

March

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

In this March issue...

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Gary writes.....

Dust

Easter falls on the third Sunday of April this year! This is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, the first full moon after the spring (or vernal) equinox.

Jesus' death and resurrection occurred at the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first full moon following the vernal equinox. And, with the lunar calendar being only 354 days, Easter will move around each year!

We will soon begin the season of Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday, a time when we receive an ash cross on our foreheads as a reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Lent is a time of reflection.

I wonder, have we placed value in the right people and places? Have we put our trust in things that are worthy?

We have all lived with the images of war from Gaza and Ukraine, and many other places, with dust bellowing from buildings, some of which are now reduced to rubble.

It's a privilege to be able to give things up or take things up for Lent. We can opt in and out, but many today are covered in the type of dust they did *not* choose, or have had things taken away which they did not want, or expect, to be taken.

Lent gives us space to reflect and mourn; it acknowledges that our faith has space for death in it. We choose to follow the one who chose to go to his death, not because he wanted to but because it was the *only* way. It was an act of grace, an act of rescue.

We follow a God who *knows* what it is to be in a place of suffering, in a place of dust, when all seems lost; a God who can turn 'our dust' into something more, and enable us to look *beyond* death.

It is good to live in places of mourning sometimes, when all seems unjust and unfair, and we don't know what to do, or how to pray. Holy Saturday teaches us as much. It is also good to be shaken out of our comfortable spaces and be made aware of *how* our sisters and brothers are.

As we consider our Lent practices this year, let us pray for those for whom things have been taken away. As we receive our ash crosses, and journey into Lent, let us remember those for whom dust was *not* a choice.

Rev'd Gary.

Live Stream Services for March

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

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

Readings for March

Date	Day	Readings
2 nd	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	Exodus 34.29–end 2 Corinthians 3.12—4.2 Luke 9.28-36 [37-43a]
5 th	ASH WEDNESDAY	Joel 2.1–2, 12–17 Matthew 6.1–6, 16–21
9 th	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Deuteronomy 26.1–11 Romans 10.8b–13 Luke 4.1-13
16 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18 Philippians 3.17—4.1 Luke 13.31–end
23 rd	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Isaiah 55.1–9 1 Corinthians 10.1–13 Luke 13.1–9
30 th	MOTHERING SUNDAY	Exodus 2.1–10 Colossians 3.12–17 Luke 2.33–35

Apologies! This month's magazine has been completed later than I would like. This is because my BT email account was hacked, and then blocked for security and I was without the account for a week. Many of the magazine contributions were therefore not accessible to me. I know some of you received one of two scam emails purporting to be from me. They were not from me. Hopefully all is now secure but it's always good to be vigilant.

David Webber Editor

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised

Teddy James Michael Elrington on 9th February

We congratulate those who were recently married

Lewis Wilkin and Tessa Brown on 23rd February

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

Philip Michael O'Meeghan died 12th January aged 69

Clare Holden died 18th January aged 94

Norma Rose Goodwin died 2nd February aged 90

Kenneth Blake Dixson Aitken died 5th February aged 84

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'



My thanks to those of you who came to our Choral Compline by Candlelight in February. It was a service designed to instil some calm, space and time for reflection. I know the choir enjoyed singing a range of music from early polyphony through to contemporary composers such as Lauridsen and Tavener. One to consider repeating in future by the sounds of the positive feedback we had all round, which is great.

The month of March will see a number of items new to the choir (and, by extension, to many of you also). The season of Lent allows church musicians to programme a rich variety of glorious music, through hymns, anthems and organ music. The anthem on the first Sunday is by the renaissance composer, Thomas Tallis, and is a setting of the text 'O Nata Lux'. Its warm, five part texture and slow moving chordal harmony are a miniature treasure of the time period. On the second Sunday, we will perform the anthem 'Lord, let me know mine end' by Maurice Greene. This wonderfully penitential anthem, full of sorrow and longing has two choral sections at the start and end with a short central section for soprano duet. The choir are enjoying learning this item, and I hope you enjoy listening to it as well! On the third Sunday, we are performing an anthem based on an Orlando Gibbons (renaissance composer) hymn 'Jesu, grant me this I pray' - but which has been arranged by Edward Bairstow. The 4 verses are all set differently, with the hymn tune melody being passed around the different voice parts, including in the final verse when it sits at the bottom of the texture in the bass (low) part for the words 'death will come to me one day'. A super example of 'word painting' in music, and a lovely new anthem for the choir to learn. The fourth Sunday sees us perform the beautiful anthem 'Like as the hart' by Herbert Howells. Howells is one of the giants of the English Choral tradition - but it is not always easy music to perform, to listen to or to immediately 'understand' - most people grow to love it in time once they understand and get used to his completely original style of composition. This is a stunning setting of the familiar text with long, winding melodies. A very special piece of music for sure. The final Sunday is Mothering Sunday, and we are going to sing the very beautiful piece by John Rutter 'The Lord Bless you and Keep You' as a way to acknowledge all the wonderful mothers out there in the world!

Organ voluntaries in Lent will have a more penitential flavour to them. The first Sunday (before Lent) is a jolly piece by a modern composer Vernon Fish called 'Flourish' which has various fanfare-like themes throughout. The second Sunday will see a 'Toccatà' on the hymn tune Aberystwyth (Jesu, lover of my soul) which is the final hymn that morning. There are then three voluntaries by J. S. Bach for the remaining Sundays. His 'Fantasia in Cm', an organ arrangement of the final chorus from the St. Matthew Passion, and the beautiful chorale prelude 'Schmucke Dich' on the final Sunday.

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

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

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 two months are:

Friday 28 February, 12.30-2pm
Friday 28 March, 12.30-2pm

We look forward to welcoming you!

Sally & Peter Marlow

Men's Group

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March, at the Wheatsheaf at 7:30 pm.

Skittles

I am now able to announce the price of the Skittles Evening on 17th March at the Somerset Arms, at 7:00 pm.

The price will be £10 per person, which covers the cost of the alley and food refreshments. There will be gluten free options and plenty of non-meat sandwiches. If you have more specific dietary requirements or allergies it would be better to bring your own food and the price for you will adjusted accordingly. Please let me know if you would like to come.

Payment will need to be in advance as I have to pay in advance. Please contact me and I will send my bank details for payment.

John Laurence, john.laurence.chelt@gmail.com,

Tel. 07717222687

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

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

Community Café

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

Leckhampton Local History Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday **February 25th** at 7.30 at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Leckhampton.

It is The Members' Evening.

Members will bring research and items of interest to share with the society. Always an interesting evening.

At the March meeting on Tuesday **March 25th** at St Peter's Church Leckhampton at 7.30

Mike Bottomley will speak on Katherine Parr, Gloucestershire's Queen

Visitors £3 All Welcome

For more information contact Sue ,Marlow 01242 581661

Defibrillator

We realised that there is a need for a defibrillator at St Peter's which could be located outside the Cottages and registered for all to use. I duly applied to the British Heart Foundation. However, they turned us down on the basis that there are already 3 nearby and their funds are limited. But, all is not lost. Duncan and Andrea Hughes mentioned this at the recent training session at the village hall with the result that the Fire Service have offered to supply one free of charge. We will need to arrange installation and fit a new battery. It should be available at the end of March. (Correction to the printed edition: The Defib has now been delivered a month early so we now need to buy a cabinet and have it installed and registered.)

David Webber

Volunteer Day

at Burrow's Field



Join Us for a Community Day of
Planting with Leckhampton Rovers

On **8th April 2025**, **Leckhampton Rovers Football Club** invites you to a fun, hands-on volunteer event at **Burrow's Field**. We'll be working together to plant:

- **New Trees**
- **Wildflowers**
- **Bulbs**
- **Hedges**

What to Bring:

- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- Don't forget your gloves!

All equipment will be provided. Let's come together and make Burrow's Field greener and even more beautiful!

If you would like to take part please contact **Mark Beaney**: markebeaney@googlemail.com

Come along anytime between **9.30am and 2pm** to lend a hand and help enhance the local environment.

This event is open to all, **including 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.



Cheltenham Street Pastor volunteers urgently needed

Street Pastor patrols in Cheltenham are being reduced or even cancelled due to falling numbers of volunteer pastors. Over the last few years volunteer numbers have halved, and the scheme is urgently looking for new volunteers to serve Cheltenham's nighttime streets.

Street Pastors patrol in teams once a month on either a Friday or Saturday night from 10pm to 4am, helping people who might need it and offering a listening ear. Without new recruits, the Pastors may have to further scale back their work, leaving gaps in support for those who rely on them.

It has been running in Cheltenham for 15 years, helping to keep the town safer and more supported during busy night-time hours, but a recent squeeze on volunteer numbers has led to many people prioritising their local church, above volunteering for wider ranging schemes like Street Pastors.

Jenny Bartlett, a Prayer Pastor and member of Trinity, Cheltenham, said: "Street Pastors offers a practical way for Christians to demonstrate their faith in action while continuing to serve within their own churches. The time commitment for a Cheltenham Street Pastors is just once a month on a Friday or Saturday night.

"At the recent commissioning service, we were reminded that Jesus was the first Street Pastor. Cheltenham Street Pastors aim to follow His example of meeting people where they are. All teams are supported by a group of Prayer Pastors and there are many reports of Street Pastors being in the right place at the right time while they are out."

Prayer Pastors and there are many reports of Street Pastors being in the right place at the right time while they are out."

Bishop Robert joined the Cheltenham Street Pastors back in September for their regular community patrol <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/bishop-roberts-night-on-the-town-with-cheltenham-street-pastors>. On BBC Radio Gloucester, he said: "It was the most wonderful evening. It was joyous to be out with those clubbing who were just having great fun and full of life, and it was equally joyous to be with the team of Street Pastors – a different age group to those clubbing, but also full of life.

"These are Christians who are really working out what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, in a way that isn't just about being in church, but about practical care and service, and being there for everyone."

If you are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, you can sign up for an hour-long try-out session through their 'come and see' campaign. More information at <https://streetpastors.org/locations/cheltenham/>, or you can email cheltenham@streetpastors.org.uk.

Ash Wednesday – what's it all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period in the lead up to Easter. Lent is a chance to slow down and be more intentional about your time and priorities, making time to put God first whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or giving something up.

Ash Wednesday itself started in the early Church, around 1st to 4th century as a form of public repentance, through sprinkling of ashes.

In services today, priests mark people's foreheads with ashes – a symbol of humility and a reminder of human mortality. Priests will say the words "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return*", originating from Genesis 3:19 when God tells Adam that his life, like all human life, is temporary, but turning back towards God offers something eternal.

Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, where he fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation (Matthew 4:1–11). Just as Jesus withdrew to focus on God, Lent invites us to step away from daily distractions and reflect on our lives – what's going well, where we need growth, and how we can deepen our faith.

In medieval times, Christians followed strict fasting rules, like giving up meat, dairy, and sometimes fish. These days, it's more flexible; some choose to give up something they love, like sweets, caffeine, or social media. Others choose to take on something positive, such as daily prayer, volunteering, or acts of kindness.

Ash Wednesday falls on 5 March this year. Whether you're a lifelong Christian, someone rediscovering faith, or just curious, you're welcome to attend a service and experience this tradition for yourself. To find your nearest church, visit www.achurchnearyou.com.

If you decide to participate in Lent, remember that Lent isn't about self-denial, but about renewal and a chance to reset, refocus, and prepare for the joy of Easter. We have lots of resources on our website to help guide you through Lent – visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/everyday-faith/lent>.

Uniting Gloucester in prayer

2025 is the year for every street in Gloucester to be united in prayer. Pray for Gloucester is an ecumenical, Gloucester city-wide initiative, with a free app to track physical and virtual prayer walks.

The Revd Jo Pestell, Vicar at St Catharine's, formed this initiative to bring churches together in prayer for all of Gloucester. If you aren't keen on using an app, you can use a paper map to track your route and have someone log it for you.

Be part of this mission. Download the app and start prayer walking today at www.pray4gloucester.uk or start your own local prayer walk in your home area.

Events and training

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

Family pancake party

4 March, 3.30pm to 5pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gloucester GL2 8BN

For primary school children and their families to do activities and crafts, listen to a story and eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW33B1SIPn1sNJwJyYSOI5f6qMilyzgzqHtn6O3YI9kG42Q/viewform>

Holocaust Memorial Day – Remembering Srebrenica

8 March, 7pm at St Mary's Church, Wotton Under Edge, Gloucester, GL12 7LS

A Holocaust Memorial Day service with guest speaker Sheila Osmanovic, who will share her experience of the siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica genocide.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/holocaust-memorial-day-remembering-srebrenica/>

Spring craft fayre

29 March, 10am to 1pm, St Stephen's Church, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford GL14 2AA

Showcasing a range of stalls by local artisans, along with Fairtrade food and gifts from global sources. Free entry, with hot food, drinks, and cakes.

<https://allevents.in/gloucester/spring-craft-fayre/>

The collation, installation and welcome of the Archdeacon of Cheltenham
30 March, 3pm to 5pm, Gloucester Cathedral, College Green, Gloucester,
GL1 2LY

A welcome service for the Revd Canon Katrina Scott, who has been appointed as Archdeacon of Cheltenham. All are invited to attend as Katrina starts this new ministry.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-collation-installation-and-welcome-of-the-archdeacon-of-cheltenham/>

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/holocaust-memorial-day-remembering-srebrenica/>

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.

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Any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 01242 513647.

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More information on the Eco notice
board in the Cottages.**

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adverts and grateful for the
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advertiser or event.*

*Please contact Sue Marlow
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