

October

2025



50p

# St Peter's

Leckhampton Parish Church  
Parish Magazine



[www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org)

[parishofficeleckhampton@btinternet.com](mailto: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 by Revd Canon Gary Grady*



## Gary writes.....

### Creationtide

Over the past month, churches across the world have been marking the Season of Creationtide. Did you know that the ancient Christian calendar began, not at Advent but, at the start of September? This puts the gospel message in a rather different context, opening with stories of the 'beginning of life' before moving on to the narratives of incarnation and salvation.

We have been thinking about our beautiful 'Eden', our *Gaia*, or Mother Earth, which is a home for all. One of the Greek words for home is 'oikos' (pronounced e-kos), which also means 'family' or 'belonging', and is the root of words that start with 'eco', such as ecology and economics.

The Church of England's website says: '*The last year has been a wake-up call to the need to restore our relationships with God, creation and each other.*'

The extraordinary floods around the world, including in Europe, record-breaking temperatures and fires, including in Yorkshire, are just a couple of examples. We 'know' that the planet is in trouble, and that most of that has been caused by humans.

Pope Francis previously wrote that 'when we hurt the earth, we hurt the poor', so if we are following the fundamental Christian teaching of 'helping those less fortunate than ourselves', looking after the earth is of paramount importance. As Western Christians we can too easily ignore the impact of climate change, or fail to understand the impact of environmental damage, on our brothers and sisters around the world. As we continue to consume here in the UK, our lifestyles *are* having a negative effect on our neighbours in the poorer parts of the world.

God has shaped the planet through the processes of physics, chemistry, magnetism, gravity, electricity and biological progression. Evolution demonstrates the ongoing nature of existence. We are growing in a '*creatio continua*', that is the continuous, ongoing act of creation by God to sustain and develop the universe, rather than it being a single, completed event in the distant past, and we are 'special creatures' living on a special world, in which all is connected in a web of intricate relationships which are seen to be sacred.

This Earth, this *Gaia*, is also the place of divine revelation. The Spirit gives life through the physicality of the material world, and we are formed in God's image so that we might know and meet 'the Holy'.

So, what can we do? I have five suggestions, which are neither new nor unique:

**1. Energy** – We need to urgently invest 'out' of fossil fuels and much more radically 'in' to low or zero carbon renewable; our choices in this matter.

**2. Transport** – We need to re-think and challenge our travel patterns and reduce and off-set, where possible, our reliance on petrol and diesel.

**3. Resources & Food** – Resourcing our communities from much closer to home, and not importing over huge distances, is almost too obvious! Locally grown food generally uses less energy and produces less carbon.

**4. Regeneration** – Eco-systems don't only need protection, they also need regeneration. We need to replant and re-wild, replenish rainforests, coral reefs and top soils. What can you do in your homes/gardens to enable that also?

**5. Revaluing** – Is there a way that we can 're-value' ourselves so that we might live better with less? Simplicity of lifestyle is a vocation for some but valuable (also) for many others. It involves reassessing the relentless accumulation of 'stuff' in our materialistic, profit driven, society which simply won't enable us to find or define our true selves.

Ultimately, we are judged by how 'we love' and 'are loved' but if excess prevents us from becoming who we *might* be, it surely has to be challenged and changed?

I hope this article gives you something to ponder and pray about as we enter more fully into this beautiful autumn season.

*Rev'd Gary.*

## Live Stream Services for October

We will be live streaming the 10am service from St. Peter's most weeks. This can be accessed via [www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org) or [www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton)

### Readings for October

Date	Day	Readings
5 <sup>th</sup>	HARVEST SUNDAY	Deuteronomy 26.1–11 Philippians 4.4–9 John 6.25–35
12 <sup>th</sup>	TRINITY 17	2 Kings 5.1–3, 7–15c 2 Timothy 2.8–15 Luke 17.11–19
19 <sup>th</sup>	ST LUKE	Isaiah 35.3–6 2 Timothy 4.5–17 Luke 10.1–9
26 <sup>th</sup>	BIBLE SUNDAY	Jeremiah 14.7–10, 19–end 2 Timothy 4.6–8, 16–18 Luke 18.9–14

### 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](mailto:sally.marlow@softcopy.co.uk).

## *From the Parish Registers*

### *We congratulate those who were recently baptised:*

Charles Hale on 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Isaac Ben Heard on 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Blake Ivy Fiander on 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Cora Rose Fiander on 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Rowan Arthur Fiander on 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Isla Isaacs on 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Jack Isaacs on 28<sup>th</sup> September

### *We congratulate those who were recently married*

Ben Boazman and Colleen Murphy on 26<sup>th</sup> September

[AtaLoss.org](http://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](http://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’

What a fantastically varied month of music we have for you in October! We start with two very different services. For the family communion service in the morning celebrating Harvest, our newly augmented front row of children choristers will perform a piece on their own (without the adult singers) called ‘Earth, sea and sky’ by Joanna Marsh. In the evening, we have our special Harvest Evensong which will feature some fantastic music - including the mighty ‘St. Paul’s Service’ (magnificat and nunc dimittis) by Herbert Howells. It is the most wonderful, powerful setting of the liturgical text. We are also singing the sublime ‘Greater Love’ by John Ireland - a lovely work, with beautiful words set perfectly to music by the composer.



It is from Monday 6th October that the organ is finally being repaired following last year’s water damage. We are expecting it to be out of action for at least 3x weeks. During that time, I have asked some colleagues and friends to come and play brass instruments during our 10am communion service alongside the piano just to give a fuller ‘lead’ to the congregational items. I am grateful to them for giving up three Sundays to come and play with us, and I’m sure you will enjoy the musical offering for those services despite it feeling/sounding a little different! Clearly, there will be no organ voluntaries for those Sundays, but I have arranged three well known items for the brass group to play at the end instead - including Clarke’s ‘Trumpet Voluntary’ and the Charpentier ‘Te Deum’.

The anthems during the rest of the month are by three fantastic English composers - Stanford, Harris and Wood. All very different in nature, but the Harris in particular is wonderful. It was written for the feast of St. Luke (which we are celebrating that morning), and includes words from scripture about ‘medicines from the earth’ (St. Luke being a healer). The music has moments of tenderness as well as great power throughout, and I’m sure the choir will enjoy learning as much as I hope you enjoy listening to it!

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

## Community Café

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

### GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

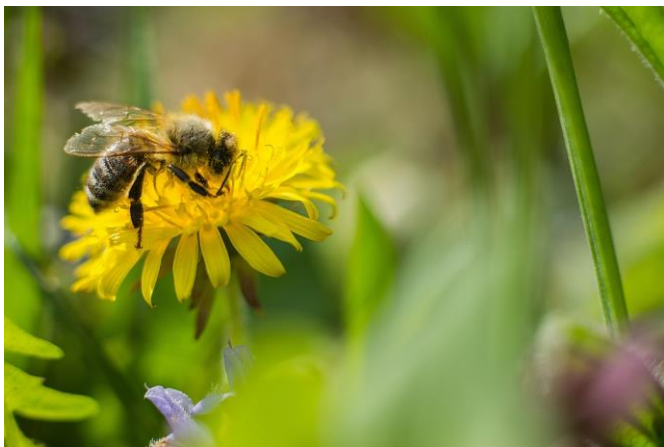
As I am sure you are all aware, there has been a rapid decline in biodiversity over the last century and into this one. There is much depressing information about this, readily available on the internet. It is easy to feel helpless in the face of such destruction. However, we can help to support wildlife locally, in particular bees and insects, who act as pollinators for food crops and help to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Our church has already helped to increase plant species through wilding parts of the graveyard (see the results of the churchyard surveys on St Peter's website). As a result, the number of insects and bees who are able to pollinate the flowers has increased.

During the summer, we had a visit to the churchyard from a member of staff from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. She was very positive about what has been done to encourage plants and wildlife and has agreed to come and talk about what we can do in our own gardens to create a 'Nature Reserve'. Her vision is to create a 'Nature Reserve' corridor in South Cheltenham. Her talk will be followed by a short presentation by the Gloucestershire Bee Keepers Association. It will take place at **St. Philip and St James church on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30**. Admission FREE! We are co-hosting this event with P and J's Eco group (see poster).

I would urge you all to come to this event, which will be an informative evening, but also fun, with refreshments, stalls of local products, giveaway plants and information about local initiatives.

*Joey Kerr-Wilson*



The eco groups of Pip and Jim's and St Peter's Leckhampton  
invite you to a



# WILDLIFE GARDENING EVENT

**WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER AT 7.30 P.M.**

**ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES CHURCH,  
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**ADMISSION FREE – CHEESE AND WINE £2.50**

**Create a nature reserve in our part of Cheltenham!**

**Speakers from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and  
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wildlife initiatives with displays and stalls, free insect  
friendly plants**

**Supported by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Gloucestershire Beekeepers' Association  
and SPJARA**

## Little Pebbles

*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.. Welcome to Amie Lidbetter, who has been appointed as new leader.*

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## Leckhampton Village Hall.

The Leckhampton Village Hall Community Cafe will be open on **3<sup>rd</sup> October** 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  
**7th November and 5th December.**

*Janice Keen*

## 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



## **Leckhampton Local History Society**

### **Programme 2025-26**

Meetings are usually held in St. Peter's Church on the last Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Admission is free for members and under-18s, £3 for visitors. For more information about the Society visit [www.llhs.org.uk](http://www.llhs.org.uk) or email [leckhamptonlhs@gmail.com](mailto:leckhamptonlhs@gmail.com)

#### **Tuesday 30th September 2025**

'The Industrial Heritage of the Cotswolds' - Ray Wilson

#### **Tuesday 28th October 2025**

'Mr Jenkins's Antediluvian Repository, and other curiosities of 1850s Leckhampton and Cheltenham.' - Christine Whittemore

#### **Tuesday 25th November 2025**

'What the visitors thought: a light-hearted look at Cheltenham since the 1700s' - Steven Blake

**December event** - to be confirmed

#### **Tuesday 27th January 2026**

'The Arts and Crafts Movement in Cotswold Churches' - Kirsty Hartsiotis

#### **24th February 2026**

Research and Display Evening

#### **Tuesday 31st March 2026**

'Tolkien and the Cotswolds - the shaping of Middle Earth' - Andy Meller

#### **Tuesday 28th April 2026**

'A walk down memory lane via steam, tram & horse' - Ian Boskett

#### **Tuesday 26th May 2026 – AGM**

## Men's Group

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
At The Wheatsheaf 7.30pm

*John Laurence,*      [john.laurence.chelt@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:abbie@cnc.church)  
m: 07708540732

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# FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2025

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

**Friday 24 October**  
**Friday 28 November**

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!

# The Diocesan Messenger

**The Messenger, October 2025**

## **Meeting Jesus online**

**For many people, gaming is a space for competition, creativity, and connection. For the Revd Jay Niblett, Rector of Rivervale Churches, he also sees gaming as a platform to explore faith and meet Jesus.**

Jay runs a gaming portal, Eden Forge, with business partner Josiah Holloway. Eden Forge offers individually crafted Sunday School sessions for children aged 7-12, which are run virtually and in person at local churches. It provides a Minecraft Online Club open to young people across the world, and it also offers teaching for young people and their parents or guardians as they start to learn the basics of Minecraft.

Jay said: "Gaming is a powerful platform for building relationships and discussion. For children, particularly children who maybe aren't connected to churches or places where it's a bit more rural, they can connect with other young people in the online world and use Minecraft to learn about the Bible and faith."

In the summer, Jay ran a free, two-day holiday gaming club in Meon Vale, introducing children and young people to popular games like FIFA and Mario Kart.

They also entered a custom-built Minecraft world, where meeting Jesus was key to the success of the mission.

Jay said: "They entered the cave as a team, encountering dangerous creatures and obstacles. The world was designed to be challenging, so teamwork was essential. Then Jesus arrived in the game, who intervened to help them succeed. It illustrated the idea that God gives us what we need when we need it in life."

Eden Forge was born out of lockdown, when Jay began exploring how games could support safe conversations. During this time, he encountered *Land of Promise*, a Singapore-based initiative creating biblical storylines within Minecraft. After testing one of their virtual worlds with his own children – walking through a desert while experiencing the story of Moses – Jay recognised the potential of gaming to provide new opportunities for exploring faith.

“You could use Eden Forge to go through a six or seven-week course, but through gaming,” Jay said. “The average age for a gamer is 30 years old – many adults are gaming, why not meet them there? It seems like now’s the time to find any angle where we can connect and see people and become the Church of the future for the next generation. Gaming can help do that.”

Longer term, Jay’s vision is to start regular online gatherings for young people, and occasional events for adults. These would encourage discipleship and fellowship and eventually would evolve into structured resources for churches to run short faith courses within a game.

Find out more at [edenforge.gg](http://edenforge.gg).

### **A life of prayer: The diocesan prayer companion**

The diocesan prayer calendar has been relaunched this autumn under the new name, the Diocesan Prayer Companion. This prayer scheme aims to support people in praying for the people, places and projects of this diocese and beyond.

Each Sunday contains a collect and a prayer focus for the week to come, looking at different areas of the Life vision. There are daily prayer prompts to encourage prayer for benefices, schools, the diocese and beyond, uploaded quarterly to the diocesan website.

### ***Prayer is integral to our relationship with God and our growing in faith as followers of Christ.***

Bishop Rachel said: “If we want a relationship with someone to deepen and grow, we need to spend time with that person. It can be no surprise that the same is true between us and God.”

You can download the Prayer Companion from <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/your-prayer/calendar-of-intercessions/>

If you’d like to try praying, or reignite your prayer life visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/your-prayer/> for more resources and support.

### **Events and training**

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

**Impact weekend 2025, St Andrew's Church, Churchdown, GL3 2JT, 10 to 12 October**

A weekend of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun, including a quiz night, a hog roast, and kids and youth events.

<https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/i1lc2qhb>

**A Blackbird Sang – a festival of words and music, St Mary the Virgin Church, 10 to 12 October. An upcoming weekend of music, poetry and worship at St Mary's Church, Dymock, inspired by the Dymock poets.**

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-blackbird-sang-a-festival-of-words-and-music/>

**Museum of the moon, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL50 5RZ, 16 October to 4 November.** A lunar installation by Luke Jerram, illuminating the Abbey with light, sound and wonder.

<https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/themoon/>

**Poppy Fields by Luxmuralis, Gloucester Cathedral Nave, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX, 17 to 25 October**

An immersive Luxumarlis installation, combining projections, poetry readings by Eddie Redmayne, and opportunities to support the Royal British Legion.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/popy-fields-by-luxmuralis>



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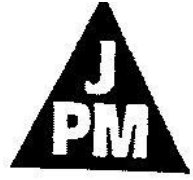
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