

The Messenger

APRIL 2024

The Parish of Dursley



**Price 60p each
£6 Annually**

The Ewelme Benefice

The parish of Dursley and the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

RECTOR

We are currently in a Vacancy.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Revd Jane Wood

E-mail: revjanewood@yahoo.com

Tel: 0798 362 3525

READERS

Mr Tony King

E-mail: tonyking@gmx.co.uk

Tel: 298897

Dr Paula Rix

E-mail: s.paula.rix@gmail.com

Tel: 01453 860903

CHURCHWARDEN.

Mrs Jan Vonberg

E-mail: janet.vonberg53@gmail.com

Tel: 519506

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Mrs Clare White

Address letters to: PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS.

St James Parish Centre, Silver Street, Dursley, Glos, GL11 4NA

E-mail: ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Tel: 549280

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.

Mr Nigel Davies, M.A., B Mus., F.R.C.O.,

Tel: 01454 416867

PCC: CHAIRMAN

Mrs Jan Vonberg (see above)

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Clare White

E-mail: ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Tel: 549280

PCC TREASURER

Dr Sally Pearson

E-mail: v6sep@aol.com

Tel: 542106



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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our April edition.

Easter is over and Spring is sprung. Let's hope for some sunshine. We have a quiz night and coffee morning coming up with Coffee, cake and music and every Saturday look out for Clive's Book Stall.

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the 'Messenger'. If anyone else feels they could contribute, please don't hesitate to contact us.

From

Valerie and Judith (editors)

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Editors:

Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677

Judith Staddon Tel: 01453 544312

Advertising please contact

Philip Staddon Tel: 01453 544312

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Judith Staddon

e.mail dursley.messenger@gmail.com

and copy in Valerie Meares

e.mail: v.meares@btinternet.com

**DEADLINE FOR MAY 2024 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 14th APRIL 2024**

**Just a reminder please send items for the magazine to
dursley.messenger@gmail.com**



Revd Ian writes...

Dear Friends

I confess to finding it difficult to think what I would like to say for this month's letter. There is such a lot happening in the world at the moment that is worthy of comment. In our news the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza are rightly covered in some detail. My difficulty and sadness with this is that I find myself struggling to take it all in. When we see suffering on such a scale how on earth can we respond? Perhaps we find a way, by giving aid or money to support people far away who are suffering. What we can do of course is keep the needs of the suffering world in our thoughts and our daily prayers. Indifference to the world's needs surely cannot be part of who we are.

Where I find hope is in good stories of people with a passion to share. One such story today in our news broadcast was concerning a 13-year-old bell ringer who has become the youngest ringer to qualify at Ripon Cathedral in Yorkshire. Alice Barrett started ringing at the age of 10 when her Mum saw a facebook page asking for ringers to ring in the new year 2020, as they were short. Alice went along and loved it. Her Mum Louise said, "Our family are very proud of her dedication. I am incredibly proud of Alice, not only for her accomplishments but also for her resilience and determination. Learning to ring has been a challenge especially as a small 10-year-old, but she went back week after week with 100% effort and a positive outlook.

"We are forever grateful for the opportunity to ring in such a magnificent building and for the support and friendship so willingly shared by all of the team. If anyone has ever thought 'I'd like to try that', just go and do it. You'll never look back." (from the publication, "The Stray Ferret")

I had the privilege of being with the bell ringers at St James for their AGM recently and their commitment and passion for ringing the bells was so clear to me. Gathered in the ringing chamber were people with years of experience and those too, who are relatively new to bell

ringing. What was evident to me was that here were people whose love and passion for bell ringing enhances the worship of the church and because of the centrality of the church in the town, mark all the great occasions the community remembers and celebrates each year. I for one, am very grateful for their constancy in the worshipping life of the church community.

As we continue in vacancy across the benefice, how many people, whether as part of a group or just on their own, play a part in making things work and run smoothly? The answer of course is lots of people and most go unnoticed as they quietly go about what they do. Echoing the words written about Alice the bell ringer in Ripon, the life of the Ewelme Benefice in vacancy is very much about "resilience and determination", so that worship continues and we look outwards to the needs of the community and to the world at large. It is also evident in the "support and friendship" we share and nurture, as we try and look out for one another.

Sister Raphael, a Carmelite nun, living in community in Dysart, Scotland spoke about her long life, of 91 years and counting, and her call to a life a prayer and work. In a short film about life there, she said, "We are planted in a place like a flower and all we have to do is to bloom and the sun will shine on us". I think that in these simple words, spoken by a woman of great age and wisdom, there is the invitation for each of us to blossom. I think that it starts with knowing who we are and what we can offer and then trusting that God will provide.

I wish you all well this April and join with you in our prayer for peace in this beautiful world of ours.

Yours in Christ

Ian



A Prayer for the Princess of Wales after the announcement of her cancer diagnosis.

Gracious God.

We pray for the continued recovery of the Princess of Wales, for her husband, and for their family. Grant to them, and to all who are affected by sickness, faith, hope, and knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

April Thoughts from The Benefice Office...

by Clare White



It's now British summer time and the days are getting longer, we can emerge from our winter hibernation and start to enjoy the great outdoors again. I love spring and the promise it has to offer. As I'm a spring baby it's my favourite time of year.

When April arrives, I always feel we are regenerating after a long, dull, wet winter. Coats can come off and we can feel the sun warming our skin.

We live in a very special area, we see new life all around us, lambs, blossoms, and new leaves on the trees. There is no better colour green than that of a newly unfurled beech leaf, which we can see in profusion in the wonderful woods that surround Dursley.

The start of this April is Easter Monday, the day after we have celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, the start of new life given to us in abundance by Jesus' sacrifice to all who believe.

Easter is the continuity of our "new life." God forgives us and we can make a new start, if we feel we've left the footpath God has laid for us.

The ups and downs of being a Christian are not dissimilar from the ups and downs of outdoor adventures, finding your way can be tricky but can also be enlightening, especially with a trusted guide - in Christianity that is God; in my adventures that's Steve with his excellent map reading skills!

As a Benefice we are waiting for the arrival of our new rector, which will be another cause for celebration and new starts. We will come out of this winter with hope for growth and the exploration of many new experiences or adventures together.

It has felt like a very long winter, particularly without any heating in our buildings but the fabric team have been working hard behind the scenes, on the replacements and with any luck next winter will be warmer in St James and The Parish Centre.

But for now, let us all enjoy what Spring 2024 has on offer for us and the footpath our Lord is guiding us along.

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' John 11:25,26
PS she was born on Easter Saturday, so she was my Easter chick that year (Judith)

PCC meeting Notes on 20th March 2024 at 9 Five Acres.

- Opening times for St James will stay the same- open at 9am and closed at 12.30pm. The church will remain closed during school holidays. During Holy Week the church will be manned by volunteers each morning between 10 and 12.30. we will review the policy at our June meeting.
- PCC approved many updated safeguarding policies that have been updated by our Safeguarding officer, Rachel Brown.
- Dursley Academy inspectors have watched Open The Book twice recently and commented that it was the best they had ever seen.
- The Service of The Word on 21st April will celebrate Open The Book.
- The PCC are waiting for the application to move St Mark's reredos to Kingshill house, on permanent loan. All were in favour of this resolution.
- The Accounts for 2023/24 were approved by the PCC.
- The church will install a cashless payment system. The faculty has been given for Wi-Fi in St James, so once installed the cashless payment system will be installed too.
- The replacement roof covering on the porch has been completed.
- The room above the porch needs to be dried out before decorating can begin.
- PCC approved a quote to remove the old boiler from St James, so that the company can investigate to fit the replacement boiler. Remedial building work will be necessary before fitting the new one.
- There are two quotes to fit a new gas boiler in The Parish centre. The boiler's position depends on where planning approval & Listed Buildings say the flue can be positioned. A building consultant has been appointed to help us with consent.
- Friends of St James have put together a leaflet in order to launch the project in June this year.
- Eco Church have installed dog poo pick up signs.
No Mow May will happen in areas of the churchyard.
There will be a coffee morning to raise money for ARocha, the Christian eco charity.
Count on Nature will be on 1st June 2024.
- A second Churchwarden needs to be appointed at the APCM on 19th May 2024.

All reports for the APCM need to be with Clare by 5th May 2024.



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week falls next month. We've taken information from their website to show their aims and objectives. In next month's magazine we'll show how you could support them during their special week.

For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

We believe in life before death

- We seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.
- We stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term.
- We support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

We're part of a global movement for change

- Together, we have great influence and impact. We want people to pray with us, to act, to give and to get involved with us in a variety of ways.
- We work to educate and mobilise people to build a movement that can change the course of history and bring social justice to all.
- We campaign to ensure a more equal division of power in the world, promoting the rights and voices of anyone discriminated against because of who they are.
- We push our political leaders to tackle climate change and tax dodging – which hit the poorest the hardest – and for our society to welcome those who have been forced to flee their homes overseas.

Prue Vernon, St Giles, Uley

Tony King, St James, Dursley



April 27th - Paul Bailey

(St Helen's, Alveston)

May 25th - Nick Sherwood

(St Monica's, Bristol)

June 29th - Nigel Nash

(Bristol)

July 27th - Stephen Power

(Brecon Cathedral)

August 31st - Andrew Millington

(Exeter)

September 28th - Anthony Burns-Cox

(Romsey)

October 26th - Nigel Davies

(St James The Great, Dursley)

The coffee and
homemade cake
will be served
from 10.30am

The Music
begins at 11am
and lasts for 30-
40 minutes.

There is no charge, but a retiring collection will be taken, the
proceeds of which will go to the work of St James' church.

Quiz Night

In aid of



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Hollies



Eco Church up-date....from Gill Mather



This month I have been thinking a little more about the organisation A Rocha.

Responding to the climate crisis is an essential part of caring for God's creation and achieving a just world. As a small church community, addressing this in a meaningful way can seem, daunting. Where do we begin?

To help with this, the Church of England recommends following the environmental scheme run by the Christian charity, A Rocha. Simply put, churches, cathedrals, Christian groups, and communities complete an on-line questionnaire to be considered for bronze, silver, or gold awards.

The areas of engagement that need to be demonstrated to achieve the awards include management of church land, management of church building, worship and teaching, lifestyle and community and global issues.

The questionnaire provides a starting point, as well as a structure on which to plan the action needed.

As you may know, St James has achieved a bronze award and is now working towards the silver.

On their website, A Rocha describes themselves as a global family of Christian organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise. The founding members of A Rocha were Peter and Miranda Harris. Peter, having been an English teacher and then clergyman in Liverpool, moved to Portugal in the early 1980s, where they set up their first environmental field study centre and bird observatory.



Peter Harris

The name, A Rocha, means 'The Rock' in Portuguese.

This Christian environmental movement has continued to grow and is now present in 20 countries.

Peter and his wife returned to live in the UK in 2010. Since then, Miranda was tragically killed in a road accident.

The A Rocha story is told in Peter's first two books: **Under the Bright Wings** (Regent College Publishing, 2000), and **Kingfisher's Fire** (Monarch, 2008)

Eco Church began as an A Rocha UK project in 2016 in partnership with others, offering the environmental award scheme for churches in England and Wales.

Eco Church relies on charitable giving to help run the organisation. We are planning fundraising coffee and cake after the Thursday morning service on 9th May to raise some funds for A Rocha. See below.

Best Wishes from Gill Mather - St James Eco Church team member

References

www.churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme

<https://arocha.org/en/about/people/peter-harris/>

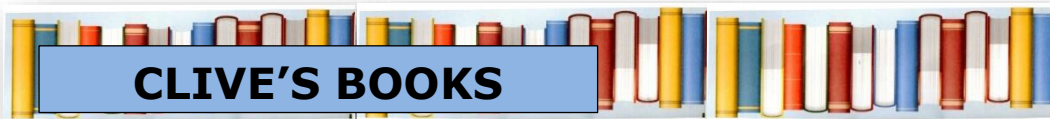


Canon Michael writes from Yorkshire.....

Gill and I went to Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 10th March to attend Choral Evensong with the Installation of the Revd Rowena King as a Residentiary Canon and Missioner of Lincoln. The Missioner role is a newly created one, so Rowena is the first post holder giving her the opportunity to put her own stamp on it. The role is about the Cathedral looking outwards to the local community, schools and the wider Diocese. Rowena is a member of the Cathedral Chapter and as a Residentiary Canon will take her turn leading worship in the Cathedral. It was good to be able to attend the service and to see Rowena's husband Malcolm and their daughter Elizabeth who has started at a school near the Cathedral.



PS for anyone who is new to our Parish, Rowena was a curate here, trained by Michael and once she was priested moved to be the team Vicar at Bourton on the Water.



The **FREE BOOKS** stall continues to go from strength to strength and we have already been given over £1,000 this year.

The gardening season is approaching. Why not come along and see our selection of Gardening books – **ALL ABSOLUTELY FREE**. If you have any books you wish to donate, gardening or any others please bring them along. They can be left in church any morning except, unfortunately, during school holidays when the church is closed to prevent the vandalism we experience during these times.

We hold the stall every Saturday morning between 9.00am and 12.00pm and have over 2,000 books to give away. No charge and no catches but you can leave a donation if you wish.

With so many books to put out and pack away every week we would appreciate any help you can give us. Nothing heavy, just taking books out of or putting into boxes. Contributions made so far in 2024 is £1043.90 and £24,421 in total. Absolutely amazing.

We set up on Friday in St James church every Friday at 4.00pm and pack away on Saturdays at 12.00pm

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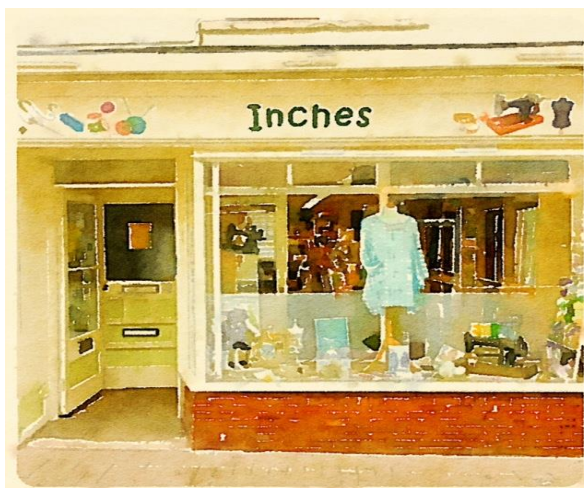
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Celebrating Aprilby Canon Richard Morgan

The whole of April falls within the season of Church's season of Easter, when we celebrate especially the resurrection of Jesus, his return to life from the grave after his death on the cross. Resurrection means rising again. But Jesus' resurrection isn't just a return to life.

When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter, the widow of Nain's son, and Lazarus, they returned to mortal life, and presumably died again. But Jesus rose to indestructible and everlasting life, never to die again. His resurrection implies and includes his ascension, his 'going up' to share God's life and reign. John seems to place resurrection, ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit on Easter Day itself. Jesus breathes the Spirit on his disciples that evening. Luke in Acts 1 spreads rising, ascension and the giving of the Spirit over fifty days, and so we keep Easter Day, Ascension Day and Pentecost. Luke's gospel itself seems to have Jesus ascending on Easter Day. Perhaps the Ascension after forty days rather shows the end of particular forms of Jesus making himself present with us, rather than his first taking of ascended power. And the Spirit was and is repeatedly outpoured by Jesus on us to unite us with him and empower us to share his love with others. The resurrection appearances in the gospels are also commissioning of the apostles by Jesus.

We could use them, or Jesus' words in them, as a prayer or canticle:

Canticle of the Resurrection and Mission.

Jesus says to his followers, the first apostles and all his people, the Church:

'Thus it is written: - The Christ would suffer and be raised from the dead on the third day.

In his name repentance bringing forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed to all peoples.

I am sending the Father's promise on you.' *Luke 24.46ff.*

'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whoever's sins you forgive are forgiven them;

Whoever's you hold, they have been held.' *John 20.21ff.*

'Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.'
Mark 16.15

'All authority in heaven and earth is given to me.
So go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit,
teaching them to keep all I have commanded you.
See, I am with you always, to the end of the world.'
Matthew 28.18ff.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

No wonder the day of Jesus' rising is celebrated not just on Easter Day only! What is the day of resurrection? It is the day Jesus rose from the grave, a Sunday just after the first full moon after the spring equinox in some year around AD 30. We keep it each year on Easter Day, but we keep it too for the forty days of Eastertide, and on each Sunday, each first day of the week. Indeed, as Jesus is risen and we shall rise, every day is Easter to us, as every day is Good Friday, for, as Paul says, we have died with Jesus: we must always be dying to, turning from, sin, and living Jesus' resurrection life, rising with him.

Our share in that risen life is not yet complete. The last day, the end and completion of creation in God's judgement and our being raised to a new heaven and earth, will be the new day of resurrection. And it will usher in, according to the Book of Revelation, an eternal day without night, when death will be no more. That, indeed, will be the final and endless day of resurrection. It is anticipated, even begun, as Jesus rises from the tomb, and so it touches us now as we live his risen life by faith, hope and love.

PRAYER

We thank, you, God of life and love,
that the actual person, Jesus of Nazareth, rose from an actual tomb on an actual date, so that all we actual individuals can rise with him, and all the actual material world too be raised and transformed.

We thank you that Jesus is alive today and for ever, so we can celebrate in faith and love his rising every Easter Day, every Sunday, and every day of our lives.

And we thank you that, in his resurrection and ascension, you commit yourself to raise us in a new creation, in a final day of resurrection which will usher in an eternal day of everlasting risen life with you.

May we live now, by hope in the anticipation of this day, in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



Bellringing *by Frank Byrne*

We held our AGM on Thursday 7 March 2024.

Rev Ian Gardener presided and election of officers resulted a change of Ringing Master when John Cole stood down and Philip Pope took over. Other posts were unchanged, Elizabeth Byrne - Secretary, Anne Pope – Treasurer, Ashley Pearson – Steeple Keeper and Andy Binstead – Assistant Ringing Master. Philip Pope agreed to organise this year's outing. As last year, this will be by car, the cost of a coach now being too prohibitive.

Measurements for the installation of swift boxes have been taken during the year and Andrew Ward designed and made these. Four have been made and fitted inside the weather boards covering the louvres. Swifts have access to the boxes but not inside the bell chamber. We wait to see how long it will be before we start getting some swifts making use of these.

Other necessary maintenance has been undertaken. Water damage to the timbers inside the bell chamber had been noted. This has been photographed and communicated to the Fabric Committee. Repair of, or new, ropes is an ongoing item and four have been taken for repair. Two pulley wheels over which the ropes run need replacing and this will be put in hand. These are made of a hard wood and have probably been in place for 120 years. Wood wears, becomes rough and misshapen and frays the rope. New pulleys will be of nylon. Will they last as long?

Quarter peal:

On Monday, 11 March 2024, in 45 minutes.

1250 Changes of Yorkshire S Major

1 John Taylor; 2 Lizzie Adkins; 3 Carole Bucknell;
4 Ian Bucknell; 5 John Cole; 6 Andrew Binstead;
7 Andrew Ward; 8 Philip Pope (Conductor)

First of Yorkshire - 5

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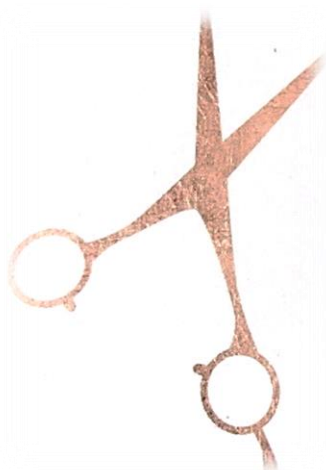


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April 2024

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Tuesday 2nd April

3.00pm Hereford Bellringing Course at St James

Wednesday 3rd April

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 4th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 7th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley.

Office Wadeley in G.

Motet Love Divine – Goodall

Voluntary Sonata No 4 (movt 4) – Guilmant.

Wednesday 10th April

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 11th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 13th April

7pm Quiz in Aid of Julius & Dora Orphanage in the
Parish Centre, tickets only, teams of up to 6

Sunday 14th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

10am Parish Holy Communion Service at St James, Dursley.

Office Ireland in C

Motet When in our Music God is Glorified – Sanders

Voluntary Overture on the Ode to St Cecilia's Day - Handel

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James

Introit Expectans – Wood

Responses Ayleward **Canticles** Wood in Eb

Anthem And I saw a new Heaven – Bainton.

Voluntary Postlude in D – Healy Willan

Wednesday 17th April

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 18th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter

8am Said Holy Communion at St James

10am Informal Worship with Open the Book at St James

Wednesday 24th April

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 25th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 27th April

10.30am Coffee, Cake & Music with Paul Bailey
(St Helen's, Alveston) at St James

Sunday 28th April – 5th Sunday of Easter

NO MORNING SERVICE AT JAMES

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Ja

Introit O Most Merciful – Wood

Responses Smith **Canticles** Lloyd in A

Anthem Glorious and powerful God – Wood

Voluntary Voluntary in D – George Dyson

Monday 29th April

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 30th April

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The Shrines at Walsingham

the Anglican Shrine, Recent History *by Tony King*



After World War 2 ended pilgrims and pilgrimages returned to the Shrine, but it was a slow return and there was a sense that things were not moving with the same momentum as during the pre-war period. But the Hospice of Our Lady was extended and the regular Festivals were celebrated in the Village.

Fr Patten promoted the Shrine as much as he could in the post-war years, but the reality was that the Shrine only appealed to a limited number of mainly papalist parishes. Many Anglo-Catholic parishes considered the whole setup as being 'extreme', while beyond the Anglo-Catholic world the Shrine was considered with suspicion by many Anglican parishes and incomprehension by others. On the other hand, there could be no alteration of its doctrinal position, for the Shrine existed to promote deeper understanding and devotion to Our Lady and, in Fr Patten's thinking, to take its place as the national Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham when the Church of England came into communion with the Pope.

1958 was a Lambeth Conference year and although most Diocesan Bishops in England had shown little approval for the Shrine, many overseas bishops were more Catholic-minded. It was decided to arrange a Bishops' Pilgrimage on 11th August. After Shrine Prayers they all had dinner at a restaurant in the village with Fr Patten, who was in fine form. They then returned to the Shrine for Benediction. After the service Fr Patten carried the Blessed Sacrament up to the Chapel in the gallery over the High Altar, replaced the pyx in the tabernacle and arranged the veil before turning and collapsing. He was assisted back to the College, the doctor came, but he died shortly afterwards. A muffled peal was rung on the bells and news spread fast through the village. Late as it was many villagers gathered in the Shrine Church to pray and Fr Stephenson led them in the 'De Profundis'.



Following Fr Patten's death, Fr Colin Stephenson became Master of Guardians and Shrine Administrator, while Fr John Shepherd became the parish priest.

Fr Stephenson was a very different character to Fr Patten; an extrovert and a famed raconteur much sought after for dinner parties. He was able to publicise Walsingham and dispel suspicions, encouraging people to go there. He was just the priest needed at the time as he sought to broaden the appeal of Walsingham and fully integrate it into the life of the Diocese of Norwich and the wider Church of England.

Over the decades from the 1960s to the 1990s the number of pilgrims visiting each year grew substantially. By 1998 over 360 parishes organised pilgrimages (one of which was mine!) – in 1949 only 30 had done so. During this time the Shrine Church was extended by the addition of the North and South Cloisters, new confessionals and counselling rooms. The Hospice was also improved –originally just rooms in the cottages along Holt Road – by the addition of St Joseph's house, opened in 1985 and equipped with facilities for pilgrims with special needs, and the opening of the Richeldis Houe in 1990 providing much better accommodation. During the same period the old refectory (which appeared to have been a wooden hall) was replaced with a splendid new Refectory catering to pilgrims staying in the Hospice and the Norton's bar and Café downstairs catering to day visitors.

In 1992 the Church of England's decision to ordain women created a challenge for many Anglo-Catholics and something of a crisis for Walsingham. The Shrine had become much more integrated into the wider stream of Anglicanism and its popularity was still increasing. Now it looked as though that integration might be imperilled – rumours began circulating that the Shrine might become Roman Catholic.

A new Administrator, Fr Martin Warner, now the Bishop of Chichester, brought stability to the situation by inviting the then Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, known to be an evangelical, to run a Conference on the place of Our Lady in the Scriptures, as a firm signal that the Shrine was part of the Church of England and would remain so.

The Shrine continues to welcome all people; parishes with women clergy are no less welcome though the Guardians have the freedom to reserve sacramental ministry in the Shrine Church to male priests ordained by a male bishop.

To be continued

I am indebted to the book 'Walsingham - Pilgrims and Pilgrimage' written by Fr. Michael Rear, for much of this information.



Ann Orchard has given her mind to thinking about the things which are important for her. Thank you Ann.

Do you have a favourite author or book?

Without a shadow of a doubt, it is Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice". I love that book and I have read it countless times. I always discover something new in her writing. I was given it as a present at the age of 14.

What are you reading at present?

I am just finishing Victoria Hislop's "Figurine"; she is obviously promoting the return of the Elgin Marbles. Like all her books I have been prompted to look up bits of history about Greece. I have also started reading a book by Judi Dench: "Shakespeare: the man who pays the rent." It is about all the Shakespearean plays she has appeared in. It is an extraordinary book.

Is there a book which you feel you should have read?

I always feel I should have read "War and Peace", but I don't seem to think I will ever get around to it now!

Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up? I like so many different kinds of music. A lot of it is tied up with memories. If I ever hear the songs of Abba being played, it stirs me. Then also when I hear bits of the "Messiah" which my father introduced me to it at a young age. He bought the whole work on the old 78 RPM records and wanted us to listen to it all.

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

Not really, but I am very fond of the music of Mozart, and most of the choral music we sing in church. John Rutter's Setting of the 23rd Psalm. I remember listening to it as we sat beside the river Loire with the birds singing. Pure magic! Whenever we sing this, it always takes me back to that moment. Music goes very deep into me.

Do you play a musical instrument. If not, what would you like to have learnt?

I can play the piano – not awfully well. However, I rose to the dizzy heights of playing for assemblies in the infant school. I had fun with music as a child, playing duets with my mum, and trios at the Bristol Eisteddfod. I have always loved singing with children in school, in church and in the musical shows which I have taken part in.

What is your favourite film?

I am not a great film goer. But one film has stuck in my mind. Kenneth Branagh's "Much ado about nothing". As soon it started, I was taken in by it. It was so lively that I wondered whether they were really Shakespeare's words. But when I went home I checked and all the words were by Shakespeare.

Do you have a favourite play?

Again, there so many I love. I saw "Pygmalion" at the Bristol Old Vic when I was in my teens. I also love a lot of Alan Ayckbourn plays. He really observes modern day life.

What about a favourite television series?

One programme I really enjoy is the "Repair Shop". Some of the stories around the items brought in are so moving. I also love to see craftsmen and their skills being promoted. Another series is by Professor Alice Roberts. She has been doing some historical programmes. There was a fascinating one about Glasgow. She has presented one on Cirencester where she discovered something totally new.

If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it? I love the work of the Impressionists and if I could, I would own anything by Monet, Renoir, Pissarro or particularly Berthe Morisot. I went a number of exhibitions in Paris, and I was blown away. Another painting I know I could never own is in Venice by Titian. It is the "Assumption". Every time we visit Venice I have to go and see it. The face of God at the top of the painting reaching down towards the Virgin Mary is remarkable. In Cardiff Art Gallery, there is a collection of Impressionist paintings gathered by two Welsh sisters, Gwendoline and Margaret Davies. They have a wonderful story. It is well worth a visit.

Do you have special building which means a lot to you and if so why? I think it would be St James Church. We weren't confirmed until we moved here in the early 1970s. It means huge amount to me. It's not just the building but the people. Also, when I go in alone the whole feeling of the place is remarkable. When we go on holiday to a Greek Island we always go on a walk past this tiny chapel and stop there. The whole atmosphere inside is lovely.

Is there a place where you have felt happiest? I think living here in Dursley is a very special place. We moved up here from Bristol in 1972 for work. We found the house in Shakespeare Road and thought this would do for a while, but we are still here! The contrast with Bristol was huge, and we have put down such deep

roots. I still have an affinity for Wales, where my father's family came from. And of course the Greek Island.

You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite? I would like to have my two grandfathers. One was a very clever man, a Welsh Miner, and the other equally clever, an engineer from the East End of London. I don't think they ever met. They were very different, and it would be incredible to put them together. Then the two Welsh sisters, who had collected the Impressionist paintings on their journeys though Europe. They had had a very strict upbringing and a good tale to tell. The last guest would be Grayson Perry. He talks so interestingly about art. I am just amazed that this is the man who is often seen wearing pink dresses. I wonder how the other guests would get on with him.....?

Gardening Books on Clive's Stall.....



EVENTS DURING LENT.....

Mothering Sunday.....

Posy making, on Saturday.....



View from the pew on Sunday



and a presentation to Jacquelin Hill. This is a replacement present from the choir to mark her retirement. The original present is in the garden of her previous garden and as she is now in a nursing home she will be able to see them grow and will be a joy to fellow residents.



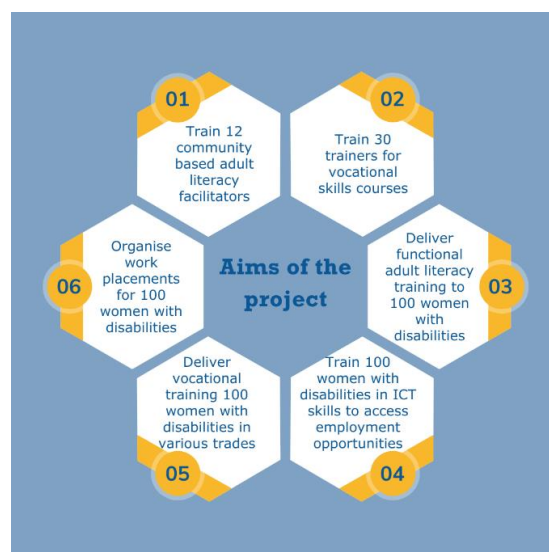


Thanks to your support, we have recently started a new project in the Namayingo District of Uganda

Dear Supporters

Young people in Uganda are currently facing a number of challenges such as low levels of education and unemployment. These challenges are even more severe for young people with a disability. While 12% of the Ugandan population has a disability, only 30% of women with a disability are currently in employment. This is, in part, due to young women with disabilities experiencing increased disadvantages when accessing skills training and employment opportunities. This lack of training and opportunities leaves women with disabilities at a higher disadvantage and increased vulnerability as a lack of employment exacerbates poverty.

But thanks to your support, we have been able to start a new project with our local partner Namayingo United Women's Group (NUWOG). This project will equip young women with physical disabilities and visual impairments aged between 18-35 with basic ICT skills, functional literacy, marketing vocational skills and retail concepts so that they can increase their employment opportunities and increase their confidence. Work placements will also be set up for the project participants in a number of industries such as telecommunications, small businesses, national organisations and private companies.



info@feedtheminds.org

ANOTHER HOLE IN THE WALL *by Jennifer Kendrick*



It all began with a blind date set up by my parents' friends in 1958 when I was 21 and had recently proudly qualified as a State Registered Nurse. I was only interested in having fun and not looking for romance, but that all changed that night when I was collected from the Nurses' Home by a tall, handsome stranger in a magnificent vintage car and whisked off to a formal ball! The fact that I lost my shoe during our first dance, just made everything even more surreal and I found myself tongue tied and shy!

At the end of the night as I was safely delivered back to the Nurses' Home in good time (Matron allowed a late pass til 1a.m) I was surprised to be asked on a second date.

That turned out to be challenging as Hospital rules only allowed us out until 10pm which, following a late shift ending at 8.30pm, left only time for a short visit to the local pub, not conducive to intelligent conversation.

Fortunately, I had the following weekend off, was due to join my parents at a Traction Engine Steam Rally and invited Roger along which turned out to be a huge success as he and my father shared a common interest and my mother and I joined in just enough!!

Not long after that I was introduced, all at once to the vast Kendrick clan at a family gathering: parents, three sisters (two older and married and one only 12 years old), plus aunts, uncles and other relations, too numerous to count but all relaxed and welcoming. We did not tell them that, having met only three weeks before, we were already engaged!

Roger's mother was a formidable lady who had chosen to forego a promising career as a classical opera singer in favour of marriage. Forever fondly known as The Duchess, I never matched her expectations as a suitable wife for her only son, and she continued to sail through life with great dignity and elegance, like a galleon in full sail to the age of 91. It didn't take long for us to settle in to a harmonious and caring relationship after she had expressed concern that my housekeeping standards did not meet hers, and I promised that I would always ensure that my family were clean, happy and well fed! Mercifully her husband, my beloved Father-in-law, felt home was home when you could write 'I love you' in the dust and everyone was assuaged!. At one point there were ten grandchildren (including our three) living near enough for family celebrations reasonably regularly which has stood us in good stead in later years as life got busier, the world smaller and time goes faster! Other offspring and partners have

come along in the meantime but distance and circumstance have disrupted the flow and diluted the intimacy. Although we manage to keep abreast of things with technology and occasional visits, it's not the same.

I always thought of my family life like Hadrian's Wall, stretching far and indestructible, a permanent reminder of collective building alongside inevitable change and some decay, but this week saw my remaining sister-in-law aged 96 draw her last breath, following the others who have died in the last 18 months. Suddenly I am the only one left who personally remembers the chance beginning, 66 years ago, that has nurtured, guided and supported so many people and contributed to so many events round the world.

It feels odd to be the last one standing - maybe the wall needs to go.

LITTLE THINGS *by Grace Haines.*

Oh! It's just the little homely things, the unobtrusive friendly things
The "won't you let me help you" things that make our pathway light.
And it's just the jokey, jolly things, the "never mind the trouble" things,
The "laugh with me, it's funny" things that make the world seem bright.

So, here's to all the little things, the done and then forgotten things,
The "oh, it's simply nothing" things that make life worth the fight.

ON THE BOOKSHELF. *by Jennifer Kendrick.*



TAKEN ON TRUST Terry Waite's chunky autobiography has been on my bed side table just waiting since I last read it soon after it was published in 1993!

A graphic account of his 5 years, mostly in solitary confinement, captivity and torture, it also sheds light on his childhood and family life in Cheshire in the 1930s, and wonderfully illustrates why it is possible to visit the past to make better use of the present and, maybe, prepare for the future!
contd on page 30.....



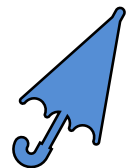
contd from page 29.... I commend it with caution, realising how differently it reads after 30 years, and how history repeats itself over and over again! It confirms, for me, that faith and forgiveness are valuable mainstays in our daily lives where so much is beyond our control.

ADVICE FROM A TREE

SpringBluff, Toowoomba, OLD Australia.

Stand tall and proud
Think long term.
Go out on a limb.
Remember your roots.
Be flexible and accept change.
Embrace the seasons,
Feel the sun, the rain and the wind,
Admire the moon and the stars.
Be content with our natural beauty.
Enjoy the view.

Anon.



April Acrostic *by Sally Hayward*

All through April it
Pours with
Rain, known as April showers
Important to take an umbrella wherever you go
Looking out of the window, perhaps I'll stay in,
the shopping won't get done.



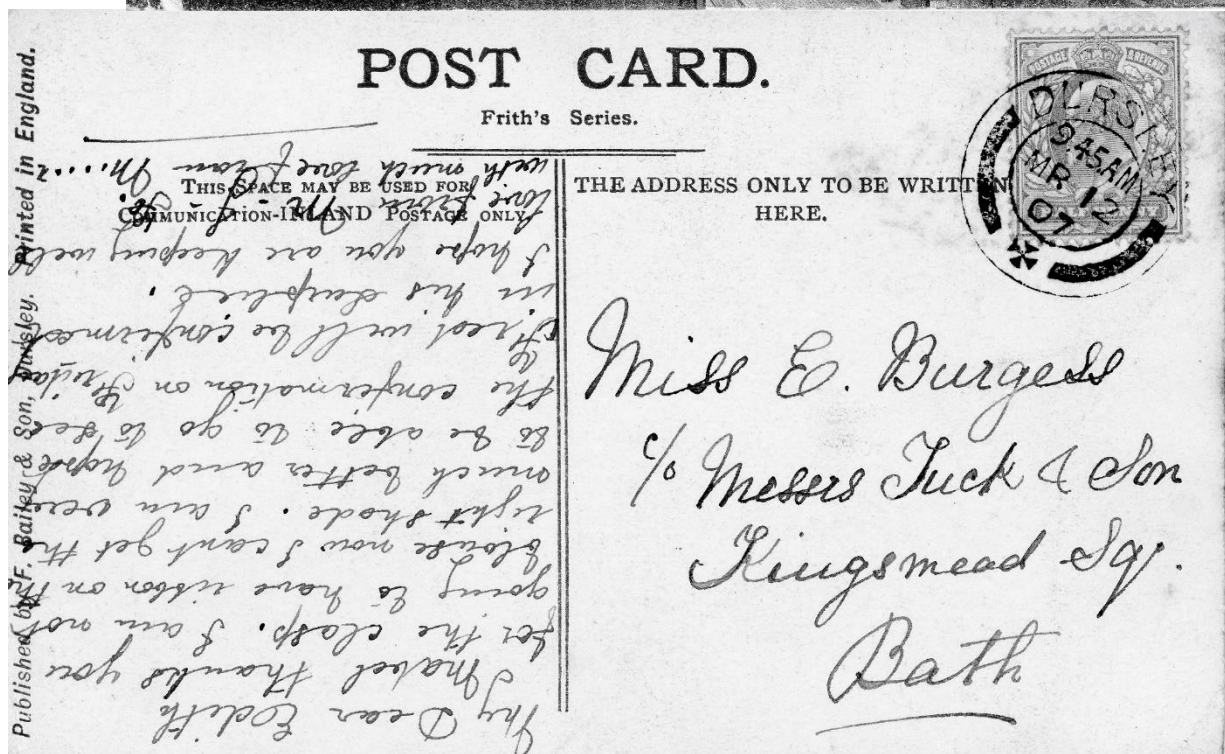


Nigel Davies writes.....

I came across this 1907 postcard of St James' church which might be worth including in a future edition of the "Messenger" when there's space. It's interesting because of the message which includes "I hope to be able to go and see the confirmation on Friday. Fred will be confirmed in his surplice". So Fred must have been a member of St J's choir - even pre-dating Lionel Jones! I wonder who he was. Knowing Dursley I bet someone may have an idea.....



45532. Dursley Parish Church. R.E. & Co.





The picture above was taken in the 1950s at the New Inn Woodmancote. I wonder if anyone recognises the people and the event.

The painting is by Elizabeth Oakley.





MOUSE DIARY

By spring MBFTLP seemed to be back from her intergalactic adventures without too much trouble. Meantime we had all got warmer and the daffodils and blossom in the churchyard cheered us all up including Mr Dinosaur. So how did you all get on without me? she said, after her re-entry into earth's atmosphere. Well, I said, I paired off Freddie with The Easter Bunny and it turns out they got on quite well. They did quite a lot of bouncing together although Freddie did the most bouncing. Hopefully it is good practice for when he goes back to his field sometime later. He can hop over the wheat sheaf's and pretend it is the Olympics. Talking of being famous for something, I have a proposal, said MBFTLP. You know you have a nice picture of yourself at the top of the column. Well do you think we could also have a nice picture of me too, (herein). Well you could have knocked me down with a feather (not sure we have one in the vestry) because MBFTLPs sojourn with the dishy professor off the TV in intergalactic space seems to have gone to her head entirely. Also I thought it was only me who was meant to be famous. So I proceeded with caution. Ahem, well I think we could have your picture for a month or two. But after that you might go off again with the dishy professor on the TV. MBFTLP looked a trifle affronted. If not more or less mortally wounded. I had rather a headful of that physics business, she said, and decided I would rather come home to My Menagerie and carry on being a poet. So we agreed that physics and poetry don't go together very well. Not as well as Freddie and The Easter Bunny anyway.

The upshot of the whole caboodle was that I said that we could have a picture of MBFTLP for a little while and so here it is.

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



EXPERIENCE EASTER....by Anne Shipton

The week beginning 11th March saw the children from Dursley Primary Academy coming to St James for 'Experience Easter'. The children were split into four groups to hear the Easter story followed by an activity.

There was plenty of time for them to ask questions and they had quite a lot!

(Including why was it so cold!) It was lovely to see the church full of children at this special time and I hope they gained something from this beautiful story.



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Years mind in April

Eileen Tait 2001, Bevis James 2012, Ted Wakely, Pete Norris 2016, Mauris Francis 2001, Pearl Stanley 2008, Philip Rose 2015, Don Trapp 2008, Ron Powell 2018, Edgar Norman Martin 2007, Edna Nelves 2004, Vincent Vizard 2015, Eileen Benjamin 2017, Robert Weldon 2019, David Avery 2020, Colin Dolbear 2016, Roland Newman 2021, Kathleen Hill 2021, Ian Morgan 1978, Douglas West 2020, Stuart Miles 1997, Hector Hayes 2003, Bill Moon 2015, David Wilson 2001, Marlene Powell 2022, John Underwood, Joyce Sirrett 2009, Peggy Trott 2016, Margaret Hughes 2020, Kenneth A Cook 1994, Kenneth Chandler 2004, Peter Boyles, Steve Walton 2006, Joan Edmunds 2009

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



FUNERALS.

We share our thoughts and prayers with the families of those who mourn the loss of those they love.

20th March Margaret Simpson's Funeral at St James

22nd March David Ind's Funeral at St James

25th March Ursula Bray's Funeral at St James

Burial of Ashes

18th March Paul Jenkins at Kingshill cemetery.

22nd March Glenis Ewer at St Mark's.

FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

April 7th

High Altar

Tanner Chapel

Lady Chapel

Cynthia Martin

Margaret Lloyd

Clare White

April 14th & 21st

High Altar

Tanner Chapel

Lady Chapel

Sarah Hodge

Ann Bussey

Glenys Muir

April 28th & May 5th

High Altar

Tanner Chapel

Lady Chapel

Marion Paisey

Anne Shipton

Sandra Longstreth



100 CLUB

100 club draws for March 2024.

1st - 209 - Judith Staddon

2nd - 109 - Danny Parker

3rd - 195 - Rev David Vonburg

Many Thanks from Sarah.

DURSLEY C_{of}E PRIMARY ACADEMY



Mrs Toni Holford-Wright – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,
School Road,
Dursley,
GL11 4NZ

t: 01453 542304 e: admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk

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between 9.30am and 12 noon.

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TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

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E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

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100 CLUB

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155



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