

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2026

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

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

Autumn – A Time for New Beginnings

There is something rather special about autumn. After the long, lighter days of summer, the world seems to change almost overnight. The mornings become crisp, the evenings draw in, and the trees give us one final, glorious display of colour before their leaves fall. There is beauty in the golden leaves, the cooler air and even in the sound of leaves crunching under our feet.

We often think of January as the time for new beginnings. The calendar changes, we make resolutions and perhaps decide that this will be the year when we finally get round to doing something we have been putting off.

But I wonder whether autumn might actually be a better time for a fresh start. January can be a difficult month: Christmas is over, the weather is cold and dark, and many of us are recovering financially from the expense of Christmas. By contrast, autumn brings a renewed sense of energy. Holidays are over, routines return, schools and universities begin new years, and there is often a sense of getting back into life.

Perhaps this is why autumn can be such a good season for reflecting on where we are and where God might be calling us next. The Bible reminds us that our God is a God of new beginnings:

"See, I am doing a new thing!" says God through the prophet Isaiah (43.19).

And nature gives us a beautiful picture of this. The trees let go of their leaves, not because life has ended, but because they are preparing for what comes next. Sometimes we too need to let go of something before we can make room for something new.

So perhaps we don't need to wait until January. As the seasons change, autumn invites us to pause, to give thanks, to let go, and to step forward with hope, trusting that God is always able to make new beginnings possible.

What will your new beginning be this autumn?

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

SEPTEMBER

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----|--------------------------|---|
| 26 th | Vocal Recital | 2pm | Afternoon Coffee Concert | - David Crown accompanied by Kit Perona-Wright' (<i>Wolf, Brahms, Finzi</i>) with refreshments. |
|------------------|---------------|-----|--------------------------|---|

OCTOBER

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------|------------------------|--|
| 4 th | Harvest Festival | 10am | All Age Communion | - Bring non-perishable gifts for the foodbank ccp.org.uk |
| | | 6pm | Evensong | - Followed by a glass of Pimms! |
| 17 th | Oriel Singers | 4pm | Choir Concert | - 'Britten Rejoice in the Lamb & L'Estrange A Season to Sing' |
| 31 st | Piano & Organ Recital | 11am | Morning Coffee Concert | - Kit Perona-Wright. With refreshments. |

NOVEMBER

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------------|---|
| 1 st | All Saints' | 10am | All Age Communion | - All Saint's United! Whose team are you on? |
| | All Souls' | 3pm | Thanksgiving Service | - Remembering those that we love but see no more. |
| 8 th | Remembrance | 9.30am | Act of Remembrance | - At the Leckhampton War Memorial. |
| | | 10am | Family Communion | - With the Act of Remembrance at 11am. |
| | | 6pm | Evening Service | - Rutter Requiem with St Peter's Choir |
| 15 th | Safeguarding Sunday | 10am | Family Communion | - Thinking about how we care for each other. |
| 21 st | Vocal Recital | 11am | Morning Coffee Concert | - Hannah Davey accompanied by Kit Perona-Wright' (<i>a journey from Classical through to Jazz</i>) with refreshments. |

Creationtide at St. Peter's



The Church marks the 'Season of Creation' from 1st September to 4th October each year. Creationtide dedicates time to honour God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, and to renew our shared commitment to care for our common home. During this time, we will mark both Climate Sunday (13-Sep) and Harvest Sunday (4-Oct).

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is 'Living Water', based on *Ezekiel 47:1-12*. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing eco-systems.

The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.




St Peter's
 Leckhampton
 Parish Church

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!



South Cheltenham Churches
PET BLESSING 2026
WORLD ANIMAL DAY
St Stephen's Church, Tivoli,
Cheltenham GL51 3AD

Bring your pets, farm animals,
teddy bears, cuddly toys

-  Dogs on leads please,
other pets in carriers
-  Bring photos of pets who are
no longer here, to bless their
memory
-  Refreshments after the service

SUNDAY 4TH
OCTOBER 2026,
3PM - 3:30PM

For more information:
07738 022399



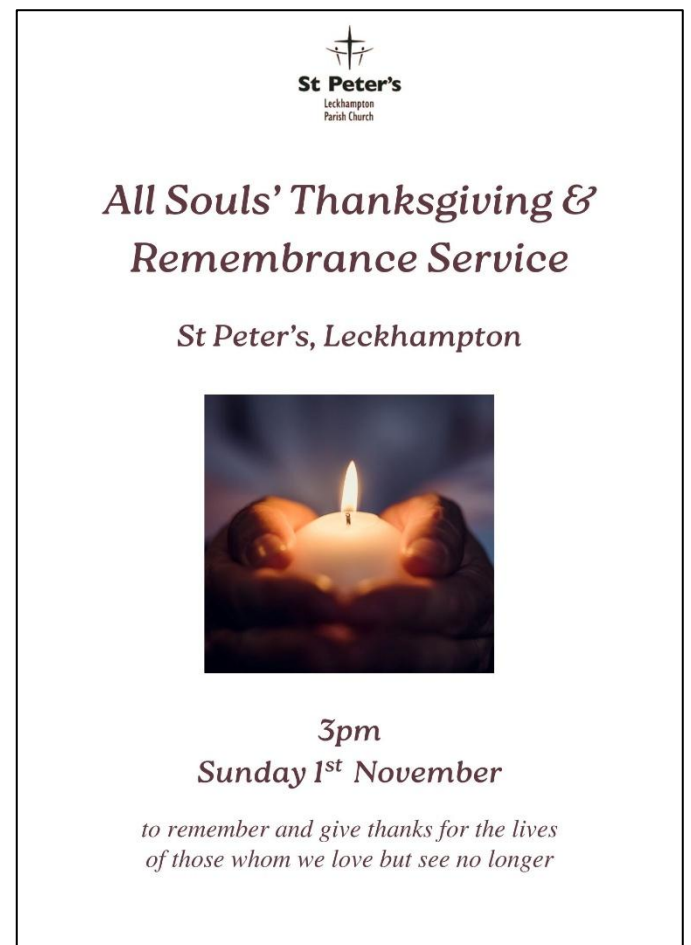

St Peter's
 Leckhampton Parish Church

ALL SAINTS UNITED

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER
FAMILY WORSHIP
10AM



*Come along in your favourite team's kit
 as we celebrate being
 united as one team for God.*




St Peter's
 Leckhampton Parish Church

All Souls' Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service

St Peter's, Leckhampton

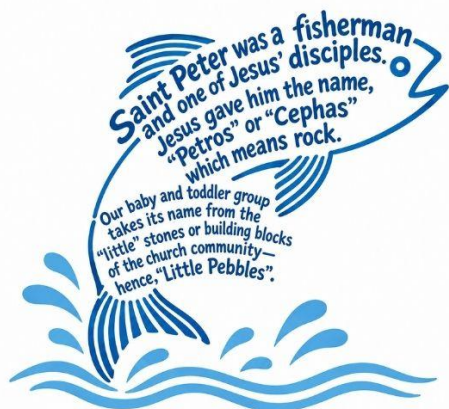


3pm
Sunday 1st November

*to remember and give thanks for the lives
 of those whom we love but see no longer*

LIFE AT ST PETER'S

LITTLE PEBBLES



Little Pebbles took a break over the summer holidays, but we weren't just having a rest. We cleaned, sorted and tidied all the toys and put up some new displays in the Cottages.

It has been fantastic to welcome our families, both old and new, at the start of the new term.



Reverend Melissa has also joined us, and she didn't come empty-handed! She brought some new toys for the children, but also (we suspect) for her to play with too!

Amy Lidbetter,
Little Pebbles Leader

UPCOMING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Harvest Festival	10am, Sun 4 th Oct	@ Church
Pet Blessing Service	3pm, Sun 4 th Oct	St Stephen's
All Saints' United	10am, Sun 1 st Nov	@ Church

FLOWER GUILD



NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Q: What is the Flower Guild?

A: The Flower Guild consists of a team of people who give their time to creating floral

decoration at St Peter's. There are no entry requirements other than an enthusiasm for the task.

Q: What is the purpose of the Flower Guild?

A: To decorate the church for the glory of God, making it an attractive place in which to worship whilst at the same time, marking the seasons of the church year.

Q: Do I need to be a regular worshipper at St Peter's?

A: No; all are welcome regardless of age, faith or gender.

Q: Do I need to be an expert?

A: No, not at all. Beginners are paired up with someone more experienced who will guide them, starting with small arrangements before moving on to larger, more complex ones.

Q: Would I have to work on my own?

A: No; we work in pairs so there is always someone who can help you or give a second opinion.

Q: Would I need to bring my own flowers?

A: No; the Guild pays for the flowers and whoever is the more experienced of the pair buys them. We use greenery either from our own gardens or from the garden surrounding the Cottages.

Q: Is there anything I would need to bring?

A: A pair of florist's scissors or sharp secateurs are essential.

Q: How often would I be needed?

A: There is a rota system which means that on average you would be needed about once a month. Additional help is needed at certain times of the year such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas and at weddings.

Q: When does the Guild meet?

A: Those on the rota meet on a Friday morning at 9.30am to do the arranging and are usually finished by 12.30pm. They also ensure the water in the arrangements is topped up during that week.

Q: What about weddings?

A: The more experienced members do the arrangements for weddings.

Q: I'm interested in joining – who should I contact?

A: Please contact Averil Murray 01242 528008

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

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
Coffee at Fioro	11am, Mon 5 th Oct	Fioro
Film Afternoon	2pm, Sat 14 th Nov	Cottages
Wine Tasting/Bring & Share Buffet (joint event with Men's Group)	7pm, Sat 12 th Dec	Cottages

Please contact the Ladies' Fellowship Team via the Parish Office 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.

UPCOMING MEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Description	Time and Date	Venue
Regular meeting	12.30pm, Thur 1 st Oct	Wheatsheaf
Regular meeting	7.30pm, Thur 5 th Nov	Wheatsheaf
Visit to Incinerator	TBC	Javelin Park
Regular meeting	12.30pm, Thur 3 rd Dec	Wheatsheaf
Wine Tasting/Bring & Share Buffet (joint event with Ladies' Group)	7pm, Sat 12 th Dec	Cottages

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

FRIDAY LUNCH with FRIENDS



We are pleased to be hosting a new season of monthly lunches on a Friday. No booking required, just come along and enjoy a light lunch with friends old and new. The dates for this autumn are **Friday 16 October** and **Friday 20 November**, 12.30 – 2pm at I Vineries Close, GL53 0NU (off Kidnappers Lane). Donations for the Children's Society are always welcome. Come and join us!

Sally & Peter Marlow

CHURCHWARDENS' QUARTERLY

Quite an eventful time building-wise! The water leak by the Glebe Cottages was finally fixed. The company investigating were unable to pinpoint the leak but they believe it is beneath the floor of the lobby. This meant that the sensible action was to install a brand new section beneath the patio rather than repair. This actually worked in our favour as the insurance company said that as they couldn't verify that it was 'wear and tear' (which would not be covered) they would pay the full cost, minus our £1,000 excess. So, a big thanks to Ecclesiastical!

Unfortunately, in the process, one of the contractor's vans demolished part of the dry stone wall. The driver had to squeeze his van up the narrow drive because the tunnelling machinery was part of the van. Auger accepted responsibility so this was repaired under their insurance. Never a dull moment!

Adding to Sally's report, in the previous issue, we both enjoyed Bishop Rachel's Garden Party for churchwardens, and, yes, we did have a balmy summer's evening. There is an ancient mulberry tree in the garden, and I know from a previous painful experience that the wasps rather like it! We have both been admitted as wardens for another year, so are now legally Bishop's Officers.

Many of the congregation attended the ordinations of Melissa and Sarah in Gloucester Cathedral, and their celebratory tea at The Greenway afterwards. We send them both good wishes for the next stage of their respective ministries.

Congratulations and thanks to the Eco Team for achieving the A Rocha Gold Award. Not many churches do so. I'll leave them to give more details in their article.

David Webber, Churchwarden

BELLRINGERS



Bell Rope Appeal

A big thank you to you, the St Peter's congregation and neighbours, for your generous contribution towards our campaign to raise £2000 to buy new bell ropes. We are delighted that we now have 8 new ropes helping to keep the bells sounding good for everyone. So far we have raised over £1,200 – mainly from many small but valuable personal donations. To raise the rest we are now looking for business or corporate donations. For example, four gifts of £200 would help us reach our target. With many businesses supporting local charities we are asking if you know of, or work for, a local organisation that could contribute? Donations can be made with Gift Aid at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7930#>. Please email peter.marlow@softcopy.co.uk so that payments can be allocated to the Bellringers.

We would recognise these contributions in our publicity and invite them, as well as everyone else who has donated to visit the Tower and learn more about the bells and bell ringing. They could even have a go – as many did on Bell Sunday!

Leckhampton & friends annual tour 15th–18th July 2026

This year we visited Shropshire. The weather was lovely, the countryside idyllic and we were warmly welcomed by the local ringers in .

Thanks to Stuart for booking the towers, Gilly for the lunch and dinner arrangements and Keith for the route and parking suggestions.



A Third 1000 Quarter Pealer at St Peter's!

A quarter peal is at least 1250 changes taking about 45 minutes

Bellringer	1000 th Quarter Peal
Helen Taylor	Christmas Day 2004
Stuart Tomlinson	Sun 6 th Nov 2016
Barbara Pettit	Sun 24 th May 2026

Congratulations Barbara!

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.

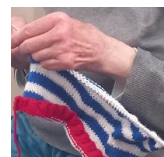
If you would like to find out more, please contact Stuart Tomlinson via the parish office. More details can be found here: www.stpetersleck.org/bell-ringers

CRAFT GROUP



The Craft group meets on **Wednesday** mornings from **10-12pm** 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!



Over the last few months the Craft group have been pursuing personal projects. Every Wednesday morning, people regularly meet to chat, knit, embroider and enjoy a tea/ coffee with a biscuit. During the coming weeks we will be knitting snowmen for the Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Care Home project.

Helen Shill, Craft Group

ECO-CHURCH

Gold Achieved! Going further



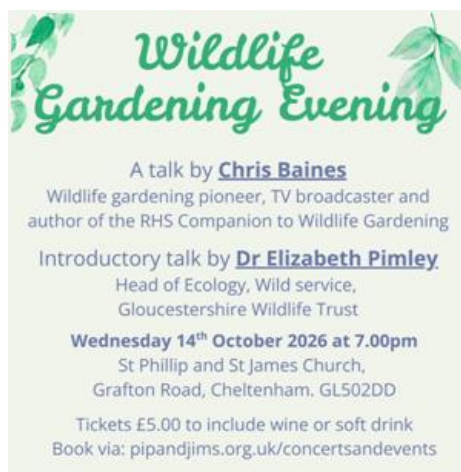
On Tuesday 11th August, a group of us met with three members of the A Rocha Eco-church Gold review team in the Glebe Cottages. As well as members of the

St Peter's eco group, we also invited others who had been involved in our application. After introductions, we divided into two groups. One group had a walk round the churchyard and the other looked inside the church itself before meeting back in the Cottages for lunch and further discussion. All the five categories mentioned on the certificate were discussed in detail, with comments and suggestions from our visitors. Our guests then left, as the lead visitor had a train to catch.

We all felt as if we'd been back at school for an exam as we waited to hear the result. Luckily, we didn't have to wait long, as I later learnt the 'examiners' had made their decision in the car on the way to the station. So in spite of our apprehension, we were delighted to receive the result we had been working towards.

We are now one of a select group of Gold award holders. Although there are only about 120 in the country, out of 4,700 Ecochurches registered, there is another Gold in Leckhampton – Bethesda Methodist – and another one in Stonehouse.

So now we can continue with our eco programme, without having to worry about the questions at the end. When finances permit, we would still like to install solar panels, preferably on the Cottages once the timber survey has been carried out, as well as raised beds in the garden with a water butt. We need to update the climate resilience plan after this Summer with access to water in church during the hot months. We would also like to create a nature trail to highlight the flora and fauna to be found in the churchyard. Several other proposals were put forward at our latest eco group meeting, so we will not be idle!



Our next joint event is a Wildlife Gardening Evening at Pip and Jim's on October 14th. Elizabeth Pimley will talk about local developments, including Lott meadow and the Biodiversity Action Plan, followed by Chris Baines telling us how we can encourage wildlife into our gardens. There will also be other local groups and displays. A bargain at £5, including a glass of wine!

Meantime, we are very grateful for the all the ongoing support we have had from Rev Gary, Rev Melissa, the PCC and all the congregation.

Richard & Joey Kerr-Wilson

It's Fairtrade Fortnight!



You can "Do it Fair" and take action for people and planet.

Fairtrade Fortnight is a UK-wide awareness campaign to encourage us to think about the people behind the food and goods we purchase. "Do it Fair" is the Fairtrade Fortnight theme for 2026, highlighting:

- People - providing rights and safety at work
- Planet - protecting the land producers depend on
- Pay - earning enough to live well and plan for the future.

Around the world, the people who grow, pick, stitch and make the things we buy are facing the same challenges: unfair pay, unsafe working conditions, and a climate crisis threatening their livelihoods. Fairtrade exists to change this, and to push for the rules that make fairness the norm, not the exception.

Fairtrade goods cause less damage, are more ethically sourced, give fairer wages, safer working conditions and support local projects better wages and safer conditions.

If as Christians we believe that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), then the farmer who grows our cocoa or coffee isn't simply part of a supply chain; they are a person whose dignity and livelihood matter.

Supporting Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love - such as chocolate, coffee and bananas. With simple shopping choices, people can get farmers a better deal - meaning that they can make their own decisions, control their futures and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.



Choose Fairtrade products during Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond.

Where to Buy Fairtrade

<https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/products-and-producers/buy-fairtrade.html>

Liz Johnson

Link to Hope CONTENTS LIST

We want everyone to receive a fun and useful box of new and unused gifts so every shoebox should contain all items in this blue box.

☐ Gloves or Scarf or Hat (new or knitted)	☐ Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
☐ Sweets or Chocolates (BB June 2027 EU Origin)	☐ Candles & Holders* or Tealights
☐ Soap & Flannel	☐ Small Games (Travel Size Draughts/Dominos/Playing Cards)

*Holder is for safety and stability

Then please **ADD 5 or more items** (at least one of each item) from the Red Box for a Family Shoebox OR from the Purple Box to make a Unisex Elderly Shoebox.

☐ FAMILY (PLEASE TICK)	☐ ELDERLY (UNISEX)
☐ Colouring Pads (A5)	☐ Reading Glasses/Magnifier (Max + 2 strength)
☐ Crayons/Pencils (with rubber & sharpener)	☐ Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cutlery
☐ Small Toys (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)	☐ Sensory Item (eg Bean Bag, Lavender Bag, Stress Ball etc)
☐ Soft Toy Teddy (with CE labels)	☐ Hot Water Bottle
☐ Tape Measure/DIY Tool	☐ Work Gloves
☐ Sewing Kit	☐ Pen and Paper
☐ Shampoo (max 400ml)	☐ Socks/Tights (NEW)
☐ Solar-Powered Calculator	☐ Wind-Up Radio/Torch
☐ Safety Razors	☐ Shampoo (max 400ml)
☐ Hairbrush/Comb	☐ Scissors/Nail Clippers
☐ Other Gifts	☐ Safety Razors
	☐ Other Gifts

OR

For other gifts & sustainability ideas go to www.linktohope.co.uk

PLEASE REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX

Shoebox Appeal 2026

These leaflets for sending gifts to some of the poorest people in Eastern Europe are available at the back of church. Please:

- remember to include £3 with each box
- use a small(ish) shoebox
- leave completed ones in church up to 1st Nov

For more information on the charity Link to Hope, see www.linktohope.co.uk, or contact Steve Whittingham on 07514 986386 or steve_whittingham@btinternet.com

FROM BISHOP RACHEL

Being the Church in the age of AI

This month (Sept) Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert spent four days in Oxford with the bishops across the Church of England. A lot of their time was spent with several distinguished speakers reflecting on being the Church in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Here are Bishop Rachel's reflections:

Some of our theological reflections were around 'making' and being a 'maker', and what it means for God to be creator and for humanity not to idolise and worship what we have made. Whilst we are called to delight and join in with God's creativity, so too we need to acknowledge our 'limitedness' as part of what it means to be embodied human beings.

One of the pervading issues of our day is the drive for AI to override our limits and to be and do all things, yet Adam and Eve in the beautiful creation narrative in Genesis 2, were told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They were to resist the temptation to be all-knowing in their desire to be equal to God, but instead were to know and rejoice in their limits as they lived to the glory of God.

God who is infinite, is a God of abundance and generosity and his love, mercy and grace know no bounds, and yet we have been given a world to care for which has limits and boundaries for our own flourishing.

September is the season of Creationtide in the Church's calendar, and a good time to reflect on our tendency to live as those who have no limits, and our failure to attend to the misuse and squandering of resources which has led to us imposing degrading limits on places and people across our world who lack even the basic resources of life.

At the heart of all of this is the importance of relationship. The creation narratives reveal the truth of God creating us to live in perfect relationship with God and one another and with all of creation. Our focus on AI last week confirmed my passion for the importance of the Church creating spaces for relationship and belonging – and it is interesting to see the ways in which eco initiatives in churches and schools are actually contributing to this.

AI is rapidly replacing human relationship, and we have been seduced by the anthropomorphising of AI, even in the way websites and online places of information offer us 'chats' and 'help'. As the use of AI grows, I hope we will grow in confidence and courage to explore and proclaim what it means to be members of the body of Christ; and in our different contexts to go on creating community in different ways such that people of all ages and stories discover the love and hope of Jesus Christ and know their own worth lived out in relationship.

The irony is that as we get drawn more and more into interacting with AI, we are too easily failing to notice the way human worth is being reduced. Many people are becoming more isolated, and jobs and roles which have given people dignity and worth are gradually disappearing. The robotic lawn mower in public spaces is a tiny example: It appears so clever and economically good, but it has possibly removed employment, care and pleasure from a human being.

I believe it is important that as the Church, we speak loudly of the importance of relationship and human dignity and justice; and I am continuing to reflect on the injustices, seen and unseen, which are being driven by AI, as well as where AI might enable justice.

Whilst September is marked as [Creationtide](#), October will embrace [Black History Month](#). The danger in both these 'special' months is that matters of creation, justice and racial justice are year-round issues and lived out our daily lives. However, if these months provoke better awareness of both beauty and brokenness, lived out in relationship, then that can still be a good thing.

So, I hope that just as September might prompt every individual and worshipping community to ask what we can do to contribute to justice for creation, I hope that October will provoke us to ask what is not being noticed regarding racial injustice, and what could be lived differently to contribute to and participate in a more racially just world, in our local contexts and beyond.

As part of this, please do commit to learning about and participating in the West Midlands Racial Justice Initiative which includes our diocese, and take a closer look at all that is being promoted in the Diocese of Gloucester. See links below:

<https://wmracialjustice.org.uk/>

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/the-racial-justice-action-group/>

As we walk through the remaining days of September and into October, may we pay ever closer attention to relationship with God, with creation and with all people. And in all this I hope we will go on paying attention to AI and what place we want it to have in our world, as we seek to give glory to God our creator three-in-one.

The Rt. Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Sunday takes place on **15th November**.

We ALL have a duty as Christians to protect those who are vulnerable, including children, young people and vulnerable adults.

As part of that protection it is important that everyone involved in the life of St Peter's undergoes the appropriate checks and training. Important ways in which we keep everyone safe are by carrying out [DBS checks](#) and by undergoing [Safeguarding Training](#).

DBS CHECKS & SAFEGUARDING

"Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless."
Proverbs 31:8

Safeguarding Training

"The Diocese of Gloucester continues to work toward ensuring a church which is safer for everyone. Effective safeguarding learning is one of the key means by which we will become a safer church."

Training to gain awareness of safeguarding issues so that you know what to do if you think someone may be vulnerable

Different levels for different roles:

BASIC
anyone who may encounter someone vulnerable

FOUNDATIONS
leaders of adult and/or children's activities, Parish Administrator

LEADERSHIP
Clergy, Safeguarding Officer

By completing online or in-person training

DBS Check

"Good safeguarding practice requires those who work closely with children and/or adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect to have an enhanced criminal record check."

What is it?
Legal check carried out by the Disclosure and Barring Service

Who does it apply to?
Applicable to specific activities/roles, e.g.
• supervision of children or vulnerable adults
• PCC members

How is it carried out?
By completing an online DBS application and agreeing to criminal record checks




Liz Johnson, Parish Administrator

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

St. Peter's Church
 Church Road
 Leckhampton
 Cheltenham
 GL53 0QJ
parishofficeleck@gmail.com

Autumn 2026 Concert Series



Saturday 26th September 14.00-14.40	Afternoon Coffee Concert 'Vocal Recital by David Crown accompanied by Kit Perona-Wright' (Wolf, Brahms, Finzi) <i>(Free entry, suggested donation of £10 to cover refreshments and to support the music programme at St. Peter's)</i>	
Saturday 17th October 16.00-18.00	Choir Concert by the Oriel Singers 'Britten Rejoice in the Lamb & L'Estrange A Season to Sing' <i>Tickets £15 (£2 for under 18s & students) available on the door or via the choir website</i>	
Saturday 31st October 11.00-11.40	Morning Coffee Concert 'Piano & Organ Recital by Kit Perona-Wright' (Verdi, Dubois, Brahms, Beethoven & more!) <i>(Free entry, suggested donation of £10 to cover refreshments and to support the music programme at St. Peter's)</i>	
Saturday 21st November 11.00-11.40	Morning Coffee Concert 'Vocal Recital by Hannah Davey accompanied by Kit Perona-Wright' (a journey from Classical through to Jazz) <i>(Free entry, suggested donation of £10 to cover refreshments and to support the music programme at St. Peter's)</i>	

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

'An Opening which was not an Opening' – and then it was!

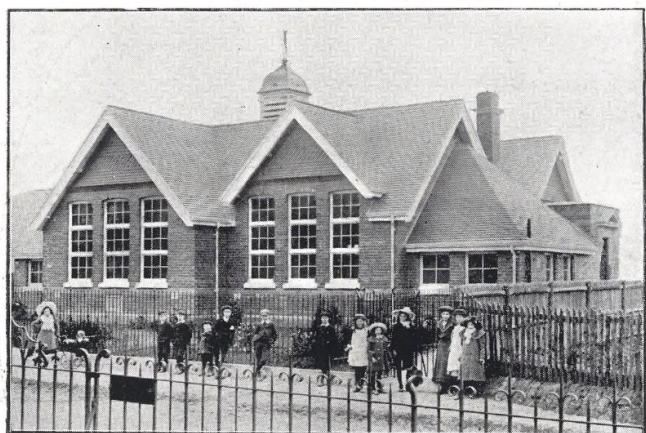


September 2026 marks the 120th anniversary of the Edwardian building which forms a major part of Leckhampton Church of England Primary School. The original school building, which faces Church Road and is still in use as part of the school, was established by Trust Deed and built in 1841.

By 1904, it was clear the existing buildings had become seriously inadequate. The school and its playground were too small for the increasing number of children in Leckhampton, and potential pupils were being turned away. In the Parish magazines of the time, the Curate-in-charge, Canon Proctor, explained the options - either to enlarge the present Church school or have an entirely new school built 'out of the rates', and therefore not a Church school. If the school passed out of Church control, the Church would have no say over the use of the buildings or the religious education taught there.

The School Managers accepted the offer of an acre of glebe land adjacent to the existing school by Mrs Neville Wyatt, the patron of the living of St Peter's at the time. This was agreed by all parties and the Trust Deed, under which the new school would operate, was signed on October 11th 1904.

The money for the new building would have to be found, which would require 'self-denying effort' on the part of the parishioners. Canon Proctor's appeals to the parish became more determined. 'Is Leckhampton to lose its National School? That would indeed be a disgrace. Our ancestors built it for the education of our children and maintained it at considerable expense.' He went on: 'And am I now to be called upon to be a party to surrendering a Church school! and to robbing a parish of this priceless instrument for the welfare of its children, which it has enjoyed for some 60 years! I cannot bring myself to contemplate it, and my present feeling is, that I would sooner give up my work amongst you altogether than do such a thing.'



NEW CHURCH SCHOOL AT LECKHAMPTON.

OPENED APRIL 30, 1906.

It lies with you therefore, dear friends, to say whether I go or stay.' The cost of the building was £4500 and the debt was finally paid off in 1908.

Meanwhile, the School Managers were pressing on with arrangements. The architect was Mr Chatters, and following the submission of tenders for the building construction, Mr Bendall was appointed as the builder. The Bishop-elect of Gloucester had agreed to lay the foundation stone, and this ceremony duly took place on July 3rd 1905. The stone can still be seen at the front of the school. It reads:

'In the Faith of the Ever-Blessed Trinity in the service of Christ's little ones

This stone was laid by the Right Rev Edgar Charles Sumner Lord Bishop of Gloucester 3rd July 1905'

One hundred years later, in July 2005, the Bishop of Gloucester visited the school and conducted a short service of rededication by the original foundation stone.

However, a major difficulty had arisen due to the terms of an Education Bill, under which it appeared that it would be impossible for the school to operate as a Church school. In April 1906, the Managers resolved that 'in view of the uncertainty as to how far it would be possible under the Bill now before Parliament to secure the carrying out of the purpose for which it has been built, as provided in the Trust Deed, the new school be not opened at present for use as a Day School.' The formal opening of the new school, which had been arranged for 30th April 1906, took place as planned, but the building was not brought into use. The Cheltenham Examiner of 2nd May 1906 described the event as 'An Opening which was not an Opening.' The same article provides a very full description of the building, including features of the layout which are still visible today.

The Parish magazine for June 1906 records wryly that 'our children remain in the old crowded rooms; but are much enjoying the spacious new play-ground.'

In the event, the Bill did not become law and the school buildings were opened for use in September 1906 for the older children, with the infants remaining in the old buildings. The Inspector's report of November 1906 confirmed 'the new premises have greatly increased the comfort of teachers and scholars, and will improve the organisation and add to the efficiency of the school.' In 1907, the name of the school changed from 'Leckhampton National School' to 'Leckhampton Church of England School'.

It is interesting to note that in October 1907, The School Managers decided to write to the Borough Council asking if it were possible to widen the road at the corner of Church Rd and Hall Rd. And we think that our traffic woes are recent!

Anne Gale, Chair, LLHS

CHURCHES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Calling all Church-crawlers!

For those interested in the churches in God's own county of Gloucestershire, the website www.blackberry-field.co.uk is tailor-made – a

photo gallery of historic Gloucestershire Churches. St Peter's is given prominence, which is not surprising, as the owner of the website, Patrick Underwood, was married here, in 1987. His wife Elizabeth grew up in Collum End Rise and her parents, the late Nigel and Sheila Alley, were regular worshippers at St Peter's.

Over the last six years Patrick and some friends have visited a total of 201 churches. As well as photographing the churches themselves, they look out for interesting headstones, especially those of armed services personnel. If anyone has questions or comments about the photographs of these beautiful, historic churches, Patrick can be contacted via the website.

Eric Miller

CHURCH FINANCES

CARING FOR ST PETER'S – TODAY AND TOMORROW

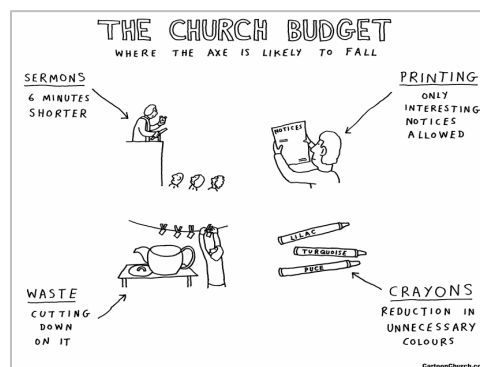
Finances can be challenging! We are fortunate at St Peter's to have reserves that help us manage our finances – many churches are not in that position.

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

Although the building is generally in good condition, there is still quite a lot that needs to be done. We have set aside £25,000 to cover the cost, although we may need to increase this depending on the quotations we receive.

We would also like to invest in solar panels for the church and cottages, both to build on our environmental achievements and to reduce our energy bills. We have already achieved a Gold Eco Church award, and we would like to build on this success.

Unfortunately, there are significant upfront costs before we can begin. The roof of the cottages requires an expensive timber survey to establish whether it can support the additional weight – and it may not. For the church, various surveys will be needed, together with listed building planning permission and a faculty before any work can begin.



A faculty is the Church's formal legal permission for changes, repairs or additions to a consecrated church building, its contents or its churchyard. There is, as you might imagine, a lot of paperwork!

Solar panels remain an aspiration for the future and, when funds allow, we hope to make a start.

Meanwhile, you could really help us by considering regular giving or, if you already give regularly, by taking another look at your current level of support.

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://stpetersleack.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 QR code →

