

June

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

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St Peter's

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In this June issue...

	Pages
Gary writes....	4 – 5
Services and Readings	6
Parish Registers	7
Notes from the Director of Music	8 – 9
Visitors from Dornakal	10
Eco News Men's Group	11
Magazine Editor	12
Diocesan Messenger	13 – 15
Rotas	25
Parish Directory	26
Contacts	27

Gary writes.....

Living Stones

Over the past month we have been reflecting, during Morning Prayer, on Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the first letter of Peter.

Peter describes the church as God's spiritual temple, as follows:

'Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.' (1 Peter 2.5)

Peter's readers would have understood the living stones to be Israel.

He then applies the image of the 'cornerstone' to Christ, portraying the church as a living, spiritual temple with Christ as the foundation stone, and each believer a stone.

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.' (1 Peter 2.7)

And, there's an interesting comparison here with Paul, who describes the church as a 'body', with Christ as the head, and each believer as a member of that body.

'We speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.' (Ephesians 4.15-16)

Both pictures emphasise 'community'.

One stone is not a temple or a wall; one body part doesn't function properly without the others.

In our (increasingly) individualistic society, it is easy to forget our interdependence with one another and other Christians. When God calls you to a task, remember that he is also calling others to work with you; and together your individual efforts will be multiplied.

Look for those people, and join them to help build God's kingdom!

And don't forget, we do this together as a 'priesthood of *all* believers'.

In Old Testament times, people did not approach God directly, only a priest could do that as an intermediary between God and (us) sinful human beings! But, with Christ's victory on the cross, that pattern changed and, now, we can come directly into God's presence without fear, and are given the responsibility of bringing others to him also.

When we are united with Christ as members of his body, as living stones in his spiritual temple, we join in with this priestly work of reconciling God's people.

How might we be living stones as we enter into these summer months?

Revd Gary.

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)*

Revd Gary

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

Live Stream Services for June

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 June

Date	Day	Readings
1 st	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Revelation 22.12–14, 16, 17, 20–end Acts 16.16–34 John 17.20–end
8 th	PENTECOST	Genesis 11.1–9 Acts 2.1–21 John 14.8–17 25–27
15 th	TRINITY SUNDAY	Proverbs 8.1–4, 22–31 Romans 5.1–5 John 16.12–15
22 nd	FIRST SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Isaiah 65.1–9 Galatians 3.23–end Luke 8.26–39
29 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF TRINITY	2 Kings 2.1–2, 6–14 Galatians 5.1, 13–25 Luke 9.51–end

Little Pebbles *Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.30 in the Cottages during term time.*
Please contact Lara Skinner via the Parish Office for details.

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

James Thomas Artemovich Osipenko on 3rd May

Florence Norah Johnson on 4th May

Theodore Maurice Mountford on 24th May

There were no weddings in May.

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

Pamela Maureen Bird died on 10th April aged 81

Robert Wright died on 15th April aged 82

Neville Royston Crompton (Roy) died on 30th April aged 88

Trevor Brian Colbeck died on 30th April aged 85

David Evans

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'



The month of June provides another rich, liturgical season for church musicians - particularly with Pentecost and Trinity Sundays in the mix! Our choir anthems this month are another mixture of styles for choir and congregation with various new items that I very much hope all will enjoy.

The first Sunday of the month has the choir performing a setting of 'Ave Maria' by the composer Archadelt. This simple anthem, written in a homophonic (chordal/hymn-like) style is beautiful in its slow moving simplicity, and the choir will perform this up at the high altar as per usual when we do something unaccompanied. Similarly, the 4th Sunday of the month will see the choir singing Palestrina's wonderful motet 'Sicut Cervus' (Like as the Hart desireth the water brooks). One of the all time great Renaissance motets, the choir are enjoying learning items such as this in a polyphonic style. The anthem for Trinity Sunday is Tchaikovsky's 'Hymn to the Trinity'. Again, this is unaccompanied and written in a number of 'verses', but with different endings to each. The final Sunday of the month will see the choir perform Cheltenham's own local composer, Gustav Holst's 'Turn Back O Man'. This anthem has a plodding, walking bass line throughout in the accompaniment, whilst the choir gradually build up singing the chorale/hymn-like tune over the top in various keys until it reaches its climax at the end. Stirring stuff! However, the Sunday marking Pentecost will feature something a little bit different for the anthem! The choir are going to sing an arrangement of a fast/lively spiritual 'Every time I feel the spirit'. This has been arranged by the modern choral composer, Bob Chilcott - and we will be channelling our inner 'pentecostal gospel choir' as best we can. It's really fun, up tempo and something different to what we would normally sing (which you can tell from the descriptions of the other pieces above...) - but I hope you enjoy it as much as the choir do.

The organ voluntaries will be a mixture of styles and familiarity to you as well this month. Later in the month, there will be both the wonderful 'Postlude in Dm' by Stanford as well as the fantastic Chorale Prelude on 'Komm Heiliger Geist' (Come Holy Ghost) by J. S. Bach. On Trinity Sunday, there is a Fanfare and Trumpet Tune based on the hymn tune 'Nicaea' (Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty) by the modern composer Christopher Tambling, and on the first

Sunday of the month, the voluntary is a jolly piece entitled 'Festival Finale' by Colin Mawby. This features a chord pattern/rhythmic pattern reminiscent of children in a playground teasing each other going 'nah, na-na, nah, nah'...! All good fun! For Pentecost, the voluntary is linked in with our jazzy offering for the anthem - as I play 'Ein Feste Burg' by the modern jazz composer Nagel. This fast and lively piece features jazz chords and syncopated rhythms throughout, but you should be able to hear snippets of the famous chorale 'Ein Feste Burg' (A Mighty Fortress is our God) throughout.

We will also be performing various items for the confirmation service as well - so the choir is definitely working hard in the month of June!

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

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2025

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

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



We were pleased to welcome visitors from the Diocese of Dornakal, India. Revd Gary has been the Link Officer for the Gloucester Diocese.

From left to right.

Revd Jade Scholes

The Revd Abhijith Bhimala, Link Officer

The Rt. Revd Dr Padma Rao, Bishop of Dornakal

The Revd Dr Vijaya (his wife)

Revd Canon Gary Grady

.....

Eco News

Plant share and give-away on 4th May

Thanks to everyone who contributed plants for this occasion. Little Pebbles also helped by filling pots with compost and planting sunflower seeds, which were part of the give-away.

It was a very joyful and successful event which we will hope to repeat in the future.

Many people, including some members of the Christening party that followed, were very surprised that no money exchanged hands, but the purpose of the event was to share God's gifts and to help people enhance their gardens.

Churches count on Nature June 7th to 15th

This year, St Peter's have registered with Caring for God's Acre for the Churches Count on Nature. This takes place from 7th to 15th June and asks us all to record the birds, beasts and butterflies (and plants) we find in our churchyard.

More details and how to record your findings can be found on their website: caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Recordings can be done by anyone at any time, but we would be very grateful if you could send me a copy for our information.

Richard Kerr-Wilson (rkerrwilson@aol.com)

Men's Group

Thursday 5th June 12.30 for lunch at The Wheatsheaf

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

Tel. 07717222687

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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

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Community Café

***10am-12pm on the third Saturday of each month at The Dug Out Cafe,
Burrows Field, Moorend Grove, Cheltenham GL53 0HA .***

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

The Messenger, June 2025

An unexpected calling, from ministry to chaplaincy to ordination

"My journey to ordination came to life because of this job. Before I started here, I wouldn't have thought I'd be on this path, but being in this school has made it clear."

Matt Round has been working as a chaplain at All Saints' Academy, Cheltenham for over three years. For Matt, becoming a chaplain wasn't the path that he was expecting to follow – but it has had a significant impact on his sense of calling.

"Before I started at All Saints' Academy, I was working in full-time ministry at a non-denominational church in Manchester. I knew I wanted to have a job change, and that God was calling me into something else.

"Someone mentioned school chaplaincy. As I looked into it more, it just felt right. It allowed me to jump back into the world, and serve outside of the church setting. God made it quite clear that this is where he wanted me to be."

Three years on, in September, Matt will begin training for ordination, while continuing part-time at the academy.

"This role sparked my journey to ordination. It opened the door. I'm going to do my training whilst continuing here as a chaplain. I know that this is where I'm meant to be for the next chapter. I'm happy in this role, and I've become more open to where God might call me next," he said.

As a chaplain, Matt's role goes beyond leading worship and teaching about Christianity; he serves the entire school community, from students and staff to parents, volunteers and local neighbours.

"No day is the same. I've got my weekly rhythms, like collective worship and running the Alpha course, but I try to leave my schedule open. I might have a list of things to do, but then ten more things crop up that I wasn't expecting. It's a very people-focused role, so I try to be out and about, present during break times, lunch times, and around the school."

Although Matt doesn't always see the immediate impact of chaplaincy, he knows that his role is important to the wellbeing of the school community.

"In church ministry, I often saw the fruit of what I was doing. In school chaplaincy, you don't always get that. You say something and hope it lands, but you might never know. Sometimes I'm reading a Bible story in front of 400 students. Other times, I'm having a one-to-one chat where faith might not be the first thing we talk about. You have to sense what's helpful in that moment.

"Whether someone has faith or not, I'm here to support them. It's about presence, understanding, and care."

If you feel you might have a calling into this ministry or something new, find out more about next steps on our vocations page here:

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/discover-your-vocation/>

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 – Light up the world in Prayer

From 29 May to 8 June 2025, Christians across the world are invited to unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Spanning the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global wave of prayer is about deepening our own relationship with God, while praying for others to experience that same transformation.

Thy Kingdom Come asks people to pray, daily, for five people they know to come to know Jesus Christ, and to encourage others to pray all over the world.

We have a wide range of free resources available on our webpage to help guide you through → <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/thy-kingdom-come-2025-light-up-the-world-in-prayer/>.

Bishop Robert said: "In what is an increasingly fragile world, Thy Kingdom Come takes us back the heart of prayer and Jesus' promise to be with us always and everywhere.

"As I pray for people, some I know personally, others I know only of, I seek simply to hold them in God's love; that they may know how precious and unique they are, and the fullness of life that God invites them to share.

"I find that praying in this way does, as Jesus promises, casts anxiety aside, strengthening and renewing my own faith, as I look to the needs and to the welfare of others."

Whether you're new to prayer or have taken part before, this year is another opportunity to join millions in asking God to reveal Himself in new ways.

Events and training

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

Crafts that built the Cathedral: Medieval book binding, 8 June, 9.30am to 4pm, Gloucester Cathedral. A workshop guiding participants through the making of a medieval book binding, and creating your own 14th century style binding, using modern materials. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/crafts-that-built-the-cathedral-medieval-book-binding>

Library Tours: Music Special, 14 June, 10.45am, 11.45am, 2.45pm, Gloucester Cathedral.

A tour of the Cathedral's beautiful, hidden 15th Century monastic library, the traces left behind by our organists and singers over the years, from chorister graffiti to famous names. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/library-tours-music-special>

Questioning joy: poetic faith in a literalist world, 25 June, 7.30pm to 9pm, Francis Close Hall Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL50 4AZ. The Revd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark, will be giving the 23rd annual lecture of the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/questioning-joy-poetic-faith-in-a-literalist-world/>

Summer quiz night with two course supper, 28 June, 7pm to 10pm, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton. 60 Grafton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2DD. Quiz night and two course supper £15pp. Everyone is welcome including teams of 6, smaller groups or individuals who would be welcomed on arrival and joined together to create a team. <https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/xn4k8usr>

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