

September

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

Leckhampton Parish Church

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Gary writes.....

New Beginnings

September is a time of change; farmers are gathering in the harvest, birds are preparing to fly south, and squirrels are busily gathering in their winter stores.

It is also the time when children and young people go back to school. Some will start a new school, some a new class, most will have a new teacher, and all will have the opportunity to make new friends, perhaps even friends for life.

Parents and grandparents will start new rhythms, getting them to and from school, and some of us will start new jobs, find new hobbies, or maybe even retire!

These 'new beginnings' are wonderful moments in time for us to celebrate life in all its fullness, to commit ourselves anew to God, and to ask him to walk along side us as we journey onwards.

New beginnings can, however, be scary and, sometimes, we might want to return to familiar and seemingly safe places. It's normal, therefore, to be a bit nervous, but we could miss out on something new and life giving as a result.

In the Bible, we hear how Jesus is the 'Good Shepherd' (John 10.11) and that we are 'one flock'. As the flock come to know the voice and love of Jesus (which is also the voice and love of God) they come to know that they don't need to look elsewhere when things change, because God is trustworthy in providing for our basic needs.

I hope this September might be a time of new beginnings for you and that you can put your trust in God as you journey onwards.

Revd Gary.

Live Stream Services for September

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 September

Date	Day	Readings
7 th	NEW BEGINNINGS	Numbers 13.27–14.4 Revelation 21.1-7 John 10.11-17
14 th	CLIMATE SUNDAY	Psalm 65.9-13 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-21
21 st	14TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	Jeremiah 8.18—9.1 1 Timothy 2.1–7 Luke 16.1–13
28 th	ST MICHAEL	Genesis 28.10–17 Revelation 12.7–12 John 1.47–end

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:

Flora Anne Kate Plowman on 17th August

We congratulate those who were recently married

Isaak Falzon and Bethan Rabjohns on 16th August

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

Mary Whittle on 20th July aged 92

Wendy Ann Hibberd on 28th July aged 76

Valerie Stead on 28th July aged 88

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'

September brings about the return of our choral services to St. Peter's after the summer break. The summer affords me the opportunity to plan the services all the



way to Christmas, to order or prepare any music we need, to catch up with any admin that needs doing, and just generally make sure we can 'hit the ground running' when September comes round! You will no doubt hear from other quarters that the organ is finally going to be repaired following the torrential rain that got into the church (and organ) last autumn. Insurance takes a long time to sort/agree! However, we're delighted that Nicholson's (organ builders who look after our organ at St. Peter's) are going to be carrying out the work, and this will be during October. More about that in due course - but we will be without the organ for a few weeks whilst it is repaired. I have some brass players coming in (as per our Christmas Carol service) to play alongside the electric piano to give the services a stronger (but different!) musical lead - so it will be a little different, but the choir will be there as usual, and we will all appreciate the organ when it is back up and running all the more as a result!

So, to September and the music planned for these services. We have some lovely anthems for you this month. The first - Rutter's 'I will sing with the spirit' - is a typically beautiful, lyrical piece by the composer which sets the words of the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) motto. *Psallam spiritu et mente* (I will sing with the spirit and the understanding also) - which very much sums up our wonderful choir at St. Peter's! On the second Sunday, we will sing Benjamin Britten's 'Jubilate in C' (O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands). Britten has a unique style, and this relatively short piece is - as you'd expect from the words being set - full of sections of joy and verve, interspersed with sudden, quiet, almost 'hushed' passages. It certainly keeps you on your toes both as singers and listeners! The third Sunday will see the choir perform Edward Bairstow's 'Save us O Lord'. This is a wonderfully romantic piece in its harmony and setting of the words. It is a petition for the Lord's care and protection for us waking or sleeping, and it is great to be performing something by this stalwart of the English Choral tradition. The final Sunday in September features a fantastic 'verse' anthem by the Baroque composer John Blow called 'I beheld, and lo, a great multitude'. This alternates between solo and 'verse' passages for a few voices with instrumental sections and sections with the choir. This is a very jolly setting of words from Revelation suitable for a variety of Saints, and that is why it is scheduled for the Sunday for St. Michael.

The organ voluntaries will mostly be more unfamiliar this month, with the exception of Karg-Elert's very famous chorale prelude on 'Nun Danket Alle Gott' (Now thank we all our God) on the third Sunday. The first Sunday features a triumphant piece by the French composer Cesar Franck, entitled 'Grand Choeur in C'. This is, essentially, a joyful march, and deserves to be better known from his output. The second Sunday will feature a voluntary based on the melody of the final hymn in the service (All creatures of our God and King) - a 'postlude on Laast uns erfreuden' by Faulkes. The final Sunday sees a rare composition for the organ by Anton Bruckner being performed. He only composed a few items for the organ, and this will be his 'Prelude and Fugue in Dm'.

It's wonderful to be back. There is some fantastic music planned for the coming months between September and December which I look forward to sharing with you in due course. Early dates for your diaries for special services will be our Choral Evensong at Harvest on Sunday 5th October at 6pm (featuring music by Ireland and Howells), our service at Remembrance (featuring music by Purcell, Finzi, Tavener and Whitacre) on Sunday 9th November at 6pm, and our Advent Carol Service on Sunday 30th November at 6pm. Lots to look forward to and we hope to see you there!

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

Organ Repairs

Following on from Kit's Notes..

Many of you will have been aware that there has been a problem with the church organ, which was caused by water ingress during Storm Boris last September, which completely overwhelmed the gullies. You may not have noticed anything from the sound because Kit has been able to avoid using any of the affected components and not use the organ to its full potential. This has been subject to a long drawn-out insurance claim. Not because the insurance company were holding back, but because it required inspections from various people – the architect, the organ manufacturers, two separate loss adjustors, two separate (and eminent) organists, a structural engineer, two roofing contractors, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Archdeacon. Ecclesiastical Insurance have now approved the repairs, so we have now signed the contract with Nicholson Organs for the work, which will begin on Monday 6th October. It should take 3 weeks to a month, unless any unexpected

repairs are needed, in which case they will have to be referred back to the insurance company, hopefully for approval, and this will mean that the organ will be out of action for longer.

Although the insurance will cover much of the cost there will still be a cost to St Peter's. The organ was last refurbished about 25 years ago so there will inevitably be items of normal wear and tear.

Any roof leaks have been rectified, though with a building of this age there is always something that needs attention.

We look forward to the repairs being completed with the organ back to its former glory.

David Webber Churchwarden

Leckhampton (and Friends) trip to Dorset – July 2025

This year we visited Dorset (centred around Dorchester) for our annual ringing trip and were blessed with great weather and beautiful countryside. We started on Wednesday afternoon with two lovely six bell towers: St Peter's Shaftsbury, situated at the top of Gold Hill (remember the Hovis advert!), followed by Motcombe.

Thursday was based around Dorchester, ringing at Cattistock, Bradford Peverel, Charminster, Dorchester and Fordington. The evening meal at The Brewers Arms, Burnside was excellent, and the staff were very helpful when one of our ringers arrived rather late (they kept his meal warm and even cooked him a fresh batch of chips). The delay was due to a Satnav gremlin sending him way off course, rather than human error!

On Friday we headed west towards Lyme Regis. Our first ring was at Loders - a lovely ring of six in a beautiful countryside setting (the flower borders by the churchyard path were worthy of a country garden), made famous by the bellringing folk song: "And so to Loders we will go, before the air is filled with snow, so swing my dear, and chime my dear, the air is ringing love tonight". Chris was a bit disappointed by the lukewarm reception to her

rendition of this song and would like to point out that amateur singers have their place at Eisteddfod celebrations too! Next, we rang at Bradpole – a local training centre and a fine ring of eight. This was followed by Lyme Regis, where we had open ringing followed by a decent quarter peal of Plain Bob Caters. The only problem was that we had a lock-in (see the write-up below) which delayed our ringing at the next towers - Whitchurch and Askerswell.



Saturday was our final day and arguably included some of the best bells and ringing. We started on the lovely 10 at Wareham. Next was the six at Corfe Castle – the mist/drizzle adding to the atmosphere of the impressive castle ruins. In the afternoon we had general ringing followed by a quarter of Grandsire Caters on the impressive 26cwt 10 at Kingston. Our final tower was the pleasant eight at Swanage, followed by a very good evening meal at The New Inn, West Knighton.

A few of us stayed overnight and joined local bands for service ringing – Reg/Isabel rang at Sturminster Marshall and Barbara/Jon/Stuart rang at Upwey where we received a very warm welcome and were encouraged by the good number of local ringers.

Thanks to Stuart for organising the towers, and to Gilly and Keith for arranging the meals, money and suggestions for accommodation and parking. A great holiday and we look forward to next year's trip.

Group Photo at Wareham (above)

Pat, Reg, Harry, John, Sally, Jon, Chris, Stuart, Graham, Alison, Keith, Gilly, Barbara, Isabel, William, Anna, Steve, Tony, Peter, Philip & Holly.

The lock-in at Lyme Regis

We had just finished our quarter peal and were ready to head off to the next tower. Just one problem – the first ones down the stairs found the bottom door locked. For the next half an hour or so (until we were finally released), those at the bottom of the stairs tried various ways (including the usual credit card!) to see if the door would open whilst those of us still in the ringing room were phoning local ringers as well as some mutterings about which emergency services to contact and an assessment of what food/drink supplies we had! I am ashamed to say that this included sampling some rather fine fudge which was in the tower – maybe for just such an eventuality?

Keith Reading's 'view from the outside' We arrived back at the church as the quarter peal was ending, following some fine ice cream and a paddle in the sea. Soon, we heard banging from behind the door and were told that the door was locked. We passed a tool under the door, but the lock still refused to move. We tried phoning various local ringing contacts, but without success. Gilly contacted the next tower captain who said he would expect us later and would try to contact someone from the Lyme Regis tower.

Meanwhile, a lady arrived to lock up the church and she divulged where some keys were kept, but alas these didn't fit the lock. She then asked if we had Betty Wood's phone number, which we didn't. This was rapidly turning into an escape room experience!

After searching the church for clues, I spotted an events board which had Betty's number on it. I called the number, she answered, and after explaining the predicament, she said she would be with us in five minutes. When she arrived, we tried all the keys she had, but without success. She then said there was a bag of keys in the safe – accessing this was tricky due to poor lighting, but once opened we found a bag containing around 50 keys! We inspected these systematically and soon spotted a bunch labelled 'Tower inside and out'. I assumed that the outside tower door lock was faulty so tried the three mortise keys, unlocking the door on the second attempt, much to the relief of the captives!

I checked the lock and found it to be a dead lock latch which had been turned twice, preventing it being opened without a key.

After all the excitement, dinner at the Coach House Inn in Winterbourne Abbas was very good, and we recommend this pub if you are ever in the area.

Stuart Tomlinson and Chris Hickey



Ringling in Dorchester Church

Bob, Graham, John, Pat (twice!), Jon, Tony, Stuart, Malcolm, Harry, Jacob, Barbara, Reg, Isabel, Chris, Alison, Gilly

Community Café

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

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.

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Leckhampton Village Hall.

The Leckhampton Village Hall Community Cafe will be open on **5th September** 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
3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.

Janice Keen

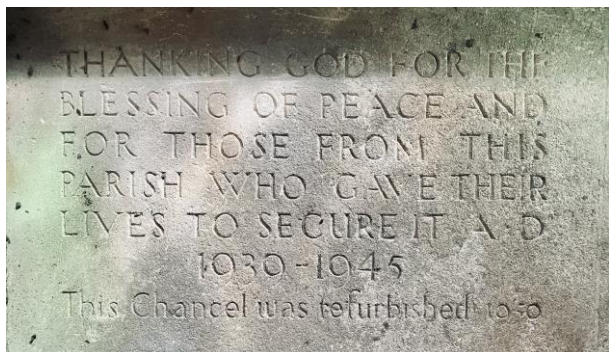
Rev Eric Cordingly and his memorial in Norwich Cathedral

Having commemorated the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August, we remember one of St Peter's former Rectors. The Rev Eric Cordingly was Rector of Leckhampton from 1941 to 1954 but, from 1942 until the end of the War, he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese in Changi, Singapore and in 1943-4 on the Burma-Thailand Railway.



After his return to Leckhampton, Eric Cordingly oversaw the re-ordering of the Chancel in St Peter's as a memorial to the fallen of the Second World War. The Chancel was dedicated on St. George's Day 1950. An engraved flagstone near the chancel altar marks the memorial. (pic below)

In 2013, his family published a collection of diaries that he had kept while held as a PoW, under the title *Down to Bedrock*. More information is available on the Changi Cross website. <https://thechangiacross.co.uk/books>



After leaving Leckhampton, he continued his ministry in the East of England and was consecrated as Bishop of Thetford in 1963. The photograph (top)

shows a memorial tablet where his ashes and those of his wife are interred, by the altar of the Jesus Chapel in Norwich Cathedral. The words round the plaque are the final verse of W H Auden's poem *In Memory of W. B. Yeats*:

*In the deserts of the heart
Let the healing fountain start,
In the prison of his days
Teach the free man how to praise.*

Anne Gale

A version of this article appears in the Summer LLHS Smoke Signal newsletter

Eco News



July's cover picture.

What I thought was a Tiger Butterfly is actually a Jersey Tiger Moth.

They are apparently quite rare but a number have been sighted locally in recent weeks.

Daisybank

A local group is raising awareness (and funds) to save a rare calcareous chalk-land field from an uncertain future. See website for more info:
<https://www.daisybank.org.uk/>

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

Thursday 4th September 7.30pm 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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Pet Blessing Service

Sunday 28th September St Stephen's, Tivoli

2pm

All pets and people welcome.

For more details see: www.stpetersleck.org/noticeboard/#pets

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

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS 2025

Come and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new

Friday 26 September

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

Meet the Bishop's Advisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

We are delighted to welcome Philippa Donald as the Bishop's Advisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Philippa started learning British Sign Language (BSL) in 2021, and she hopes to use her skills to be a friendly point of contact for anyone seeking to explore the Christian faith or find a church community.

She said: "I'm very excited and honoured to be taking on the role of 'Bishop's Advisor for the deaf and hard of hearing' in the Diocese of Gloucester. It has been one of the desires of my heart for some time, to see our churches and church services becoming more accessible to those with whom we cannot communicate in the traditional way of speaking and being heard.

"British Sign Language has its own alphabet. There is a sign for each letter, but most words have their own sign, and some signs can work for several words.

"The sentence structure in BSL is also different from English, and all elements must work together – including facial expressions, which convey the mood of what you are signing. It can be challenging, but it's very rewarding when someone understands your efforts to communicate.

"The message of God's love and salvation for everyone needs to be able to be proclaimed to all, in a way that they can receive, understand and respond.

"Please pray for me as I begin this exciting new role, that it will enable more people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ for themselves and begin or continue their journey of faith."

There is a video of Philippa introducing herself in BSL. You can watch this by visiting <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/meet-the-bishops-advisor-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>.

Welcoming people into church this month

As schools reopen and daily routines restart after the summer months, September can be a time when people decide to explore new activities or connect with local community groups, including getting involved with church. It's a good time to think about welcome, particularly for new people in an area who might be looking for community and connection.

Robin Riordan, Churchwarden in Tidenham Parish, shares how the churches in Tidenham parish – St Luke's in Tutshill, St Mary and St Peter's in Tidenham, and St Michael and All Angels in Tidenham Chase – welcome people in and aim to make everyone feel included.

"Openness is at the heart of all three churches in the parish. We want anyone who comes in to feel like they are part of the church family. We are always happy to welcome new members and grow.

"We have a welcoming team, alongside sidespeople. There's always someone greeting people as they arrive, and others who continue the welcome inside. When new people come through the door, several people will say hello and chat with them. We try to create a space where everyone feels noticed and at ease.

"We have coffee on offer after some services, to give people a chance to meet and chat. We also run activities in the community that are non-faith based, like coffee mornings, baby and toddler groups, Pilates in the church building, and music evenings. These are ways people can get to know the church without needing to come to a service first.

"We have strong links with our local primary school; the schoolchildren sometimes do assemblies at the church. The families become familiar with us through combined activities like this.

"We make sure to be visible in the community through our website and Facebook page. Being approachable helps people feel comfortable reaching out or dropping in.

"Our goal is that when anyone walks through the doors, whether they come once or regularly, they feel welcome and part of something friendly and supportive."

Ride and Stride is back for 2025

Ride and Stride is back, for 2025, taking place on 13 September. This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport to raise money. Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) which provides grants for vital repair and

improvement work. In 2024, Ride and 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 and Stride itself or by putting on an event at your church, further information can be found at <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part>.

Events and training

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

Readers and lay ministry licensing service 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 13 September

All are invited to this special occasion which celebrates the calling and commitment of those stepping into lay ministry.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/annual-readers-and-licensed-funeral-ministers-2025>

The Choral Pilgrimage 2025, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 13 September

A programme of music spanning six centuries, blending medieval and contemporary works to inspire inner peace.

<https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2025-tewkesbury>

NAFAS national show 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 18 to 20 September

The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will be giving floral displays, tutorials, workshops and speeches.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/nafas-national-show-2025>

A morning of Sustainable Church Flowers, St Mary's Church, Fairford GL7 4AF, 19 September

A morning of Sustainable Church Flowers, including flower arranging demonstrations, a talk about 'Flowers on the Farm', ideas for harvest and winter, and beverages. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-morning-of-sustainable-church-flowers>



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www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/teamwilder

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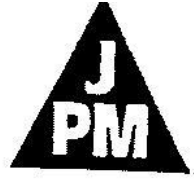
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A Reliable Professional Service to Suit All Your Needs

Please Call Ben Hummel on 07450 092 068

*Whilst pleased to welcome
adverts and grateful for the
support*

*St Peter's PCC cannot offer
endorsement of any specific
advertiser or event.*

*Please contact Sue Marlow
581661 for details.*

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Please give me, Ken a ring to arrange a booking, and subject to prior workload most jobs are done in 48 hrs.

If an item is needed urgently, I keep slots available for a same day service and if the workload allows it can be done whilst you wait.

Unit 15 Space Business Centre, Tewksbury Road (Behind Homebase) Cheltenham GL51 9FL

Call: **07379 422942** Email: ken@kwsharpening.co.uk

Instagram: [@kw_sharpening](https://www.instagram.com/kw_sharpening) Web: www.kwsharpening.co.uk

Gardener and Decorator available

- My name is Mohammad and I am an experienced gardener and decorator
- I am happy to help you with your garden on a regular basis or for occasional work
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- I am often available at short notice
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**Please contact me for an estimate:
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msha1982@gmail.com

STOP PRESS:

The 10.00 service on Sunday 28th September will be taken by Rev Felicity Bayne as it will be the 30th anniversary of her ordination. Many of you will remember when Felicity was Associate Priest at St Peter's so do come along to support her.