

April

2025



50p

# **St Peter's**

Leckhampton Parish Church

## **Parish Magazine**



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

[parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com](mailto:parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com)

*part of the South Cheltenham Team Ministry.*

*The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the PCC or the editor, but are those of the individual contributors*

## **Our Vision Statement**

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton  
exists to love and worship God,  
to serve 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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## **Gary writes.....**

### **Memory**

The human brain is made up of more than 100 billion neurons! As we grow and develop, these neurons are 'wired up' to each other and communicate through thousands of connections, called synapses. Memories are formed when certain connections are strengthened.

Your memory is your brain's filing system. It contains everything you have learnt, and can store an amazing amount of information. We remember small things and huge things; we mark birthdays and anniversaries as rituals; we create special events which are unique to us and our close family and friends.

Throughout the Christian year we use rituals to remember. The account of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter draws us into that remembering. It is the pivotal moment of truth for our faith as Christians.

Memory on its own can sometimes be debilitating – it can be a memory of what we once were, or might have become; we sometimes love the way things are, or even the past, too much. Accepting what our history has made us can sometimes cause us to be passive; we simply accept it and live with it, which in itself can undermine our individuality and choices.

The temptation is to be passive and do nothing! As we enter into the Easter season of new life and hope, we have an opportunity to engage with the memories which have brought

us to this place; the ways in which we have come to faith; the ways in which we might share those memories with others; and the ways in which God has called us and shaped us through the love of his Son, Jesus Christ.

It means we might need to do something a bit different; it's tempting of course not to bother.

*Rev'd Gary.*

## **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.

*Rev'd Gary*

## **Magazine Editor**

Having edited the Parish Magazine for 16 years since May 2009 the time has come for me to hand over to someone else. I have told Rev Gary that I will continue until December, as subscribers and advertisers have paid for 12 months, but if someone comes forward before then I would be happy to hand over sooner. The intervening months give time for a budding journalist to come forward and for Gary to reassess the magazine format if he so wishes. By December I will have edited 192 issues.

If you feel you could take on this role please speak to Rev Gary.

*David Webber*

## Live Stream Services for April

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 April

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Readings</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	PASSION SUNDAY	Isaiah 43.16–21 Philippians 3.4b–14 John 12.1–8
13 <sup>th</sup>	PALM SUNDAY	Zechariah 9.9–12 Luke 19.28–40 Mark 14.32–15.39
17 <sup>th</sup>	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Exodus 12.1–4, 11–14 1 Corinthians 11.23–26 John 13.1–17
18 <sup>th</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY	The 7 sayings of Jesus on the Cross
20 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER SUNDAY	Isaiah 65.17–19 Acts 10.34–43 Luke 24.1–12
27 <sup>th</sup>	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 5.27–32 Revelation 1.4–8 John 20.19–end

## *From the Parish Registers*

*There were no baptisms in March.*

*We congratulate those who were recently married*

Jordan White and Katherine Knight Roberts on 1<sup>st</sup> March

Samandieri Smithson-Brown and Nicola Isaac on 29<sup>th</sup> March

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

Michael Harvey died 13<sup>th</sup> February aged 87

Linda Ann Magee died 23<sup>rd</sup> February aged 73

Ada Helen Martha Tyler died 23<sup>rd</sup> February aged 102

Brian Claridge died 3<sup>rd</sup> March aged 90

[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.

## 'Notes from the Director of Music'

The month of April sees the 'business end' of the Passiontide Season, and we have a veritable feast of music for you to enhance the liturgy as a result!



The first Sunday in April sees a special service in the evening for 'Passiontide'. This service will move us through the Passion story, from Lent through to Holy Week and Easter itself. There are some absolutely fantastic musical items planned which the choir are already enjoying learning. These range from the beautiful Karl Jenkins 'Benedictus' (from the Armed Man), to one of the wonders of Renaissance polyphony - 'Ne Irascaris' by William Byrd, to a movement from the J. S. Bach 'Mass in Bm' (Gratias Animus Tibi). We are also going to sing Allegri's 'Miserere' (a setting of psalm 51), with its famous 'top C' soaring note for a soprano in several of the verses. We will welcome Hannah Davey as our soprano soloist for that service (who sang the beautiful 'Pie Jesu' in our Faure Requiem back in November), and she will also feature in the other musical item for this service - the 'Easter Hymn' by Mascagni. This is taken from the opera 'Cavalleria rusticana' (which features in The Godfather part 3...!), and is a movement full of power, passion and glory celebrating Easter. This will finish our service, taking us through the whole Passion story - and I hope we will see many of you there. It promises to be very special.

On Palm Sunday, we will sing an anthem by Grayston Ives called 'Ride on, ride on in majesty'. We have performed a couple of things by Ives over the last year or so - including our current communion setting at 10am (the Ives 'Salisbury Service'). He is a gifted composer with a unique style. I'm sure you will enjoy. Hot on the heels of Palm Sunday is our special service for Maundy Thursday. This is always one of the most moving services of the church year - with its foot washing, leaving in silence, and having the altar of repose at the end. We will have some very beautiful music to accompany that service, including parts of William Byrd's '4 part mass' setting, and a setting of 'Ubi Caritas' by the modern composer Ola Gjeilo. If you don't know it, you are in for a treat. It is written for choir with the piano improvising linking sections between choral entries - and it is the most wonderful piece of music. I have no doubt it will greatly enhance the liturgy and moving nature of that service.



Following the glory of Easter Day, the choir will have a week 'off' from singing, and will return at the beginning of May to resume choral services.

Thank you all, as ever, for all your ongoing support of the music at St. Peter's Church. It is greatly appreciated.

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

## **Beyond the Sphere of Time: Parry and the Songs of Farewell**

Cantores Chamber Choir presents a choral concert of music by Parry, Elgar, Holst, Stanford, Bridge, Howells and Vaughan Williams.

**Saturday 5 April 2025** in St Philip & St James Church Leckhampton at **4:00pm**. Tea and Cake available!

Tickets £15 (under 18s & students £5) available from [www.cantores.net](http://www.cantores.net)

## **Cheltenham Coffee Concerts    2025**

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*Please contact Lara Skinner via the Parish Office for details.*

## **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*

## **Leckhampton Local History Society**

Our next meeting is next Tuesday, 25 March starting at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Leckhampton. Mike Bottomley will be giving a presentation on the extraordinary life of Katherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII. Mike sets out to recreate the atmosphere and intrigues of the Tudor Court to tell the largely unknown story of 'Gloucestershire's Queen' and her journey from obscurity to the heart of English history and on to her final resting place at Sudeley Castle.

As previously mentioned, there has been a change to our programme for April. We are delighted to welcome Liz Davenport, archivist with the Woodchester Mansion Trust, to talk about this magnificent but never completed building and its estate near Stroud. The meeting is on Tuesday 29 April 2025 starting at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

For more information contact Sue ,Marlow      01242 581661

## **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

## FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2025

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

**Friday 25 April**

**Friday 23 May**

**Friday 27 June**

12.30 – 2pm at the home of Sally & Peter Marlow

1 Vineries Close (off Kidnappers Lane)

Donations for The Children's Society will be welcome

Please come and join us!

We look forward to welcoming you!

*Sally & Peter Marlow*

### **Men's Group**

Meet for lunch at The Wheatsheaf Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12.30pm.

Thank you to all who came to the skittles evening. I think we all had an enjoyable time. Thanks are due to Hermione for organising the invitation to the Ladies Group. Congratulations to David Webber, for winning the main event and to Andrew Piggott for winning the "killer" round.

Thanks are due to Alan Booth and Peter Lewis for organizing the Leckhampton Hill walk. The weather was perfect and the company was great. The information given by the organizers was interesting and informative. The food in the Star College restaurant was also very good.

*John Laurence,*

[john.laurence.chelt@gmail.com](mailto:john.laurence.chelt@gmail.com),

Tel. 07717222687

**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](mailto:abbie@cnc.church)  
m: 07708540732

**Community Café**

*10am-12pm on the third Saturday of each month at The Dug Out Cafe, Burrows Field, Moorend Grove, Cheltenham GL53 OHA .*

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**The Messenger, April 2025**

**Christ's final hours to be reenacted on the streets of Gloucester for Good Friday**

On Good Friday, the streets of Gloucester will once again transform into a stage for a powerful reenactment of Christ's final hours in a play called 'The Way of the Cross'.

It's an open-air performance written and directed by Rachel Forrest, the vicar of Holy Trinity, Longlevens.

Rachel said: "We are telling the story of what happened to Jesus. Easter is a fun time with chocolate and Easter eggs, but there is also pain, suffering, generosity and sacrifice. It's important that we tell that story in the lead up to Easter as well.

"Jesus came as part of God, ministered for three years, healed, and taught about God's love. He was rejected, put to death on the cross, and then rose again. It's not a story of tragedy but of redemption and hope. That's the Easter promise. It's the ultimate story, and that's why we tell it."

This year will see the addition of The Ermine Street Guard, who are professional Roman soldier re-enactors. In 2024, 'The Way of the Cross' drew widespread attention, becoming the top story on *BBC Points West*.

Churches across the diocese contribute to the performance which depicts the last hours of Christ's life, from his sentencing by Pilate to his crucifixion, which will unfold outside the Cathedral.

"Many spectators come with little or no understanding of Good Friday, while others find themselves deeply moved by the portrayal. For the cast, who have been rehearsing every Sunday throughout Lent, the experience is a spiritual journey, strengthening their personal connection to the story they are telling," Rachel said.

During rehearsals, a professional actor works with the performers, helping them with improvisation and working with each other. Much of the performance is ad-libbed, responding to the dynamics of the crowd and the setting. "The crucifixion scene is unseen by the cast until the actual performance. I rehearse that privately with the Roman soldiers and the actor playing Jesus," Rachel said. "It's powerful for everyone. I am very clear with the cast that when we step out of the Cathedral for the start of the reenactment, we are in 1st century Palestine. It is quite graphic, but Good Friday was graphic too."

The performance starts at 11am on Friday 18 April, beginning outside the Cathedral and going out onto the streets of Gloucester, before returning to the Cathedral for the final crucifixion scene, finishing just before 12pm. Rachel said: "I feel incredibly humbled and grateful to do this again. Every year it seems to grow."

### **'Online church live-streams and Zoom got me through those difficult days'**

**Janet Bannister, a lifelong Christian worshipping at St Giles, Uley, moved to France in 2019, just before the pandemic began. Since then, online church has given her a vital connection to her home church.**

Janet remains actively engaged with her benefice through live streamed services, morning and evening prayer, and Lent study courses via Zoom. This technology proved invaluable during the difficult early days of the pandemic, particularly as she was also caring for her husband.

She said: "Without my church family in the UK, things would have been very bleak."

Janet encourages those who struggle with attending in-person services to give online services a try. She said: "Don't be afraid to try. It's anonymous, easy to

use, and doesn't require passwords or logins. Even with basic internet knowledge, it's simple. Plus, you can watch anytime, not just Sunday."

For Janet, live streaming has enhanced her connection to her faith community. "I can access services from different churches in my benefice, including ones I couldn't physically attend. Live streaming allows me to watch services at the appointed time or later, including weddings, funerals, and festivals."

"By using chat and following the rules, you connect with others who join every service. The leaders make everyone feel included, welcoming online viewers. Even if your benefice doesn't live stream, you can find alternatives."

## **Events and training**

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

**Library Tours: Medieval Special, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 April A tour of the Cathedral's hidden 15th Century monastic library located up a winding spiral staircase.** <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/library-tours-medieval-special>

**Easter Trail at Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 12 to 27 April** An interactive trail at Tewkesbury Abbey ending with a chocolate prize. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/lent-holy-week-and-easter>

**Chrism Eucharist 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, Maundy Thursday, 17 April, 11am to 12.30pm** A special service led by Bishop Rachel, attended by 400 clergy and lay ministers who will be renewing their commitment to ministry. All are welcome. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/chrism-eucharist-2025/>

**Bach's St John Passion, Gloucester Cathedral, Good Friday, 18 April, 7.00pm** A performance of Bach's *St John Passion*, first performed in Leipzig on Good Friday, 1724, depicting Jesus' final hours. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/bach-s-st-john-passion-on-good-friday-2025>

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- Don't forget your gloves!

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If you would like to take part please contact **Mark Beaney**:  
[markebeaney@googlemail.com](mailto:markebeaney@googlemail.com)

Come along anytime between  
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local schools**, and it's a great  
opportunity to make a positive  
impact in our community.

**Refreshments** will be available  
at the **Dug Out Cafe** to keep you  
going throughout the day.



## 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.



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