

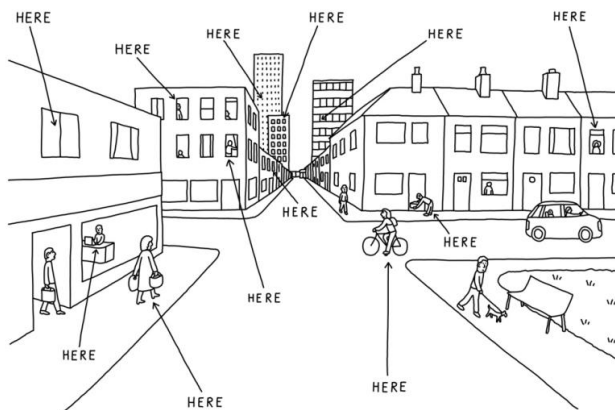
ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWS



JUNE 2026

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

We hope you enjoy reading this, the second, quarterly newsletter; the next one will be out in September!

SPACE FOR HIRE

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






ST PETER'S COTTAGES
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

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

Summer R.E.S.T.

Have you ever counted your sleeps? For example, only 10 sleeps to go until I go on holiday?

What are your plans for the summer months? Will it be a time of rest, relaxation and refreshment for you? Or maybe you plan on being busy, sorting out the garden, visiting friends, or perhaps doing 'that thing' you have always wanted to do?

I'm not very good at taking time off! I often find it hard to switch off. I get tempted to check my emails, or see what's on social media, and it's often difficult not to worry about the things that supposedly need my attention.

Whilst reflecting on how I could be better at taking my time off, I came across something called R.E.S.T. which stands for 'Restored Energy in Spirit Time'. This encourages us, whilst we count down those sleeps, to find a slower rhythm of life to enable us to use our time off more effectively.

This doesn't mean taking days off, or cutting away from life's responsibilities, but instead intentionally taking moments of REST. And summer, whether in a personal, family or ministry context, often allows space for this to happen.

What can you do to restore your energy in the Spirit's time?

- Linger a bit longer in the morning over a cup of coffee.
- Read that extra book you've never quite started.
- Go for a daily walk and take time to notice nature a bit more along the way.
- Sit outside in the evening (weather permitting) and sip a glass a wine.
- Listen to some new music each day.
- Use your prayer time to notice the Spirit's invitations.

R.E.S.T. is about finding some space to allow the Holy Spirit to show you what you need to restore your energy.

What rituals of R.E.S.T. will be a part of your summer?

Rev Gary

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAYS

- 8am Said 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

JULY

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|
| 5 th | Patronal Festival | 10am
12pm
6pm | All Age Communion
Picnic
Evensong | - | A family friendly service with activities for children
Bring your own picnic to the Cottages garden
A special evensong for Petertide |
| 14 th | South Cheltenham Youth Summer Party | 6.30pm | Emmanuel | - | For school years 7-13 across the South Cheltenham team. Contact abbie@southcheltyouth.org.uk |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 6 th | New Beginnings | 10am | All Age Communion | - | With the blessing of the backpacks |
|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|

OCTOBER

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 4 th | Harvest Festival | 10am
6pm | All Age Communion
Evensong | - | Bring non-perishable gifts for the foodbank ccp.org.uk
Followed by a glass of Pimms! |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|---|




Come and celebrate

PETERTIDE

Sunday 5 July



10am

A family friendly service celebrating our Patronal Festival with activities for children





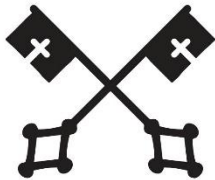
Bring your own picnic



Strawberries and Cream provided

EVENSONG


for Petertide



6pm on Sunday 5th July

Choral Evensong to celebrate the Patronal Festival

Accompanied by organ and brass
Music by McKie, Parry & Elgar
(including Parry's 'I was glad')



**SOUTH
CHELT
YOUTH**



SUMMER PARTY

July 14th | 6.30-8.30pm
BBQ FOOD, MOCKTAILS
INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE
WATER FIGHT

Emmanuel Network Church
 Fairfield Parade, GL53 7PJ

RSVP: abbie@southchelt youth.org.uk



New Beginnings



**Sunday 6th Sept
at 10am**

Bring along your backpack
or briefcase for a blessing!




Harvest Sunday



**Sunday 4th October
at 10am**

Please bring non-perishable
gifts which will go to CCP
www.ccp.org.uk




Harvest Sunday

8am | BCP Communion
10am | Family Communion

Please bring a non-perishable gift.

You can live-stream the 10am service here:
www.stpetersleck.org



6pm | Harvest Evensong
Followed by a glass of Pimms!

LIFE AT ST PETER'S

LITTLE PEBBLES

Little Pebbles couldn't run without its trusty team and anyone who attends will know that our wonderful volunteers are a force to be reckoned with. Penny, Joey, Ro and Andrea provide a warm welcome to every family that comes through the door, taking a genuine interest in both children and carers alike.



Look

Whether they are preparing the group's ever-popular snacks, chatting with carers, or getting down on the floor to play with the children, their enthusiasm and dedication shine through. Their wealth of experience is invaluable. Now proud grandparents themselves, they offer a depth of wisdom and practical support that many carers draw upon

(myself included!). Their kindness, encouragement and friendly presence make Little Pebbles the welcoming and supportive space it is today.

We are incredibly grateful for everything they do and for the experience, energy and care they offer.

This week I put them on the spot and asked them to share their favourite hymns, their choices are as varied as the gifts they bring to the group.

Joey: *Lord of the Dance*

Andrea: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

Ro: *We plough the fields and scatter*

Penny: *Will your anchor hold*

There will be a Summer Party on **Tuesday 14 July 2026** to celebrate the end of term and to say goodbye to those moving onto "Big School". We look forward to celebrating together and wishing our leavers every blessing as they move on.



We rolls

Amy Lidbetter,
Little Pebbles Leader

UPCOMING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Patronal Festival	10am, Sun 5 th July	@ Church
Petertide Picnic	12pm, Sun 5 th July	@ Cottages
Bless the backpacks	10am, Sun 6 th Sept	@ Church
Harvest Festival	10am, Sun 4 th Oct	@ Church

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.

All ladies are welcome.

UPCOMING LADIES' GROUP MEETINGS

Description	Time and Date	Venue
Bring & Share Afternoon Tea	2pm, Sat 18 th July	Cottages
Tuckwell Theatre	TBC	Tuckwell Th
Lunch at Circo	TBC, Wed 16 th Sept	Circo
Coffee at Fioro	11am, Mon 5 th Oct	Fioro

Please contact the Ladies' Fellowship Team via the Parish Office on 01242 513647 or parishofficeleck@gmail.com for more information.

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, GL53 9AJ. 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.**

All men are welcome, even if you are not on the circulation list.

UPCOMING MEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Description	Time and Date	Venue
Regular meeting	7.30pm, Thur 2 nd July	Wheatsheaf
Regular meeting	12.30pm, Thur 6 th Aug	Wheatsheaf
Guided Walk to Crickley Hill (Ladies' Group invited)	10am, Thur 13 th Aug	Start and finish at National Star College
Regular meeting	7.30pm, Thur 3 rd Sept	Wheatsheaf
Regular meeting	12.30pm, Thur 1 st Oct	Wheatsheaf

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

FLOWER GUILD



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

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

BELLRINGERS



Bell Sunday at St Peters Leckhampton – a team event

Bell Sunday on 17th May, gave an opportunity for the congregation to learn more about the bells and ‘have a go’ at ringing after a special morning service at St Peters, Leckhampton.

Led by Rev. Gary Grady, the service had a bell ringing theme throughout. From Harry Tomlinson chiming a bell before and after the themed sermon, to members of the band, Barbara Pettit and Bob Peters, reading lessons and prayers. During communion there was an unexpected treat with members of the choir ringing an arrangement of Westminster Chimes by Dr. Kit Perona-Wright on hand bells. The Anthem was Christ’s Bell by Hollins, and the final hymn ‘Glad bells ring loud’.



The regular Sunday morning ringing by Leckhampton Bellringers was extended so more people could enjoy it. A highlight was two live streams of the actual bells ringing in the Tower, which thanks to Barbara Pettit and Keith Reading installing it, fascinated everyone.

Following the service Chris Hickey presented a short history of the St Peter’s bells and explained how the Bellringers – aged from 11 to over 80 - are part of the church community, ringing at weddings and National occasions as well as before the morning service.

After a health and safety warning, the congregation were invited to come and have a go. A fun session led by Cara Capewell supported by other members of the band attracted both young and old, eager to learn more about bell ringing. A team effort, enjoyed by all – that may become an annual event. Look out for more information nearer the day, but in the meantime thank you for your support.

St Peters Bellringers

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 run regularly as a call to worship, to mark significant moments in the life of our community and 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, crotcheting,

painting/drawing or just come for a tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat!

Over the past three months we have enjoyed making our craft items; knitted hats, cardigans, squares for blankets to be given to homeless people, and embroidery. There have regularly been 5- 8 people attending and we always have a lovely chat, with coffee/ tea and biscuits at 11am . Do come along, if only for refreshments and a chat!

Helen Shill, Craft Group

CHURCHWARDENS' QUARTERLY

At the APCM in May, David and I were pleased to be re-elected Church Wardens for another year and look forward to supporting the clergy team and the congregation. We are always pleased to chat through any concerns or suggestions you may have – do have a word with either of us at any time.

As Church Wardens we are delighted to receive an invitation from Bishop Rachel to a Garden Party each summer. We are hoping for a balmy summer's evening this year mid-July!

It is difficult not to notice the significant water leak flowing down Church Road from the cottage area. This has been investigated by Severn Trent and the work has been handed over to the engineering company Auger. The timescale for the repair is out of our control but investigative work by Auger has commenced and we await a date for the continuing repair work.



On Sunday 14 June we were pleased to present Sarah Wood and Melissa Webb with gifts from the congregation ahead of their

Ordination at Gloucester Cathedral on 28 June. It has been a long journey to this point for both and we have followed their progress with interest and respect and degree of awe. After her Ordination Sarah will serve her curacy in the Greenway benefice. She will be much missed at St Peter's but she will not be far away and we hope she will be able to come back and visit us! Melissa will be staying with us here at St Peter's and we look forward to her leading us in worship and supporting Rev Gary in other aspects of parish life. We look forward to joining Sarah and Melissa at the cathedral for this very special service.

Petertide will soon be upon us. There will be a family friendly service at 10am on Sunday 5 July followed by a picnic in the cottage garden. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the strawberries and cream that will be provided!

Many of us will be looking forward to holidays during the next few weeks. Travel safely and return refreshed for the new season!

Sally Marlow, Churchwarden

ECO-CHURCH

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

Then:

In April, we had a talk on 'Energy from Waste' in the church by Diane Green from the Javelin Park facility. Javelin Park is named after one of the aircraft that was based at the aerodrome that existed on the same site in the past. It deals with all our waste that cannot be recycled and avoids going to landfill. At the same time it provides energy to feed into the grid.



This event was well attended by at least fifty people, not only from St Peter's but also from other parts of Cheltenham and beyond. After the talk there was lively discussion helped by a glass of wine. Our thanks to all those who helped on the evening.



April and May showed the Cottages' garden at its best:

We had another successful plant swap/give away at the beginning of the month.

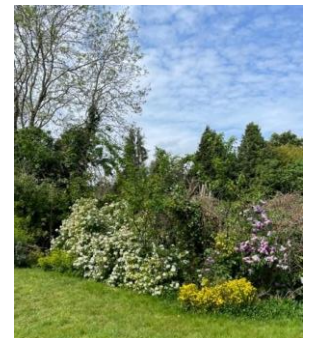
It was encouraging to see that many more plants were donated this year than last. Thanks to all the donors.

Solar panels and heat pump:

Unfortunately, a structural survey of the Cottages showed that the roof may not be suitable for installing solar panels. However, we have been able to install an air source heat pump in the Cottages. As a result, we no longer use fossil fuel in either the church or Cottages.

Now:

We have recently placed some planters beside the bench outside the Cottages. These were kindly donated by members of the congregation. They have been filled with plants to attract pollinators, including Salvia and Erigeron. Bees like purple plants in particular.



We have submitted the documentation required by A Rocha for our gold award application, which has been received.

Next:

The PCC has accepted in principle the installation of solar panels on the church roof and a battery instead of on the Cottages. We have had one estimate already from the firm which installed the heat pump. We will ask for two more, as well as arrange a structural survey as required by the Insurance. We will also need to request planning permission from the Borough Council before applying for a faculty from the diocese. If we are successful, these will provide and store electricity for the under-pew heating in church.

We have also had an agreement to build some raised beds beside the patio in the Cottages' garden to provide some more pollinator-friendly plants. They will also provide some additional outdoor seating and enhance the garden. We need to provide an estimate for the treated timber needed for these, but we hope we will be able to erect these ourselves later this year.

For our God award application, we anticipate a visit from A Rocha this Summer.

Richard & Joey Kerr-Wilson



On Saturday 20th June, the first section of tumble wall was rebuilt by Paul McGowan, with the help of the local Scouts. The 'cocks



and hens', the stones that make up the top of wall, are still to be placed, but it's wonderful get the work underway.

the
to

Thank you to all involved.

ST PETER'S LIVING CHURCHYARD



You might notice that some areas of grass are being left to grow longer this spring and summer.

This is part of an intentional effort to create a sanctuary for both people and nature. By changing how we mow, we are transforming these areas into a haven for local biodiversity.

Why are we doing this?

- **Supporting Pollinators** – Longer grass allows native wildflowers like clovers, daisies, and buttercups to bloom, providing vital food for bees and butterflies.
- **Creating Shelters** – The taller vegetation offers essential shelter and nesting sites for birds, hedgehogs, and helpful insects.
- **Protecting Heritage** – This traditional management style mirrors historical meadows, helping us care for this sacred space sustainably.

Our Commitment to Visitors

We understand the deep personal importance of this churchyard.

Please be reassured that:

- Main paths and seating areas will remain neatly mown for easy access.
- Frequently visited graves and memorial areas will continue to be regularly tended.
- The long grass will be fully cut and cleared in late summer once the wildflowers have dropped their seeds.

Do get in touch if you're finding it difficult to get to a grave so we can mow a pathway for you.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we care for God's creation.

If you would like to get involved with our environmental action or have any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 01242 513647

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.

As I write this, we look forward to welcoming folk to lunch on Friday 26 June, hoping for summery weather and a lighter menu rather than the wintery soups we usually serve! It will be Wimbledon soon so strawberries are a must!

We take a break in July and August but lunches will resume on **FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER** – rather earlier in the month than usual so please make a note of the date now. All are welcome to join us at 1 Vineries Close, GL53 0NU (off Kidnappers Lane), 12.30-2pm. An opportunity to meet friends old and new!

Sally & Peter Marlow

CHURCHYARD NEWS

DRY STONE WALLS



The beautiful dry stone walls around the churchyard have started to come down in various places, this is mainly due to tree roots and the usual wear n' tear.

The local farmer has kindly cordoned off these areas, from the field side, so that the cows don't disturb the walls further.

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

LECKHAMPTON CoFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors



As we get close to the end of this academic year at Leckhampton Primary School (LPS) We have been very busy and still have a lot going on.

We have parents evening coming up on July 8th which will give parents the opportunity to

Speak with form teachers on their child's progress and have a look over various examples of work they have completed throughout the year. LPS has maintained high standards in the principle areas of Maths, Reading and English set against the respective national curriculum standards.

There was a really lovely play enacted by year three pupils in May, the theme was Pirates v Mermaids. The children clearly had been practicing their lines (jokes) and acting skills producing a very funny and entertaining show, which was also attended by a number of the local care-home residents. I think the overall result was a draw (although the Mermaids still claimed a victory).



Faith with kindness continues to flourish through the class worship sessions held on a Thursday morning. This is where the children themselves take the lead in the worship session and it's a very lovely time to see the understanding and beliefs

they are developing in what is a quite complex area of study.

A SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) took place in April, and it was pleasing to receive immediate positive feedback and a very good inspection report. The Inspector gave a number of examples where the school is overachieving in many areas of faith worship and the core values expected from a faith School.

A number of classes made the visit in May to Gloucester Docks to look over the history of this once important inland port. The teachers were happy to report no one fell in and all were returned safely back to school. Year 6 will be off to the Isle of Wight 15/6 for some summer fun and we have our fingers crossed for good weather for them.

The children have been busy supporting a number of charities, including Comic Relief, Kindness in Action & Bright Colour Day at which they raised over £1000. May saw the LPS annual sports day programme taking place with the children undertaking various sporting activities and generally having great fun on their particular appointed day.

The school will very likely be subjected to a visit from the OFSTED inspector, possibly around the Autumn term time. Governors are preparing for this to support the fantastic work already in place by Sam Porter and her incredible teaching team. The last inspection was in 2022, and at that point we were classed as good overall but outstanding in a number of key areas, noting that most schools struggled to maintain previous classifications directly as a result of COVID affecting face to face teaching.

Duncan Hughes, Foundation School Governor

15TH CHELTENHAM BROWNIES



15th Cheltenham Brownies meet each week at Glebe Cottages during term time. We offer girls aged 7-10 years old the opportunity to explore their potential, build friendships and have lots of fun! During our weekly meetings, we provide a range of activities including crafts, games, exploring the outdoors, completing challenges in small groups and working towards badges. Outside of unit meetings, we enjoy activity days at Cowley Adventure, trips and sleepovers. One of our Brownies favourite activities is a campfire with marshmallows!

Livvy Niblett, Brownie Leader

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Leckhampton Court, from Manor House to Hospice

Leckhampton Court was built in the early 14th century, when Sir John Giffard was lord of the manor. (The church is about the same age and is also his work.) The Court is one of Gloucestershire's oldest domestic buildings and has been lived in continuously for most of its existence. It was empty and dilapidated in the 1960s and 70s, when the roof of the banqueting hall had collapsed and saplings sprouted from the eaves. There was talk of turning it into a hotel or even of demolishing it. Fortunately, in 1977 it was rescued by Sue Ryder, who was then looking for a home in which to provide care for local cancer patients. The hospice that she envisaged is now an established concern, and the renovated building and its grounds are outstanding sights of the area.

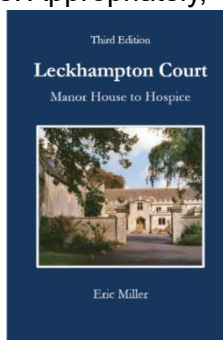
In 2002 I wrote a history of the Court and its occupants – *Manor House to Hospice* – as a fundraiser for the hospice. Many copies have been sold, and it has been out of print for some time. Taking advantage of more recent research, making many minor revisions and introducing illustrations in colour, I have put together a new edition. This was launched during an Open Gardens event at the Court on 21st June. Appropriately, it was Sir Henry Elwes who performed the ceremony, since it was his great-grandfather John Hargreaves who bought the Court at the end of the nineteenth century and was responsible for building the north wing.

The book is now on general sale (price £10) and can be obtained at the hospice or from the LLHS

www.leckhamptonlhs@gmail.com

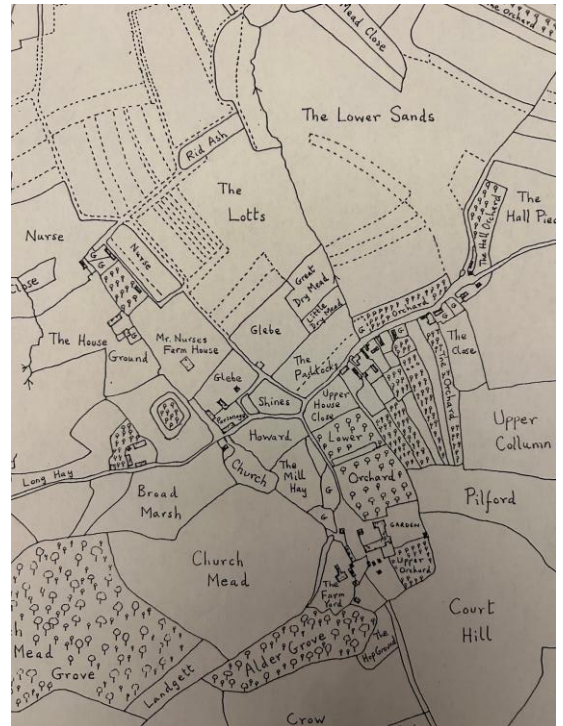
which has published the book on behalf of Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice. The book's cover is the same Oxford blue colour as the History of Leckhampton Church, copies of which are still available at the back of the church.

Eric Miller



LOTS MEADOW

Many of you will be aware of the wonderful open space in our Parish known as Lotts Meadow. If you haven't come across it before, it is the meadow that lies between Burrow's Field and Kidnappers Lane and can be easily accessed from both of those places. It's a popular place for local residents to get some exercise, walk their dogs and enjoy one of the few remaining open spaces in the Parish with roots back into our ancient past.



Map (Crow 1746) showing Lotts Meadow

Leckhampton has always been an agricultural landscape, with crops raised and livestock reared since the Iron Age. For much of that time, the land was worked in open fields. Peasant farmers grew their crops in thin strips running across the fields, the width of each strip was defined by the turning circle of the oxen used to pull the primitive plough. Lott Meadow was one such field, set in the heart of the ancient village. It was divided in strips of mixed agricultural value. To make the allocation of these fair, it was managed by the drawing of 'lots'. It was from this practice that the name Lott, or Lotts Meadow arises, as does the word 'allotment', still used for the nearby series of gardens where we continue to grow vegetables today.

On 15th December, the Parish Council officially completed the purchase of Lotts Meadow - a milestone that ensures this cherished green space is now protected from development and preserved for our community's future.



Oak Tree in Lotts Meadow

With the land now secured, a new working group has been formed to explore long-term maintenance of the meadow, opportunities for biodiversity offsetting, and improvements to the well-used footpath linking Burrow's Field and Kidnappers Lane.

One of the first tasks for the working group is to create a biodiversity action plan. This will start by carrying out an ecological survey of the meadow over the summer to establish a baseline, and then work out how to improve that baseline to improve the landscape for wildlife and residents alike.

Paul McGowan

CHURCH FINANCES

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

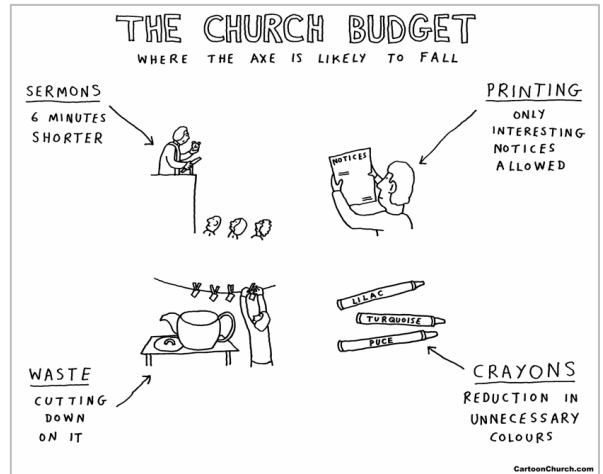
Running the finances at St Peter's is like running a small business. The turnover last year was a staggering £186,000 with an income of £179,000. We get no external funding. We must do it all ourselves to survive and to pay our staff and bills! So, how does it all work?

Over half our income comes through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), see <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>. We have 68 people who regularly give through the scheme, most of whom include gift aid and opt into an annual inflationary increase. If you are not in this scheme already, do consider joining. It really is a lifeline for churches and can be done by a simple phone call to 0333 002 1271 which usually takes about 10 minutes to complete. PGS will then send you confirmation of your new gift by post or email.

What we receive from the Parish Giving Scheme pretty much all goes to pay our Parish Share of £76,500. Parish Share is the annual financial contribution that individual churches, within the Church of England, are asked to pay to their diocese, which for us is the Diocese of Gloucester, and goes towards clergy salaries and housing and the central services that support us, such as safeguarding.

Our other income comes from donations, collections at services, gift aid, fees from weddings and funerals, and the occasional legacy. This all enables us to pay for lighting and heating, maintenance of the building, staff

costs, insurance and other expenses – and our mission! We do work to a budget every year but there's not much left over, and we often have to use our reserves, like we needed to last year, to cover any unexpected costs.



Last year was a 'Quinquennial year' when had our 5-yearly inspection of all of our buildings and churchyard to ensure we were aware of any issues before they become bigger problems. Looking after a medieval building, the oldest in the area, requires regular love and attention!

I hope this has been a useful glimpse at the church finances. You could really help us if you would consider giving regularly or by looking closely at your giving if you do already.

Peter Marlow, Hon. Treasurer

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.

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.