

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWS



MARCH 2026

CHURCH VISION

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton exists
to love and worship God,
to serve its neighbours and
to share the love of Jesus Christ.

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.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Welcome to the first edition of the new quarterly newsletter, I hope you like the new format and enjoy the content. I write this just ahead of Holy Week, the week before Easter which begins with Palm Sunday.

The methods of calculating the dates for both Easter and Passover are tied to the first full moon after the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere, which ensures that the festivals are timed to fall around the time that nature is reawakening after winter.

It is a time of rebirth and new life, which accounts for the popularity of Easter chicks and Easter eggs; bulbs are flowering in our gardens and the grass is growing again... and my tortoise has woken up!

Theologically speaking, Easter is a celebration of Jesus' new life following his resurrection. Jesus was raised to life during nature's season of new birth and it's important to note the Resurrection was a form of rebirth. Jesus was not resuscitated to resume his old life only to die again, like Lazarus. When Jesus was raised from the dead he entered into a new relationship with his disciples, one not limited by time or space and one which, following his Ascension into heaven, would last throughout all eternity. At Easter, Jesus was raised to new life.

I wonder whether we sometimes downplay this theme of newness at Easter. New Year is traditionally a time of resolutions, when we make promises to ourselves to do something new; perhaps Easter is a more fitting time to be thinking of renewal and so I invite you to think about what new things God might be doing now.

Perhaps it is time for a new relationship with our bodies, either overcoming or coming to terms with some health condition. Do we need to eat more healthily or exercise more, or just accept that we are getting older?

Perhaps it is time for a new start in our relationships. Is there someone we have lost touch with who would appreciate a call? Do we need to make peace with someone with whom we have had a quarrel?

What is new in our church? I hope there is something in this newsletter that might engage you.

What new thing do we want to see in the life of our nation? What new relationship do we want to have with our international neighbours? What new technologies might we invest in to mitigate the effects of climate change? What new help can we give to people struggling with the cost of living?

The Good News of Easter is that Jesus was raised to new life. St. Paul tells us everyone who has been baptised into Christ Jesus shares in his death and new life (Romans 6. 3-4). We are not condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past, but can look to the future with hope, anticipating the new life Jesus brings.

Every blessing during this Eastertide.

Rev Gary.

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAYS

- 8am Said Holy Communion
1st Sunday Book of Common Prayer (BCP)
- 10am Family Communion with Children's activities
1st Sundays themed, e.g. Christingle, Harvest, etc.
This service is live streamed most Sundays from either www.facebook.com/stpetersleckhampton or www.stpetersleck.org

MORNING PRAYER

- 9am (Mon-Thu)
This service is live-streamed during term time from either www.facebook.com/southcheltenham or www.stpetersleck.org
You can also join in person as follows:
MON – Pip & Jim's, TUE – St. Christopher's, WED – Emmanuel, THU – St. Peter's

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

APRIL

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 nd | Maundy Thursday | 8pm
9pm | Holy Communion
Vigil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With foot washing - 1 hour silent vigil by candlelight |
| 3 rd | Good Friday | 10am
11.30am | Holy Communion
Walk of Witness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Followed by hot cross buns! - Meet in the Cottages to walk up to the Horse Memorial (bring suitable footwear) |
| 5 th | Easter Sunday | 8am
10am | Holy Communion
Family Communion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Followed by an Easter Egg hunt for children |
| 21 st | Energy from Waste | 7.30pm | Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find out what happens to non-recyclable waste |

MAY

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|---|
| 2 nd | Family Activity | 2.30pm | Spring Planting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring themed crafts and activities in the Cottages |
| 3 rd | Spring Planting | 10am | Family Communion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Followed by Plant Share in Cottages Garden |
| 10 th | Rogation Sunday | 10am | Family Communion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focussing on our local community and environment |
| 14 th | Ascension Day | 7pm | Holy Communion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Cottages Garden (or church if wet) followed by fizz! |
| 17 th | Bell Sunday | 10am | Family Communion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a go at ringing after the service ☺ |



Easter Services

29th March, Palm Sunday – 10am
*Holy Communion Service
Drama + Palm Crosses*

2nd April, Maundy Thursday – 8pm
Holy Communion & Candlelit Vigil

3rd April, Good Friday – 10am
*Holy Communion followed by hot cross buns
Walk of Witness (11.30am)*

5th April, Easter Day – 10am
Holy Communion & Easter Egg Hunt





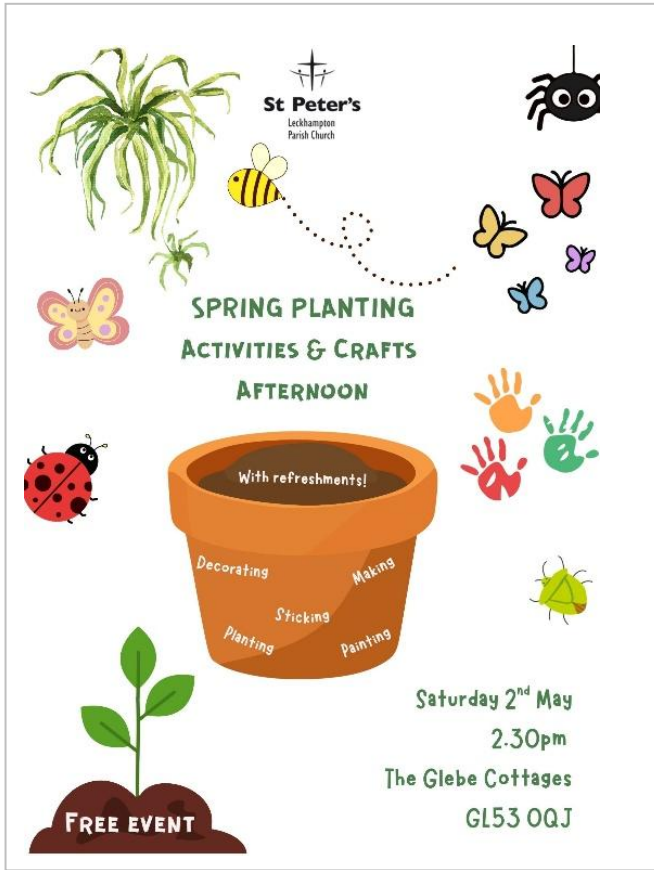
WALK OF WITNESS

Good Friday, 3rd April
11.30am



*Help to carry the cross up Leckhampton Hill
from the Cottages to the Horse Memorial*

Meet in the Cottages



St Peter's
Leckhampton
Parish Church

**SPRING PLANTING
ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS
AFTERNOON**

With refreshments!

Decorating Making
Sticking Planting Painting

Saturday 2nd May
2.30pm
The Glebe Cottages
GL53 0QJ

FREE EVENT



ENERGY FROM WASTE

What happens to the waste we can't recycle?

90% of Gloucestershire's waste diverted from landfill

COME AND FIND OUT
By attending a presentation by a member of staff from Javelin Park Waste Facility!

TUESDAY 21st APRIL
St Peter's Church, Leckhampton at 7:30pm

Refreshments available after talk

Made by a Year 10 student at HSL

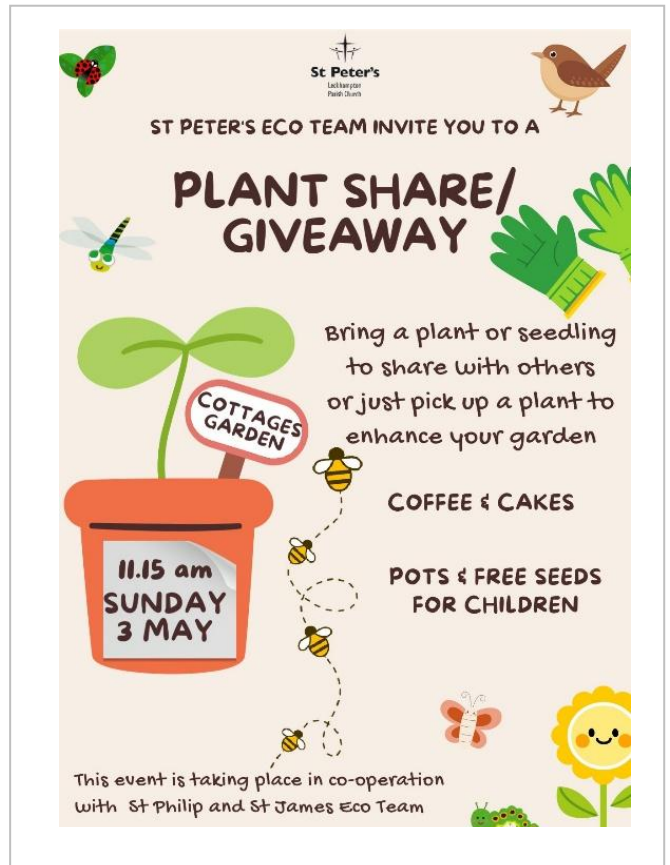


St Peter's
Leckhampton
Parish Church

Sunday 3 May
10am

SPRING PLANTING

A family friendly service
with activities for children



St Peter's
Leckhampton
Parish Church

ST PETER'S ECO TEAM INVITE YOU TO A

**PLANT SHARE/
GIVEAWAY**

Bring a plant or seedling to share with others or just pick up a plant to enhance your garden

COFFEE & CAKES

POTS & FREE SEEDS FOR CHILDREN

**11.15 am
SUNDAY
3 MAY**

This event is taking place in co-operation with St Philip and St James Eco Team

LIFE AT ST PETER'S

LITTLE PEBBLES



Little Pebbles was the first group I joined when we moved here from London back in 2014. Now, with my youngest happily settled at school, I feel incredibly privileged to help lead a group that has meant so much to my own family. If you are thinking of coming along, we would love to welcome you.

What is Little Pebbles?



Little Pebbles is the church playgroup of St Peter's – a relaxed, friendly gathering for babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups. We meet on Tuesdays between 10 – 11:30am during term-time. We are a group of regular

attendees who have come to know each other well, but we are always delighted to welcome new faces. Whether you come every week or just want to try it out, you will find a warm, supportive atmosphere waiting for you.

At its heart, Little Pebbles is about community. It is a space where parents, grandparents, and carers can chat and encourage one another, while little ones play and learn in a safe, nurturing environment, through free play, crafts, snack time and nursery rhymes



Each week there is some free-play followed by a craft activity linked to something seasonal or relevant to the child's wider world. It's very much "process not product" but usually children are desperate to take their creation home. Snack time is also very popular - but my favourite part of Little Pebbles comes at the end when we gather to sing. There is something so joyful in singing - sitting close, actions at the ready, little voices joining in.



We have a small bag of "props" for our favourite nursery rhymes and children enjoy taking turns to select a song. As a challenge, I've pulled out a few for you to identify. Sometimes it's obvious, sometimes a little more tenuous...

no, that isn't a rat in a black sweater!

If you know your nursery rhymes, you might just work them out. I even heard a rumour that Rev Gary has an Easter Egg for the first person to write in correctly identifying them all 😊

Amy Lidbetter, Little Pebbles Leader

UPCOMING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Family Activity Afternoon	2.30pm, Sat 2nd May	@ Cottages
Spring Planting Service	10am, Sun 3rd May	@ Church
Plant Share/ Giveaway	11.15am, Sun 3rd May	@ Cottages

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS is a monthly lunch, held on a Friday towards the end of the month at the home of Sally and Peter Marlow. Come and join the table and sit with friends old and new, enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and light salad followed by coffee and cake. The welcome is warm, the conversation is lively and everyone goes home smiling! A great opportunity to both catch-up with friends and meet new people. We are usually 12-20 in number and everyone is welcome. There is an opportunity to make a donation to The Children's Society. In 2025 donations totalled £601.

The dates for the summer are **Friday 24th April, 22nd May and 26th June**. Make a note of the dates now and come and join us, 12.30 - 2pm at 1 Vineries Close, GL53 0NU (off Kidnappers Lane). We would love to see you!

Sally & Peter Marlow

BELLRINGERS

Do you enjoy the unique sound of the St Peters Church bells? And would you like to help us to keep them sounding good? We are looking for help from people like you to buy a new set of bell ropes.



The current ropes are a bit tired and have had several repairs over recent years.

They are now in need of replacing. After all they are over seven years old and have been pulled at least a million times. The ropes for our eight bells are used each Monday evening for practice and every Sunday before the morning service. You will hear regular Sunday evening quarter peals too. We are proud that St Peters is one of the leading towers in the world for quarter peals, both annually and in total. The bells are also rang for weddings, and special events – for example Christmas Day and the Coronation.

Each rope will cost around £250, so the total cost will be £2000. We had hoped to get some help from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, but unfortunately it has now closed. So that is why we have set up a JustGiving page for donations. Please take a look to find out more and do give what you can – and please share with your friends in the local community too.

As a thank you, on **Sunday 17th May** we'll be celebrating Bell Sunday, chosen as the nearest Sunday to St Dunstan's Feast Day, the patron saint of ringing. The bells will be rung, and after the service there will be an opportunity to learn more about the art of bellringing, see the bell ropes – and even the chance to have a go yourself - with the help of experts. And, later in the year we will be organising tours up the Tower to see the bell installation. They are surprisingly complex – a bit like a Meccano kit for grown-ups!

Look out for more information nearer the day, but in the meantime thank you for your support.

Stuart Tomlinson, Bell Captain
and the St Peters Bellringers

See the website for more details:
www.stpetersleck.org/bell-ringers

To donate to the bell rope fund, see:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stpetersnewbellropes

MARKING LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS

The eight bells of Leckhampton are rung regularly as a call to worship, to mark significant moments in the life of our community and to celebrate the lives of loved ones passed.

Our bellringers would be delighted to hear about any births, marriages, anniversaries, or other celebrations in your family. They are very happy to dedicate a Sunday evening performance to your occasion. You are warmly invited to come along, listen, watch the ringing action, and chat with the band afterwards. If you're feeling adventurous, you might even like to try your hand at ringing a bell yourself!

Each dedicated performance is documented for you to keep, and your donation will support the ongoing care and maintenance of the Leckhampton bells.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Stuart Tomlinson via the parish office. More details can be found here: www.stpetersleck.org/bell-ringers

CRAFT GROUP



The Craft group meets on **Wednesday mornings from 10-12 in the Cottages**. We warmly welcome everyone to join us. You can bring along a craft, such as knitting, embroidery, crocheting, painting/drawing or just come for a tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat!

We have been knitting Christening Blankets for those who are Christened here at St Peter's and over Christmas we knitted Stars for the Anna Chaplaincy project, which distributes them to Care Homes in Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve. They are always very well received!

The Easter project for the Care Homes has just been collected, knitted pockets for tissues with 'God Bless You' written on them. Everyone was very pleased with them and I'm sure they will make a lovely Easter present for the Care Home residents!

Helen Shill, Craft Group



MEN'S GROUP



The St Peter's Men's Group meet together for friendly fellowship and some good conversation, often over some very good food and drink in the Wheatsheaf public house. There is no pressure to drink alcohol, and many members choose the non-alcohol option. There is no cost of membership and we meet on the **1st Thursday in the month, alternating between a lunch time meeting at 12.30pm and an evening one at 7.30pm.**

Three times in the year we designate a particular topic for discussion, and the last one concerned the role of the Church in politics. The discussion was respectful, insightful, and very wide ranging. A core of group of from five to ten members attends regularly. Some events such as the skittles evening attract more (about 20) but this includes members of the Ladies Group too. A recent meeting was shared with the visiting guests from Ramallah and their hosts from St Philip and St James, which again doubled numbers. This year an events schedule has been released, including two planned walks (for both men and ladies). The first walk will be led by John Laurence and will go up Crippetts Lane and come down Greenway Lane, with the option of a meal in a pub at the end for those who want it. The second will be led by Alan Booth and will be to Crickley Hill.

There will also be a joint event with the Ladies Group taking place on 12th December.

I would encourage members who have never come, or do not come regularly, to give us a try. I am sure you will have a pleasant time. All men are welcome, even if you are not on the circulation list. I understand that those still working or having voluntary commitments can have difficulty attending at lunch times, but the evening events are equally enjoyable. The April meeting is on **2nd April at 12.30pm**.

FLOWER GUILD



**Volunteers needed!
Come and join the
friendly team to help
decorate our beautiful
Church, no prior
experience needed!**

Q: Do I need to be artistic or have flower arranging experience?

A: No, we will show you how to create a simple arrangement and build up your skills. You will be paired with an experienced member of the group who will show you the ropes.

Q: Do I need to provide flowers?

A: No, flowers are provided for the majority of occasions, but we do ask you to provide greenery which can be obtained either from your own garden or from the Cottages' garden. The one exception to this rule is that we ask you to purchase flowers at Harvest time.

Q: How often will I be on the rota?

A: The rota works out at roughly once a month, but we work around your commitments.

Q: When do we do the arrangements?

A: The people on duty do their arrangements on Fridays at 9.30am and are usually finished at around 11.30am. There are times during Easter, Harvest and Christmas when we meet on different days, but note that there are no flowers in Church during Lent and Advent.

Q: Do I need to worship at St Peter's?

A: No, you do not have to be a worshipper.

Interested? Please contact **Averil Murray** (Flower Guild Co-ordinator) or Sally Marlow (Flower Guild Treasurer) or email sally.marlow@softcopy.co.uk.

CELEBRATE OR COMMEMORATE WITH FLOWERS

Would you like 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

THE CHOIR

**Enjoy singing? Looking for a choir?
Come and join us!**

Our fantastic established choir is currently expanding and seeking additional children and adult singers (soprano, alto, tenor, bass)



Benefits....

- ✓ It's totally free! No membership fee/everything provided (very rare in this day and age...)
- ✓ You receive a free musical education (with time away from staring at a screen...)
- ✓ You are part of a really friendly team and welcoming community.
- ✓ Singing is scientifically proven to be good for you - body and mind (cheaper than the gym!)
- ✓ High musical standard without an onerous time commitment – fits in with family and professional life (take part on your own, or alongside other family members).
- ✓ Sing a wide range of repertoire from the 16th – 21st Century including works such as Faure 'Requiem', Stainer 'Crucifixion'.
- ✓ Children actually receive pocket money each term for taking part ☺
- ✓ Cathedral visits.

Schedule...

Rehearsals: Friday 6.30-8pm (children) and 7-8pm (adults)

Sunday: 10am service (with 9.15am rehearsal)

Occasional special services, e.g. Evensongs, Carol Services, Festival services, etc.

Please contact the Parish Office to find out more:

parishofficeleck@gmail.com

Dr Kit Perona-Wright, Director of Music



LADIES GROUP



The Ladies Group is a friendly group which meets once a month for fun and fellowship, at St. Peter's Church Cottages, or somewhere else.

The programme of meetings for 2026 is below:

Programme for 2026			
JANUARY Mon 12 th	Coffee at the Exmouth	The Exmouth	11 am
FEBRUARY Wed 11 th	Snowdrops at North Cerney Gardens	North Cerney Gardens	1.30pm
MARCH Mon 23 rd	Skittles with the Men's Group	Somerset Arms	7 pm
APRIL Wed 15 th	Bring & Share Meal	Cottages	7 pm
MAY Mon 18 th	Talk by Rev Gary: 'My journey to Priesthood'	Cottages	7 pm
JUNE Sat 13 th	Visit to Hidcote	Hidcote ((Meet at St Peter's)	1 pm
JULY Sat 18 th	Bring & Share Afternoon Tea	Cottages	2 pm
AUGUST TBC	Tuckwell Theatre		
SEPTEMBER Wed 16 th	Lunch at Circo	Circo	1.30pm TBC
OCTOBER Mon 5 th	Coffee at Fioro	Fioro Lounge	11 am
NOVEMBER Sat 14 th	Film Afternoon	Cottages	2 pm
DECEMBER Sat 12 th	Wine Tasting and Bring & Share Buffet	Cottages	7 pm

Please contact **Hermione Mason** via the Parish Office on 01242 513647 or parishofficeleck@gmail.com for more information.

ECO-CHURCH

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

Past:



At the beginning of December 2025, we submitted our application for a Gold award to A Rocha's Eco Church programme. A Rocha is a Christian charity committed to supporting

churches of all denominations in the UK to care for the environment and restore the natural world. Starting from before the Covid lockdown, we have slowly been working through their bronze and silver awards.

At the end of February 2026, three of us had an on-line discussion with Sarah and Kate at A Rocha. As expected, they have asked us to clarify some areas and expand on some of the information we had provided. They were complimentary on our work so far and gave us some helpful advice on how we can improve our application. Once the extra information has been submitted and agreed, we will have a site visit from A Rocha to assess our application more fully. We hope that this will be some time later this year.



Present:

In the meantime, we are going ahead with installing solar panels and an air-source heat pump in the Glebe cottages. This will help our progress to carbon net zero, which means balancing the amount of greenhouse gases which we produce with the amount removed from the atmosphere. By replacing our present gas boiler with a heat pump, we will significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The C of E hopes to achieve net zero by 2030. It will require replacing the gas boiler and the radiators, with a hot water tank where the boiler is at present. The heat pump itself will be against the wall outside, as will the batteries for the solar panels.



This has required having an assessment for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for a grant for the heat pump, and a survey by a structural engineer for the insurance before siting the PV panels. This has needed some holes in the ceiling of the cottages to check the roof structure before we can proceed with the solar panels.

The EPC has pointed out some ways we can improve our energy status, such as by secondary glazing the ground floor windows in the cottages.

In the cottages' garden, the hedge on the road side has been lowered. Together with the Flower Guild, we are now considering planting some bird friendly trees and shrubs. We are also planning to erect some raised beds along one edge of the patio, and some flower planters by the bench to provide flowers and encourage pollinators.

Future:

On *Tuesday 21st April* there will be a talk in church on *Energy from Waste* by a member of staff from Javelin Park, the Gloucestershire EFW facility – the big building on the left as you drive down the M5. This is open to all and will be followed by refreshments.

There will be another *Plant Swap* after the 10.00am service on Sunday 3rd May outside the Cottages.

Richard & Joey Kerr-Wilson

CHURCHWARDENS' QUARTERLY



Following my 'retirement' after 16 years of editing the Parish Magazine, and with no one able to take it on, the magazine in its current form has come to an end after 137 years. It did enable Rev Gary to have a rethink and this quarterly newsletter has emerged in its place. As churchwardens, Sally Marlow and I will contribute 'Churchwardens' News' for each edition.

I tend to look after the Buildings and Sally looks after the Pastoral side, and we both support Rev Gary as much as we can, as do deputy wardens Duncan Hughes and Arthur Webb. You will find either a warden or deputy warden welcoming at either the 8.00 or 10.00 service, as far as our other commitments allow. As wardens, Sally and I are officers of the Bishop, and we are 'sworn in' at the annual Archdeacon's Visitation service.

You'll be pleased to know that these articles will not just be about the buildings, but this one will be! Every five years the architects inspect the church and produce an aptly titled "Quinquennial Report". It is very thorough, totalling 56 pages, and it draws our attention to maintenance tasks that need to be carried out over the next five years – some urgent, some not so urgent, some advisory, and it would be impossible to complete everything. Much of the work is ongoing, such as regular clearing of the gutters and gullies. The architects have been commissioned to oversee the completion of the urgent works, so there will be some scaffolding in the not-too-distant future.

We have also just been surveyed by the insurance company to assess any risks. I am pleased to report that we are on the ball, we have all the required safety inspections in place and up to date, and the assessor said she could only find a couple of minor recommendations. I eagerly await her report.

As you will know the organ suffered some water damage. Fortunately this was covered by the insurance and we were grateful to Ecclesiastical for their support and to Nicholsons of Malvern who carried out the repairs. I have learned some things in the process. There is a 'secret' gutter above the organ chamber and a trapdoor above the organ for access to the roof (unfortunately no longer accessible). There are plans afoot for the Glebe Cottages, but I will leave the Eco Group to provide the details.

David Webber, Churchwarden

VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall Management Committee is continuing to seek funding for the planned extension by regular social events and entertainments. With a substantial and very

welcome grant from the Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Parish Council it is hoped that work will start on the ground works before too long.

Members of the Management Committee continue to work extremely hard on funding bids but we are "in competition" with many well-deserving charities like homelessness, mental health and food banks and we fully understand that funders have other priorities.

However, with a healthy amount in the funds and our regular users continuing to support the hall and with the local community attending a variety of events, a steady income is being maintained.

If you are interested in hearing how the village hall is run, do come along to the Annual General Meeting in the hall on 29th April at 7.45pm.

The major fund-raising event every year is the Autumn Fair which is very popular with cakes, books, gifts and toys for sale with raffles, games and entertainment. 10am – 1200 with free entry.

The regular Quiz Night will take place on 5th December starting at 7.30pm. Mulled wine, mince pies and a bar. Teams of 4 - £20.

There will be two Christmas Wreath-Making Events on Friday 10th December at 7pm, and Saturday 11th at 10am. It is essential to book your place in good time.

If you are a 60s/70s music fan, look out for an Evening with The Evergreens which will be held in May/June.

Janice Keen

37TH CHELTENHAM RAINBOWS



The Rainbows are enjoying having their meetings at the Cottages and it has been a lovely warm space during the cold winter months. We

are looking forward to doing some activities in the garden soon. At present we are at our maximum number of 18 Rainbows and have welcomed a former Rainbow who is volunteering with us as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

We have welcomed 5 new Rainbows since the start of the year and with most of the unit attending Leckhampton Primary school, this helps with the settling in process.

Each term the girls work towards a different theme award as part of the Rainbow programme, at present we are working on our 'Feel good' Theme award, developing skills in areas including decision making, resilience, relaxation and self – reflection.

Maggie Ansell, Rainbow Leader

**LECKHAMPTON
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Parish Magazine of St Peter's Church Leckhampton
1888-2025 – A Retrospective**

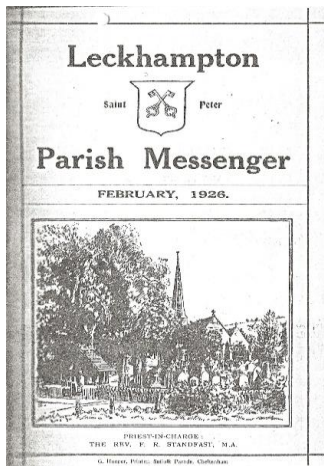


December 2025 saw the final printed version of the monthly Parish Magazine for St Peter's Church, Leckhampton.

The first issue was produced in February 1888. In his introduction, the Rector, Reverend R. E. Trye wrote:

'My dear friends, I have for a long time thought that it would be a very good thing if we could have a Parish Magazine, and now I am determined to carry out my desire.... Besides the local news of the month there will be other matters... so I trust you will give a hearty welcome to what will be our Parish magazine. Take it yourselves and introduce it to your friends so that it may be a regular Monthly Record of Leckhampton News.'

That was an era when the printed word was one of the most effective means of communication and engagement with the local community.



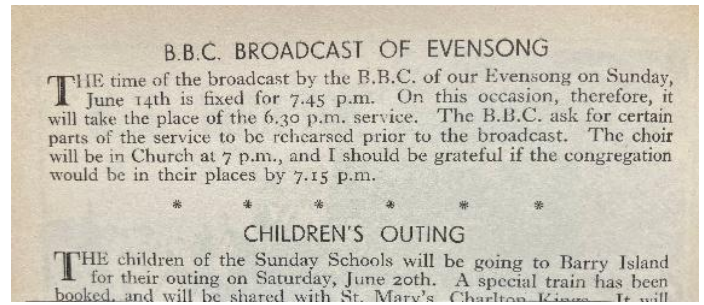
The monthly magazines have provided news and information about many aspects of life in Leckhampton, including a register of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths of parishioners, as well as articles reflecting the interests and concerns of the residents, including information about Schools, Societies, Fetes, charities, entertainments and

activities. They also provided information about local reactions to national events - war and peace, war memorials and remembrance, celebrations and commemorations and much more. The articles reflect the changing times, priorities and expectations of local people.

Eric Miller's book *Leckhampton Yesteryear*, first published in 1996 and revised and reissued in 2021, provides an exposition of Leckhampton's story as viewed through the parish magazines from 1888 to 1939 and explores many facets of local life.

The magazines continue to provide a rich resource for local historians. In addition to information about the Church, they include the parish registers and lists of lay people involved in local affairs, as well as important records of the history of the village - Robert Cary Barnard's 'Records of Leckhampton', published in the magazines in 1897, his 'Botanical Notes for the Working Man' published in 1899 and Captain John Trye's articles on the Manors in Leckhampton,

published in the magazines in 1925, among others, are still valuable sources to this day.



In addition, there are delightful and fascinating snippets of information about long-forgotten events - for example the harvest service held in St Peter's in September 1946 by the German POWs from Leckhampton Court, or the announcement of a service of Evensong to be broadcast by the BBC on Sunday June 14th 1951. As David Webber, magazine editor for 200 editions over 16 years, said in an interview for the Gloucester Diocesan Bulletin in December: 'Parish magazines matter. They connect people, share ministry, and they preserve stories and history.'

These documents will continue to be a treasure-trove of information about Leckhampton. In an era where technology has developed so that communication and information are available at the press of a button or a click of a mouse, the effective means of engagement with the local community naturally moves on, with a similar purpose.

Anne Gale, Chair

CHURCHYARD

Aren't we lucky?



We live on the slopes of a lovely hill and we have access to one of the most beautiful churchyards in the country. I hope you have managed to spend a little time in

its tranquil surroundings recently, or have strolled through its 3.5 acres of gently drooping headstones and admired the rustic gardening that keeps it a place of easy beauty. Your Ground Maintenance Team (GMT) is proud of the results of its labour and nothing pleases us more than meeting regulars and visitors who clearly share in the delights on offer.

From March to November most of our time is taken up in keeping the grass down to a reasonable level and clearing and cleaning the Garden of Remembrance and cottage gardens. We find the variation of fixing dodgy headstones, rebuilding sections of the dry stone wall, levelling, pruning and tidying up after nature's excesses exciting. All in all it is an all year round task and we are lucky to have a good team of volunteers.

If you feel you would like to help why not speak to the parish office. Even a handful of Saturday mornings at critical times would be great.

But, whatever you do, do come and enjoy 'your' Churchyard and let us know what you think of it.

If you want to find out more, or offer a helping hand, then please contact **Brad Coates** via the Parish Office on 01242 513647 or parishofficeleck@gmail.com

JULIAN GROUP



The Julian Group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 2.15-4.00pm in the Church Cottages for a time of quiet prayer. In stillness and silence, we find an internal place of calm and pay attention to the unseen, prayerful life of the church. We finish with tea and biscuits and a chat. For more information speak to **Jennie Hawdon** or **Penny Piggott** via the Parish Office.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving allows us to plan confidently for the future. The best way to do this is through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). We currently have 70 members of the congregation giving monthly, quarterly or annually in this way and Gift Aid can be automatically recovered.

You can enrol in the Parish Giving Scheme by visiting <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk> or calling 0333 002 1271 or to set up a regular donation. All you need is your bank account details and our parish code LKPT.

If you would like more information please contact the Treasurer, Peter Marlow: peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk

SPACE FOR HIRE

The Church Cottages is a great place for a family or business event with competitive rates.





ST PETER'S COTTAGES
Leckhampton Parish Church

for hire

KITCHEN AND SERVERY
WI-FI AND A/V
ROOM ACCOMMODATES - 40 SEATED - 60 STANDING
MODERN TOILETS AND BABY CHANGING
GARDEN

Contact the Parish Office for RATES/AVAILABILITY
parishofficeleck@gmail.com
01242 513647

MEETINGS, TRAINING COURSES, FAMILY PARTIES,
INDIVIDUALS, CHARITY/CHURCH/COMMUNITY GROUPS



FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S



The Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton scheme exists solely to maintain the fabric of the church building and the churchyard. The ongoing work of worship, mission and ministry of the church is supported through offertory collections and a separate Parish Giving Scheme. By joining the Friends of St Peter's Leckhampton you will join a network of enthusiastic supporters, committed to sustaining the church building and its churchyard.

Individual Membership costs £20 a year and joint membership £30. To join, simply fill in the membership form at <https://stpetersleck.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Friends-Leaflet-2024-FINAL.pdf> and return it to the Parish Office.



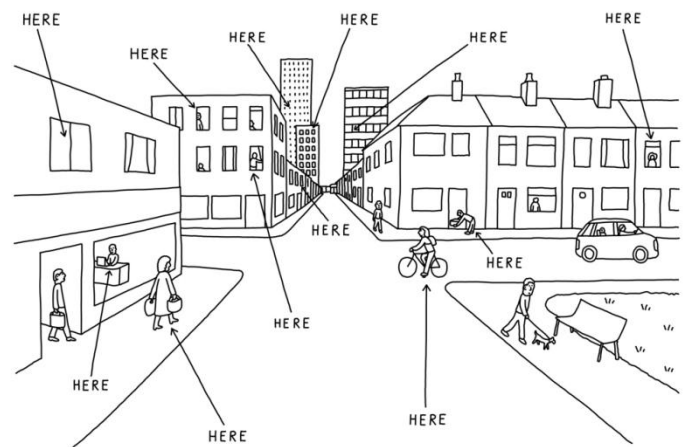
Office.

You can pay online at: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/26181> or by cheque to the Parish Office.

You can also find all of this (and more) by scanning the above QR code.

CHURCH CONTACTS

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



If you would like to find out more about any aspect of St. Peter's then please contact the **Parish Office** on 01242 512647 or email: parishofficeleck@gmail.com

If you would like to speak to the Vicar then please contact: **Reverend Canon Gary Grady** on 01242 511522 or email: revgarygrady@btinternet.com

You can also find out more, including access to the weekly newsletter and details of all of our events and services, via the church website: www.stpetersleck.org

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We hope you have enjoyed reading this, the first, quarterly newsletter; the next one will be out in June!