

July

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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Gary writes.....

Retaliation

It seems like we're living in a world full of retaliation; tariffs, insults, and even bombs being exchanged until some unknown threshold, or tipping point, is reached, or worse, people begin to lose their lives.

Is there a difference between retaliation and revenge? While retaliation and revenge both involve responding to harm with harm, they differ in their motivations and implications. Retaliation is a more general term for a tit-for-tat response, often immediate and focused on restoring a sense of balance or fairness. Revenge, on the other hand, is often fuelled by stronger, more negative, emotions like hatred or a desire to inflict suffering on the perceived wrongdoer, with a greater emphasis on the emotional satisfaction derived from doing it. We are seeing both of these things being played out on the world stage right now; and there is a fine line between whether what we're witnessing is one or the other.

This is an ugly and dark part of our fractured humanity. It has always been thus, though.

What does the Jesus say about these things?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that we should love our enemies rather than seeking revenge (Matt 5.43-48). However, when wronged, our first reaction is (often) to get even. Instead, Jesus said that we should love and forgive.

This sort of statement would have been deeply offensive to those listening at the time. Any Messiah who would turn the 'other cheek' was not the military leader they wanted to lead them against the occupying Romans!

But Jesus suggested a new 'radical' response to injustice. By telling us not to retaliate or seek revenge, Jesus keeps us from taking the law (or even others' lives) into our own hands. By loving and praying for our enemies, we can overcome evil with good, and not remove any more stars from an already darkened sky.

When confronted with the powers of this world (reference to current events) though, this is not easy teaching to follow. But, you cannot overcome hatred with hatred as that just leads to more hatred. Only ways of love and peace can make a permanent change.

But, how do we do this when confronted with such obvious aggression and violence?

Perhaps the answer is to always look for ways of light, love and forgiveness first? Maybe there are steps to be taken before we can actively love our neighbours as Jesus says? It doesn't mean being friendly, but it does mean not seeking to harm others; it doesn't mean we have to compromise our values, but it does mean we need look beyond our own biases and prejudices and the see humanity in everyone.

It starts with (very) small steps towards peace; of dialogue; of two sides meeting somewhere in the middle; of accepting great damage has been done, and that no more damage is needed. This requires a certain sacrifice from both sides, but by doing so, we can live out Jesus' command to love our neighbours, and perhaps (just perhaps) stop really hurting one another.

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 July

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 July

Date	Day	Readings
6 th	PETERTIDE	Acts 12.1–11 1 Peter 2.19–end Matthew 16.13–19
13 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Amos 7.7–end Colossians 1.1–14 Luke 10.25–37
20 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Amos 8.1–12 Colossians 1.15–28 Luke 10.38–end
27 th	SIXTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Hosea 1.2–10 Colossians 2.6–15 [16–19] Luke 11.1–13

PETERTIDE PICNIC

Sunday 6th July at 12 noon There will be a celebratory picnic in the Cottages garden. Bring your own picnic – Strawberries and cream will be provided.

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:

Albert Louis Rhys Pierce & Tabitha Seren Lottie Pierce on 1st June

Kai Jia Gan & Xin You Gan on 8th June

Oscar Joseph Slee Evans on 8th June

Conner Coleman & Katie Coleman on 17th June

Arrietty Janet Constance Hughes on 22nd June

Darcey Olivia Marlow on 29th June

We congratulate those who were recently married

Sarah Kathryn Robinson and David Karl Hanks on 28th May

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

Anthony Stephenson died on 3rd May aged 92

David Geraint Evans died on 18th May aged 86

Rosemary Ann Woodham on 4th June aged 75

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'



A slightly shorter entry from me this month - partly as I am going to be away for a couple of weeks with the family. This is unusual for us to go away in July, but as Molly has finished her GCSEs and Emma and I stop College term at the end of June, we are using the opportunity to get away a little sooner than other schools are able to do! I am very grateful to both James Leitch and Laurence Jemmetta for playing/conducting for the services whilst I am away. We are very lucky to have such accomplished musicians amongst us - so much so, that I suspect I won't be missed at all!

We have not one, but two evensongs in July! The first is the patronal festival on Sunday 6th July. This will feature an introit written by me (!) for a different St. Peter's Church some years ago (called 'Thou art Peter', and using the hymn tune 'St. Peter'), as well as the Radcliffe Responses, Wood in D Canticles and the dramatic 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' by Haydn as the anthem. We will repeat much of this repertoire (with a different introit and psalm) at Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 26th July at 4.30pm. Do join us for these if you can.

We have lots of lovely music for the choir to sing during July - including anthems by Vaughan Williams, Wesley, Handel and Chilcott. A reminder that our music lists are always to be found on the church website should you wish to know what is coming up.

As the academic/singing year comes to a close and the choir has August 'off' - I would like to extend my thanks to every member of the choir for all that they do and the time they give. They bring great glory to God, and we are lucky to have them. Also, to our extra singers/musicians who come to join us and add to our worship - it really feels as if we have something very special going at the moment with the music at St. Peter's. However, the work is never done! And we need to finally get round to fixing the organ (from the water damage from last autumn....) at some point once the insurance comes through, and we need to continually welcome new singers into our midst (young and old!). If you know anyone interested, please point them in my direction. Finally, my thanks to all of you - the faithful congregation at St. Peter's. Your support is hugely appreciated and valued, and most certainly not taken for granted! Thank you.

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



Team Confirmation Service held at St Peter's on Sunday 22nd June

(Some faces are blanked as we do not have permission to show them.)

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 Skill coordinator

Men's Group

This is my usual reminder about the next Men's Group Meeting.
It will be on **Thursday 3rd July, at 7:30 pm in the Wheatsheaf.**

Richard Kerr-Wilson and Andrew Piggott have suggested that part of this meeting should be devoted to a chat about a "serious subject" to see if this appeals to members. It has been proposed that we discuss the role of the church in politics, whether it has one, what should it be etc. We will of course have our usual informal chatting afterwards.

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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SUMMER FAYRE

St. Christopher's, Warden Hill
Do come along on Sat 19th July from 11am until 2pm.
More info here: <https://www.stchriswh.org.uk/events>

Community Café

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

Leckhampton Village Hall.

The Leckhampton Village Hall Community Cafe will be open on 4th July 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

1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.

Janice Keen

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.) editor



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The Messenger, July 2025

RECOGNISE: A time to celebrate Children, Youth and Families Ministry
RECOGNISE, from 7 to 13 July, is a week-long celebration of the work of those in Children, Youth and Families Ministry.

RECOGNISE brings to the forefront people like Joshua Robertson, who serves as the Children, Youth, and Families Minister at St Mary's Church in Newent.

"I first got into youth ministry for the volunteering element of my Duke of Edinburgh Award," he said. "A curate needed help with a youth Alpha course, and I needed to volunteer. So, I joined in – and I fell in love with it. Talking with young people, engaging with families, helping them find a voice in the church – that's when I knew this was my calling."

As a Children, Youth and Families Minister, Josh's role is to help children, young people and their families grow in faith.

He said: "The most rewarding part of my role is seeing the lights go on in a young person's eyes when faith becomes personal. It's that moment when they say, 'Oh, I get it now,' and it's theirs. That personal connection with Jesus is what it's all about.

"The biggest shock is realising how many young people don't even know who Jesus is, right here, on our doorstep. It drives me to make church accessible, relevant, and welcoming.

"I hope more churches will invest in youth ministry, not just paid roles, but someone championing this work in every parish.

"We need our voices heard nationally. Youth and Families Ministry is vital." Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester, said: "I'm super excited that we get to RECOGNISE the hours of work and dedication given by those in ministry to children, youth and families across our churches.

"Investing in people and programmes that inspire young people often happens around the edges of church, and this week of celebration will bring it to the front and centre. We encourage everyone to get involved."

RECOGNISE is a time to show gratitude to those who work hard to help to guide the faith journey of the next generation.

On 13 July, churches nationwide are asked to make space in their usual Sunday service to 'recognise' the children and young people who serve and contribute to CYPF Ministry.

Share your appreciation online using #RECOGNISE to help amplify the message across the Church and beyond.

For more information about the 30k project, visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/30kproject>.

Cubs in the Cathedral, Lions at Large!

This summer, from 11 to 14 September, a pride of decorated lion cubs will be hiding around Gloucester Cathedral – as well as 32 large lion sculptures dotted around Gloucester and Cheltenham.

Stop off at Gloucester Cathedral along the way to find the hidden cubs, each created by local schools and community groups. You might spot a lion outside the Cathedral too.

The trail is in support of the Big Space Cancer Appeal, which is raising money for new cancer care facilities in Cheltenham.

It is free and no booking is required. After the trail ends, the lions will reunite for a weekend at the Cheltenham Racecourse, before being auctioned off to bidders.

For more information, visit <https://lionsatlarge.co.uk>

Bishop Rachel's youth survey

Bishop Rachel has launched a short, anonymous online survey for young people in Gloucestershire aged 13-18 about their views of the criminal justice system.

She wants to hear what young people think about what prison is for and what would make society a better place.

If you have someone between 13 and 18 years-old at home or are involved in youth groups, please ask them to your young people in the survey:

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/voices-of-youth>

Events and training

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

Library tour and tea package, Gloucester Cathedral, **8 July, 2pm**, A rare opportunity to go on a library tour, followed by a choice of savoury or cream tea

in the Monk's Kitchen with fellow library visitors and the tour guide.
<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/library-tour-and-tea-package-3>

The People's Show Choir Summer Extravaganza, St Philip and St James Leckhampton, Grafton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2DD, **17 July**, Join The People's Show Choir for an evening of exciting music from the world of pop, stage and screen. <https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/7xaeiz43>
Archaeologist for a day – Gloucester Festival of Archaeology 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, **26 July**, A miniature archaeological 'dig' for families, outside the Cathedral. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/archaeologist-for-a-day-family-activities-gloucester-festival-of-archaeology-2025>

Cathedral Stonecarving Festival, Gloucester Cathedral, 23 to 25 August
Celebrate craftsmanship and heritage at Gloucester Cathedral's Stonecarving Festival this August bank holiday, with live demonstrations, hands-on activities, and a poignant theme of "peace and remembrance" marking 80 years since VE Day.
<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/cathedral-stonecarving-festival>

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