

May

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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APCM Thursday 8th May in church 7.30pm

Gary writes.....

Rogation There is a lot for us to celebrate as we journey through the 40 days between Easter Sunday and Ascension Day. Along the way is Rogation Sunday, an often ignored moment when we celebrate how we, as humans, and our natural world 'live and move' together.

Rogation Sunday falls on the sixth Sunday of Easter in the Church of England's calendar of festivals, and is the Sunday immediately before Ascension (which for the record always falls on a Thursday).

Since medieval times there has been a tradition of 'beating the bounds' of the parish and praying for God's blessing upon the crops and the well-being of that particular settlement. Sadly, this tradition has become more and more forgotten by parishes today.

Rogation invites people to ask for a blessing for a particular place, for its inhabitants, and it joins everyone together in a commitment to play their part in looking after the local environment and each other.

It also recognises that there are 'modern day slaves' hidden in many rural (and urban) settings, with their 'work' unrecognised and grossly underpaid, and their well-being taken for granted or simply ignored.

How can we respond to this local need? Do we even know where it exists?

As churches, we take the opportunity to give thanks for God's provision, uphold it more carefully and share it more fairly, so that all may be a precious part of the fuller unfolding of God's goodness.

Do put this Sunday in your calendar; it falls on 25th May this year. We won't beat the whole bounds of St. Peter's parish, but we may do something around our beautiful churchyard after the 10am service instead.

There is a lot for us to celebrate as we journey through the 40 days between Easter Sunday and Ascension Day, but there is also the deeper challenge of rogation for us to think about as we proclaim 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!'

Rev'd Gary.

Honorary Canon *See cover picture*

It was honour to be asked to be an Honorary Canon at Gloucester Cathedral by Bishop Rachel, thank you to all who came along to support me last month as I was collated and installed into the College of Canons therein.

The term canon comes from the Greek word *kanon* meaning *rule*. The College of Canons has its origins in the Cathedral's monastic foundation, when members of the original Abbey of St. Peter lived together under the rule of St. Benedict.

Canons pray for the life of, and act as ambassadors for the ministry of the Cathedral; their formal responsibility is to elect the Bishop of Gloucester, after the bishop has been nominated by the King.

I suppose you can now call me Rev Canon, or Canon, but I'd rather you just call me Gary.

(Rev Canon) Gary



Live Stream Services for May

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 May

Date	Day	Readings
4 th	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	Revelation 5.11–end Acts 9.1–6 7–20 John 21.1–19
11 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Revelation 7.9–end Acts 9.36–end John 10.22–30
18 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Revelation 21.1–6 Acts 11.1–18 John 13.31–35
25 th	ROGATION SUNDAY	Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5 Acts 16.9–15 John 14.23–29
29 th	ASCENSION DAY	Acts 1.4–11 Luke 24.44–end

Confirmation

I'm delighted to announce that there will be a service of Confirmation at St. Peter's at **3pm** 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. *(Please note earlier time to previous arrangement)*

Rev'd Gary

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Frank Roy Michael Buckingham on 6th April

Ivy Angela Garnett Buckingham on 6th April

There were no weddings in April

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

Rosemary Yeend

Marcus Hellyer

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.

APCM Thursday 8th May in church 7.30pm

'Notes from the Director of Music'



As we move into our post-Easter season, we will use the full communion setting that we've been using for the Sanctus/Benedictus/Agnus Dei as the Gloria is reinstated. Glory to God in the highest! It is the 'Salisbury Service' by Ives, and this will also be accompanied by our South African 'Alleluia' for the Gospel reading. We did it last year as well, as is just a welcome change away from the lovely Celtic Alleluia that we use during the rest of the year.

The month of May will see some lovely anthems being performed by the choir. We will sing an arrangement of the beautiful 'Brother James' Air' on the first Sunday, and the second Sunday will see the choir perform the fantastic 'Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem' by Stanford. This is full of colour, melodic beauty and drama as you'd expect from this stalwart composer of English choral music. The third Sunday will feature the deeply moving 'And I saw a new heaven' by Bainton. These are the most moving words taken from the end of the New Testament anyway, but they have been set to fantastic music - and it gives the tenors a moment in the spotlight each time the words come round for 'and God shall wipe away all tears'. Lovely stuff! The final anthem is 'Thou visitest the earth' by Greene for Rogation Sunday. This is a typical 'verse' anthem, with the main theme being sung by a solo or smaller group which the main choir then repeats afterwards. The choir will also sing for Ascension, and are performing an anthem called 'O sing joyfully' by Batten. This is, as the name suggests, a jolly piece from the English renaissance period.

The organ voluntaries are suitably triumphant as you would expect for this post-Easter period. The first Sunday will feature a piece by the modern composer David Blackwell, and is a triumphant march on 'Lux Eoi' (Alleluia, Alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise) which we all will have sung as one of the hymns during that service. The second Sunday will feature Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus', played as the voluntary at the end of the service. The remaining two Sundays feature amazing repertoire by very different French composers. On the third Sunday, the voluntary will be 'Te Deum' (we praise thee O God) by Jean Langlais. This is loud and dissonant (you have been warned....!), and an expression of sheer power and glory to God. The most amazing thing about this organist/composer is that he was completely blind! The final voluntary is the exciting and uplifting 'Carillon-Sortie' by Mulet. This is quite toccata-like in its style, full of joy and majesty. I hope you will enjoy.

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

Bell Ringing

Gloucestershire Golden Oldies

St John the Baptist, Huntley, Gloucestershire

Tuesday, 8 April 2025 in 42m (7–0–24 in G)

1272 Westminster Surprise Minor

1. Isabel Hitchings
2. Reg Hitchings
3. Barbara Pettit
4. Mike Seagrave
5. Stuart Tomlinson
6. Mike Hartley (C)

Rung to congratulate the Revd. Gary Grady (Team Rector of the South Cheltenham Team) on being installed as an Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.

Ringers of 1,2,3 & 5 are members of Churches in the South Cheltenham Team.

We did try for a Quarter Peal of Stedman Doubles at Leckhampton by a local band on Saturday 5th April, but it sadly fell apart after about 25 minutes ringing, due to a concentration lapse by more than one member of the band. Stedman is notorious for this!

Stuart Tomlinson

St Peter's Leckhampton bellringers outing

As well as the challenge of ringing on different bells, one of the joys of a bellringing outing is visiting very different churches and 'bagging' another tower. This is what sixteen members of St Peter's Leckhampton band and friends enjoyed on a sunny Saturday in April.

Expertly organised by Gilly Whittingham, the mix of learners and very experienced ringers rang a range of methods – from rounds and call changes to Surprise majors at five towers, all with very good bells. They enjoyed an excellent pub lunch at The Beaufort Arms in Hawkesbury too.

First stop was St Mary's Thornbury where the myriad of ladybirds in the bell tower were entertained by ringing on the eight bells. One of several historical boards in the ringing room celebrated the broadcast of these bells by the BBC on all programmes on Christmas Day 1946.

They then moved on to St Mary's Olveston, initially needing strong people to raise the eight bells – especially the tenor which at 18cwt, is considerably heavier than the 9cwt tenor at St Peters. The bells on plain bearings, have not been rehung since 1907 but rang well.

After lunch, another St Mary's – this time at Hawkesbury, with not so many steps to climb to the recently installed ringing floor on a gallery level overlooking the church. A very different experience on a new ring of eight bells on a steel frame. Installed in 2021, the first peal being rang there in January 2022 for the feast of St Wulfstan. Ringing here was Richard While's 150th tower

Although the new Hawkesbury Bells were designed by Matthew Higby and Co, based on a modern English profile, unusually they were cast in Milan, Italy by Emanuele Allanconi.

Holy Trinity Church at Wickwar, was next with six bells and a small octagonal ringing room. In recognition of the area Wells Surprise was rung. St Andrews Cromhall, the final stop, had thirty nine steps up to a smaller ringing room with six bells, the heaviest being 12 cwt. Here Gilly Whittingham celebrated ringing at her 100th tower.

Special thanks to all the towers for such a warm welcome and sharing their knowledge of the bells and their church history. It all added to a full (9.30 – 17.45) and memorable day.

Paula Ware



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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.

Sally Marlow

Celebrating 80 years of Christian Aid

11th -17th May Christian Aid Week

Join us this Christian Aid Week, as we celebrate the generosity of gifts given across the globe.

This year Christian Aid is focusing on Guatemala trying to help the Indigenous communities survive. Multiple threats hinder their survival - it's the usual list that nobody in authority seems to look at or act upon. At the top is climate crises.

The Indigenous farmers used to be able to live off the land when water was close by and the temperatures manageable. Now the unpredictable weather creates heatwaves, droughts and storms, destroying crops.

There is an opportunity to pick-up a prayer leaflet in Church and envelope on 11th May.

(On line card donations via Givestar find out more at caweek.org/Givestar)

Prayer for Saturday 16th May

God of justice, pour out your Spirit that we may abound with hope. When we feel defeated, give us courage and remind us that nothing is impossible with you. **Amen**

Melissa Webb

Leckhampton Local History Society

Tuesday 27th May 2025

St Peter's Church Leckhampton 19.30

AGM followed by:

Treasures from the Bendall archive - Eric Miller

We do not currently have a meeting scheduled for June 2025.

All welcome Visitors £3

For more information contact Sue ,Marlow 01242 581661

.....

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2025

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

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

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

Little Pebbles *Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.30 in the Cottages during term time.*

Please contact Lara Skinner via the Parish Office for details.

Men's Group

Thursday 1st May at The Wheatsheaf 7.30pm

John Laurence, 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
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* .

The Messenger, May 2025

The Messenger, May 2025

Anne's faith journey at The Door

Anne Townsend is Operations Manager at The Door, a Christian charity that provides opportunities and services like mentoring, youth centres, and support to young people and their families. She tells us about her vocation to her role at The Door.

Anne's journey began with a desire to gain experience and find a meaningful way to contribute to her community. After finishing her A-levels, she spent a year volunteering at The Door. "I really enjoyed my time volunteering. Everyone was kind and welcoming and the cause felt important. The Door doesn't just offer second chances; we offer third, fourth, fifth chances. Forgiveness is key in our work, and it's at the core of how we operate," Anne said.

Anne started looking for paid work, around the same time that The Door was looking for some administrative support. I didn't see it at first, but being at The Door has definitely been part of my faith journey, and part of God's plan for me.

"I was born into a Christian family, and I attended church throughout my life. I think, for a lot of young people that are born into that space, you accept it as just being normal, and then you start to ask questions as you get older.

I guess around the age of 16 or 17, I was like, yeah, cool, I'm in. This is me. Jesus is part of my life. But I never saw The Door as being part of my calling or my faith journey at that time.

"Since working here though, I've become more aware of God. I've learnt to listen to Him. Now, I see my role as using the gifts God has given me to serve others."

Anne's work is an inspiring expression of her faith. She is deeply involved in making sure that staff have the tools and support they need to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Due to working at The Door, Anne has found other opportunities to serve, working as Secretary for Churches Together, and volunteering at Christian youth camps and with The Door's Christian Outreach Arm, engaging directly with young people.

"It's incredibly rewarding to hear their stories, share my own faith journey, and walk alongside them as they explore their own."

Through these conversations and experiences, Anne sees the bigger picture of ministry; service to others doesn't always have to follow a traditional path.

If you would like to look deeper into your calling and reflect on God's plans for your life, you might find it helpful to connect with your local priest or reach out to the Revd Canon Ann Sargent and her team of vocations advisors at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/discover-your-vocation/>

Welcome to our new Archdeacon of Cheltenham

The Ven Katrina Scott was officially collated, installed and welcomed as Archdeacon of Cheltenham at the end of March.

She said, "The service was incredibly special. There were people from all parts of my life there – it felt like a real gathering of love and support."

Katrina has served in the Diocese of Gloucester since 2015, most recently as Area Dean of North Cotswold and Rector of a cluster of Cotswold parishes. As Archdeacon of Cheltenham, Katrina now supports churches and clergy across Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Cirencester and the Cotswolds.

The role of an archdeacon involves both spiritual and practical leadership. At the service, the collation welcomes an archdeacon into the spiritual side of the role, while the installation focuses on the legal responsibilities.

"My first priorities are lots of induction meetings and getting to know people – building relationships is the most important part."

Got a story or something interesting to share?

You don't need to write it all up, just email Natalie (nsansom@glosdioc.org.uk) with a quick line about what you would like covered, and she'll take it from there!

Also, if you have any parish magazines to share, please email them over electronically to Natalie, so she can look for potential stories to share across the diocese.

Events and training

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

An audience with Jonathan Veira, St John the Evangelist Churchdown and Innsworth, 3 May: Jonathan Veira is performing his 'Not Dead Yet' concert, described as being full of 'life, love and laughter'. The concert aims to fundraise for the Church. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/an-audience-with-jonathan-veira/>

80th Anniversary Concert for Christian Aid, St Michael and All Angels Church, 10 May: Anniversary Concert with Gloucestershire Christian Choir, conducted by Pamela Dewick and guest singers from Bishop's Cleeve Primary Academy. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/80th-anniversary-concert-for-christian-aid-tickets-1301827774919>

Fun quiz with cheese and wine, Tewkesbury Abbey Parish Centre, 10 May: £12 per ticket (£6 for under 16s), come as a team of six or can be matched up on the night. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/whats-on/>

Crafts that built the Cathedral: Stone carving workshop, Gloucester Cathedral, 3 May and Saturday 31 May: Join award-winning stone carver Deb Harrison for a hands-on, four-hour workshop in the Cathedral's Medieval Learning Hub, where you'll carve your own relief tile using ancient techniques. No experience required. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/crafts-that-built-the-cathedral-stone-carving-workshop-2>

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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.



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