

February

2025



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 its neighbours and
to share the love of 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

Leckhampton Parish Church

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Confirmation

I'm delighted to announce that there will be a service of Confirmation at St. Peter's at 4pm on Sun 22nd June 2025 with Bishop Rachel. If you are not yet confirmed and would like to explore or chat about this, then please speak me so I can get an idea of numbers for the preceding Confirmation course, which will take place after Easter.

Revd Gary

Gary writes.....

Candlemas

I haven't been able to verify this personally, but it is said that the King takes down the Christmas decorations at Sandringham at Candlemas.

Candlemas marks the end of the Epiphany Season and is all about light.

It falls on February 2nd each year, which lies between the shortest day of the year and the spring equinox, the moment when the light increases!

During the Epiphany season, Jesus is revealed as the Christ in many different ways. Through the visit of the magi, the descending of a dove during his baptism, in the turning of water into wine at Cana, and then at his presentation in the Temple, all of these pieces are gathered together like a jigsaw to help us see that Jesus is the Son of God.

Candlemas was named as such because candles were carried in procession to remind us that God is revealed to us through Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.

That is why Christingle works so well now, rather than before Christmas, as we celebrate the gathering of the light and, using a simple orange and candle, we are reminded to take this light out into the world.

And so, the great 40 days of Epiphany comes to an end. All the decorations will now be taken down, including the King's, and we will pack away the crib for another year...just 327 days until Christmas everyone!

But it is only the end of a season, as now our eyes look ahead to another 40 days which loom on the horizon – to the season of Lent which prepares us for the Cross and the Resurrection of our Lord, on whom our faith truly rests.

Rev'd Gary.

Live Stream Services for February

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 February

Date	Day	Readings
2 nd	CANDLEMAS	Malachi 3.1–5 Hebrews 2.14–end Luke 2.22–40
9 th	4 TH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Isaiah 6.1–8 9–end 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1–11
16 th	3 RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Jeremiah 17.5–10 1 Corinthians 15.12–20 Luke 6.17–26
23 rd	2 ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Genesis 2.4b–9, 15–end Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25

It is good to announce that Bishop Rachel has invited Rev Gary to be an honorary canon of the Cathedral. Gary has served as a Link Officer for our international partnerships in India for 10 years and, more recently, for 5 years as Area Dean for Cheltenham. He will be installed on Wed 2nd April at the Cathedral during the 5.30pm Evensong

From the Parish Registers

There were no baptisms in January

There were no weddings in January

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

Beryl Tamina Sanders died 30th November aged 98

Laura Matthews died 12th December aged 45

Samuel James Burns died 14th December aged 40

Geoffrey Charles Fox died 18th December aged 89

Jane Mary Crook died 22nd December aged 91

Antje Smith died 12th January aged 80

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'



We celebrate Christingle with the theme of light on the first Sunday of February. At this family service, the choir will sing the perennial favourite 'Jesu, Joy of man's desiring' by J. S. Bach as the anthem. Given we will have finished the service with 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' as the final hymn, the organ voluntary will continue this musical theme with a 'Recessional on Shine, Jesus, Shine' by Blackwell. Hopefully something suitably joyful for our families to enjoy at this first Sunday of the month service! The second Sunday features the beautiful anthem 'Set me a seal' by Walton. This is a stunning short item, full of descriptive musical writing to match the colour of the text, which finishes with the well known line 'for love is stronger than death'. A true masterpiece.

The third Sunday features music by Stanford. It was an anniversary year for him in 2024, and his choral music output is well known for church and cathedral choirs the world over. The choir will perform one of his motets, 'Beati quorum via' (Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the way of the Lord). The rich texture (it is written for 6x different vocal parts) create wonderful undulating harmonies throughout. The voluntary is a piece by Stanford as well. This will be his 'Voluntary on a theme by Orlando Gibbons', featuring a small musical theme which passes through the various parts of the music (both hands and pedals) finishing in a suitably triumphant way. The final Sunday of the month then features music by the English composer, Henry Purcell. Again, his choral music is well known for many liturgical choirs, and is as pleasing to sing as it is to listen to. We recently performed his 'Rejoice in the Lord alway' I (verse anthem) in November, which you may remember. On this occasion we are singing his beautiful, unaccompanied anthem 'Remember not, Lord, our offences'. Slow moving and in a minor key, this is full of restrained colour and drama as the music gives a sense of 'pleading' throughout. The voluntary will be Purcell's famous 'Rondeau from Abdelazer', which is - perhaps - better known as the theme that Benjamin Britten used in his orchestral piece 'A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'.

The special service to highlight at the beginning of February is our Choral Compline for Candlemas. This is taking place on the evening of Sunday 21st February. We will, again, use lots of candlelit and atmospheric lighting in the dim, evening light of the church to celebrate Candlemas. This ancient liturgy will include traditional plainsong sections, readings, prayers, and a veritable feast of choral items! We have a wonderful mixture of early, Renaissance pieces as well as modern items. This includes music by composers such as Thomas Tallis, Orlando Gibbons, William Byrd and John Blitheman, as well as contemporary

composers John Taverner and Morten Lauridsen. Do, please, come and enjoy the stillness and reflection of beautiful music in a beautiful space, and bring friends and family to listen to. I hope all will enjoy!

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

Choral Compline

Sun 2nd Feb at 6pm

There will be a special choral service of Compline by Candlelight to celebrate Candlemas. The church will have lots of candles and atmospheric lighting, and the choir will be performing a number of beautiful items throughout the ancient liturgy. Do put the date in your diary, and come along to enjoy with family and friends!

Cheltenham Coffee Concerts 2025

Pip and Jim's Leckhampton

Each concert lasts around 50 minutes

11.00am Coffee and homemade cakes served from 10.30

Admission free with retiring collection

3rd February. Four cellos with Hannah Davey

1st March. Enigma Duo to celebrate St David's Day

12th April. Bach and beyond

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

FRIDAY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

This is a monthly lunch, always on a Friday and usually at the end of the month, that gives people an opportunity to sit and share a light meal with friends old and new. We are usually around 20 in number and the room buzzes with conversation! Donations for the The Children's Society are always welcome – in 2024 the lunches raised around £750. There is no need to book a place at the table – just come and join us at 1 Vineries Close (off Kidnappers Lane). We are always so pleased to welcome new faces!! Lifts can be offered – just have a word with us. The lunch dates for the next few months are:

Friday 31 January, 12.30-2pm

Friday 28 February, 12.30-2pm

Friday 28 March, 12.30-2pm

We look forward to welcoming you!

Sally & Peter Marlow

From Cravat To Collar'

Talk with **Revd Jacqueline Henson** Tue 4th Feb at 2.30pm Sacred Hearts Parish Hall, GL53 9AU All are welcome. Admission £3 to include refreshments. See posters in church/on website.

Repair, Reuse, Recycle

Is your toaster not working? Have you broken a favourite vase? Is the zip on a favourite jacket stuck fast? Don't discard these items take them to

Vision 21 Repair Cafe which operates on the first Saturday of every month at St Andrew's Church in Montpellier, Montpellier Street GL50 1SP between 10.00am and 1.00 pm. You can take textiles, knives for sharpening, small electrical items, furniture, bric a brac and electronics.

Brockworth Repair Cafe Vision 21 at Brockworth Community Centre, Court Road GL3 4 ET on the 3rd Saturday of the month between 10.00 am and 12 noon. You can take the same items as above except for furniture

At both cafes, if you wish, you can sit with the person repairing your item and enjoy a coffee at the same time! A donation will be appreciated when your item is repaired.

We all have items we no longer use from kitchen utensils to pieces of furniture.

Reclaim, The Red Cross, The British Heart Foundation, Sue Ryder and Emmaus will all take furniture in good condition and will collect it without charge.

Other items can be given away on **Freecycle** and given away or sold on the local website **Nextdoor** or **Facebook**.

If you have a bicycle you no longer use **Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees** will be glad to have it and refurbish it for the use of a refugee.

Schoolhouse Repair Cafe St Pauls Road GL50 4EZ Wednesdays 12 noon to 3.00pm will take bicycles to repair and resell. For someone who needs a bicycle there is no charge except for parts, but donations are very welcome.

Do you have clothes in good condition that you no longer wear or do you think your wardrobe needs a revamp? Give them to a charity shop or if they are in excellent condition and a recognised brand you may be able to sell them to a second hand clothes shop such as **Revamp** and **Mint** in Upper Norwood Street. You can also find excellent clothes to buy in second hand shops and often in charity shops. Do we always need *new* clothes? In the UK we own far more items of clothing per person than any other country in Europe. According to Oxfam the carbon footprint of new clothes bought in the UK each month is greater than flying a plane around the world 900 times!

If you feel the need to refresh your wardrobe why not try **Vinted**, an online site where you can sell the clothes you no longer want and also buy “preloved” items including designer clothes for hundreds of pounds if you are so inclined.. As an Eco church we all need to reflect on how we can protect and preserve God’s creation by reducing our carbon footprint and the suggestions above are some of the ways in which we can all make a contribution.

Contact details and/or websites of the organisations referred to in the article.

Vision 21 Repair Cafe office@vision21.org.uk Tel 01242 224 321

Brockworth Repair Cafe office@vision21.org.uk Tel 01242 224 321

Reclaim office@vision21.org.uk Tel 01242 224 321

The Red Cross cheltenhamfeshop@redcross.org.uk Tel tel:01242 573 133

The British Heart Foundation www.bhf.org.uk Tel 01242 858 900

Sue Ryder leckhampton@sueryder.org Tel 01242 230 199

Emmaus emmaus.org.uk/gloucestershire/shop/cheltenham-shop Tel :01242 269 734

Freecycle [.freecycle.org/town/CheltenhamUK](http://freecycle.org/town/CheltenhamUK)

Nextdoor nextdoor.co.uk/pages/my-local-cheltenham-gloucestershire/

Facebook facebook.com

CheltenhamWelcomesRefugees cheltenhamwelcomesrefugees.org.

Schoolhouse Repair Cafe hello@schoolhousecafe.co.uk

Revamp <https://revamprecycleboutique.co.uk> Tel 01242 581788

Mint mintclothingagency.co.uk Tel 01242 516 351

Vinted [.vinted.co.uk](http://vinted.co.uk)

Penny Piggott

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

Dear Knitters and Friends of CaBiC,

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and a big thank you for the wonderful, knitted trees which you lovingly made for the residents of the local care homes. You knitted a tremendous 1500 of them, all individual and beautiful and they were packaged up into baskets, and taken to the following care homes; Astell House, Badgeworth Court, Bafford House, Bay Tree Court, Bishops Cleeve, Charlton Kings, Dalkeith Residential, Faithful House, Hampton House, Lilleybrook, Monkscroft Care Centre, Grevill House, Queens Bridge, Nazareth House, Richmond, Royal Court, Sandfield's, St Faiths, Thirlestaine Park, Wentworth Court, Whittington House, and Windsor Street.

Rachel Simpson CaBiC Administrator

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

Abbie Marsh

JNC Professional Youth Worker
South Cheltenham Churches
e: abbie@cnc.church
m: 07708540732

Leckhampton Local History Society Programme for 2025

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

Please make a note of these dates, or refer to earlier magazines on the website, as this entry may not appear every month from now on. DRW Editor

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MEETINGS, TRAINING COURSES, FAMILY PARTIES,
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More information on the Eco notice
board in the Cottages.**

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St Peter's PCC cannot offer
endorsement of any specific
advertiser or event.
Please contact Sue Marlow
581661 for details.*

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Please give me, Ken a ring to arrange a booking, and subject to prior workload most jobs are done in 48 hrs.

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The Messenger, February 2025

Celebrating grandparents and grandchildren this month with Faithful Generations

"I deeply believe that the precious relationships between grandparents and grandchildren have profound and lasting effects. My grandma had (and still has long after her death) a huge influence on my faith. I know that she prayed for me every day of my life, and the faith that she modelled was inspirational," Kate Stacey, Diocesan

Collaborative Ministry Lead: Lifelong Learning.

The chance to form, nurture and celebrate the deep connection between grandparents and grandchildren is at the heart of Faithful Generations. We have two free events taking place, a fun day on 1 February at Gloucester Cathedral, and a workshop led by Becky Sedgewick, author of 'Grandparenting for Faith' on 11 February where you can think more deeply.

Faithful Generations offers countless opportunities to engage with your grandchildren and surrogate grandchildren, and with faith in ways that are creative and personal.

Learn about DJ-ing with your teenager, find out how your four-year-old would represent you as a gingerbread person, and have you ever thought about how the children in your life view God?

The activities taking place at our Faithful Generations event on 1 February at Gloucester Cathedral create sacred moments and encourage connections that are meaningful and memorable; decorating doves as symbols of gratitude, exploring the beauty of stained glass through crafts inspired by your favourite Bible stories, or strolling through Gloucester Cathedral's cloisters hunting for shapes and colours with the littlest members of the family.

Imagine your teenage grandchild leading you onto a dance floor during an interactive worship session, or visiting a prayer station together, where they can express their own prayers and concerns. These moments mean you can step into each other's worlds, make lasting memories and feeling the presence of God along the way.

There is also an 'Uneven Song', a fresh take on the traditional Evensong service, blended with dance, interactive songs, and a display of candles and doves. This is led by Bishop Rachel who invites us to join her as she reflects on this time of year and its significance for our lives.

There are so many activities to choose from. See our full schedule at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-event/>.

On 11 February, Becky Sedgwick leads a workshop on the unique role of grandparents in nurturing supportive relationships with younger generations. Whether you are grandparents by family or by the role you play in churches, schools, or communities, the workshop shows us how supportive, close relationships between generations can influence faith formation.

It is important to take time for gratitude, reflected with a shared lunch and prayer after the workshop, and to honour yourself and others who play a guiding role in the lives of younger generations.

Find out more, and hear from Becky herself, at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-workshop/>.

Jo Wetherall, Senior Children and Families Connector, explained the vision behind Faithful Generations: "Faithful generations came about in a number of ways, all of which contributed to recognising that we need to pay attention to the role of people of grandparent generation and inspire, equip and resource them in sharing faith.

"Often people in parishes tell us they have no contact with children, meaning there are no children present on Sunday morning, and we are quick to point out that many people have contact with children in other ways, for example Open the Book teams, toddler groups and their own grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews etc.

"When we talk about Growing Faith at home Bishop Rachel frequently refers to grandparents and their role in sharing faith.

"The events are all aimed at enabling people to have conversations about faith which feel normal, are not super spiritualised, but recognise the presence of God in everyday life. We are also realistic in that, for some people, sharing faith in their families is problematic. We want to acknowledge this and support them."

For all the details and to book your space, visit

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/youre-invited-to-faithful-generations-events-in-february/>.

Lent 2025 – Living Hope

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is *Living Hope*. An initial overview of the campaign is now online at www.cofe.io/LivingHope.

Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world. This year, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is on 5 March and you are invited to come along to your church to find out more about Lent and Easter. Find your local events at www.AChurchNearYou.com.

What do you think about the Messenger?

The diocesan communications team wants to hear your views about The Messenger, our social media and our other publications. Share your thoughts so we can ensure they are engaging, relevant, and valuable to you.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxx9ezxt> for the questionnaire.

Events and training

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

Faithful generations event Cathedral Green, Gloucester Cathedral, 1 February, 12pm to 5pm

Book now 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/>

Faithful Generations 'What can a Grandparent do?' workshop Church Centre, St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Churchdown GL3 2JT, 11 February

Becky Sedgewick, author of *Grandparenting for Faith*, leads this workshop, teaching how to understand the importance of strong intergenerational relationships and how to share and demonstrate faith meaningfully.

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

Peace doves at Tewkesbury Abbey

Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 1 to 27 February

Experience the Peace Doves and Imagine Peace installations by Peter Walker, where thousands of paper doves are decorated with messages of love and peace by local communities to create a display of art.

<https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/peace-doves-at-tewkesbury-abbey/>

Chrism Eucharist 2025

Gloucester Cathedral, 17 April, 11am to 12.30pm

This special service will be led by Bishop Rachel Treweek. Around 400 clergy and lay ministers will come together for the Maundy Thursday service, where they will process through the Cathedral. They will then renew their vows of ministry. This service will be live streamed and all are welcome to attend.

Magazine Subscription

For those who have the magazine delivered, your annual payment is now due!

The cost remains the same at **£6** for 2025.

Please would you send your payment to St. Peter's via one of the following methods:

1. On-line, here: (if on the website version!)

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930#!/DonationDetails>

2. By cheque, payable to: **St Peter Leckhampton PCC**

Please send to: The Treasurer, c/o St. Peter's Parish Office, Church Road, Leckhampton, GL53 0QJ.

3. By cash: in an envelope and deliver, in person, to the above address.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Parish Magazine.
Any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 01242 513647.

STOP PRESS

The next Men's Group meeting will be at 12:30 lunchtime on the 6th February, at the Wheatsheaf as usual.

I also have news of this year's skittles evening. It will be at the Somerset Arms at 7:00 pm, on 17th March, which was the only date available around that time, which I understand from Hermione was the time of year it was held in 2024. I hope this will be OK for the majority of members. The Ladies Group will also be attending.

Details of prices and catering will be circulated when more details are known following discussion with the lady who catered for us last year.

Best regards, John Laurence.