peter's and Stuart said that he certainly wasn't the best prospect but stuck with it.

He was fortunate that there was a major bell restoration project completed in 1972, so when he started, the bells were a joy to listen to and relatively easy to ring - and they still are! Much of the money raised for this project was through collecting/selling old newspapers and these were still being collected and stored in an old shed at the Rectory for a couple of years after Stuart started ringing.



There have only been three Tower Captains at Leckhampton since 1974 – Eric Taylor, then Terry Jones and now Stuart for the last 20 years. We currently have a good number in the band, including quite a few enthusiastic and loyal learners. Stuart thanked Rev Gary and his fellow ringers for being so supportive and recognising that ringing is very much a team effort.

Gilly Whittingham



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.

Sally Marlow

Men's Group

Thursday 7th November 7.30pm at The Wheatsheaf

Youth News The Youth program is below and can also be found here.
<https://southcheltenham.wordpress.com/youth/>

Dates for the **Autumn Term**, for you to add to your diaries. There will be no Tuesday youth on the weeks where we have Fabric worship night, and the week of the Sleepover.

Sunday Youth

Back on: 8th Sept, 10am

Pip and Jim's and Emmanuel

Monday Lunch Club

Back on: 9th Sept, 1.20pm

Balcarras Classroom 5A5

Tuesday Youth Back on: 10th Sept, 7pm

Emmanuel

Half-term Social

22nd Oct (or another day that week) TBC

Fabric Worship Night

Friday 8th Nov, 6pm Trinity Chelt

Youth Sleepover

Joining in with:

<https://youth.opendoorsuk.org/choose-to-lose-your-bed/>

6th-8th Dec St Peter's Cottages

Youth Christmas Party

Tues 10th Dec, 7pm Pip & Jim's

Finally, we are going to be learning a bit more about prayer over the next academic year, taking wisdom from this new book for young people: **Signal Fire by Martin Saunders**. It is not essential for you to have a copy, but if you would like to read it for yourself then we would love that. Purchase for £11 with free delivery:

<https://www.youthscape.co.uk/store/product/signal-fire>

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](https://www.facebook.com/southcheltyouth)

Abbie Marsh

JNC Professional Youth Worker

South Cheltenham Churches

e: abbie@cnc.church

m: 07708540732

The Messenger, November 2024

Flip flops, lollipops and LIFE Together – A message from Bishop Robert

You may have read elsewhere of my recent 'Night on the Town' with the Cheltenham Street Pastors. To be honest I was a little apprehensive. I am not known for my ability to manage late nights or, for that matter, for my love of clubbing – I have been, but it was a long time ago! But... I had the most wonderful time and saw Cheltenham in a very different light.

Come 11pm on a Saturday, Cheltenham is simply full of young people, all dressed in their best party clothes, spending time with friends and embracing life. With them were the Street Pastors who were my hosts for the evening. We had a few years on those going into the clubs, most of us in our 60's and 70's and here too was life.

The Street Pastors are Christians, members of a number of different churches across the town and beyond, committed to living out their faith in living service by giving one night a month to be on the streets between 10pm and 4am, offering loving, practical service with the aid of a dustpan and brush to sweep up broken glass that might otherwise cut young feet, bottles of water for when a little hydration might help, flip flops for when high heels are hard to walk in, and lollipops for a bit of sugar. They also run a safe space, a haven in the middle of the town with a place to sit and the promise of a hot drink. There is a practical and loving service born out of relationship, with Jesus Christ and with the young people who were, when I was present, universally friendly and pleased to see us. As one young woman in her 20's said, having commented that we were a little like her grandparents, 'I am just so happy you are here, and you care'. We were sharing in life!

That matters. That matters a lot. It matters because life as we all know has indeed great joy and some sadness and both were in evidence. A little later we came across another young woman and her friend. Through tears she shared her sadness with one of the team, and they cared for her with the water and flip flops, and they stayed with her, and then walked with her, as she found her lift home. They stayed and walked with her as Jesus stays and walk with us. This too was indeed life.

My evening was truly inspiring, life affirming and humbling, and I am delighted that the Cheltenham Street Pastors are running their 'Come and See' campaign. It is not by accident that these are words from John 1, the invitation of Philip to Nathaniel to come and see Jesus, and in John 2 to join in a very splendid wedding party, an invitation to find and enjoy life in abundance. 'Come

and See' is an invitation for you to share in my experience and explore if this might be part of the way you live out your faith and enjoy the life that God has given us to share with all.

Faithful Generations workshop – 'What can a Grandparent do?'

'What can a Grandparent do? A question close to our hearts when we long to share our faith with children of the younger generation, whether they are our familial Grandchildren or the children we care for in our churches, schools and wider communities.

You are invited to bring each other to Gloucester Cathedral for a fun and creative afternoon where you can explore Christian faith and spirituality together. There will be prayer spaces, story, activities, dance, interactive worship and more.

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

How to support your community this winter

Make a difference by donating essential items and thoughtful gifts to those in need over the coming months.

Here are some local charities that are supporting vulnerable individuals and families this winter, and they need your help through donations.

Gloucester City Mission are launching a 'Winter Warming campaign', and they are looking for the following items:

1. Refreshments (long-life milk, jars of hot chocolate and coffee, bags of sugar, cuppa soup, biscuits)
2. Male and female clothing items (specifically jogging bottoms and hoodies)

These items can be donated, either in-person or via post, to either:

- Gloucester City Mission, 72 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1QN, from Monday to Thursday, 10am to 3.30pm.
- Revive Coffee House, Gloucester, GL1 1PA, from Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Gloucester Foodbank openly welcomes donations. They have a shopping list of urgently needed items, as well as a range of collection points across Gloucestershire where you can donate. Visit

<https://gloucester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.

Cheltenham-based charity **Caring for Communities and People** have launched their Hamper Scamper 2024 Christmas campaign, asking for donations to provide food for families and gifts for children in need, as well as volunteers to wrap gifts and make hampers. Visit <https://ccp-hamper-scamper.raisely.com>.

Allsorts charity, which supports disabled children and their families, have asked for donations of Christmas-themed crafts with their Craft-15 Challenge

this year. They ask for handmade items made in any way you like, from knitting to woodcraft to model clay. They would like your gifts by 15 November, donated to Third Floor, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud, GL5 2BP. Visit <https://allsortsglos.org.uk/join-the-allsorts-craft-15-challenge>.

Events and training

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

Make a Christmas gift: bath bombs, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 5 November, 10.30am and 1.30pm A two-hour workshop led by an experienced tutor, where you'll create your own bath bombs with natural ingredients. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-christmas-gift-bath-bombs>

Remembrance Sunday County service, Gloucester Cathedral, 10 November, 3pm A service to honour those who gave their lives in service. Everyone is welcome, and no booking is needed. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/remembrance-sunday-county-service>

Nadia Eide presents Winter Light, Christ Church Cheltenham, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH, 30 November, 7pm Soprano and The Voice UK star, Nadia Eide, brings Winter Light – a Christmas concert for the family. <https://christchurchcheltenham.com/nadia-eide-presents-winter-light/>

Faithful generations, Gloucester Cathedral, 1 February 2025, 12pm to 4pm An afternoon where grandparents and grandchildren explore Christian faith and spirituality together. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-event/>

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STOP PRESS! St Peter's

We are now members of the Bat Conservation Trust! More information on the Eco notice board in the Cottages.

Richard-Kerr-Wilson

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