

# St. James's, Dursley & St. Mark's, Woodmancote



## The Messenger **NOVEMBER** 2020

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](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk)**

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**Please note Michael cannot be contacted on Fridays  
this is his day off – please contact Parish Office**

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## **BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Clive Orchard**

**The Parish Office is closed at the moment.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A WEEKLY PEW LEAFLET PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PARISH OFFICE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW.**

**Address letters to:** The Rectory, Broadwell, Dursley, Glos, GL11 4JE

**E-mail: [ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com)**

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# NOVEMBER

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**Message from the editors:**

*Any opinions expressed in the magazine are personal views only...*  
*Judith Valerie and Jenni*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE IS  
SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER**



Dear Friends

In all of the confusion and dismay surrounding much of the Covid news, there have always been stories that warm the heart. Lives that show determination, bravery, words and deeds of inspiration and hope, are just the things that we need to hear and

see, when life in general can seem bleak.

Captain Tom, now Sir Tom, was one such remarkable individual, who became a real hero and his story was told around the world. To see the old soldier walking across his garden 100 times was quite something, but to do it with the aid of a walker and just days before his one hundredth birthday, made it very special indeed. His modest determination touched everyone and his fund raising effort was heartening for all who wanted to say thanks to the health professionals in the NHS, who are at the heart of combating the virus.

The heroes, I think, are those who get on, or get up and do things, when most sit back and say "I wish I could do that"....but never get around to it. Dogged determination and a belief in the right of a cause, an idea or just something that needs to be done, is what can carry us on to do the good, or the right thing.

I am always inspired when I hear another remarkable old soldier speak, as he has done quite often over these past months. Harry Billinge is 95 years old and continues to remember those old comrades who never came back from their service in the Second World War. Something of a reluctant celebrity, this British Legion poppy seller of 60 years and fund raiser, is passionate to convey to all, the thanks he feels for all those with whom he served, but who died in action. At 18 years old, Harry was amongst the first to land on Gold beach during the D-Day Landings in 1944. Many died that day and his mission has been to raise funds for a memorial in Normandy, to all those who died then and during the Normandy campaign.

He received an MBE in 2016 and today (8.9.20) I have seen him honoured once again at St Austell railway station where he unveiled a plaque on the Great Western Intercity Express No. 802006 proudly displaying HARRY BILLINGE MBE, LdH. Ever the one to down play his role in all of this, his response was, "I've been deeply moved today. Having a train named after me is a great honour. It will remind people of the fine men who fought that day, lots of whom never went back home again. It's important that their memory is remembered, and I hope this train will carry that message to thousands of people every day." Do watch it if you can, he is a most inspiring and humble man.

Harry Billinge's life and words evoke in us the need for us all to remember. Remembering not just those who died, but that from the past we might learn the mistakes and acknowledge the sadness of war and conflict. This year our Remembrance Commemorations will be different than in past years because of the Covid restrictions, but there will be ceremonies and the times and details will be advertised in the local press and in The Messenger and in the Uley Village News.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them. - Laurence Binyon.*

Yours in Christ

Ian

PS

I was saddened to hear of Alice Chorley's death. When I arrived here in 1988 and over the years began to explore Reader Ministry, Alice was so supportive. Her quiet reassurance and kindly ways, made such an impression on me.

I have much to thank her for in the way my call to Ministry has evolved. Such a long time ago, but remember her with love and affection.

## **Church News from Canon Michael**

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meetings, postponed in April, were held on Sunday 11th October in St James. At the meeting of Parishioners, before we elected new Churchwardens, we said some very grateful thanks to Austin who stood down from the role of Churchwarden which he has filled, on and off, for a considerable number of years both in Dursley and previously in Nailsworth. Canon Michael expressed his thanks to Austin for his dedication and commitment as well as for being willing to step back into the role when a vacancy arose. Austin was presented with some garden vouchers as a token of our thanks and Valerie was given a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her support. Austin sends his thanks to everyone at St James and St Mark's and says that he is looking forward to being able to accompany Valerie to church on Sundays, something which has not been possible for some years.

Caroline Marrow was re-elected to serve as Churchwarden for another year and Christine Morgan was elected to serve with her. We are very grateful to them both for being willing to take on this role.

During the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) we had the opportunity to say 'thank you' to Peter Kirvan who stood down from the role of PCC Treasurer after 15 years of service. Canon Michael presented Peter with a gift of some wine and spoke about his gratitude to Peter for his commitment to the role and for keeping our parish finances in such good order. Canon Michael also offered our congratulations to Peter and Christine on their marriage during the summer. They are now living in Winchcombe and Peter sent this message of thanks: *'I really did enjoy my tenure as parish treasurer. I made many friends as a result of the position and they will always be with me. I thank you all for the love, support and encouragement that I have received. I shall miss you, but hopefully will be returning from time to time as life moves on. And love, being the true meaning of life in my opinion, is what binds us all together. I consider myself truly blessed to have found love with Christine once again and look forward to the future with great optimism. Thank you all once more for your friendship.'*

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES**

As our risk assessments have had to put a limit on the number of people who can attend a service in our churches, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know if you are planning to attend. Please can you do this, by Friday, either by emailing [ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com) or leaving a message on 549280. Please note that for Track and Trace purposes we are required to keep the contact details of those attending a service for 21 days.

## **Advent Carol Service - Sunday 29th November 4pm**

As we are having to restrict the number of people who can attend a church service, we will be holding our Benefice Advent Carol Service via Zoom with joining details being sent out nearer the time. The service will include Advent carols and music recorded at services in previous years, with readings by people from across the parishes of the Ewelme Benefice. If this service goes well, we expect to repeat the pattern for the Christmas Carol Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Introducing Christine Morgan our new Church Warden.....**

I was born and brought up in what was then Surrey but is now Greater London. I went to school in Wimbledon and



then to Oxford to read Maths where I first met Richard on a church trip to Lee Abbey. After University, I worked for a company making Surgical Instruments before moving to the Prudential in London, where I ran a site supplying design, print, warehousing and distribution services. I met up again with Richard, while he was home on furlough and when I visited him in Kenya, discovered that I was allergic to the anti malarials then

available. Richard decided to return to the UK so we could be married, which we were in 1994. In 1996, he became Rector of two villages in Hertfordshire, and I was able to commute to London. I joined the PCC, taught Sunday School and organised the church fete for some years as well as being on various fundraising committees and attending a large number of the many social events in the two villages. I was made redundant in 2000 and after trying unsuccessfully to get a job in the charity sector, went to work for Goldman Sachs. This job involved a lot of overseas travel, including New York, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and various parts of India. In 2009, after another redundancy, I went to work for a firm of Chartered Accountants in the City as Purchasing and Facilities Manager. When Richard's mother became poorly, we bought our house in Dursley so we had somewhere to stay when we visited her. I was able to go part-time, dropping Mondays so we could come down for a "clergy weekend". I retired in 2015 and am now enjoying dog owning (we have two retriever crosses) and photography, and I continue as a Trustee of a Children's Centre in Kenya.

## **Another change .....**

Marlene Powell took on the job of Editor of the Messenger magazine back in 2002 (she tells me) and so after 18 years service she has decided to retire.

The original Parish magazine had included news from all the churches in Dursley and was printed by Bailey's News, but that folded for various reasons and so for a time there was nothing. The Revd Jane Kenchington felt very strongly that we needed our own magazine and that we could produce it. I think it started at the end of 1998 with Caroline Marrow and Kathie Rebbeck involved. Eventually it evolved and I became the compiler (put it all on the pages) and Jane was the editor and I used to page-up with her on her kitchen table with the most gorgeous smells coming from her cooker as their meal cooked. Then in 2002 she was going to do some postgraduate studies in Bristol and would not have time for the magazine and she approached Marlene to take over as editor. At first we were both nervous about what we were letting ourselves in for but the rest is history, as they say.

There was much nail biting when we looked at the pile of papers each month and wondered each time if there would be enough to fill the pages, but we never failed to put something together even if it meant that she had to delve in her file of reserve items.

So I do thank Marlene for her wise words, support, help and encouragement over the years.

Many thanks again from your fellow editors as well.

*Judith*

## **Messages from Caroline.....**

**Poppies** - Thank you everyone who has helped to sew the poppies on the netting. They are all completed now but sadly not enough new poppies for any new area of the church to be decorated.

Next year I would like to create a poppy arbour around the Mary statue in the Lady Chapel which will need about 500 poppies so if any one (or two or more!) that can get knitting that would be really appreciated.

## **On line Christmas market**

If you would like a virtual stall at the Facebook 'St James on line Christmas market' please email Caroline. [Caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com](mailto:Caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com) and she will be able to give you a stall number and approve your posting. Please take photos of the



items that you wish to sell as we can display these on the church website as well.

There is no restriction as to how many posts you wish to make eg it might be simpler for all if you have a craft stall to have cards on one post, knitted items on another, etc etc as people may not scroll through a lot of mixed photos. It is entirely up to you if you include other contact details in your post for enquiries, the page is public.

The Facebook page will be open until 30th November. Each stall holder will need to liaise with the purchaser directly via Facebook to arrange payment and delivery/collection.

If you don't do Facebook then you may be able to buddy up with a friend to post your items for you. I am sorry but I cannot post on behalf of anyone. It may be that there is a better way to do this in the future but this is the best I could manage for this year.

The on line market is a fundraising initiative so we are asking each stall holder to make a donation to St James.

Looking forward to receiving all your requests to sell items at our new look Christmas Fair.

Christmas Fair buyers please browse our Facebook page, if you see something that you wish to buy or ask about please place a comment on that individual post or follow any contact details that the seller has posted.

## Shoe boxes

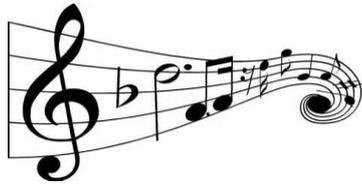
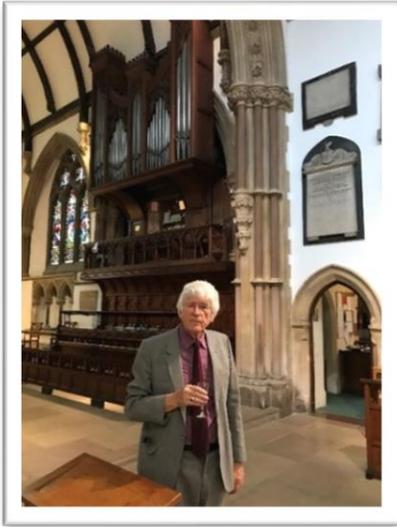


Teams for you (T4U) are still doing shoe boxes this year. The leaflets are available from Caroline, just make u your box as usual and they will sort out any quarantine that needs to be adhered to. If you could please tuck an additional paper label under the elastic band that holds the box together showing the date that you closed the box that would be most helpful. (Please don't forget to place £3 in an envelope inside the box to help with transport costs)

If you are unable to create a box then please consider giving a donation to enable T4U to purchase larger community items or to supplement the boxes that still have space in them.

I am not able to deliver the boxes to Evesham this year so will be arranging a definite last date as **19th November**. Because of this year's circumstances **please drop your box in a plastic carrier bag into INCHES in town**. Each box will need to be in a separate bag to ensure maximum safety. Please do not leave in the church or parish centre (as this requires too much handling).

***Caroline sends her thank in advance***



## MUSIC NOTES

Sunday 4th October was something of a milestone in our quest to return to “normal” services during the continuing pandemic. It was the first time a choir had been heard in St James' since the 15th March. Given the need for social distancing, eight is the maximum number we can have in the chancel area, and I am

grateful to the singers on that day; Barbie Davies and Margaret Lloyd (Soprano); Heather Arnold and Joyce Lombarde (Alto): Edwina Walton and John Taylor (Tenor): Geoff Whiley and Michael Lunt (Bass). As we have over thirty choristers, there will be a rota of singers for the next few weeks to enable everyone to have a chance of being back in the choir stalls.

All this is being done without any form of rehearsal, and I look forward to the time when we can re open the Choir Room on a Friday night and continue learning new music and “fine tuning” parts of our large choral repertoire, before we forget everything!

Talking of “new music”, the one thing I particularly enjoy is the discovery of new repertoire. Like everything else, the world of the organ and its music is susceptible to fashion! For example, some fifty years ago transcriptions of orchestral music were considered taboo, but today they are back in fashion! A large proportion of organ music from the first half of the twentieth century was considered almost unworthy of performance, and disappeared from the programmes of our leading recitalists.

During the 1950's and 1960's it was thought that the bright clear tones of the German organs from the time of J S Bach were the correct sounds for British organs, and many perfectly good instruments were rebuilt to try and sound “baroque” with the result that they were ruined as instruments to accompany worship – but excellent at giving a near authentic rendition of chorale preludes by Buxtehude! Thank goodness that trend has been reversed, with many pipe organs reverting to how the original builder intended them to sound. The most recent example is that of Canterbury Cathedral where Henry Willis' superb four manual instrument was rebuilt by the recently extinct firm of Mander in the 1970's and reduced to three manuals losing several lower pitched “foundation” stops. The 2019 rebuild by Harrison reinstates the removed ranks of pipes and reverts to using a four manual console. So the

changes in fashion continue, but today it seems that we are happier to embrace a wider range of styles and not demolish what was deemed good in the past, and I am particularly pleased to see that "music with tunes" is back in vogue!

A recent discovery from the vast library of British organ music written between the two world wars is the composer Ernest Halsey (1876 – 1939). Some of his music has been reprinted by Fitzjohn Music Publications, and the details inside the front cover of the *Toccata in C minor* simply say that Mr Halsey worked in business in London and lived at Culmer Lodge, Peak Hill, Sydenham, and that he was organist of the Congregational Church at Anerley, South London from 1903 until his death. However, a Google search shows that Mr Halsey was rather more than a "business man" as his main occupation was as a satirical writer under the name of Ashley Stearne.

This is the biography that the BBC used for the Radio Times when his "Dirge on the Death of an income Tax Inspector" was broadcast by the BBC Theatre Orchestra in May 1935. I was interested to see the different spelling of Stearne.

"Ashley Sterne, writer of humorous articles, burlesques, and librettos was first of all trained as a musician, but later, on the advice of a palmist, adopted a literary career. Mr. Sterne was the friend of that promising young British composer, W. H. Hurlstone, who died in 1906. In 1908 Mr. Sterne entered for a Cobbett competition for a Fantasy Trio. John Ireland won the first prize and Mr. Sterne secured a consolation prize of two guineas. He plays the violin, viola, 'cello, piano, and organ". The son of a Congregationalist minister, Ernest Halsey was educated at Taunton School, but little else can be found as to where he "first of all trained as a musician". W. H. Hurlstone was educated at the Royal College of Music (along with Vaughan Williams and Holst), so perhaps that's where Halsey met him. The "advice of a palmist" is thought to have been an Ashley Stearne-ism! To be a runner-up to John Ireland in a prestigious competition says much for Halsey's compositional skills. His published music dates from 1898 to 1913, after which his writings (for magazines like *Punch*) must have occupied his time, but I hope to play some of his beautifully crafted pieces at services and recitals in the future.

I tried Googling Mr Halsey's address, with little success except to discover that a one bedroom flat in Sydenham costs a minimum of £300,000! There is much to be said for living in this lovely part of Gloucestershire.

Congratulations to Cynthia and Phil Martin who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. Both are active members of our church community as Phil sings tenor and Cynthia is a Server.

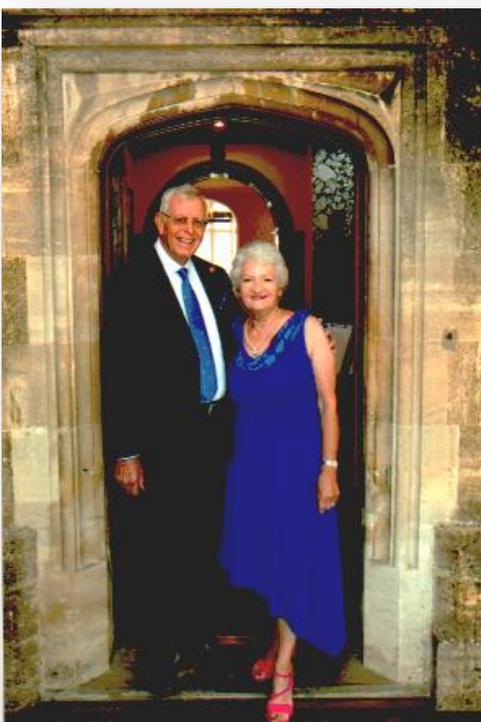
## **Just a thought.....**

There is little doubt that many churches will be pushed further along the road to extinction as the effect of living with Covid19 continues its relentless progress around the world. Already church choirs are beginning to disappear and church attendance (with a high proportion of vulnerable elderly members) will continue declining. It's a bleak picture, and one which we must fight against as best we can whilst observing the rules laid down by the experts. As some-one wrote recently, we must learn to live with the virus just as Samuel Pepys did during the Great Plague of London in 1666.

So given the rather perilous position of church finances resulting from the dreaded pandemic , I was amazed to discover an advertisement in the "Church Times" (2nd October) for a Senior Interim Minister to "re imagine mission and ministry across the Diocese of Gloucester for decades to come". It goes on to say that the post would include "helping a parish during a vacancy". The post carries a salary of £46,519 and is billed as "an exciting opportunity". It seems to me that every organisation is becoming top heavy with the kind of management structure normally associated with "big business". Schools and local government are prime examples, and of course in recent years, so is the C of E.

I understood that the senior clergy (particularly Archdeacons) in a diocese were responsible for "mission and ministry", and that Area ( formerly Rural) Deans were responsible for looking after parishes during a vacancy. Why do we need yet another salaried member of the already top-heavy management of our diocese? Especially at a time when we are all having to make financial sacrifices. No wonder the Parish Share is set at such an astronomic level!

*Nigel Davies*



**Congratulations to  
Peter and Christine Kirvan**  
pictured following their marriage in  
August.

Peter is a member of the choir  
at St James also the former  
PCC Treasurer. They will be residing at  
Winchcombe

## A Lighter moment in these dark day.....

*from R.A.F.A member David Wood.*

A Royal Air Force officer walked into a London bank and asked to see a loans representative. The officer said he was going to Europe on leave for two weeks and needed to borrow £5,000. The loan representative said the bank would need some security for such a loan.

The officer then handed over the keys to a brand-new BMW that was parked on the street in front of the bank. Everything checked out and the loan representative accepted the BMW as security for the £5000 loan. A bank employee then drove the BMW into the bank's underground secure garage and parked it there.

Two weeks later the Royal Air Force officer returned from holiday repaid the £5,000 and the loan interest, which came to £15.00.



The loan representative said, 'Sir we do appreciate your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a bit puzzled. While you were away we checked and found that you recently won over a million pounds on the National Lottery. What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow £5,000?'

The Royal Air Force officer replied:

'Well, the thing is.....

Where else in London can I park my car for two weeks for fifteen pounds?''

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## MISS ALICE CHORLEY RIP.....



On Sunday 18th October we heard that Alice had died in August this year. We knew this as Can Michael announced that she had left a bequest for St James and also subsequently we learned that there was one for St Mark's too.

I know she left here a long time ago but I know there are people

who will still remember her. I remember her as a very quiet unassuming lady who nevertheless served as a Reader here for many years.

In these pictures there

are some more faces from the past.

*Judith*



**PRESENTATION to Miss Alice Chorley marking her retirement as a Licensed Reader in 1997.** (Pictures from St Mark's archive).

## Eco Church –Thoughts about Carbon Footprint

A Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment.

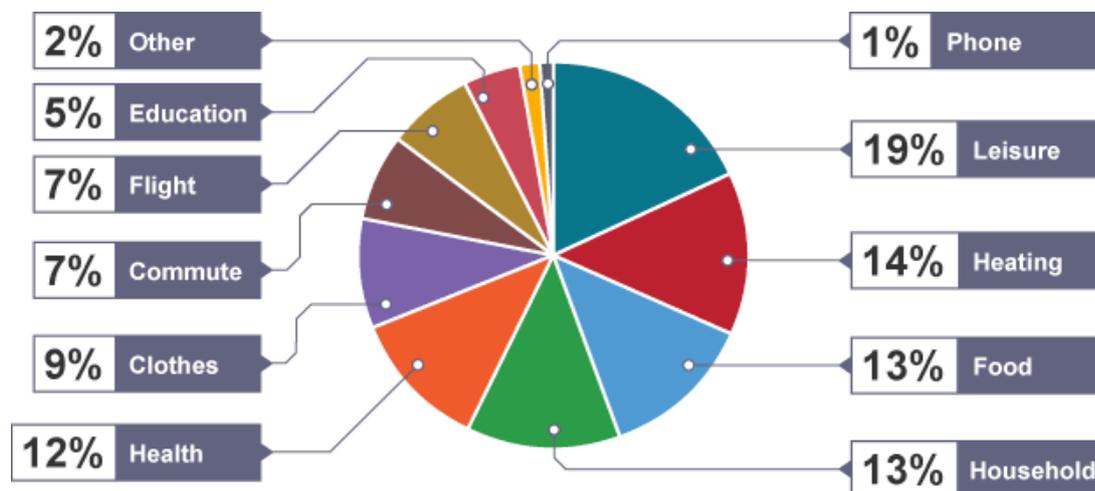
It calculates the greenhouse gases we are expected to produce in all our activities and measures them in units of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs phased out by international agreement in the late 1980s)

Common jargon often used when thinking about carbon footprints includes MEDCs (More Economically Developed Country) and LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Country)

The world average Carbon Footprint is about 4,00kg per person per year. In the UK, which is a MEDC, is nearly 10,00kg per person, per year.

This pie chart shows what contributes to the carbon footprint of a typical person living in an MEDC (Carbon Trust 2006)



Organisations have a Carbon Footprint too.

In 2013 there was a review of St James Carbon Footprint. This appears to have been quite a complex process.

Using the Energy-saving Benchmark model (Carbon Trust), St James Carbon Footprint, energy use and efficiencies were evaluated. The target emissions of carbon dioxide for St James for the period 2012-2010 were also considered.

At that time, St James overall energy efficiency was assessed as a Band C and deemed by the Diocesan Environmental Officer, to have achieved an estimated 12% Carbon Footprint efficiency saving (from 2011) which was a slightly greater saving than the suggested target.

We are hoping to repeat this process which may sign-post any energy saving actions.

Best wishes,

*Gillian Mather*

**Footnotes:**



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

There has been an interest in Traidcraft again. Due to Covid, it is not possible to have a Traidcraft stall in the church now. Considering this, we are making the catalogues available at the back of Church for you to order Fairtrade products. They are also available to order on-line from <https://www.traidcraft.co.uk>

If you are interested in helping with Eco Church, Jan Vonberg and myself would welcome your support. Please email Jan at [janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk)

**References:**

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z33jk2p/revision/3>

Carbon Trust <https://www.carbontrust.com/>

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**St James, Dursley  
Christmas Quiz 2020**



‘Welcome to the Christmas 2020 quiz! Ideal for a Covid-19 lockdown Christmas, which I hope we don’t have! All the clues, some cryptic, lead you to a festive song or carol; many you will know well but there are one or two which are rather less familiar. The number after each clue refer to the number of words in the answer.

For a Quiz sheet please see David Vonberg on a Sunday or give him a ring.

Please return your completed entry form to David, 53 Manor Avenue, GL11 5JF, by 1st January 2021. There will be a prize of a bottle of wine for the winner.

**Prayer Group...**

Jacquelin Hill says that if anyone would like to join in, especially during these lockdown days, you can join on the phone Tel No: 03330110616 and Access code 9086615 at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month. The next one will be 4th November.

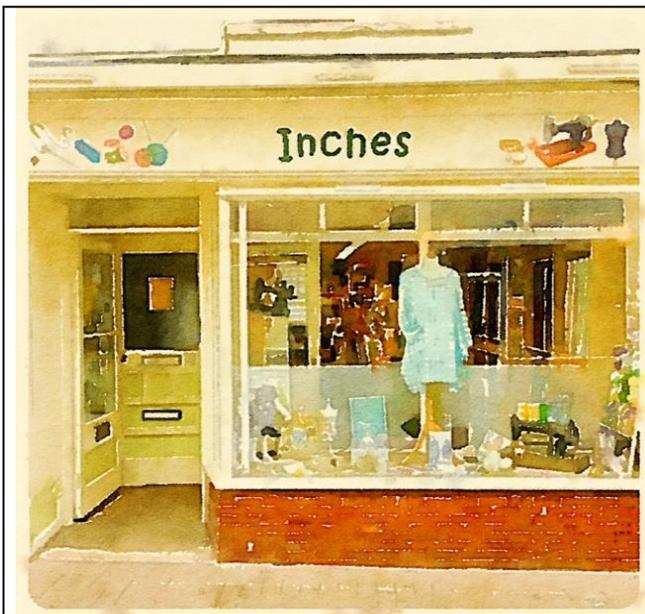
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## Services in November

The pattern of services across the Ewelme Benefice for November are as follows.

### **Sunday 1st November All Saints Day**

10am St James Holy Communion

10am St Giles Holy Communion

### **Sunday 8th November 3rd before Advent/Remembrance Sunday**

10am St James Holy Communion Followed by 2 minute silence at the Memorial Gates at 11am

10am St Giles Holy Communion

10.45am St Giles Act of Remembrance

10.55am Nympsfield Act of Remembrance

3pm St James Act of Remembrance at the Memorial Gates

*Due to the Covid restrictions, this will only be attended by invited representatives of the various organisations*

### **Sunday 15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent**

8am St James Holy Communion

10am St Bartholomew Holy Communion

10.30am St Mark's Service of the Word

### **Sunday 22nd November Christ the King**

10am St James Holy Communion

10am St Giles Holy Communion

### **Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday**

10am St James Holy Communion

10am Holy Cross Holy Communion (BCP)

4pm *Via Zoom* Benefice Advent Carol Service

\*\*\*\*\*

## **November 2020**

Communications Office at Church House,  
College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. It is  
available on [www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org)



### **Message from Bishop Rachel** *writing on 7th October*



**You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept.' Words of Jesus Christ – Matthew 5:14** (The Message)

In 2016 when we discerned our LIFE vision together, one of the things which emerged was a commitment to 'nurture confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week', so Bishop Robert and I were delighted

last Saturday to join (over Zoom) with so many people of different ages for our Diocesan Festival of Everyday Faith.

**A few weeks ago in the Bulletin** I referred once again to that image of 'trailing the wet footprints of our baptism' among the people and places of our daily lives, and I wrote that: 'This time of Covid19 is challenging us to continue to think what it means for us to be the Church Sunday through to Saturday as we live in a time when the words trauma, loss, uncertainty and crisis are writ large. It is my prayer that as we continue to grapple with questions, fears and hopes, amid both joy and struggle, we might enable one another to ask what trailing our wet footprints and pointing to the kingdom of God might increasingly look like both in our individual lives and in our local communities as we live with authenticity holding fast to the hope of Christ.'

This was what Saturday was all about as we talked and reflected not on how we are doing gathered worship at the moment, but rather how we are reflecting the light of Christ every day of every week, whether in a place of tears or laughter.

If you weren't able to join in on Saturday (and even if you were), do look at the market place of resources and click on the map and the stories people across the diocese shared with Bishop Robert. You will be inspired. There are details of resources, upcoming events and recordings of sessions from Saturday – We are sure that there is something that is you-shaped.

But the important thing is that Saturday wasn't a one-off event but rather part of an important culture change for every one of us who are baptised followers of Christ. This is about how we are sent out from our gathered worship week after week as we 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' and 'in the name of Christ'. To that end there was plenty of challenge on Saturday for worshipping communities and leaders as to how we ensure that what we do when we gather for worship supports and strengthens people to know and serve Christ in all the places and activity of the week, not only in the home but in school and work places and everything in between.

As we live these strange days may we each grow in courage as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ, living and speaking differently as we seek to join in with God's transformational work as we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as in heaven.

Bishop Robert and I continue to hold you in our prayers with thanksgiving,

+ Rachel



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## **Culture and me.....**

Nigel Davies has kindly contributed to this month's article.

### **Do you have a favourite author or book?**

I haven't really got a single favourite author, but enjoy biography, thrillers and crime by writers from Conan Doyle, Georges Simenon, Ian Rankin, Jo Nesbo etc.

### **What are you reading at present?**

I read a great deal and usually have two or three books on the go. Currently Francis Jackson's autobiography (he was organist of York Minster for many years) and Jo Nesbo's latest Harry Hole story called *The Leopard*.

I feel I should read the Bible from cover to cover. I have read many parts, and some years ago I started to read from the beginning but got bogged down (and rather confused!) in the Old Testament with who begat whom and who was fighting whom! I should try again.

### **Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?**

It will come as no surprise to learn that music means a lot to me! For fun and sheer pleasure I love Big Band music in the style of Glenn Miller.

### **Do you play musical instrument?**

Apart from piano and organ I play the French Horn rather approximately (my father used to say it sounded like a wounded cow elephant!)..... but over the years at school I had the pleasure of teaching many hugely talented string players making me wish I was able to play the 'cello.

### **What is your favourite film?**

I have several favourite films, but two to which I frequently return are *Cruel Sea* and *The Train*.

### **Do you have a favourite play?**

*Habeas Corpus* by Alan Bennett. I first saw this with Barbie playing the part of the cleaner called Mrs Swob.

### **What about a favourite television series?**

No one particular TV series, but I enjoy the BBC 4 Saturday evening subtitled programmes like *Spiral*, *The Bridge* and *Wallander*.

### **If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it?**

*The Arrival of the Normandy train at Gare St Lazare* by Monet. I love the impressionist school of art (and music with Debussy and Ravel etc). This painting uses few colours, but is so alive you can almost smell the steam of the railway engine!

**Do you have special building which means a lot to you and if so why?**

The special building has to be St James' church. Over the years I have been involved with a number of churches but St James' is rather special with its wonderfully serene and prayerful atmosphere without in any way being over-wrought. As a building it is beautifully proportioned and, unlike many churches, was actually enhanced during the Victorian restoration!

**Is there a place (town, village, a county?) where you have felt happiest?**

Difficult to pin-point the place I've felt the happiest as I seem to have been happy wherever I have been! I suppose combining all my interests it would have to be in my early teens staying with my grandparents at Pontarddulais (near Swansea) when I was able to work the levers in a signal box, be on the footplate of the local colliery loco, and have access to at least three local church organs. Bliss!

**You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite?**

A fantasy dinner for five would be a fascinating venture. It would have to include J S Bach; Alexander Guilman; Louis Vierne and Marcel Dupré. No real surprise that they were all organists. However, the fifth guest would have to be my maternal grandfather (he died aged 94 in 1994) as, since acquiring Capel Gosen in Cynghordy and discovering that all my ancestors were rooted in that area, I have lots of questions to which he would have the answers!

\*\*\*\*\*



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*By Sally Hayward*



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# Bellringing

## Jennifer Rogers

Sad to report that one of our ringers, Jennifer Rogers, died suddenly on Sunday 11 October, 2020. She was in Gloucester Royal Hospital where she had just started receiving chemotherapy treatment for leukaemia. Her husband, Michael, had predeceased her by several years. We're not sure of her age but believe she was 87 or 88 years old. Jennifer and her husband moved to Uley (no bells) from Abson in 2000 where she was a member of the band, also dedicated to St James the Great. She became a member of the band here at Dursley in 2001. On Sundays she would ring with us until 09:40 when she departed to attend the morning Service at Uley. In total Jennifer rang a total of 89 quarter peals at St James', her last being in July 2015.



Despite her late husband having been a Professor of Computer Science at Bristol University, Jennifer was not the most computer literate person. Neither was her internet connection the most reliable. These setbacks didn't prevent her using the internet to research challenging subjects that interested her, be they detailed information about charities she wanted to support or historical information. St James' is part of the Wotton-under-Edge Branch of Church Bellringers. The centenary of its formation fell in 2010 causing Jennifer to initiate and produce a limited edition book marking this event. She was also secretary of the Branch for 5 years

Jennifer was very good company and a lady of many parts. In addition to bellringing she was an active bird watcher and a competent bridge player. Her difficulties were seldom mentioned and never dwelt upon. Problems with walking, prior to needing both hip joints replaced, was not a deterrent to her travelling to places she wished to visit.

We hope to be able to ring something to celebrate her life but with current restrictions this will be limited to only 15 minutes and a maximum of 6 people at St James', but there will be many more who will wish to take part.

## Other news.....

Restrictions on social distancing are still in place reducing us to ringing either 4 or 6 bells, dependant on how many 'couples' are available to ring. Additionally, we don't wish to prevent single ringers from taking part, so it's a balancing act between making a more satisfying sound with 6 bells or being more inclusive with 4. We are limited to 15 minutes ringing regardless of how many ringers are taking part. *Frank Byrne*

# St Mark's News



Dear Friends

It is so good to have services again in St Mark's. The pattern now is that we have a service of the Word at 10.30am on the third Sunday of the month. So far we have had two services and we have been joined by our friends from St James and Nigel has played the organ. No singing as yet but we wait with anticipation.



At 2pm on the day before our second service, Philip decided to put the heating on as it was rather chilly, but the boiler hadn't fired since last March and decided to sulk. So about six trips later, up and down our drive and in consultation with Francis Jones, to no avail, Francis ultimately appeared at about 6.30pm and all was restored so that on Sunday we were all snug and warm! Thank you to Philip and special thanks to Francis for coming out, on his day off, to fix the problem.

Also at this service we heard that Alice Chorley had died. I have talked about her elsewhere in the magazine, but in trying to find a picture and trying to remember when she left etc I delved into a couple of photo albums we have in the vestry at St Mark's and it reminded me of all the folk that we see no more and the Readers who used to take our services over the years. There was Muriel Paish, Ian Gardner, and Sue Houghton who all went on to be priested and Robina Bailey, Jackie Strange, Cecil Poole and Bill Nelson too.

Our next service will be on November 15th at 10.30am and please remember to inform the Parish Office if you want to attend, so that we can Track and Trace.

Let's hope we all escape lockdowns and the dreaded virus.

With all Best wishes

Judith

## **PS Stop Press**

Clare and I will not be able to do our wreath making workshops this Christmas, but watch out in the online catalogue (see page 6 for details) for our kits to make either a wreath or a table decoration. If you haven't got the technology then please give me a ring and I will give you the details. There is an instruction leaflet and there are YouTube instructions as well. They will be available on 10th December.

## Mouse Diary....



Ring, Ring, Ring...No answer. Temporary silence...Are you still there? said MBFTLP anxiously. Yes, I eventually replied. But it's the situation you see. It's a sad situation. It's a bit like walking on air. You know it has to end sometime but you don't know when you are going to come down to earth. MBFTLP was flummoxed. Are you talking about the general situation or the

situation as regards Aimiee? Well, it's a bit of both, I said slowly and sadly. Great Aunt Mildred Mouse sent me a letter to say she could not visit because of the general infestation afflicting everyone at the moment. And Aimiee who started off running up and down the side aisle going.."*Eeee..wheee..c'est tres jolie*", has now stopped entirely and I can't get a word out of her. You really are such a silly old mouse, said MBFTLP. She's electric and you have to plug her in every so often to charge up the battery. You had better look for her plug in the box she came in. So I did my best, climbing up the side and rummaging through the sawdust. Thereupon I spied the proper plug and duly did my bit by plugging her into the socket in the wall. After a short interval there was a squeak and then..*Le chocolat est tres mauvais pour le circumference a la mouse grande*. There you are said, MBFTLP, you are not on your own after all. She can talk. I have to say I was not quite so pleased with the result myself as getting a telling off was not what I had in mind for a quiet afternoon. I Know, said MBFTLP cheerfully, why don't you ask her to recite the 1662 Book of Common Prayer just like Alexa does? I tried that once, I said, and she said she could not remember all of that and anyway wasn't it time for lunch? That must have been a misunderstanding all round, because an artificial intelligence mouse is not supposed to have lunch, she is just supposed to put up Clive's electricity bill. I always thought I said there was a downside to this modern technology lark. Perhaps I should go off to my quiet corner on my own and contemplate the general situation all on my ownsome. Well, each to their own, said MBFTLP, resolving to look up the Book of Common Prayer on Google instead.

*Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley*

## This Working Life (Short Story)

It was an important commission the church authorities had said. But today, looking up at the space where the new window would be, she wondered what they had meant. For it was destined for a hidden place high up over the west door and far away from the altar. Surely only a few architectural enthusiasts would ever look that way in the normal course of events? Everyone else would be looking down the nave towards the splendour of the east window.



Still she started work. The window was round after all which meant the colours could be condensed in an interesting way. Also there was pretty much free rein with the design. So long as the authorities had a chance to view what was planned they had seemed open to new ideas.

She wondered if the medieval and Victorian commissioners of the other windows would have minded about something new. These eras thought people and their part in the Biblical stories were key. So clearly recognisable figures had been vital. So the saints were already there in abundance in the other windows.

In her own age she thought, perhaps people saw things in a more abstract way. It wasn't really an age of faith. Parish churches could be almost empty. So there were many times when almost no one saw anything. In fact it was likely that no one in future would see her window at all.

As the thoughts went around in her mind, she wondered just how much of a free reign she had. She decided quite a lot. The design on paper started off around the outer circle with blue and yellow swirling petal shapes. Or perhaps they were fishes? Then further in things got fierier. Reds seemed to take over. Perhaps these symbolised fire or even Hell. The medieval mind might have recognised what she was trying to show. She felt lost for inspiration for the middle section. There had to be a way to blend all the elements together in some sort of concluding artistic result. Well, the result then looked like a dense white light. Not a great revelation she thought.

At the end she was surprised when the church authorities took such a positive view of her efforts. They seemed to recognise that in the twenty first century you could not rely on the same symbolism that had seemed so natural when the church was first built.

Eventually after the window was constructed and as time went on, she noticed the occasional visitor looking backwards and upwards over their shoulder in the direction of her design. "Ah, I wonder when that was put in? It seems new somehow".

*Elizabeth Oakley*

## Five Churches Walk.....



Several ups and downs. This applied to the planning of the walk, as well as the terrain. However everything turned out well on the day. Numbers were restricted to twelve, and places had to be booked in advance. The weather was overcast but dry. We met up at St James church at 10.00am. There were several familiar faces. After a Covid and safety briefing, and a socially distanced group photograph

taken by Canon Michael we set off for St Marks's. We carefully descended the steep path down to Rosebery Road. There were more steep descents and climbs before we reached St Giles church where Pauline Thomas welcomed us and had opened the vestry area so we could use the toilets. Over the fields to Holy Cross Church Owlpen. There was a steep climb through woods to the Cockadilly road. Everyone coped brilliantly with the walk. Adrian Mather and Dave Wood had acted as back markers. Many thanks. The hard work was over. We called in at St Bartholomew's church, then Nympsfield Village Hall. Thanks to Ann Hardy for opening the toilets. An easy stroll up the road where cars awaited us to return us to Dursley. Thanks to the drivers. We arrived at 1.15pm. A stroll of seven miles 1000 feet of ascent. Well done everyone.



*David Smith*



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## Can We Relax?

Darnell entered the physical therapist's office knowing he would experience a lot of pain. The therapist stretched and bent his arm and held it in positions it hadn't been in for months since his injury. After holding each uncomfortable position for a few seconds, she gently told him: "Okay, you can relax." He said later, "I think I heard that at least fifty times in each therapy session: 'Okay, you can relax.' "

Thinking of those words, Darnell realised they could apply to the rest of his life as well. He could relax in God's goodness and faithfulness instead of worrying.

As Jesus neared His death, He knew His disciples would need to learn this. They'd soon face a time of upheaval and persecution. To encourage them, Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit to live with them and remind them of what He had taught (John 14:26). And so He could say, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you..... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (v.27).

There's plenty we could be uptight about in our everyday lives. But we can grow in our trust in God by reminding ourselves that His Spirit lives in us - and He offers us His peace. As we draw on His strength, we can hear Him in the therapist's words: "Okay, you can relax." *Anne Cetas*

**What causes you stress? What characteristics of God can help you learn to trust Him more?**

***Teach me, Jesus, to trust Your faithfulness, to know Your presence, to experience Your peace-to relax.***

*Excerpt from 'Our Daily Bread'*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Amazingly** I came across this poem just after I had planted some acorns as part of the Gloucester Project to raise 2020 saplings this year for transplanting to selected places in 2021.

<http://bbc.co.uk/ourboretum>

*Jennifer Kendrick.*

You can never tell when you do an act  
Just what the result will be,  
But with every deed you are sewing a seed  
Though the harvest you may not see.  
Each kindly act is an acorn dropped  
In God's productive soil:  
You may not know but the tree shall grow  
With shelter for those who toil.

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox. 1855-1919.*

**From Revd Richard.....** November begins with All Saints' Day, and ends, this year, with Advent. Both in a way are about God's goal for us: that we should be saints, people united with him for ever. That will be the completion of Jesus' work and reign, so Advent thinks of it as Jesus' final coming to be present with all, for ever. Advent reminds us that God's goal in Christ is for all creation, for Christ will be present and renew all.

Here's a hymn you can sing to God for All Saints and All Souls Days. It reminds us that all Christian people are saints – God's Holy people. Holy means most importantly united to God, consecrated by God. No doubt we shall find, beyond this life, many who were saints without knowing it, those who knew God and Jesus without knowing that they knew. That's what Jesus' story about the sheep and the goats [Matthew 25.31-46] is about. We thank God for all holy people, well known and unknown, very much including our own family and friends, and commit them to God.

We praise you, Holy, Loving God,  
For all your faithful saints of old,  
Whose words and deeds in history  
And in the scripture's books are told.  
For those, forgotten now on earth,  
We glorify your boundless love:  
They served you faithfully below,  
And share your glory now above.  
We thank you too for those we love,  
Our friends and kinsfolk gone before,  
Entrusting them to your great love  
To keep and bless them evermore.  
And for ourselves, now gathered here  
Departed loved ones to recall:  
As we commit ourselves to you,  
Protect and bless us, one and all.

One of the best known Advent hymns is a modern versification of the ancient Advent O antiphons, calling on Jesus to come under Old Testament titles. It didn't use all the old antiphons and changed the order. Here's a version using the Ancient and Modern Hymnals' version with the omitted verses added and in the order of the old antiphons. [They are traditionally used from 17th or 16th December, one a day at evensong. If you look at the English Hymnal No. 734 or New English Hymnal No.503, you'll find them.]

1. come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Now all things for a saviour cry.  
Redeem the worlds that thou hast made:  
O come thou Truth which canst not fade:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O come thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe:
3. O come thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave:
4. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make straight the way that leads on high,  
And bar the path to misery:
5. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
6. O come, Desire of nations, come:  
Unite us all, thou Cornerstone.  
Remake the nations, formed of earth,  
And bring us all to heavenly birth:
7. O come, Emmanuel, our King,  
O come, our God, salvation bring!  
Shine glory on us from above:  
Thine everlasting reign of love:

P.S. In the Middle Ages, the English Church had an extra one at the end. That's why it started the O Antiphons on 16th December while other lands started on 17th.

Here's a modern version of the last one, changing it to address Jesus instead of Mary.

O Virgin, of the virgin born,  
Who saved us on the tree of scorn;  
O mystery of God Most High,  
Now save us, as to thee we cry:

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CLIVE'S BOOKS.....**



Started at the Christmas Fair in 2009.

On Saturday 17th October £150.64 was raised  
and the Grand Total to date is **£11,127 19**

Well done again Clive.

**Watch out for his stall on Saturdays when the weather is fine.**

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



### FUNERALS:

**We share our thoughts and prayers with the families who mourn the loss of those they love. We remember those who have died:**

23rd September      Maureen Critchley      Gloucester Crematorium

\*\*\*\*\*

### FLOWER ROTA

#### 1st and 8th November

**High Altar** – Marion Paisey

**Tanner Chapel** – Ann Orchard

**Lady Chapel** Maureen Wood

#### 15th and 22nd November

**High Altar** – Cynthia Martin

**Tanner Chapel** – Valerie Meares

**Lady Chapel** - Ann Bussey



## 100 CLUB

100 club draw for October as follows:-

1st - 182 - Glenna Neale

2nd - 104 - Ronnie Harding

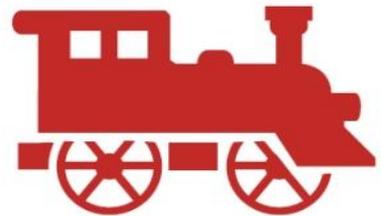
3rd - 161 - Jennifer Norris

Sarah

**NB Subs will soon be due.**

.....

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