

August

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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Cover picture: Summer Roses Watercolour DRW



St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church

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The Diocesan Messenger is not published in August.	

Gary writes.....

The Lord's Prayer

Long ago, when Christians were first learning about the faith, people would prepare for baptism as adults over 2 or 3 years. The final part of their journey would be in the season of Lent, ahead of their baptism on Easter Day. During this time, the bishop would teach them about some of the greatest treasures of the Christian faith, one of which is the prayer we know as the Lord's Prayer.

This prayer was only taught and said by Christians. You couldn't look it up in a book (there *were* no books printed then). It was one of the 'special things' you were given as you prepared for your baptism, and you would learn it by heart.

It's a prayer that has been handed down and used by every generation of Christians there has ever been. For some, the words are very familiar, learned when we were children. For some the words are maybe *too* familiar – have you really thought about what they mean for you as adults? For some, the words will be new, something precious to be explored as a part of *their* faith journey.

One of the early Church Fathers said that the whole of gospel, all of the Good News, is in the Lord's Prayer *if* we take time to truly understand it.

It is a prayer that has been around for 2,000 years and is used by billions of people around the world; there probably isn't a moment, day or night, when there isn't someone on earth praying the Lord's Prayer, and, there probably isn't a language on earth that doesn't contain a version of it.

You can pray it when you are full of joy; you can pray it on an ordinary day; it is used in services of baptism and marriage as

we celebrate great family events; and it's used at the bedside of someone who is dying, and again at their funeral.

The setting for the prayer gives us an idea of why Jesus gives it to us as a precious resource for our faith. The disciples are struggling with their own prayers, so ask Jesus *how* they should pray. Jesus tells his disciples that prayer is *not* about showing off and standing on street corners, but about developing an inner relationship with God. It is *not* about the ability to string words together and impress people, but about simplicity and sincerity.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, immediately we are called to discover 'our place in the universe' and capture a sense of *what* it means to be a part of the Christian family. We are invited to call God 'our Father', and to be in an intimate relationship with him.

God is approachable. Prayer is something that anyone can do. You don't have to use complicated words or flowery language. God isn't swayed by clever arguments or by the length of our prayers, nor by what we wear when we pray them!

Jesus offers us a way of seeing God, the world *and* ourselves, which is both profound and transformative, but also good news.

Just before you go to bed tonight, reconnect once again with the Lord's Prayer and bring to God all of these things, and ponder what this amazing prayer means to you.

Rev'd Gary.

Live Stream Services for August

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 August

Date	Day	Readings
3 rd	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Hosea 11.1–11 Colossians 3.1–11 Luke 12.13–21
10 th	EIGHTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Isaiah 1.1, 10–20 Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16 Luke 12.32–40
17 th	NINTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Isaiah 5.1–7 Hebrews 11.29—12.2 Luke 12.49–56
24 th	TENTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Jeremiah 1.4–10 Hebrews 12.18–end Luke 13.10–17
31 st	ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Jeremiah 2.4–13 Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16 Luke 14.1, 7–14

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.

From the Parish Registers

We congratulate those who were recently baptised:

Sophie Victoria Hunt on 5th July

Viola Hebe Loveday Campton on 27th July

We congratulate those who were recently married

Elijah Horne & Nia Hosie on 26th July

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

Karl Hanks on 18th June aged 65

Betty Tustin on 24th June aged 94

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.

Little Pebbles

For babies, pre schoolers and their carers, is taking a break over the summer and will re-start on Tue 2nd September.

*Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.30 in the Cottages during term time.
Please contact the Parish Office for details.*

Lara Skinner, who has been leading Little Pebbles for a number of years, has stepped down. Thank you, Lara, for doing such a wonderful job, we will miss you. News of Lara's successor will be made in due course.

Leckhampton Village Hall.

The Leckhampton Village Hall Community Cafe will be open on **1st August** for a Coffee Morning.

Time 10am to 11.30am,

Price: £5.00 to include a drink and a top-up, a cake, a raffle ticket and a contribution to the Village Hall Funds.

Come along and enjoy a chat with friends and neighbours. All welcome.

Dates for future coffee mornings are

5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.

Janice Keen

Community Café

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

Eco News

ECO and Conservation Survey

The results of our survey so far reveal that individual members of the congregation already engage with a variety of Environmental and Conservation charities. Most engagement is as a member or donor to a specific charity. Where people volunteered in some capacity for their chosen charity, it was for a local charity. And it was for local charities that others considered possibly volunteering in the future.

The local charity supported by most respondents is Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, closely followed by the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust (Slimbridge). But a couple of other local charities were mentioned, that others might consider working for: Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common (FOLK). For practical action FOLK are involved in maintaining local footpaths, or you could join Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

Nationally, the National Trust and RSPB are favourites, The Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Butterfly Conservation Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society are also mentioned.

World Wildlife Fund and Water Aid feature most in the international category. Others are Practical Action, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Unicef, which you may have heard of. In this category, there was a list of global environmental charities some of which I personally had not heard or thought of, which you might like to consider supporting: Blue Marine Foundation, Client Earth, Cool Earth Action, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, The Climate Change Organisation, The Climate Movement, Climate Stewards, Green Alliance, Rainforest Foundation, World Land Trust. Perhaps we as a church might like to think about choosing one of these to focus on and raise funds for in the coming year?

The survey threw up a few suggestions of projects that we as a church might become involved with. The Eco-Group has already encouraged us to participate in the Butterfly Conservation Trust's Big Count and we are liaising with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust about possible joint projects. On the international front, it has been suggested that: we might join WaterAid's 'End Cholera for Good in Zambia' project.

I hope this has provided food for thought. The point is that many of us in the congregation are already doing our bit for the environment, though we may not think we do. It is not a great big step to do a little more. Let the Eco-Group know if you have any further suggestions or would like to become involved in a practical way in any forthcoming local environmental or conservation projects.

Jennie Hawdon

Big Butterfly Count

Fri 18th July till Sun 10th Aug

Organised by the Butterfly Conservation Trust – just watch for butterflies over a fifteen minute period in your own garden or in the churchyard and send in your observations. To find out how to join in go to butterfly-conservation.org



Last month's cover picture.

With several people asking about the butterfly on the cover of the July magazine I realise that I should have included an explanatory note.

I am always hunting around for a suitable illustration for the front cover and this butterfly obliged by landing on my window sill. It appears to be a variation of a Tiger butterfly.

Churchyard Survey carried out by Ben Gilchrist

You may remember that a few years ago Ben produced a very comprehensive survey of the flora in the churchyard. Here is his update:

Exciting things are happening in the world of My Plant Survey™ i.e. I've decided to begin a *grasses* column, which could be useful to see the changing structure of our grassland as the management techniques change. How thrilling.

So the link to the spreadsheet (with all the other years on as usual) is below, and I attach a PDF which is easier to read.

In terms of a brief summary of this year's survey, I didn't expect a massive increase in species numbers, as we're probably reaching a sort of plateau. Its great to see wilder areas of the churchyard, and the species we have listed really reflect that increased wildness leads to increased biodiversity. And its not just flowers: I'm pleased to say that in the wilder areas our insects are thriving, and I noticed particularly several promising butterfly species, including Common Skippers and many Gatekeeper butterflies, which are great markers of good grassland.

It would be interesting to see the results of different types of management on the land - perhaps adding a third intermediate length of grass between very long and very short: I talked to Sara Storey who came along to do some surveying with me, and she seems interested in taking this further/raising it with the eco committee, so I trust that is in good hands (much better than mine).

Ben Gilchrist

LINK TO THE SPREADSHEET IS HERE: <https://shorturl.at/f1Sy7>

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

Men's Group

This is my usual reminder about the next meeting. It will be on Thursday 7th August at 12:30 pm in the Wheatsheaf as usual.

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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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

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Support our Churches One Step (Or Pedal) at a Time

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) is delighted to announce that Ride+Stride is back for 2025, taking place on the 13th of September.

This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport, all while raising money to support their upkeep. Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and GHCT, which provides grants for vital repair and improvement work.

Ray Singleton, Ride+Stride Co-Ordinator, said

“Ride+Stride is a great way for people to come together, enjoy our local area and support these important buildings so they can continue to serve their communities. It's not just about worship. Many churches host school events, local clubs and charities that rely on the space.

We're already hearing that some fascinating routes are being planned and many churches will be putting on special events for participants to enjoy on the day. In past years, we've seen everything from tower tours and heritage open days to organ recitals and bake sales. There's always something exciting happening along the way.”

In 2024, Ride+Stride raised over £36,000, supporting projects such as roof repairs, fire door replacements and improved wheelchair access. If you'd like to get involved this year, whether by taking part in the Ride+Stride itself or by putting on an event at your church, further information can be found at: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Jess Simmons

(As you will be aware the PCC is unable to endorse any particular event, but I can tell you, as a matter of fact, that GHCT supported St Peter's with a grant towards the cost of the surround for the Giffard Monument.)

DRW Churchwarden and editor

'Notes from the Director of Music' Late entry

Because of holidays there will be no notes from Kit this month, but the choir sang at the cathedral for evensong on Saturday 26th July. A wonderful experience for all. The choir will be taking a well-deserved break during August.



Limited space and quality in the printed version so more pictures at the end of the online magazine.



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