

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



The Messenger MARCH 2021

Price 60p each
£6 Annually

The Ewelme Benefice

The parish of Dursley and the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nymphsfield
Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

RECTOR

Revd Canon Michael Cozens

Tel: 546459

E-mail: mgcozens86@btinternet.com

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

ASSOCIATE PRIESTS

Revd Ian Gardner,

E-mail: chestal@hotmail.com

Tel: 546895

Revd Jane Wood

E-mail: revjanewood@yahoo.com

Tel: 0798 362 3525

READER

Mr Tony King,

E-mail: tonyking@gmx.co.uk

Tel: 298897

CHURCHWARDENS.

Mrs Caroline Marrow,

E-mail: caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com

Tel: 544221

Mrs Christine Morgan,

E-mail: chrismorgan194@btinternet.com

Tel: 549062

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

Tel: 549280

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.

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

Tel: 01454 416867

PCC: VICE CHAIRMAN – Mrs Caroline Marrow

Tel: 544221

PCC SECRETARY –

Mrs Edwina Walton

E-mail: edwinawalton@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 890588

PCC TREASURER -

Dr Sally Pearson

E-mail: v6sep@aol.com

Tel: 542106



MARCH

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Editors:

Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677

Jenni Norris Tel: 01453 543996

Advertising please contact

Philip Staddon Tel: 01453 544312

e.mail address judith.staddon@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677 e.mail: v.meares@btinternet.com
or Judith Staddon Tel: 01453 544312 e.mail judith.staddon@gmail.com
and Jenni Norris e.mail jenorris@talk21.com

Message from the editors:

Any opinions expressed in the magazine are personal views only.

Judith Valerie and Jenni

**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2021 ISSUE IS
SUNDAY 14th MARCH 2021**



Dear Friends

*"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare..."* W. H. DAVIES

I feel sure that you will have heard these opening words of Davies' poem "Leisure". It resonates with us because our lives are busy and it points to the dangers of ignoring the simple things of life, nature and all its beauty. W.H. Davies' garden at Glendower in Nailsworth, where he died in 1940, was quite unruly and overgrown, because for him nature was better just to be left to get on with it, rather than trying to tame it.

I would encourage you to look at his poetry, it's simplicity and message for today, but it is this sense of standing and watching that I want to reflect upon. In this Covid crisis, there might well be a natural desire to shut ourselves away, indeed we are encouraged to do so, to stop infection happening. Yet, if we just stood and watched and didn't get involved with life. then nothing could happen.

I am constantly amazed at how people pull together and make things happen and I shouldn't be, because so often people are inventive, energetic and filled with a sense of service, that needs to seek an outlet and purpose.

Three examples of this purpose and outlet come to mind, in lives lived both locally and nationally.

Firstly, the amazing **NHS** response and ongoing care of us all. Dedication and service in the midst of pain, sorrow and exhaustion are

images that we all recognise and yet organisationally, the response of services to care and to the roll out of the vaccine, has been immense. At the Vale Hospital in Cam, the delivery of the vaccine to people is super-efficient. Key staff and volunteers have worked to provide a model of care and delivery that works seamlessly and for that we are all grateful. I get my first job this week and so I will see for myself.

Secondly, I think of organisations, largely charitable, working to provide support to families, through the provision of food and other essential items. **Foodbank, GL11 and Fareshare** for example, provide much needed support, to many families and individuals, locally and beyond. The key to their success lies largely in the giving of time and expertise by many committed volunteers. I saw this first hand recently, visiting the **Fareshare** facility in Bristol. Again, such efficient co-ordination and delivery of food and provisions that otherwise might be wasted and unused. People working together to make a difference.

Finally, I think again of our **own communities**. Village and town communities, that without the time and effort of volunteers, would have no local shop, or community hall, or child care provision. Within the church communities too, the giving of time by many, enables worship to take place, prayer to be shared, caring phone call contact to be maintained. Small things in themselves and yet to the recipients, hugely important and personal.

My point is this, that whilst W. H. Davies captures in his poetry the need to take a moment and to look around, for the benefit of our health and wellbeing, we still have to balance that with the need to step forward, and become involved where we can.

I would say, thank God that many people do just that and give themselves wholly to make lives better for those around them.

Yours in Christ

Ian

Church News from Canon Michael.....



Services still on-line...for the moment!

Whilst we all wait for news of (hopefully) an easing of restrictions, we are continuing to hold our services via Zoom rather than physically in our churches. It's still really good to see so many joining each Sunday from across the 5 churches of our benefice as well as from further afield. Zoom has allowed some people, who would not be able to physically get into church, to join in worship and this has been great. Even when we return to church services we are committed to live-streaming a Sunday service every week from one of our churches.

As always joining details are given on the homepage of the Benefice website: www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk as well as on the weekly pew sheet/newsletter which is emailed to 180 people each week!

Lent and the journey to Easter

Lent is now underway. We are using the Church of England material #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story, for our weekly Lent groups (via Zoom of course!) which are running on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. Details of these are on the Ewelme Benefice website. A series of daily reflections using this material are available to receive by email or through an App. Further details can be found on the Church of England website, clicking on #LiveLent.

Churches Together in Cam and Dursley are holding on-line Lent services at 6pm via Zoom on each Sunday of Lent and details of these, with joining instructions, are also on the website and weekly newsletter. All are very welcome to join these services which are taking the Prayers of Jesus as the weekly theme.

Prayers of Hope

In the churchyard outside St James we are planning to dedicate one of the trees as our 'Tree of Hope'. All are invited to hang their hope prayers, or their symbols of hope, on the tree. Anyone is very welcome to do this, particularly at this time as we travel together in hope towards Easter and towards better times. Simply attaching something like a ribbon can symbolise a deep hope for the future and, in Christian terms, represent all the prayers that are being offered at the moment. Look for material and suggestions in the church porch.

Other outdoor prayer activities – stone cairns and stick crosses.

Using the churchyard as a special place of prayer, look out for a cairn. A cairn is a human-made pile of stones that, as it grows, stands firmly as a visual reminder of prayers that have been offered. We will leave some stones in the porch at St James and you are invited to help yourself and add a stone to the cairn. You're also very welcome to bring your own stone and add it to the cairn, or even paint a stone and bring it.

Taking a walk in the churchyard, you're very likely to come across some twigs or pieces of branch, or you might pick some pieces up on your walk and bring them with you. Simply find a quiet place in the churchyard, place the twigs, in the shape of a cross, on the ground and pause for a moment. Think about anything you might want to say sorry for, perhaps in your own life or in the world, then look at the cross shape and remember Good Friday and God's love and forgiveness.

We're intending to do all of the above in the churchyard at St Giles in Uley and have been in discussion with Uley school and also Dursley Academy to see whether the schools would like to bring groups of children to visit the churchyard. Dursley Academy might prefer to visit the churchyard at St Mark's as it's closer to the school, so we might replicate the above suggestions in St Mark's churchyard as well. Keep an eye on the weekly newsletter and the benefice website for updates.



Prayer Group...

Jacquelin Hill says that if anyone would like to join in, especially during Lent and 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 3rd March 2021.



**Informal Worship
Sunday 7th March 10 am on Zoom**

**To mark our support of Fairtrade Fortnight we are holding an informal service on Zoom.
The format will be a little different. There will be guest speakers from Fairtrade and we invite you to bring a Fairtrade cuppa, cake or other Fairtrade goodie to enjoy as we share in our worship.**

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME!

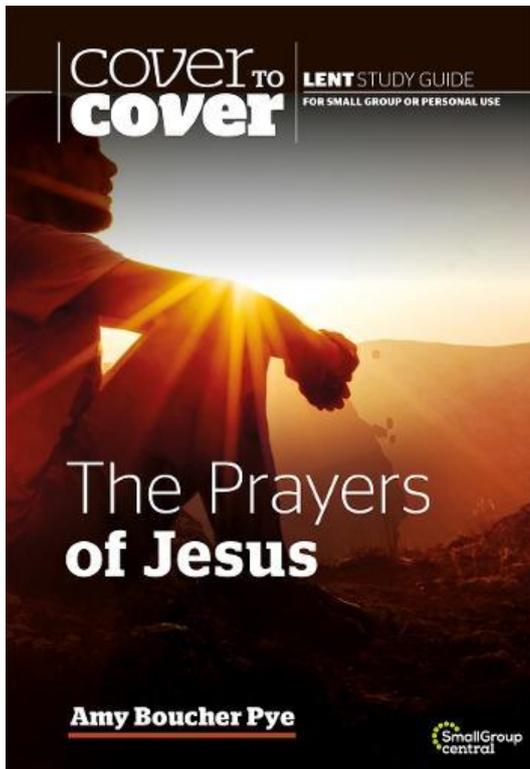


An acrostic for March

March celebrates many
Anniversaries from St David and St Patrick
Roman God of War and the
Calendar began in 700 BC and an
Hour less in bed and the lighter nights begin
By Sally Hayward

**REMEMBER, CLOCKS 'SPRING' FORWARD
ON MARCH 28th AT 1am**





UNITED LENT SERVICES 2021 VIA ZOOM

on Sundays at 6 pm

THE PRAYERS OF JESUS

This Lent, refresh your relationship with God by exploring the way Jesus Himself prayed to His Father. Focusing on six of the prayers of Jesus leading up to the central events of our faith, encounter the Saviour in a new way and reach new depths of intimacy with God in prayer.

Feb 28th - The Raising of Lazarus - Led by Fiona Crocker

'that they may believe that you sent me' John 11.42

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88592453248?pwd=Mkd2Umk4TVYxZ3FVT0srZWFiSDRjZz09>. Meeting ID: 885 9245 3248 - Passcode: 521765

March 7th - Jesus' Hour - Led by Phil Summers

'for this very reason I came' John 12.27

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86103911624?pwd=WIZOU2xHL2JrRFRZbGxGUWxpLzROdz09>. Meeting ID: 861 0391 1624 - Passcode: 073524

March 14th - The Farewell Prayer - Led by Peter Fewings

'Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you' John 17.1

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85425271180>. Meeting ID: 854 2527 1180

To join by phone, dial 01314601196

March 21st - In the Garden of Gethsemane - Led by Michael Cozens

'yet not my will, but yours be done' Luke 22.42

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84600009051?pwd=ZnE4ZEJtUGlqZVJkcjdraUpCaGRyQT09>. Meeting ID: 846 0000 9051 Passcode: 149211

To join by phone, dial 0203 901 7895 or 0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

March 28th - On the Cross - Led by Phil Greenow

'Father into your hands...' Luke 23.46

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7809118584?pwd=NU1GeDBsRm9NUWtiREsVbXJ2MTIrdz09>. Meeting ID: 780 911 8584 Passcode: 1904 To join

by phone 01314601196

Our thanks to Edwina Walton for sharing her thoughts this month.

Do you have a favourite author or book?

My favourite author since studying 'A Passage to India' at school has to be E M Forster. As for one favourite book it would be 'A Suitable Boy' by Vikram Seth. I love a family saga and have read it three times.

What are you reading at present?

'The Dust that Falls from Dreams' by Louis de Bernieres. It is a family saga set around the 1st World War.

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

I feel I should have read more by Charles Dickens apart from set texts for school and college.

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

This would have to be anything by the Beach Boys. I love all the layers of harmony and find it impossible to resist singing along and adding my own! Sloop John B lends itself particularly well to this, I have found!

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

I have found it almost impossible to choose one piece of music as I love so many pieces. I particularly love English music from the 20th century, both choral and orchestral. As a one-time cellist, I have always loved Elgar's cello concerto.

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

I started learning the cello when I was 12 and loved it, playing in various orchestras for a number of years but not in recent years. I have also sung regularly and play the piano, although have not done so since retiring from teaching. I do still play the recorder occasionally, though.

What is your favourite film?

Although I am not a particular fan of films, I would have to say that I can watch both 'The Sound of Music' and 'West Side Story' over and over, singing along throughout!

Do you have a favourite play?

Again, this is difficult. However, if I were to pick one specific play it would have to be 'Abigail's party' by Mike Leigh.

What about a favourite television series?

I have loved watching 'The Crown' throughout lockdown and also enjoy many crime dramas such as 'Morse' and 'Lewis'. My favourite TV series would have to be Brideshead Revisited, wonderfully lavish and faithful to the novel.

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

I really like 20th century, Pre-Raphaelite and Impressionist art. One painting I would love to own is The Luncheon of the Boating Party by Renoir. It is evocative of the great pleasure of a relaxed lunch with friends, something I have greatly missed this past year.

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

The building that means a lot to me is Salisbury Cathedral. Salisbury is my family home and I have been a visitor to the Cathedral for most of my life for a variety of events and services. I love the way the spire dominates the landscape from whichever direction you approach the city.

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

The walk from Hengistbury Head to the beach huts on the spit opposite Mundeford Quay gives stunning views across Christchurch Harbour. It has always been a favourite place of mine since my childhood holidays.

You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite? (This could be anybody from any century and from any country)

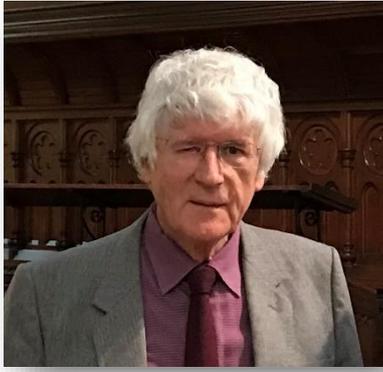
Mary Cole: she was the daughter of Gloucester butcher, but became the wife of the 5th Earl of Berkeley. She would give a fascinating insight into Georgian life in Berkeley Castle.

Leonard Bernstein: very charismatic and incredibly talented.

Victoria Wood: she was a very clever woman, highly observant and hugely funny.

John Betjeman: I love the social commentary in his poems.

Vaughan Williams: my favourite composer.



MUSIC NOTES

March 2021

This month will mark a year since life as know it was put "on hold" with over 100,000 deaths from Covid 19. We have been fortunate in having the resource of Zoom to keep us together, and for that we are grateful to Tony King and to our clergy who have been extremely resourceful in adapting to rather different ways of worship.

But, however comfortable it is to sit in your own home glued to a screen, it's not the same as physically taking yourself to one of our places of worship. I have missed many little things like, for example, the buzz of conversation from choristers assembling in the choir room for the 9.30 warm-up preceding our 10.00 Eucharist, or having to practise/learn a voluntary which I had forgotten was on the Music List(!), but more than that I have missed being part of the wonderful treasury of Anglican church music as we move through the seasons of the church's year. One chorister, who was a Methodist in a previous existence, once told me that the way in which the C of E Lectionary, with its wide-ranging use of the Bible covering the whole year, was such a good framework for those leading worship, unlike their experience where the minister's "favourite bits" were always evident! I never cease to marvel at the way our clergy can make sense of what often appears to be a mismatch between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel!

During early February I went through the archive of St James' choir recordings. As we only tend to record special events, we have very little of the week by week music. However, carol services, concerts and Evensongs to celebrate long service are well represented usually with many versions of Vaughan Williams' wonderful arrangement of the "Old Hundredth", and Parry's equally fine tune to the words "O Praise Ye the Lord"! One could be forgiven for thinking that we have a rather limited repertoire. Some of our recordings were made when we ventured to sing in other places, for example, there is a splendid performance of "Let all the World on Every Corner Sing" (Vaughan Williams again!) and some very impressive psalm singing from an

Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral. This trip down memory lane was (mainly!) an enjoyable experience and brought home to me how much our choir is so much a part of our worship at St James and St Mark's.

But enough of wallowing in the past! Now is the time to prepare for the future. Of course we will need 100% commitment from our existing members, but we also need to recruit new choristers.

Unfortunately our plans to recruit from local schools (by forming an initial choir very loosely connected with our church) has had to be put on hold, and I imagine that it will be some while before schools get back to normal and we can begin to recruit from them. However, we can all be on the look-out for new adult choristers. I appreciate that our restricted mobility and face coverings makes this a rather difficult task, but given all the new housing which is constantly springing up locally, I am sure there must be some secret singers lurking.....it's just how to spot them! So for those not familiar with what we do, here is an outline of what membership of our choir entails;

Friday Rehearsal 7.30pm – 8.45pm in the Choir Room in the Parish Centre

Sunday Rehearsal 9.30am Service at 10.00am (three times a month)

Rehearsal 6.00pm Service at 6.30pm (twice a month)

Very occasional singing at funerals or weddings.

The annual Choir Dinner/ Lunch and other social occasions.

Our repertoire is considerable including some 30 settings of the communion service, numerous anthems/motets, around 30 settings of the evening canticles etc. Did I mention Vaughan Williams' setting of the Old Hundredth.....?

If after reading this you are interested in joining us in the future, please get in touch via

David Wood 01453 545073 or

the Parish Office email: ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Nigel Davies

Eco Church Update - A Very Brief Climate Conference Timeline!

The Earth Summit



In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was also known as the 'Earth Summit', It was a global conference of different representatives from 179 countries for a massive effort to focus on the impact of human socio-economic activities on the environment.

COP

COP is short for Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Every year since the Earth Summit, the Conference of the Parties (COP) has taken place with negotiators trying to put together a practical plan of action to address climate change.

The Paris Agreement

At the COP21 held in Paris in 2015, world leaders committed to a historic agreement to tackle climate change. They agreed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 °C. It is a legally binding international treaty on climate change.



COP26 – To be held in Glasgow November 2021



The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021.

At the summit, delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators will come together to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.

Youth Summit



Almost 400 young people aged between 18 and 29 from the 197 member-countries of the UNFCCC will meet in Milan from 28 – 30 September 2021 and express themselves on climate change.

Climate Sunday.

This is an initiative being organised by a coalition of Christian charities and denominations, including A Rocha UK, to encourage churches to hold a Climate Sunday. This is seen as a great way to galvanise further action on Eco Church and contribute to progress on international action! The hope is, that by participating in the Climate Sunday initiative, churches will also be able to raise a loud and united Christian voice for bolder action by governments in the run up to the COP26 UN climate negotiations.

Their aim is to bring Christian witnesses and voices to these critical meetings by speaking up for God's creation and for those most urgently affected by climate change.

Jan Vonberg and I recently attended an Eco Church online training event hosted by A Rocha. This is towards the aim of holding a Climate Sunday service later in the year.

Best Wishes from Gill Mather

References:

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>

<https://ukcop26.org/uk-presidency/>

<https://arocha.org.uk/encourage-your-church-to-hold-a-climate-sunday-in-2021/>

[If you would like to be involved with Eco Church, please contact janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk)

CHARITY COLLABORATIVE ART FUNDRAISER

It is still possible for anyone to contribute towards two of our local charities.

Donations will be held in a 'ringfenced' PCC account which will be sent to the charities on completion of the art project.



Please Transfer money by BACS to PCC Dursley: sort code 30-98-29 :
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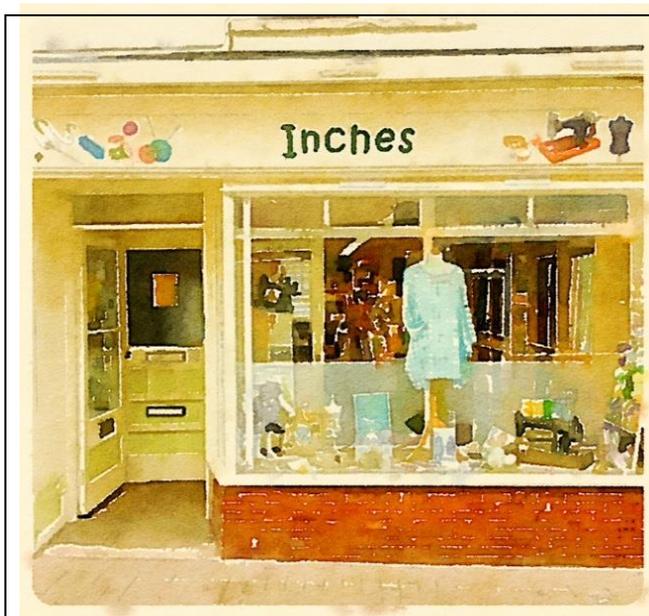
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Dreaming of.....

Pictures by Judith

Sun (flowers)



.....Seeing wild life



.....wild flowers (that would look good in any garden)



.....and beautiful flowers and perfume



.....exotic seascapes (in Barmouth)



Beach Huts (at Wells-Next-The-Sea)



and the fantasy land of
Sir Clough Williams-Ellis
at Portmeirion....



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St Mark's News



Dear Friends

This month I am being upbeat!!!! (this is my reminder from last month).

Well I have reason to be excited, as at last I have a summerhouse built in the garden. My lovely husband has battled the weather and the challenging site that is our garden and got it done. We had to enlist Clare's help when it came to building it (it's a two-person job) on the base that Philip had constructed but it looks great and I can tick off another item from my Wish List. I won't call it a Bucket List as I'm not ready to kick that one yet.

I'm sure our poor church buildings are missing the noise and bustle of people coming and going and as such will suffer. Philip says St Mark's smells a bit musty and damp which is how I remember my first visit into St Mark's building with Janet Midgely (Grimes as she was then) many years ago and there were chairs with seagrass seats which had gone all mouldy, it was all unloved and uncared for. Since then the chairs have been replaced and everything has been brought up to standard, giving it a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Let's hope and pray for a happy future for a building that has been, on the whole, much loved by many people.

Anyway life outside of church carries on as always, is very challenging and we are still waiting to be 'let out'. The Zoom services are a godsend and we do at least get to see friendly faces and we can see that people are still out there. Looking forward to being able to meet up soon and maybe being able to show off my summerhouse.

With all Best wishes

Judith



Rita Hill has asked me to send everyone this message.....

To all my dear friends in our Church family at St Mark's and St James on my 90th Birthday. Thank you all so much for the beautiful flowers, cards and messages.

God Bless You All.

With love from Rita

Mouse Diary....



Church Mouse
takes Up
Knitting....

*

F.J. Oakley

*

Ring, Ring, Ring....Eventually a little squeaky voice came on line; *Je suis desolee parceque le petit mouse a la kirk a Dursley; ile est malheuresment ne tres brainy pas.* I know said MBFTLP

encouragingly, but we are fond of him aren't we? By the way what is that clicking sound in the background? Has he taken up knitting for good causes? A noble effort for the mouse population I have to say. Yes, I said, putting down my needles on a kneeler (does it rhyme?) I'm de-stressing because I've got a new job. Now I'm a global brand ambassador I have to have a strategic approach committed to customer focus, accountability, collaboration, service excellence, and trust. MBFTLP was completely non-plussed.

Eh? I think you've been spending too much time on Google. Why don't you fix that squiffy bookcase instead? The one that came in a flat pack last month. Ok, I said, and got hold of the hammer and nails and Aimiee popped up (having skied down from the rafters) to help out. So plenty of noises off ensued (crash, bang, hammering etc with a few extra squeaks from Aimiee every so often). After a while MBFTLP exclaimed, (looking on Zoom) you seem to have disappeared altogether except for your tail which is sticking out this side of the bookcase. Is this a Lion, Witch and Wardrobe themed effect? Silence from me but a little helpful squeaking from Aimiee ensued. MBFTLP persisted, are you trying to keep out of the way before the Easter Bunny comes over? You could always send him an email you know saying something along the lines of that now that Aimiee is here, sometimes, on occasion, in special circumstances..well...you know how it is....three's a crowd. Eventually I found my voice and reported back. It's quite nice up here, blue sky, floaty clouds, calm water and tall trees. I can't see anyone though. But there's a small shack by the water. Oh..yes, I can just see Broadwell mouse sitting on a cloud chanting Oh..Um..Ohhh...MMMM. Well, I don't know said MBFTLP, I think you should all give up reading so many books about alternative worlds and come back down to earth. Afterall, there still are some custard creams in the biscuit tin. But I like it here, I said, in rather muffled tones. On the other hand perhaps I should be nice to the Easter Bunny so long as he does not eat me out of house and home like last year. Quite, said MBFTLP, very approvingly.

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



Hollies

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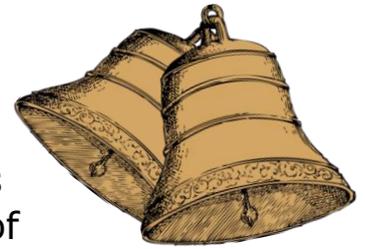
We welcome immediate and planned admissions, please call or email us today to arrange a tour or for further information. We are always happy to discuss and assist with your planning.

Call **01453 541400**
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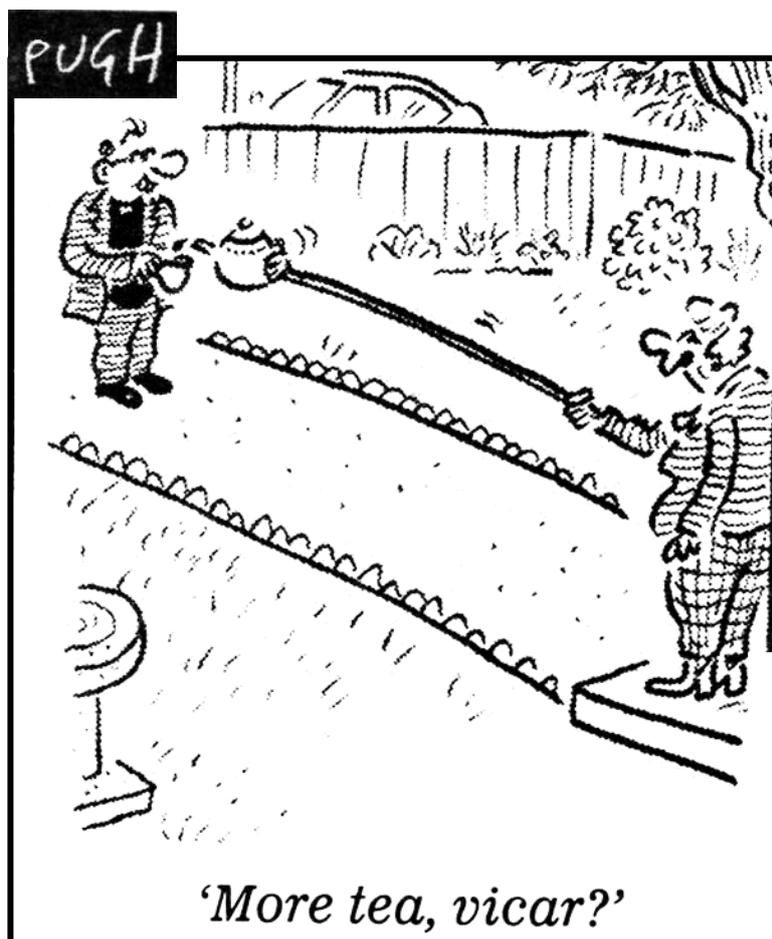
Bellringing

We held this year's "AGM" on 26 January 2021 via Zoom. It was good that all the regular band were able to join in, as not everyone takes part in the weekly Thursday Zooms. We discussed Ian's accounts for last year (not much happened), and, in the spirit of optimism, we proposed dates for our outing and dinner, being Saturday 2 October 2021 and Thursday 14 October 2021 respectively. In view of continuing uncertainty, we elected to have a car outing this year rather than a coach one which has been our traditional mode of transport for many years. Additionally, we will arrange the towers we plan to visit to be more local than is our custom. These arrangements will give us more flexibility in the event of sudden, last minute, changes.



We are approaching the first anniversary since we were able to ring all 8 bells at St James'. This was on Sunday 15 March 2020 for the Sunday morning Service.

Frank Byrne



From Canon Richard.....

This year, Holy Week straddles March and April; Palm Sunday is in March, but Maundy Thursday on in April. So this edition seems the place for a hymn summarising Holy Week and Easter. It goes to the tune of 'Give me oil in my lamp.' Do feel free to sing it to yourself and God! Hosanna apparently means 'Save now,' and Alleluia means 'Praise the Lord.' So the chorus naturally changes for Easter Day! Let's hope we can remember and celebrate together in Church, but, whether or not, let's remember Jesus who lived and died for love, to bring people and God together, and to do this endured the isolation of the cross – not so much lockdown as hung up. He is with us in good times and bad, to make our goal a good eternity!

Jesus rode as a king on a donkey,
He rode into Jerusalem,
Bringing God's love and peace to his people,
Riding through palm branches waved by them.
Chorus Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
Sing Hosanna to the King of kings,
Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
Sing Hosanna to the king.

Jesus washed people's feet on a Thursday,
Jesus gave us love's humble sign,
And he showed that he gave himself for us,
As he broke the bread and shared the wine.
Chorus Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, ...

Jesus died on the cross on a Friday,
Jesus died on the cross in pain,
Jesus died on the cross and forgave us,
So that we could live with God again.
Chorus Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, ...

He was laid in a grave in the evening.
In a cave tomb behind a stone,
He lay dead in the grave till the third day,
While all people thought his life was done.
Chorus Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, ...

Jesus rose to new life on a Sunday,
Jesus rose up in victory,
Jesus rose to new life in God's glory,
And he shares that life with you and me.

Chorus Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah to the King of kings,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah to the King.

For many people, the pandemic and lockdown is a very painful and stressful time. John Ellerton was a nineteenth century parish priest and hymn writer [of e.g. The day thou gavest, Lord is ended.] He wrote a hymn very little used today which plumbs the depths of Jesus' sufferings with and for us on the cross – the pain, the fear, the isolation, the darkness. He stresses the pains of guilt, but his words cover the whole breadth of human anguish and fear, and remind us that, however we suffer, Jesus has been there before us, with us, for us, and so is with us now.

Throned upon the awful tree,
King of grief, I watch with thee;
darkness veils thine anguished face,
none its lines of woe can trace,
none can tell what pangs unknown
hold thee silent and alone.

Silent through those three dread hours,
wrestling with the evil powers,
left alone with human sin,
gloom around thee and within,
till the appointed time is nigh,
till the Lamb of God may die.

Hark, that cry that peals aloud
upward through the whelming cloud!
Thou, the Father's only Son,
thou, his own anointed One,
thou dost ask him (can it be?)
"Why hast thou forsaken me?"

Lord, should fear and anguish roll,
darkly o'er my sinful soul,
thou, who once wast thus bereft
that thine own might ne'er be left,
teach me by that bitter cry
in the gloom to know thee nigh.

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Movement to Music for the over 55's and those younger in some cases, aims to improve strength, mobility, co-ordination and balance to continue an active lifestyle.

Watch out for classes starting again



Extend

classes are normally held at St. James Parish Centre Dursley

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You can be seated or standing

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To avoid disappointment please check availability and call

Barbara Weldon

01453 766421

email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com

website: extend.org.uk



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The Diocesan Messenger, March 2021

Generosity in thanksgiving for vaccinations



Bishop Rachel encourages us to give to a new initiative we have developed with Christian Aid to show our thanksgiving for our vaccines.

The two organisations have come together to give people an opportunity to pass on the sense of relief and blessing at being vaccinated by making a donation to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal. Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic.

Bishop Rachel said. "The hope is that people will give generously to the work of Christian Aid from a place of thanksgiving. Whether people can give just a few pounds or a much larger sum, it will make a huge difference to communities across the globe."

Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries including distributing food packages to nearly 60,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work during lockdown and the economic downturn.

Almost £1,000 has already been given to the fund with donors from across Gloucestershire expressing their gratitude at being able to be protected against coronavirus. Visit this page to find out more events.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/we-are-thankful-for-our-vaccines

Take a look at the Lent resources for 2021

Lent this year runs from February 17 to April 3 but these course and materials can be started at any time. For more details and to download resources or register for a course visit

www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/christian-faith-what-we-believe/lent/

Are you ready to develop a Personal Shape for Living?

Covid-19 has given the opportunity for some of us to re-evaluate our lives: to consider our priorities and consider what God is doing. Others of us have been so stressed or busy that we have ploughed on relentlessly. Whichever applies to you, why not spend lockdown being locked into something that will enable you to discover what God is doing in your life?

Personal Shapes for Living, using key subjects from the Lent course, offers individual Christians, however young or old, a chance to explore the shape of their life by chatting to another person. Register your interest at <https://bit.ly/2Z2uN4m>

Shapes for Living: online resources

A free five week Lent course to help you find balance in your life. 'Life in all its fullness' is the gift God wants for all of us, but if we are to live that calling well, we will need to find a sustainable, nurturing shape for our own lives, so easily over-busy with stressful and overwhelming demands. gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/shapes-for-living/

Loved and Liked: six session course

This course offers then chance to explore how we are all uniquely made and that God actually loves and likes us. It looks at questions of identity, calling and service, and includes amazing true stories of local people. Using easily downloadable videos and materials the course is freely available at www.lovedandliked.life. Hard copies of the workbooks can be obtained from pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk

Women in the Shadows: A new course for Lent 2021

Did you know that in 2018, one third of victims identified by the UK Modern Slavery Helpline were women? Women in the Shadows is a new course for Lent, created by The Clewer Initiative, to help shine a light on the suffering of marginalised women. The course focuses on the different ways women and girls are exploited in the UK today. Download the resources from www.theclewerinitiative.org/womenintheshadows

#LiveLent

The Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2021. This year's #LiveLent challenge offers a series of reflections, readings and prayers. Author Hannah Steele will unpack ways to share the Gospel story afresh and share how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts. Why not read the book as a worshipping community and use the videos together each week? Visit www.churchofengland.org/livelent

Events and training

The Prayer Course

Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March and 12, 19, 26 April, 7.30pm to 9pm. An eight session course exploring what prayer might look like if you tried something different. Led by Pauline Godfrey and Peter Hill with some excellent video presentations, discussion and practical experience. There will be the chance through breakout rooms to talk to other Christians about a core part of our faith. Book at <https://bit.ly/3cWuOPI>

Exploring God's Call

Tuesday 2 March, 7pm to 8.30pm AND Tuesday 9 March 7pm to 8.30pm - God calls all of us to something—it could be a role or a job or a way of living. These two sessions together give us a chance to stop and reflect what God may be calling us to be—not as something else to make us busy, but in the sense of deepening our relationship. At whatever stage of searching God's will for your life, come and explore what walking with God might look like for you. Over the two sessions there will also be the opportunity to listen to the stories of people who have been on this journey and to chat with them.
<https://bit.ly/3cTiMpU>

Personal Shapes for Living – Find out more with this Introduction

Wednesday 10 March, 7pm to 8.30pm

PERSONAL
Shapes
FOR LIVING

A Personal Shape for Living offers individual Christians, however young or old, a chance to explore the shape of their life by chatting to another person. You can sign up to get an encourager to speak to about your faith journey, to listen to you and perhaps to point you in the way of new ideas and resources that will help you

to grow in faith. If you'd like to find out more before you commit, book this information session at <https://bit.ly/3rBRLH>

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website **gloucester.anglican.org**



Elizabeth Oakley has been following Bob Ross 'A Joy of Painting' On BBC4

Much came to me....

In my small universe all is simple, much came to me, crawling hopping, fluttering by, knowledge rubbed off, dusting me with earthly insights goods and magical insights.

Now my years cause me to look back along the trodden path, so long; much of the wonderful journey is lost beyond the horizon, while highlights attached like limpets, remain in full colour though not present.

Turning around, my goal remains a mystery, just as much as that which is closer now yet can't be seen.

Life has begun to reveal to my being, beyond the senses, that the purpose was, as is now, to observe and be present at every moment, and that the moment should be present at every step of the journey like a silent companion called Wisdom.

Brendan





Hyacinth

It arrived on Christmas Day.
-The hyacinth I mean-
It might have had feet of clay
The way the bulbs were squeezed
In ever so tightly that day
Before an avalanche of feeling
As the flowers exploded as
Colour and perfume almost blew us away.
But shriven and darkened by February
The flowers had nearly gone -
And one fallen down.
The leaves though were bolted
In an interesting way.
Pressed hard on the glass.
There is more than glass
Between the world and the leaves
I'm not sure of the meaning -
Perhaps the world is screaming.

Elizabeth Oakley. A Dursley Poet

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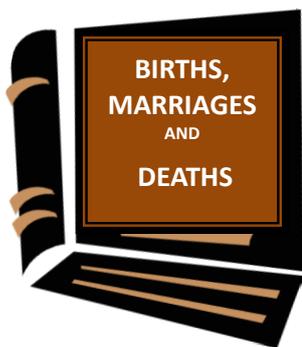
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



FUNERALS:

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

From the registers

5th February

11th February

22nd February

James Kennedy Westerleigh crematorium

Michael Peachey Gloucester crematorium

Herbert Iles Gloucester crematorium

100 CLUB

Sarah says.....Finally made it ! 101 entries so fab result.

Draw for January 2021

1st 119 - Anne Shipton

2nd 124 - Ian Unsworth

3rd 193 - Colin Wyatt

Draw for February 2021

1st 169 - Lynn James

2nd 168 - Andrew Raffle

3rd 118 - Sally Arnold

A huge thank you to everyone

Sarah

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Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Diane Ansell Tel: 546169



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