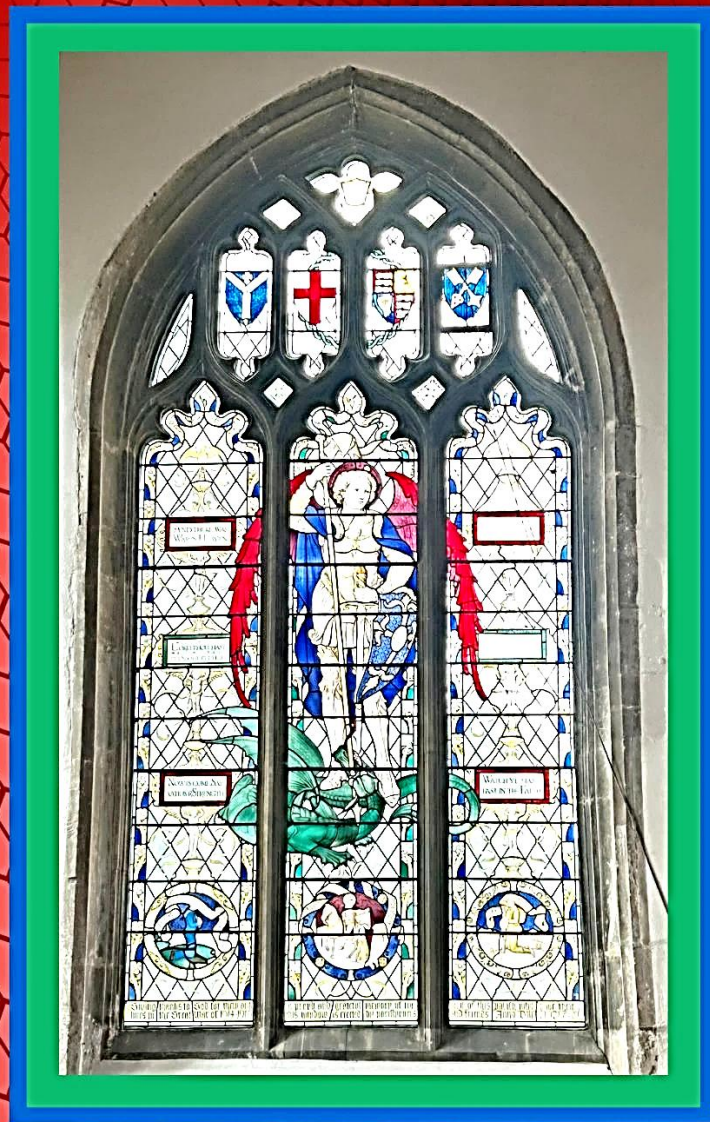


The Messenger

September 2025

The Parish Of Dursley



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**The parish of Dursley
and**

the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

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SEPTEMBER 2025



A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our September edition.

We hope you have all enjoyed the heat wave during the summer. Now the nights are drawing in why not have a go at our brand new Word of the Month Competition on page 17.

If you have anything to say please let us know, we are always open to new ideas, we also like photos of events in the town.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

Front Cover: theme for 2025

'In and around St James' –

The Archangel Michael in the south west window.

Photo by Clare White

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**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2025**

Revd Can Richard Morgan writes...



The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels falls at the end of September, on 29th. I've tried to count the number of angels pictured in Dursley Church. I think there are one hundred and fifteen in the windows – thirty-two in the east window alone -, one on a memorial, and probably about another fifteen or twenty in the roof, but they are dark wood on dark wood, so I find it hard to be sure! Our depictions tell us a lot about the functions of angels.

The Greek word just means messenger. Our windows show many angels bringing messages – the east Window shows two angels flying with messages for the disciples at Jesus' ascension. O dear! The Bible says the angels appeared as two men in white standing: our window shows two winged figures in green and purple flying! But at least it depicts angels as messengers. The Tanner chapel windows show the angel bringing strength to Jesus before his passion, and angels giving the message of his resurrection in the empty tomb, and the ascension message. We too are called to be God's messengers, sharing God's love with others.

Many of the angels are depicted playing musical instruments. We have harps and trumpets and viols, small organs and other instruments. The Book of Revelation depicts the angels around God's throne singing God's praises. Showing the angels playing music is to remind us that worship of God is central to their lives and to ours. Worship is appreciating God, honouring God, and this is just acknowledging the truth, the reality of God as wholly good and loving, and as creator and ruler of all things. The Bible tells of some angels rebelling against God, and the world does not yet reflect perfectly God's goodness, but we trust that it will, as God has taken on evil and death in Jesus' cross and has overcome them. So worship includes realising the goodness of our own lives. The music of the angels and of us shows this. Music is a joy to those who make it and to those who hear it. So our angels remind us to worship and to enjoy God and beauty. Maybe we can think of our organist and choir as like angels for us!

In what was the baptistry – the southwest corner of the church, Dursley has a huge figure of the Archangel Michael treading down the dragon, symbol of the devil. So angels also remind us of our life including a spiritual struggle against evil, to do God's will and live in

unity with God, not in selfishness and arrogance. The world needs that struggle, to enable us to care for the environment with gentleness and generosity.

These days, even many who do not feel a strong faith in God believe in angels. Angels aren't, I think, central to Christian faith. In some ways good angels are a picture of us as we should be. Sometimes in the Bible the Angel of the Lord is a way of speaking of God's own presence. But the Letter to the Hebrews insists that Jesus is more than an angel, is indeed God fully with us. And, in an immense creation, we may feel it natural for the rich and generous God to have created many different species or orders of beings, not just animal, vegetable and mineral, but spiritual, intellectual and personal. So we can give thanks for angels as we trust the God who made them and us. Amen.

A PRAYER

Thank you, God, for your infinite greatness,
your unbounded creativity, your goodness and beauty,
shown in the creation of earth and heaven, angels and humans.
May we worship you, enjoying your beauty, as the angels sing to you.

May we share your love with others, as the angels bring your messages.

May we struggle against evil, to do your will of love.

We ask for Jesus' sake, who is your eternal Son, greater than any angel.

Amen.

PASTORAL CARE

If people are in need, unwell, at home or in hospital
Please contact the Revd Dr Juliet Jensen.

Tel: 01453 350810 or 07776 910890



SAFEGUARDING

Heather Arnold is the Safeguarding Officer
for the Parish of Dursley

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Email: arnoldheather@icloud.com



September Thoughts from the Benefice Office...By Clare White

September and back to school, a time for change in families, whether it's your children or grandchildren.

September will be the first time that there will be a service of worship at Dursley Academy school for families and children. Exciting times as we will finally have some engagement with young people. For years we've been asking and praying to start some young people's worship. Revd Juliet along with the head of school and the Christian activity group, Sportily, have organised the first Sunday service at 10am on 21st September. A great chance for families and children to hear God's Good News! The hope of Christian growth in our community.



Growing faith, sharing the word and welcoming everyone is so important. Caring for what we already have that is good is also important; "throwing the baby out with the bath water" would be a disaster!

There will still be a reflective worship service on the same Sunday as the school service. Revd David along with Caroline, Ann, Anne and myself meet to organise the monthly service, we start with the readings for that date and within a short space of time we find a theme and choose suitable hymns, it feels that under God's guidance we are able to create a meaningful, thought provoking, reflective service.

In Dursley we are able to worship wherever we feel fits our style of worship, or particular mood that day. We offer a variety of worship styles (not every week); 8am Said Communion; 6.30pm Choral Evensong; Thursday's quiet reflective Communion; 10am Parish Holy Communion; Reflective worship and now a monthly Family and Children's worship service; plus weekly morning and evening prayer.

We look forward to the first family and children's service at Dursley Academy and hope that the families gain meaning in God's presence

and maybe, just maybe feel able to come to worship in St James on other Sundays in the month. Let us welcome them with open arms, as Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". He then embraced and blessed the children, emphasizing that the kingdom of God is for those who receive it with humility and openness like a child.

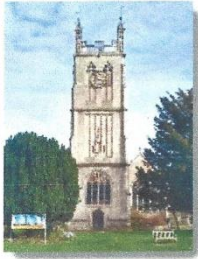
(Matthew 19: 14-15)

'Little Church' Toddlers Group at St Mark's in 1994!

(Wow, I had a lot of hair!).

l-r Margaret Hunnisett, Clare White, Revd Sue Houghton with Eliza and Teddy Mark





St James' Church Eco-group
in association with Dursley Freegle



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13th SEPTEMBER 2025

The Ewelme Benefice
Parish of St James the Great, Dursley
Rector: Revd Dr Juliet Jensen: 01453 350810
ewelmerector@gmail.com
Churchwardens - Chris Tyler and Danny Parker

Services in September 2025

7th September - Trinity 12

10am Parish Holy Communion

14th September - Trinity 13

10am Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

21st September - Trinity 14

8am Said Communion

10am Service of the Word

10am Family and Children's service
at Dursley CofE Academy School

28th September - Trinity 15

10am Benefice Holy Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Harvest Festival

St James the Great, Dursley

10am

5th October 2025

Collection for the food bank

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in the
Parish Centre
following the service

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MUSIC NOTES for September 2025

September is a month of celebrations!

On Sunday 14th, David Wood will be celebrating an amazing 80 years' service to St James' choir. It also coincides with his and Maureen's 65th wedding anniversary, and both events will be celebrated after the Sung Eucharist on 14th with a special cake and wine. I have written a short communion motet in honour of David using the words from Psalm 132 (in its proper, 1662 translation!) "Lord, Remember David". His remarkable achievement will be further celebrated at the annual Choir Lunch, date to be finalised. We all hope that David's lovely tenor voice will be heard in the choir stalls for many years to come; if only to rival the late Lionel Jones!

The first Sunday in September sees the start of my 34th year as Director of Music; a far cry from David Wood's record, but apart from about ten months, St James' church has only had three DoM's since 1933. That has got to be some sort of record, and in this day and age when "retention" in all walks of life presents real problems, it says much for the way in which our music has been, and is, supported by the members of St James' and not too long ago, St Mark's.

This month's Coffee, Coffee Cake and Music organ recital falls on the actual day of my 75th birthday and it will include pieces which have influenced me over the last 60+ years. To celebrate the event, Barbie has kindly agreed to serve a light lunch and a glass (or two!) of wine after the recital. As well as inviting the community at St James', I will also be inviting friends and former colleagues (including a really good friend who can't understand how people can actually like organ music!) to join Barbie and me for this event, with strict instructions that there are to be no cards or presents (at 75 you have quite enough "stuff"!) but with the request that a much appreciated donation is made to church funds. It is more than likely that the organ will need some tlc before too long.....

Music for September

| | | | |
|------|----|---|--------------------|
| 7th | am | Let all the World in Every Corner Sing – Vaughan Williams | |
| | | Sumsion in F | |
| 14th | am | Lord, Remember David – Nigel Davies | Ireland in C |
| | pm | O Nata Lux – Tallis | Ayleward Responses |
| | | Lo, Round the Throne – Ley | Noble in B minor |
| 21st | am | Informal Service | |
| 28th | am | My Soul, there is a Country – Parry | Wadeley in G |
| | pm | Lord, we beseech Thee – Batten | Reading responses |
| | | Listen Sweet Dove – Ives | Sumsion in A |

Ewelme Benefice

St James the Great, Dursley Coffee, Cake and Music 2025

April 26th

May 31st

June 28th

July 26th

August 30th

September 27th

October 25th

Nigel Davies

Keith Hearnshaw

Nigel Nash

Pavlos Triantaris

John Pennington

Nigel Davies

Jonathan Hope

**Coffee and homemade cake will be served from 10.30am.
The music begins at 11am and last for 30-40 minutes**



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

"Shine!"

Becoming Church Together

The Vision: Together we shine brightly!

Monthly from Sunday September 21st we are going to hold a church service at 10am at Dursley C of E Primary Academy School.

Revd Juliet has been working with Heather Gregory (School head) and Richard Witham from Sportily* to initiate a partnership for young people, children and families through worship at our church school.

Members of St James will help during the school week to create content, activities and singing for the monthly service. Hospitality is an important part of the service, so providing cakes and drinks will be a major part of the social aspect of the services.

As a parish everyone has been crying out for young people, children and families to come to church. This initiative will be a fantastic start and will hopefully, grow, through prayer, engagement and support.

All are welcome at the services but the content will be geared towards children and families.

Secondary school aged children will be welcomed without an adult (a permission form will be necessary), primary aged children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

The services will happen on the same Sunday that we have a Reflective worship service at St James.

If you'd like to be involved please contact Rev Juliet for more information.



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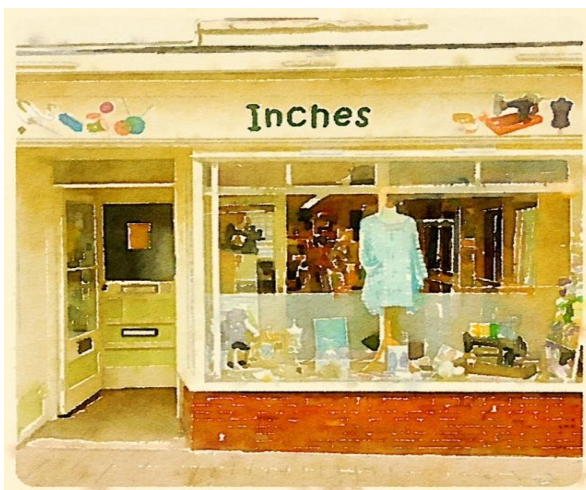
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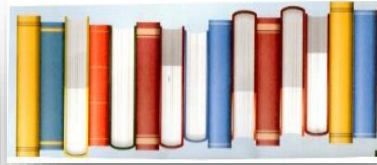
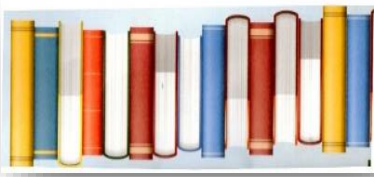
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ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL



September report *by Clive Orchard*

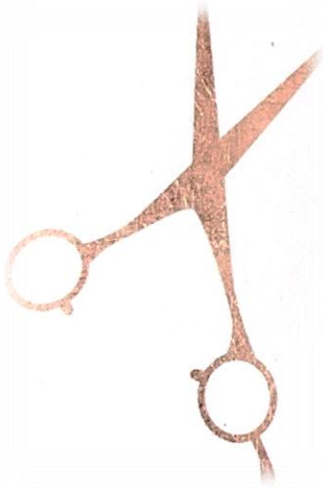
The bookstall is now an established part of life in Dursley. It no longer needs to advertise and books are donated from a wide area. Because it has grown so large, in excess of 2000 books every week, we would appreciate help on a Friday afternoon around 3.45pm and, if fine, Saturdays at 8.00am to help put them out. It should only take about half an hour and you don't have to commit to help every week. No skills required other than the ability to take a book out of a box and put it on a table!!

Giving to a local charity all the cash donations we receive on the second Saturday of the month is being well received. In August we raised £250 for Horses for Wellbeing a small charity based at Windrush Farm, Elkstone which uses Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) to positively impact the lives of young people aged 5 to 18. This month, September, we will be supporting MOBS the local branch of GBSN the Gloucestershire Breastfeeding Support Network. MOBS used to meet regularly every Monday in the Parish Centre until the heating fiasco forced them to move elsewhere. Please come along on 13th September and support them by taking some books and/or making a donation. If you are aware of a local charity that we can support in future months please let me know.

In 2009, when the bookstall started with a few books, we raised £77.77 for the year. This year, by the end of August, we have raised over £4,500 and over £33,500 since the far-off days of that first stall.

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September 2025

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Wednesday 3rd September

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom resumes.

Thursday 4th September

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 7th September – Trinity 12

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

Tuesday 9th September

7.30pm Dursley PCC meeting at St James

Thursday 10th September

9am Morning prayer in St James

10.30am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 14th September – Trinity 13

10am Holy Communion at St James

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James

Wednesday 17th September

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 18th September

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Henlow Court Holy Communion

Sunday 21st September – Trinity 14

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Service of the Word

10am Family and Children's service at Dursley CofE Academy School

Wednesday 24th September

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 25th September

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 30th August

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music

2-3pm Visiting Bellringers

Sunday 28th September – Trinity 15

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James



WORD OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

Each Month there will be a new word which we need you to fit into a sentence. The sentence, which best conveys the meaning of the word and will be judged by the editors and Benefice Administrator, will be the winner. There will be a small prize.

The word for September is
procrastinate.

(suggested by Sheila Gardner).

Send entries to the Office, Valerie or Judith
by 14th September

A message from Joyce Theaker.....

This is just to say that I have moved into the Hollies Care Home permanently and if anyone would like to visit, I will make them very welcome.

She has settled in happily and is seen here with puppets,
photo supplied by Anne Shipton.



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We are indebted to Rob Kerley for his reflections in this series.
Thank you Rob

Do you have a favourite author or book?

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse...by Charlie Mackesy

I like this book because of the combining of simplicity and the profound. You can read this book over and over again and not get bored with it's message and just marvel at the wonderful illustrations. The story is full of hope and joy while at the same time touching on themes such as loneliness, making mistakes, friendship, creating a community and asking for help.

What are you reading at present?

A book called Loving - Kindness, The Revolutionary Art of Happiness by Sharon Salzberg. The author is a teacher of Buddhist meditation practice in the West. I like this book because it helps us to learn to love ourselves more deeply and find a greater connection with others if that's something we are looking for.

Is there a book which you have often wanted to read or would like to read next?

George Washington Carver by Rackham Holt

Dr Carver is an amazing spiritual man who loves nature and tunes in to the vibrations of plants to learn through them and his close relationship with God.

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

Farrell Williams song "Happy" it has a soulful tune with an upbeat tempo and engenders a feeling of fun.

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

The "Sound of Silence" instrumental version Simon & Garfunkel

Plus.... Coldplay - The song "Clocks" which is taken from the album A Rush of Blood to the Head released in 2002 ...I love the words of the song but much more the piano playing by Chris Martin. I can close my eyes and I feel the music has a timeless quality.

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

I cannot play a musical instrument and when I was very young my mum took my sister and me to have piano lessons. I was bored waiting for my turn so I ended up building things with Lego bricks but with hindsight I wish I'd have paid attention and learnt to play.

What is your favourite film?

'Gladiator' the version starring Russell Crowe, I have watched this film many times over the years and never get tired of the story and the acting. Understandably it is considered one of the best and most influential films of the 21st century.

Do you have a favourite play? Hamlet by William Shakespeare

The ghost of the King of Denmark tells his son Hamlet to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. Hamlet feigns madness, contemplates life and death, and seeks revenge. His uncle, fearing for his life, also devises plots to kill Hamlet. I like the phrase 'To be, or not to be, that is the question' and this I feel poses a personal challenge as to what we can become in terms of realising our human potential.

What about a television series?

Only Fools and Horses the British television sitcom that was created and written by John Sullivan. I admire how well written, acted and funny it is. I think being able to make people laugh is a great gift and the various series made were all classics in my opinion.

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

La Mariée, by Russian-French artist Marc Chagall, prominently featured in the 1999 film Notting Hill. I feel his quote..."In our life, there is a single colour, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love." and is incredibly perceptive.

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

The Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, India which is a universally admired masterpiece of the world's heritage. It is regarded by many as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history. Although I have been to India, sadly I have not yet seen the Taj Mahal but I do plan to one day.

Is there a place where you have felt happiest.

Ilfracombe, North Devon's picturesque harbour town. My parents took us as children to Ilfracombe every year when we were young and to the same bed and breakfast accommodation. My dad couldn't drive so we went on the coach all the way from our home in Islington, North London.

You are having a fantasy dinner party for five- who would you invite

Billy Graham, Stephen Fry, Queen Elizabeth II, Mother Teresa, Bobby Charlton

In 1967 at the age of 12 I went forward at a Billy Graham Crusade in London (Earls Court) to become a Christian, so it would be nice to tell him.

Sir Stephen John Fry is an English actor, broadcaster, comedian, director, narrator and writer. He has publicly voiced strong criticisms of certain aspects of Christian belief, often centred around the problem of evil and suffering in the world. He has questioned the existence of a benevolent God given the existence of widespread pain and injustice. I would love to hear Billy Graham put forward the case for God over a meal. I would love to benefit from a conversation between Queen Elizabeth and Mother Teresa given their individual massive contributions to the world through history. Their incredible sense of love and duty to their fellow human beings and their great humility in vastly different circumstances). Finally, it would be amazing as a lifelong Manchester United fan to have the chance to have a conversation with Bobby Charlton one of the greatest footballers who ever graced the game of football.



VJ 80 Celebrating Victory over Japan.

In perfect weather, amidst all the noise of Dursley at Midday on Friday 15th August Revd Can Richard Morgan conducted a memorial service

remembering all who died and were so badly maimed in what is now known as the 'forgotten war', so we would be free.

The two minutes silence was observed, prayers were said, the names on the memorial gates read out and a poppy wreath hung on the gates.

Thank you Richard.

Photo by Judith Staddon



Eco Church News

by Jan Vonberg Eco Church group member



Creationtide

Creationtide, also known as the Season of Creation, is an annual period in the church calendar, running from September 1st, the Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation, to October 4th, the Feast of St Francis, dedicated to celebrating God as the creator and sustainer of all life. It's a time for churches to focus on their responsibility to care for the Earth and all living things.

Churches are encouraged to use Creationtide as an opportunity to:

- * Deepen their understanding of environmental issues.
- * Renew their commitment to caring for the planet.
- * Engage in practical actions to address climate change.
- * Connect with other churches and organizations working on environmental issues.

As the evenings begin to draw in, you may want to mark Creationtide by reading a book about environmental issues or the natural world. Here are a few suggestions from Church of England Environment Officers around the country:

Orbital by Samantha Harvey

"This Booker Prize winning novel is, in effect a love-song to the earth." Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer, Church of England (Astronauts on the International Space Station view Earth from a different perspective).

'Hope in Hell'; A decade to confront the climate emergency by Jonathon Porritt

"Porritt confronts the crisis head on with the underlying theme of hope and emphasises the part we all have to play for future generations. This book is particularly interesting because it presents both the science and the politics behind climate change. It's written in an intelligible academic style and whilst it doesn't talk about religion the underlying theme is the Christian virtue of 'hope'." Jan Firth, Diocesan Environmental Officer, Diocese of Lichfield

Saving Us by Katherine Heyhoe

"How to give a positive message in the gathering gloom"

David Castle, Net Zero Programme Manager, Diocese of Sheffield

"This book inspired me hugely as I took on the role of DEO - Katharine is what I'd term a "realistic optimist". She's a climate scientist who is also a Christian and a very good communicator. Practical but

inspirational, in equipping us to build bridges, find commonality and work together to enact change." Barbara Bryant, Diocesan Environment Officer, Diocese of Norwich

High House by Jessie Greengrass

"An example of climate fiction that was, at times, very hard hitting in its realism, but was a well written story." Rev Grace Thomas, Diocesan Environment Officer, Diocese of Manchester

(A post-disaster novel set in the near future, described by Good Housekeeping as "Deeply moving" and by the Guardian as "Suffused with joy").

Just Earth by Tony Juniper

"This describes the central role that inequality has played in driving climate change and environmental harm, and in how a fairer world can help save the planet." Pete Brotherton, Diocesan Environment Officer, Diocese of Peterborough

The Serviceberry: An Economy of Gifts and Abundance by Robin Wall Kimmerer (US indigenous scientist and author of Braiding Sweetgrass)

"A very inspiring read, which has helped shape some thinking."

Sandra Millar, Diocesan Environment Officer, Diocese of Gloucester

"Kimmerer's writing is the gentle medicine we need if we're to have any hope of salvaging our relationship with Mother Nature "

Nick Offerman

Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation by Fred Bahnson & Norman Wirzba

As we look for stories of hope in a time of environmental crisis, in 'Making Peace with the Land' Bahnson and Wirzba paint a series of pictures of the ways in which God has called a community to reconciliation with the earth...From the abundance that God seeks to give us in the present age, they show how, in the new age, God comes down from heaven so that he can make his home among us, and He brings heaven along.

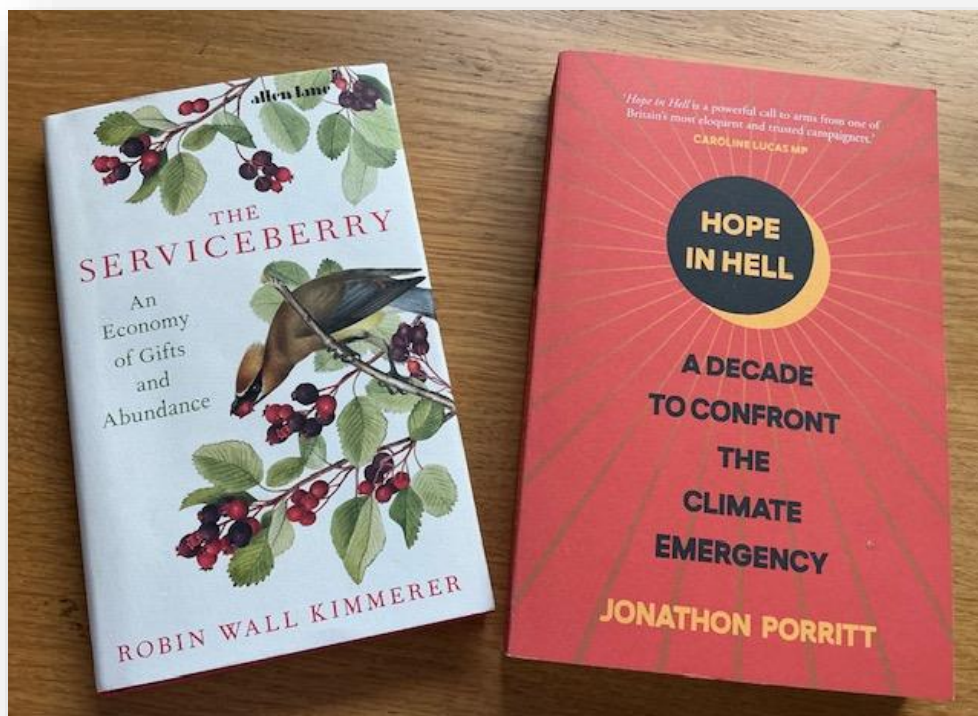
Although I bought this book some years ago, I regularly return to it as I find it renews my vision of our calling to be fellow gardeners with God."

Godfrey Armitage, Diocesan Environment Officer, Diocese of Coventry

A prayer for Creationtide:

"Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your creation and the abundance of your resources. Help us to be faithful stewards of your Earth, to care for all living things, and to work for a more just and sustainable future. Give us the wisdom to make choices that honour

your creation and the strength to resist the temptation to consume beyond what is needed. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."



WHAT IS RIGHT WITH ME? Thinking aloud

by Jennifer Kendrick



I consider myself most fortunate to have been born in 1937, long before the beginning of mass destruction threatened our very existence! We lived simply, or simply lived within our means! We were not necessarily bosom buddies with our near neighbours, but we did care about them and everything was shared or swapped, from food and clothing, to recipes for tasty meals or remedies for minor illnesses to suggestions for soothing aches and pains!

There was no NHS and emergency ambulances were staffed by volunteers! GPs, often single handed with surgeries in their own homes, were available 24 hours a day but charged flexible fees, according to income! The very sick, frail and elderly were cared for by families and homes for convalescent and maternity were frequently found in local communities financed by voluntary contributions! Free hospital inpatient beds were reserved for major trauma and serious acute illness and seen as a last resort.

My brother and I, and hundreds of other children, were quarantined at home for three months when chicken pox raged through the area: then when he was in an isolation hospital miles from home as Scarlet Fever reared its death wish, my mother had to scan the daily paper to find his number on an endless list giving updates on all the poorly children. Critical, no change, improving.....was all we knew!

Growing up in the 1940s, I found the war an exciting inconvenience and was super happy when in answer to my daily prayer to Jesus for proof that there was an issue, a small incendiary bomb landed in our garden, made a huge hole, big noise and blew the windows out! He was obviously listening and my faith in Him was assured!

Fast forward and I have long since passed my allotted three score years and ten and am deeply grateful for that, but just now I feel cheated and almost defeated!

Ever since I chanced on the dear little dilapidated place, so lovingly neglected thirty years ago, I knew it was to be my forever home! To that end I have gradually future-proofed it, so lots of safety-first rails, good lighting inside and out with garden steps painted white. No slip mats or trip hazards indoors. Showers and toilets up and downstairs and a simple snack tray in my bedroom gives me choices when there is no other priority to address! My trusted four wheeled walker is a pilot to my plane and I can go walking for purpose or pleasure, independently! I am blessed with helpers, family and friends who now and then surprise me with instant outings.

This surprise trip to Weston Super Mare was amazing



A few days ago, my sensible shoes and kind carpet collaborated in my safe sitting room to stick together and stop me in my tracks, so I ended up in a shambles on the floor having collided with a corner cabinet! Thankfully help was on hand to untangle the confusion! Nothing seemed damaged, (except my pride!) so my friend and I went out to lunch! Later, in retrospect I think I broke my collar bone but I was in no hurry to join any queues in hospital and a week of self-healing with pain relief and hot rubs is finally paying dividends, but it takes effort that drains the batteries.

Somebody said old age is not always fun!! Amen to that! I am running out of steam and will not be sorry when my contract runs out and I can look forward to a new life!



September Acrostic Poem....*by Sally Hayward*

School days are the best days of your life
Everyday you get to see your friends
Paying attention and your
Teachers
Expect you to learn and
Maths was my worst subject
But I
Excelled in my English and my Drama
Remember those days gone by.



Hard of Hearing

We are delighted to welcome Philippa Donald as the Bishop's Advisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Philippa started learning British Sign Language (BSL) in 2021, and she hopes to use her skills to be a friendly point of contact for anyone seeking to explore the Christian faith or find a church community.

She said: "I'm very excited and honoured to be taking on the role of 'Bishop's Advisor for the deaf and hard of hearing' in the Diocese of Gloucester.

It has been one of the desires of my heart for some time, to see our churches and church services becoming more accessible to those with whom we cannot communicate in the traditional way of speaking and being heard.

"British Sign Language has its own alphabet. There is a sign for each letter, but most words have their own sign, and some signs can work for several words.

"The sentence structure in BSL is also different from English, and all elements must work together – including facial expressions, which convey the mood of what you are signing. It can be challenging, but it's very rewarding when someone understands your efforts to communicate.

"The message of God's love and salvation for everyone needs to be able to be proclaimed to all, in a way that they can receive, understand and respond.

"Please pray for me as I begin this exciting new role, that it will enable more people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ for themselves and begin or continue their journey of faith."

There is a video of Philippa introducing herself in BSL. You can watch this by visiting <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/meet-the-bishops-advisor-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>.



Welcoming people into church this month

As schools reopen and daily routines restart after the summer months, September can be a time when people decide to explore new activities or connect with local community groups, including getting involved with church. It's a good time to think about welcome, particularly for new people in an area who might be looking for community and connection.

Robin Riordan, Churchwarden in Tidenham Parish, shares how the churches in Tidenham parish – St Luke's in Tutshill, St Mary and St Peter's in Tidenham, and St Michael and All Angels in Tidenham Chase – welcome people in and aim to make everyone feel included.

"Openness is at the heart of all three churches in the parish. We want anyone who comes in to feel like they are part of the church family. We are always happy to welcome new members and grow.

"We have a welcoming team, alongside sidespeople. There's always someone greeting people as they arrive, and others who continue the welcome inside. When new people come through the door, several people will say hello and chat with them. We try to create a space where everyone feels noticed and at ease.

"We have coffee on offer after some services, to give people a chance to meet and chat. We also run activities in the community that are non-faith based, like coffee mornings, baby and toddler groups, Pilates in the church building, and music evenings. These are ways people can get to know the church without needing to come to a service first.

"We have strong links with our local primary school; the schoolchildren sometimes do assemblies at the church. The families become familiar with us through combined activities like this.

"We make sure to be visible in the community through our website and Facebook page. Being approachable helps people feel comfortable reaching out or dropping in.

"Our goal is that when anyone walks through the doors, whether they come once or regularly, they feel welcome and part of something friendly and supportive."

Ride and Stride is back for 2025

Ride and Stride is back, for 2025, taking place on 13 September. This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport to raise money. Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) which provides grants for vital repair and improvement work. In 2024, Ride and Stride raised over £36,000, supporting projects such as roof repairs, fire door replacements and improved wheelchair access.

If you'd like to get involved this year, whether by taking part in the Ride and Stride itself or by putting on an event at your church, further information can be found at <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part>.

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Readers and lay ministry licensing service 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 13 September

All are invited to this special occasion which celebrates the calling and commitment of those stepping into lay ministry.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/annual-readers-and-licensed-funeral-ministers-2025>

The Choral Pilgrimage 2025, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 13 September. A programme of music spanning six centuries, blending medieval and contemporary works to inspire inner peace. <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2025-tewkesbury>

NAFAS national show 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 12 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 18 to 20 September. The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will be giving floral displays, tutorials, workshops and speeches.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/nafas-national-show-2025>. Have your say - Visit Facebook

f/[Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @glosdioc, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website [Gloucester.anglican.org](https://gloucester.anglican.org)

Mystery

It caught me sideways when musing incidentally.
Just a little-life-lifting, and billowing and swaying.
Just a little breath of mystery and no one there.
With the window closed, and the door unopened.



Elizabeth Oakley
A Dursley Poet

Sorry to be mentioning Christmas in September!

We're already planning the Christmas Market in St James, which will be on Friday 28th November from 4-7pm.

You're welcome to book a craft stall for £20 or have a stall to raise funds for St James Church (no fee). Cynthia will be having her excellent cake stall, the Bellringers will run the tombola and Heaven Preserve Us! will be producing their usual pickles, jams and chutneys. Anne and Clare have already started creating some exciting raffle prizes.

If you have any new ideas for fund raising please come forward with them.

Anne Shipton & Clare White.



**CHRISTMAS MARKET AT
ST JAMES, DURSLEY**

**FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025
4-7PM**

**Calling all craft stalls holders -
it's time to book your stall!**

To book a table please contact Clare
ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

£20/table

Tables are on a first come first served basis

**In conjunction with Dursley's Christmas
lights switch on.**

**No cake or baking stalls will be booked as the church has
their own charity stall.**

The poster features a festive background with red and green bokeh lights. It includes decorative elements such as a holly leaf and berries in the top left, three gold stars in the top right, and a large red bow in the bottom left. The text is presented in various colors (white, green, red) and bold fonts to create a visually appealing and informative announcement.

Year's Mind in September

- 1st** Geoffrey James 2003, Eileen Puddle 2004, Jenny May Poole 2006, John Theaker 2018
4th Graham Westley 2012
6th Callum Fletcher 2015, Maureen Critchley 2020
7th Peter Newman 1988, Betty Clegg 2011, David Glynne Pugh 2024
9th Leonard George Carpenter 1997, Brenda Browning 2017, Mary Powell 2021
10th Mervyn Morgan 2003, Bryant Witts 2013, David Simpson 2024
11th Jack Banfield 2002
14th Ruth Merritt 2000, Rosalind Medcroft 2005, Sam Trump 2014, Janet Midgley 2024
15th Betty Williams 2001
16th Sheila Wright 2013
17th Caroline Smith 2010
18th David Dixon
26th Constance Pate 2003
27th Bob Littleford 2012
28th Yvonne Green 2017
29th James Cook 2021, Wendy Tomlin 2023
30th Jo Edgington 2001, James Grimes 2007, Michael Cornock 2013, Audrey Pearson 2017, Jennifer Price 2019

| | |
|--|---|
|  |  |
| <p>Independent Family Funeral Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 Hour Service• Tailored Funerals• Prepaid Funeral Plans• Home Visits• Woodland Burials• Memorials | <p>Cam's Local Post Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cards and Gifts• Parcel Drop Off• Purchase of Stamps• Friendly Service• Cash Withdrawal/Deposit |
| <p>www.LWClutterbuck.co.uk Dursley: (01453) 542754 Thornbury: (01454) 660088 24-26 High Street, Cam, Dursley</p> | |

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



BAPTISMS

We welcome into our church family, by baptism

17th August Bonnie Jean Valerie Ind at St James

FUNERALS & INTERMENT SERVICES AT ST JAMES:

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

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 30th July | Valerie Banham, funeral at St James |
| 31st July | Dennis Hill, funeral at St James |
| 19th August | Mark McCusker, funeral at St James |
| 22nd August | Betty Tainton, memorial service at St James |

FLOWER ROTA

September 7th & 14th

High Altar: Sarah Hodge,

Tanner Chapel: Anne Shipton,

Lady Chapel: Sandra Longstreth,

21st & 28th September

High Altar: Ann Orchard,

Tanner Chapel: Margaret Lloyd,

Lady Chapel: Clare White.



100 CLUB

Results for August

1st - 162 - Joyce Lombarde

2nd - 132 - Ann Orchard

3rd -186 - Harry Atkinson

Many thanks Sarah



Mrs Gregory – Principal

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

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

e: www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk

Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust.

Registered in England Company Number 08149299

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT
DURSLEY**

**St James Church is open each day
between 9.00am and 5.00pm.**

Useful Telephone Numbers

TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

Clare White Tel: 549280

E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS

Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 07788 800849

100 CLUB

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155

CHOIR

Anne Shipton Tel: 07557 784858

David Wood Tel: 545073



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