

The Messenger

April 2026

The Parish Of Dursley



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70p each or £7 annually

The Ewelme Benefice

**The parish of Dursley
and**

the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our April edition, of the Messenger.

It is a glorious day as we prepare the magazine for printing, flowers are everywhere in the garden – sunshine at last!! Hope you enjoy Easter and the contents of the Messenger,

Please note views and opinions expressed within these pages are the writers own personal observations.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

Front Cover: theme for 2026

'In and around Dursley Parish'

Photo this month is of the Cross being carried up to Cam Peak on Good Friday by ©Steve White



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**DEADLINE FOR MAY 2026 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 19th APRIL 2026**

April Acrostic Poem....by Sally Hayward



Always be
Prepared
Ready for the April showers
It's important to take your umbrella wherever you go
Longing for the summer days to come



SAFEGUARDING

Heather Arnold is the
Safeguarding Officer for the
Parish of Dursley
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Treasurer

From 17th May 2026 we will no longer have a treasurer in Dursley when Sally Pearson stands down. Please come forward if you are able to take on this role, Sally will guide you. The job can also be shared with others.

Revd Juliet writes...



Dear Friends

I'm struggling to find words to express the mixture of grief and hope that I feel right now as I dare to let some of the cares of the world settle in my broken heart. The enormity of what's going on in the Middle East and the implications for the whole world are hard to grasp, never mind understand. I can only hope and pray that, as for Northern Ireland, Good Friday will be a time for peace, and the Easter Season a time for renewed hope.

As Christians we believe, extraordinarily, that God, in the person of Jesus, gave himself up to death at the hands of those who use the tools of oppression and violence, hatred and control. And the Mystery of Easter is that this same Jesus was raised to new life, defeating the powers of death and evil. We believe that this Life is offered to each one of us, that we might find ourselves known and loved by God and respond to Love with love of self, God and neighbour.

We re-tell the story year by year, week by week, when we gather to worship. It's a story that we are invited to inhabit, to identify with the characters, to acknowledge our own betrayals, denials and failures to take responsibility. We are invited once again to face up to the grief and brokenness. It's hard work – and to be honest with you, each year I get to the beginning of Passiontide and think, do we have to do this? Can't we just hop and skip over to the joys of Easter! But this is the stuff that helps us to make sense of what we see, hear and experience as part of being human, it helps us to find meaning and ultimately hope in the mess and struggle of life.

So walk this road we will, seeking to be open to ourselves, our neighbours far and wide and to the God who made us, knows us, loves us.

I hope that we will meet on the journey, perhaps out for a walk, in a church, on the path to Cam Peak, in St Giles church yard around a fire, or gathering around some water, or some bread and wine. But more importantly I hope and pray that you will meet with Christ in the worship and that whatever struggles you are facing, and in whatever inner journeys you are making, you will encounter the bubbling up of resurrection love, joy, peace and hope this Eastertide.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

And yes, I honestly do believe this, and yes, it really does make all the difference in the world.

Have a very Happy Easter....when we get there!



April Thoughts from The Benefice Office.... by Clare White

I re read my thoughts from April 2025, where I was trying to be brave as my youngest daughter headed off to Australia to live and work. Funnily enough I have survived! But I do miss her everyday.

April 2026 finds me trying to be brave again for different reasons; I am having an operation on Maundy Thursday, sadly I will miss all the Easter Celebrations. My operation will be a blessing for my health as I have been struggling for quite a few years now. *(The latest - operation cancelled until further notice!)*

We are now well into spring and life has returned to our gardens, we've enjoyed the beautiful cherry blossom in St James' churchyard and the profusion of daffodils.

Easter brings us new life with the symbolism of chicks, eggs and lambs. We leave the old behind at Easter so that we can embrace the new. In 2 Corinthians 5: verse 17 it says – "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

The most hopeful time is Spring, Easter and therefore new life.

The Revd Juliet, Moya and I have been hosting a Pilgrim course (on zoom) for some new people who wish to understand about relationship with Jesus Christ. Their questions and enthusiasm to know more is wonderful, they are finding that through exploring faith, God and Jesus Christ they are discovering new life. Some of them wish to be baptised which will bring them to a new life in Christ and new life in our church families. But they also need bravery to be able to search and talk about things they want to understand or are uncertain of.

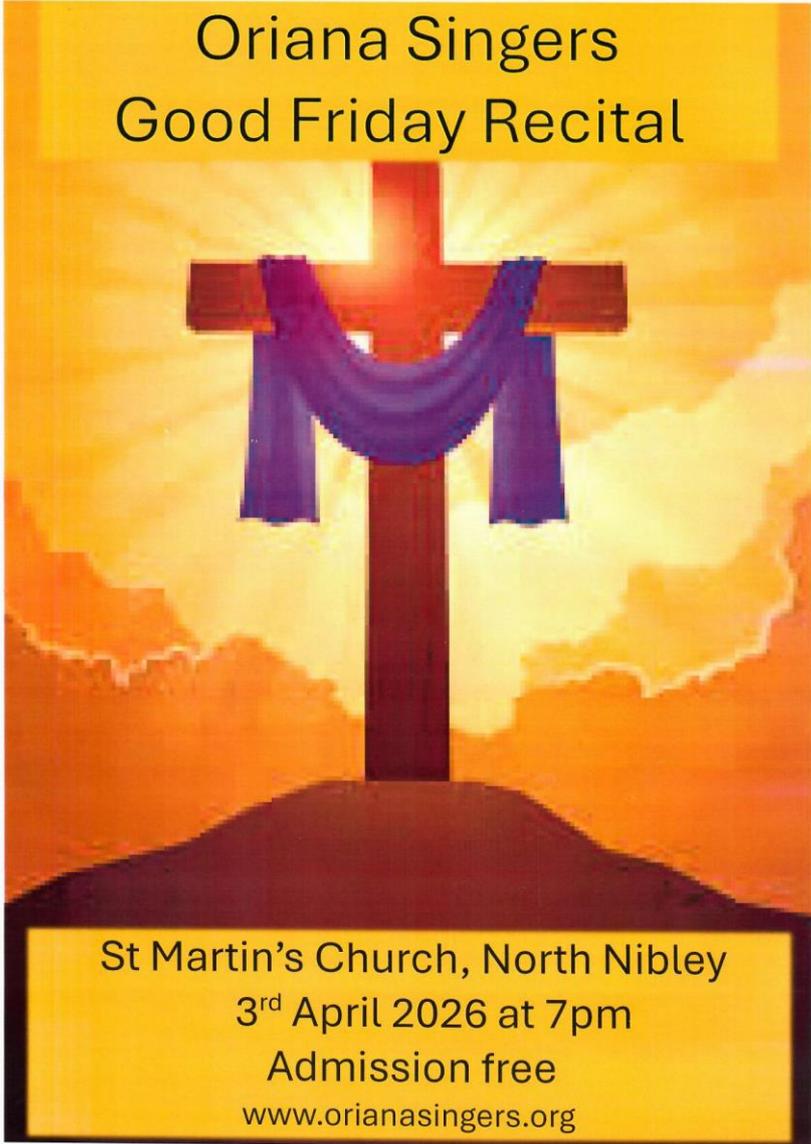
There are so many times in our life when bravery is a necessity, stepping out our comfort zones and questioning what we may or may not know or if our paths are unsure and feel never ending.

Looking at our own relationships with God and Jesus Christ through the eyes of new Christians makes me think harder about my beliefs. Spring and Easter are a time to reboot and reaffirm our Christian lives.

A prayer for Easter and New life –

Heavenly Father, when I feel stuck, purposeless, and not really sure what to do next, help me to find a fresh start. The resurrection of Your Son Jesus shows me that new life is possible, and I believe it, even if I can't always see a way forward. Please show me my next step, and help me live with confidence in Your love for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Oriana Singers
Good Friday Recital

St Martin's Church, North Nibley
3rd April 2026 at 7pm
Admission free
www.orianasingers.org

St James the Great, Dursley

Coffee, Cake and Music 2026



10.30am coffee,
tea and cake
11-11.40am
Recital



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

April 25th Stephen Power

(Monmouth Parish Church)

May 30th Tim Selman

(Organ Scholar Lincoln Cathedral)

June 27th Keith Hearnshaw

(Concert Organist)

July 25th Piers Maxim

(Malvern Priory)

August 29th William Reynolds

(Minster Church of St Mary, Swansea)

September 26th Andrew Millington

(Former DoM at Exeter Cathedral)

October 31st Bernard West

(Oxford)

Quiz Night

2nd May, 7pm

In aid of



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**Open Garden @ No 52
with cream teas and
one of Philip's
tantalising quizzes.
Sunday 31st May
2026**

Bellringing *by Philip Pope*



The main event in March was the annual bellringing striking competition for our local branch. Some changes had been made to the event this year in that there were actually going to be two competitions, the usual method ringing one (the Jack Beaney Trophy, from which the winner would go forward to the Gloucester and Bristol association competition (The Croome Trophy) to be held in the Tewkesbury branch in April) and a second one (The Stinchcombe cup, which was formerly awarded for the best effort) for more basic call changes to enable the less experienced ringers to take part.

Our team for the Jack Beaney rang 120 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor as we so often have in the past and were very happy with our performance, winning it by a significant margin. So the trophy is now back in its old place on the wall of the ringing chamber at Dursley.

The team from Coaley came in second place some way behind.

Our team for the call changes consisted of 4 of our learners together with 2 of the more experienced ringers. They were doing very well until, close to the end, one of the called changes caused some panic and a lot of faults to be made in the last 10 blows. However, it was the first time that the 4 had taken part in anything like this and they should all be very proud of the way they performed. They will have learnt a lot from the experience.

That competition was won by the team from Berkeley who had 3 of their learners in the band and rang very well indeed.

The Dursley bands stood as follows:

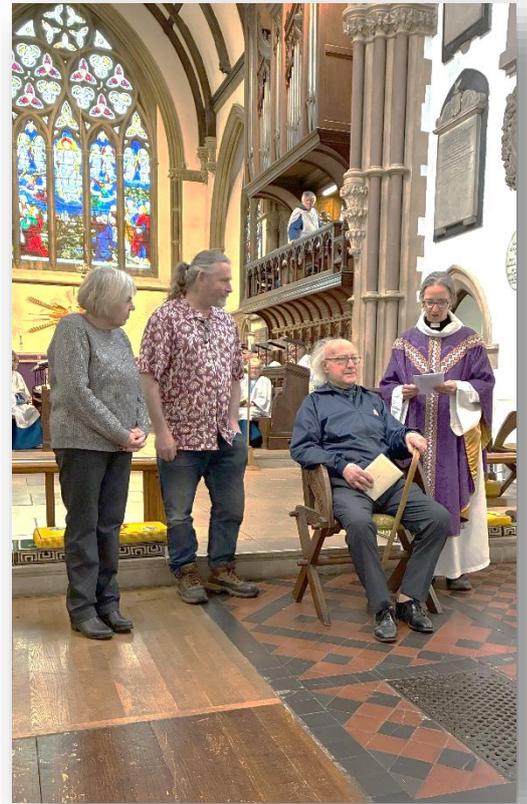
The Jack Beaney Trophy

1. Anne Pope
2. Jane Bull
3. Isaac O'Shea
4. Alice Franklin
5. Philip Pope
6. Andrew Bull (Conducting)

The Stinchcombe Cup

1. Anne Pope
2. Plum Hutton
3. Daphne Leroux
4. Livvey McGRath
5. Joy Bell
6. Andrew Binstead (conducting)

On Sunday 1st March we said goodbye to John Ewer before he left to live with his son and daughter-in-law in France.



Revd Juliet said goodbye on behalf of the congregation and Barbie presented John with the hat he wore when he played Thomas Hardy. Celebration cake and wine was enjoyed. Cake made by Clare.



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MUSIC NEWS FOR APRIL

At last, the C of E in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music is looking to support choral singing in churches. The thinking seems to be that the best way to encourage children to be part of church life is for them to be actively involved, and what better way than through singing. (Some of us have been aware of that for ages!). So the C of E has made £400,000 available to help “kick-start” choral singing in 200 churches. It doesn't take a mathematical wizard to see that £2000 per church will not go far in 2026, but at least it's a start. The “Choir Project” was launched by Zoom in early March, and, after listening to examples of “good practice” (particularly from St Mary's Swanage) it seems we are to be equipped with a “tool-kit” which, I presume, will be full of useful devices for making our young people want to flock to join the nearest church choir.....

It seems that some dioceses have already got schemes afoot, but when pressed as to which dioceses were very supportive of encouraging children to church through singing, the Director of the RSCM declined, saying it was inappropriate to name them, despite having already named Salisbury and Liverpool. Sadly, I am pretty sure that our own diocese would not have made the list!

In the past at the churches I worked in, the main junior choir recruitment came from the Sunday School, but these days very few churches have Sunday Schools and so we have to rely on local primary schools. It's good to see that we have excellent connections with our local church primary school through Rectors past and present and the gallant band of St James' members who “Open the Book”. However, like many such establishments it is a school without a music specialist and, as such, very little “live” music is in evidence. With the pressures of the National Curriculum and endless form filling and box ticking, unless someone is able to “fight its corner” small wonder that music is given very little space on most school timetables.

At secondary level, the story is bleak with 42% of state secondary schools not offering GCSE Music, and, in several local schools, to make “viable” group for Advanced Level subjects, including Music, there have to be a minimum of 10 candidates! Many years ago I attended a meeting where it was said that in future independent schools would be the only schools which could offer AL Music. Unfortunately that seemed more and more the case, but, after the recent change in

Government policy, even that route to studying music at a higher level is under threat.

So the overall picture is worrying and it is against this depressing background that the RSCM and C of E are hoping to kick-start church music in an attempt to preserve our fantastically rich tradition of choral singing. It's something which should have happened some years ago, but I really hope that this Choir Project will succeed and I look forward to opening my tool-kit when it arrives.....*Nigel Davies.*

Music for April

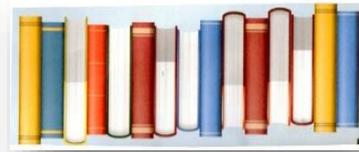
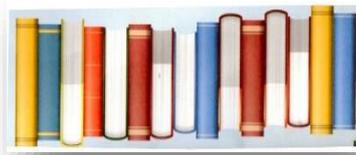
(Easter Day)

5th	am	I was Glad – Parry	Coronation Mass (K371) – Mozart
	pm	Cantate Domino – Pitoni	Bertalot Responses
		Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem – Stanford	Stanford in C
12th	am	Christians Shout for Joy and Gladness – J S Bach	
		Sunshon in F	
19th	am	Informal Worship	
26th	am	Benefice Service at Uley	

Thank you to St. James' from Joyce Lombarde

A little note to thank you for
Your kind thoughts, mail and prayers
I hoped it would be hum'rous, but
I wasn't born Pam Ayres.
The choir sent me their kind thoughts
In a lovely Get Well card,
Which gave me joy, and well impressed
The staff upon the ward.
(poetic licence)

My special thanks to those who took
The time to come and visit
You cheered me up, helped pass the time,
And that's not bad, now, is it?



ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL

Clive says.....

When after the Christmas Market in 2009, we decided to put out a table on the grass and give away the left-over books for a donation, we never could have imagined what would be happening in 2026.

Books continued to be donated and from six tables once a month we moved to twelve tables twice a month and now we have forty tables every week and well over 3,000 books.

The community give us tremendous support and local musicians regularly entertain us as we browse through the books.

The books really are free but donations are given. We have raised over £38,000 since we started. Recently we have started to support small local charities by giving them the donations we receive on the second Saturday of the month and in the first seven months have given over £1200 to six charities.

This has only been achieved by the hard work put in by a small dedicated team - Sheila Gardner who sorts and puts out the books in a way that was recently praised by a librarian, Hilary Barnett who deals with the children's section "Anthea Fittall who deals with the charities and Joy Bell who scans books as they come in to see if they have any online value, and has raised over £2,750 so far.

We are very thankful for the band of volunteers who help put out books on Friday afternoons and pack them away on Saturday mornings but...

we would willingly and eagerly accept more help.



Chris Pengelly

Gardening Services

Tel: 07917 440925

Email: cwrpengelly@hotmail.com

chrispengellygardeningsservices.webador.co.uk

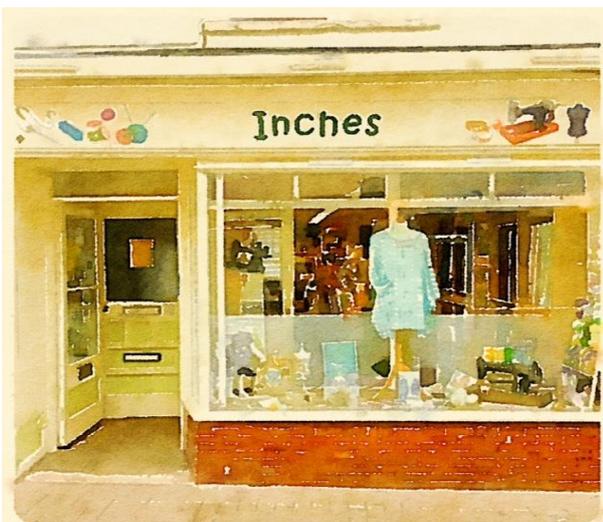
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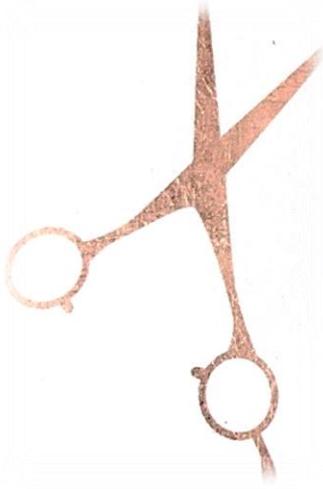
**39 Parsonage Street,
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www.inchesfabrics.co.uk**

RE-DEDICATION OF THE BIBLE GIVEN TO ST JAMES BY ANN AND THE LATE TONY KING.

The Bible, which Tony and Ann had given on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which is used on the lectern had, for various reasons, fallen apart. One of Tony's last wishes was that the Bible be repaired and reinstated. So recently the Revd David Vonberg had found a bookbinder and got it repaired. The bookbinder recommended that the Bible, which is quite heavy, would benefit from resting on a cushion, which has been provided by Caroline Marrow, but now the lectern needed a wider edge to accommodate this, so Steve White provided a piece of oak and Philip Staddon prepared it.

At the end of the service on 22nd of March the Bible was re-dedicated by Revd Dr Juliet Jensen and everyone was thanked for their help in the restoration. We hope the Bible will now give many more years of service.





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April 2026



(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website).

Wednesday 1st April

Evening Prayer suspended this week.

Thursday 2nd April

9am Morning Prayer in St James
10am Holy Communion at St James
7.30pm Agapé Communion at St James

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

9am Walk of Witness to Cam Peak, meet at Sainsbury's, Dursley
2pm Tenebrae Service at St James
3pm Good Friday Service at St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield

Saturday 4th April – Easter Eve

8pm The Easter Vigil at St Giles, Uley

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

8am Said Holy Communion at St James
10am Parish Holy Communion at St James
6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James

Monday 6th April - Bank Holiday

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday 8th April

Evening Prayer suspended this week

Thursday 9th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James
10am Holy Communion at St James
11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

Sunday 12th April – Easter 2

10am Parish Holy Communion Service at St James

Monday 13th April

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 14th April

OFFICE CLOSED

2pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

Wednesday 15th April

OFFICE CLOSED

Evening Prayer suspended this week

Thursday 16th April

OFFICE CLOSED

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Friday 17th April

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

8am Said Holy Communion at St James

10am Reflective Worship at St James

10am Shine! Informal worship at Dursley Academy CofE School

Tuesday 21st April

6.30pm Staff meeting at The Rectory

Wednesday 22nd April

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 23rd April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 25th April

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music. Recitalist - Stephen Power

Sunday 26th April - Easter 4

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

Tuesday 28th April

2pm Communion at The Hollies Care Home

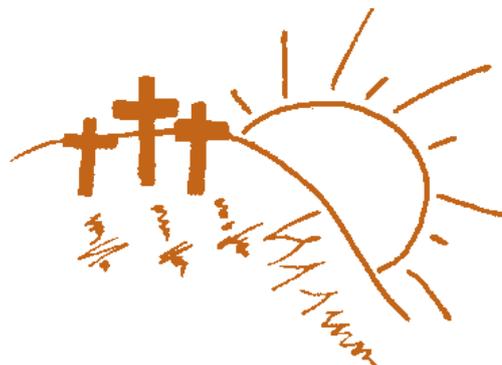
Wednesday 29th April

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 30th April

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James



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CASTLEGATE



**Meetings on the
3rd Wednesday of the month
9.45am to midday
at The Community Centre,
Rednock School.**

COME AND JOIN US

We have interesting speakers and time to socialise. Most months we organise to go out to lunch after the meeting. We have Coffee Mornings each month as well.

You will in fact find many contacts in St James on a Sunday.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON 15th APRIL
Speaker: Alex Knight – Goodrich Castle.**

Contacts:

President:

Glenys Muir 01453 543391

Secretaries:

Val Sheen 01453 545596

Judith Staddon 01453 544312



Recently, my attention was drawn to a campaign that Friends of the Earth are running regarding the highly important new Water Bill which will soon be debated in parliament.

Frequently we hear news reports about water pollution from sewerage, toxic chemicals and poor farming practise and both humans and the natural world is suffering as a result. Indeed, there has been a recent gripping, if not alarming tv drama covering this subject.

'Clean Water Now' is a coalition of well-known organisations (see illustration below) who are lobbying MPs to ensure that they fix the broken water systems, stop the pollution and restore nature now.



I did some further reading on the on-line Houses of Parliament website and read about the proposed white paper!!! It is as you can imagine, very lengthy and complicated but I feel I understood what some of the plans include.

The new act proposed is being described as bringing transformative changes to the water industry. One of these changes will be the creation of a single water regulator which will have significantly strengthened powers. Considering all this, I have contacted my MP and asked that as the white paper makes its way through parliament, they work towards mending the water systems, stop pollution and restoring nature.

I have also read about innovated nature-based solutions to sewerage such as the one use by a village called Stoneyford, in Northern Ireland. In 2015 Conor Macauley (BBC NI Agriculture & Environment Correspondent) reported about a village which had problems with their sewerage system. The Water Authority introduced a natural Reed Bed system. There were understandable initial concerns by the locals, about possible bad smells, however, nature soon started to flourish, and the system proved to be very efficient. The sewerage passes through 5 or 6 reed beds before clean water drains into the local river system. Apparently, the system is cheaper than those which involve large amounts of concrete and chemicals and the local nature is thriving due to this very environmentally friendly solution.



Birds, dragonflies and wildflowers flourish in this innovative natural sewerage treatment reed beds at Stoneyford NI

Are you interested in finding out more about St James Eco Church?

Do you have ideas or suggestions which promote sustainability that you would like to share?

Why not come along to one of the St James Eco Church meetings?
Please check the pew sheet for further details or email Gill at

Gill.mather@btinternet.com

Everyone and new ideas are always welcome 😊

There's a cuppa &
cake when we meet



[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/698dd6d5ceeaa48d377f6a73/Defra Water White Paper 2026 print with correction slip .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/698dd6d5ceeaa48d377f6a73/Defra_Water_White_Paper_2026_print_with_correction_slip.pdf)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-34320345>



EASTER PRAYERS....by Canon Richard Morgan

MAUNDY THURSDAY: THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Bowl and Towel; The Bread and Wine

For Jesus humbly loving and serving us,
and washing us clean from all evil: **Thank you, God.**

For Jesus giving us his body and blood on the cross,
and in the bread and wine, so we can share his life,
united in love with him and each other: **Thank you, God.**

For when we have been proud and unwilling to help others,
and not lived like parts of your body that do your work of love:
Christ, have mercy.

Loving God, help us to love as Jesus loved,
and to give ourselves generously to help and serve each other,
for his sake. **Amen.**

GOOD FRIDAY: THE CROSS

We thank you, God for Jesus' love on the cross.

Jesus, on the cross you shared our pains;

you are with us to comfort us

and give us hope when life is hard. **Thank you.**

You beat the power of evil by love

and made us God's friends and children. **Thank you.**

You went through great suffering.

You suffered terrible pains of the body.

You suffered cruel insults.

You suffered the feeling that God had left you.

But you prayed to God.

You hung on in trust even in the darkness.

And God showed you were right, by raising you from the dead.

So we can trust God too, even in the worst of times: **Thank you.**

We say sorry for when we have not lived in Jesus' way.

For when we have been cruel to other people,

and hurt or insulted them: **Lord, have mercy.**

For when we have not cared for others in need,

and not given the help we could: **Christ, have mercy.**

For when we have let fear stop us doing the right thing;

for when we have not trusted God, or not lived by God's love:

Lord, have mercy.

God our Father,
we pray for all who suffer:
For all who suffer physical pain through illness or injury:
For all who are treated unfairly and cruelly:
For all who are insulted by other people:
For all who find it hard to trust you:
For all who are hungry and thirsty:
For those who are dying:
For all who have lost loved ones:
Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord Jesus,
Help us to trust God through you,
and to be forgiving, caring and loving.
Help us to live as God's family, for your sake. Amen.

EASTER EVE: THE TOMB

When life is hard, our way is blocked,
we are helpless to do anything, and there seems no hope,
help us to wait for you, God, in trust and hope,
as Jesus' body waited in the tomb,
and you raised him to new life in your glory. **Amen.**

EASTER DAY: JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

You raised Jesus to new life: **Thank you, God.**
He rose to make us his friends, his sisters and brothers,
to call us by name and love each one of us: **Thank you, God.**
He makes us brothers and sisters to each other,
and calls us to love each other: **Thank you, God.**
He makes us your children, and brings us your love: **Thank you, God.**
So you promise us life for ever with you: **Thank you, God.**

Loving God,
You raised Jesus
♥to give us peace,
♥to bring us forgiveness,
♥to make us his brothers and sisters,
and so your children, sharers of your life.

Show us Jesus and that new life.
If we are muddled and confused,
lead us through to greater trust and love,
to the joy and glory that Easter brought,
which lasts for ever.

Help us to live our lives in Jesus' way,
loving you and each other.
So let us share his new life now and for ever. **Amen.**

HAUTE CUISINE BY CHANCE *by Jennifer Kendrick*



A dark, dank, misty, moisty, miserable March morning dawned this week, and I found the empty shelves in the fridge positively gleaming with evil pleasure! At least they were clean, but the message was loud and clear! Shop or starve today! The clouds will not clear!

I was equally determined not to be bullied or to go out, so braced myself, took a deep breath and put the kettle on. A hot drink served its purpose and I sat at my writing table and watched the rain drops chase each other down the window pane, stopping and starting, spurred on by the wicked wind; something I often did as a child, when contentedly confined to my bedroom where I was supposed to be tidying up. It made me smile and passed a happy hour, but couldn't improve the weather!

So, I stirred my stumps and peered into the fridge crisper tray, (so low and inconvenient, its easier said than done!) to find some very sad veggies and soggy salad! Likewise hiding in the dark in a suitable container under the sink was a huge onion growing whiskers and a sprouting potato together offering some possibility for a free lunch!

Scrappy soup perhaps?

Onion, chopped small and simmered 'til soft

Floppy carrots, good once peeled and cut small.

Rocket salad, sad but succulent

Potato peeled and rough cut

Oxo cube or similar for tasty stock

Pepper and salt to taste.

All together for gentle simmer, then blended, ladled piping hot into a pretty soup bowl of unknown origin, but interesting design, and served at the table with a silver spoon. A white damask napkin replaced the crumpled paper serviette. I toasted a slice of manky supermarket bread in my brand new Air Fryer which was ok in the absence of a crisp, crunchy roll!

Then it was time to give thanks, that with thought, some determined effort and an arrow prayer, it is still possible to find glory in the grey!!

JENNIFER KENDRICK
invites you to
A BREATHING SPACE
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**No speaker, agenda, entertainment or
charge!**

Just free time!

Please bring your own picnic and drink.

**A small stool might be useful to sit on!
More details. Call Jennifer
Mob 07905 111039.**



At the car wash



Plenty of long queuing
and finding something to do
whilst the washers go wildly
phoom and whoosh into
their kind of watery gloom.

We're running a race
to be clean and seen
after dustings of Saharan
dust made us aghast.

Then, we are in the watery
wash, wash, and alarmingly,
the sides are moving back
and the floor is moving forwards
seemingly, (although it isn't
as it's all relative to what's
happening in the world).

I'm free of the Saharan dust
now, but the world isn't the
same somehow.

Elizabeth Oakley
A Dursley Poet





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 April is Laggard

Send entries to the Office, Valerie or Judith by 20th

Some interesting entries:

I love little Melli
with her coat sleek and warm
And if I don't harm her
She'll do me no harm *

Each morning she greets me
with tail held high
Her calming mellifluous purring
Lifting my mood to the sky!
With apologies to Jane Taylor.

Jean Gardiner

When my wife says goodnight to me it's very mellifluous and I sleep like a baby – happy as 'Larry the Lamb'.

Paul Prodger

A mellifluous melody flows through my head
Bringing harmony, pleasure, and peace
I wish that the world was mellifluous too.
Bringing harmony, making wars cease.

By Joyce Lombarde

And the winner is.....

I admit I think it neat
When the choir sings so sweet,
Or Nigel, gently, without fuss,
Plays us tunes mellifluous.
Of course the stirring stuff's good too,
There's lots of things the choir can do.
But I admit that, for my money,
Music is good when sweet as honey.

Can Richard Morgan

Dursley Choirs of the past.

David Wood has submitted three photographs from the late Lionel Jones' choir archive, all from the 1950's, which older members of the church might find of interest.

Cecil Adams in the organ loft supervising the televised Christmas programme (circa 1959/60). Clearly seen are tenors Alf Lord, David Wood, David Collins and Lionel Jones.



St Mark's Choir (Circa 1957) This photo includes the Rector – Canon George Hutchins and Curate Rev Michael Whetter. The three men (faces clearly shown) in the back row are:

L-R Charles Wintle, Alf Lord and George Walsh, who all also sang in the choir at St James. George Walsh served for 80 years retiring in 1965. You might just recognise another face that is still very much around next to the Rector!!



Full Choir plus servers and 8 probationers. The Rector Rev John White (centre) next to Cecil Adams (Circa 1954).



Years Mind in April

1st Eileen Tait 2001; Bevis James 2012

2nd Ted Wakely; Pete Norris 2016

3rd Mauris Francis 2001; Pearl Stanley 2008; Philip Rose 2015

4th Don Trapp 2008; Ron Powell 2018

5th Edgar Norman Martin 2007

6th Edna Nelmes 2004; Peter Dunstan Horsfall Packer 2007;
Vincent Vizard 2015

7th Eileen Benjamin 2017; Robert Weldon 2019; David Avery 2020

8th Colin Dolbear 2016; Betty Clarke 2025

9th Roland Newman 2021

10th Kathleen Hill 2021

12th Ian Morgan 1978; Douglas West 2020

15th Stuart Miles 1997; Hector Hayes 2003

17th Bill Moon 2015

18th David Wilson 2001

19th Marlene Powell 2022

21st William Grant

23rd John Underwood; Joyce Sirrett 2009; Peggy Trott 2016

24th Margaret Hughes 2020

25th Kenneth A Cook 1994; Kenneth Chandler 2004

26th Peter Boyles

27th Jacquelin Hill 2025

29th Steve Walton 2006

30th Joan Edmunds 2009

PASTORAL CARE

If people are in need,
unwell,
at home or in hospital
Please contact the
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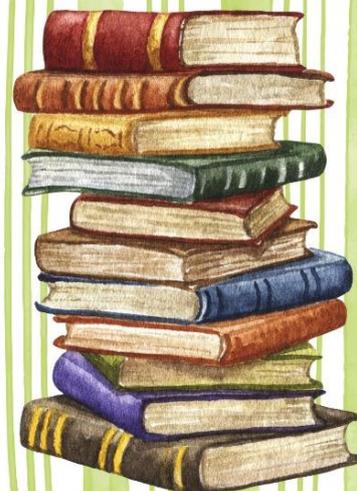
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St James the Great, Dursley Free Books

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Everyone is welcome to come in



**Please leave book donations at the
back of church**

'Christ' to appear in Cirencester on Easter Sunday

An interactive public artwork, created by a priest and iconographer will be revealed in Cirencester on Easter Sunday. The Revd Catherine Lomas is a full-time theological artist and iconographer working across the country, as well as Associate Priest at the Benefice of Cirencester with Watermoor.



'Appearance' is a temporary sculpture installation that will stand in the town's market square from 9.30am to 3pm on Easter Sunday (5 April 2026), before being moved into church for a 4pm service. It consists of large upright letter-forms spelling the name of Christ, designed so that people can walk among them.

Visitors will be invited to write prayers, hopes and fears directly onto the white-painted surfaces throughout the day.

"The sculpture grew from my training in calligraphy," Catherine said. "I went to a workshop where we were taught to write in Saxon runes, an ancient form of lettering. As soon as I learned the letter forms, I saw them as standing stones.

"They're upright and vertical, not rounded like the letters we're used to, and they immediately reminded me of stone circles – places of spiritual encounter, connection, and gathering for a worshipping community.

"At the same time, I had the idea of representing the name of Christ through these standing-stone forms. I was inspired by Acts 17, where Paul says that Christ is the one in whom we live and move and have our being. It made me think that if the letters of Christ were placed around a space, people could physically move in and out of them, almost inhabiting that idea of being within Christ."

As part of her Masters in Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University, Catherine was required to create work that would capture the

imagination of a wider audience. "I thought, why not take these sculptures quite literally into the marketplace?" she said.

A diocesan mission grant made the project possible, covering the cost of materials and transport; each of the six letters stands more than five feet tall and weighs over 50 kilos, with concrete bases added for stability.

"My hope is that other communities might want to display it in their own church context," Catherine said. "A large church could display the entire piece, but for smaller churches within a benefice, they could perhaps have one letter in each church to create a trail."

Any community that would like to have the Christ runes appear in their locality can get in touch with Catherine at revdcatherine@encircled.uk. View Catherine's work online at catherinemaryicons.uk.

Read the full article at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/christ-to-appear-in-cirencester-on-easter-sunday/>

Events and training

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

Bach's St John Passion on Good Friday, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, 3 April, 7pm

Gloucester Cathedral hosts the Cathedral Choir with period-instrument ensemble La Serenissima, performing Bach's *St John Passion* – a powerful retelling of Jesus' final hours.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/bach-s-st-john-passion-on-good-friday-26>

Longhope Brook duck race, The Latchen Rooms, Longhope, GL17 0QA, 11 April, 10am to 12pm

A family friendly event with coffee, cake, bacon rolls, plenty of chatter, and ducks racing for cash prizes.

<https://gloucestershireevents.co.uk/event/longhope-brook-duck-race/>

Easter at Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX, now to 12 April

= A programme of services and events celebrating this season of hope and new life, including a Palm Sunday Eucharist, a Holy Week series of evening lectures, and a Secret Easter Garden Trail.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/step-into-the-season-of-hope-and-new-life-this-easter-at-gloucester-cathedral/>

Wild Worship at Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ, 3 May, 3pm to 4pm

An informal, family-friendly outdoor service giving thanks for the beauty of creation. All ages are welcome.

<https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/eco-church/>

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



Banns of marriage were read on

1st, 8th and 15th March for Marrie Kingscott and Benjamin Pearce



FLOWER ROTA

April 4th & 11th

High Altar Kate Sant
Tanner Chapel Ann Orchard
Lady Chapel Glenys Muir.

Easter

Pulpit Anne Shipton, **Font** Anthea Fittall,
Hymn Book Chest Cynthia Martin, **Porch** Sheila Gardner,
Nave Pillar Marian Paisey.

April 19th & 26th

High Altar Sandra Longstreth,
Tanner Chapel Margaret Lloyd
Lady Chapel Steph Say



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