

The Messenger

MAY 2023

The Parish of Dursley



Price 60p each
£6 Annually

The Ewelme Benefice

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

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our May magazine.

In this month's issue two apologies from Judith firstly I put the wrong meeting day for Castlegate WI, then I missed out Sally's April acrostic. Oh dear!

We hope you are looking forward to the Coronation festivities centred in St James Church.

We thank you for your continued support.

~~Wishing you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.~~

From

Valerie and Judith (editors)

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**DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2023 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 14th MAY 2022**



Dear Friends

As I write, Easter Day is just past. We have followed our Lord Jesus through the penitential season of Lent and the solemnity and sadness of Holy Week and Good Friday and now we have celebrated his resurrection on Easter Day. The Church's calendar gives us forty days of Eastertide celebration followed by ten days of Ascensiontide before we come to the feast of Pentecost.

Of course, every Sunday is a feast of the Resurrection, even those of a more sombre hue, but the Sundays of Eastertide, combining with spring-time new life all around us, do seem rather special.

The month of May this year gives us two Principal Feasts - Ascension Day and Pentecost.

So Ascension Day falls 40 days after Easter Day - to balance the 40 days of Lent - which means it is normally celebrated on a Thursday, though Roman Catholic parishes in a number of countries that do not observe the feast as a public holiday have obtained permission from the Vatican to move observance of the Feast of the Ascension from the traditional Thursday to the following Sunday, and some other denominations do the same.

It is a feast day of considerable antiquity - referred to in church documents from the 5th century. It commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven. It always reminds me of two rather quirky images. In one of the side chapels at Walsingham an image on the ceiling shows just two feet disappearing into the cloud.



There is also a window in St James, part of a set of six in the Tanner Chapel. In it a number of angelic figures seem to be lifting Jesus up by his feet. At least they are doing so when seen close up - from a distance it looks like they are trying to hold him down!

Despite the ten day difference, Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked - as the risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; so the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit, sent by God to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ had entrusted to it.

Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. It was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season; only later, in the medieval West, did it become a new festival season of its own.

Although Easter was the preferred time for baptism in the early Church, the season of Pentecost was also used for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost reflect this baptismal theme, with Christ's disciples being born again both of water and the Spirit.



'Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love. **Alleluia.'**

Tony King

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, text from which is included
in this letter, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.



Tony and Ann King's Light Lent Lunches



Thanks go to Tony and Ann plus their
helpers who gave us such lovely
lunches throughout Lent and the good
news is that they made a staggering £1,195
which with Gift Aid is £1,460 for church charities.

Tony says 'We are very grateful for all the support and are thankful that the
Last Light Lent Lunches were so successful'.....
article and photos to follow next month



Festive Dursley and Dursley Town Council
are organising a community event to celebrate
the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May
from 11:00am until 4:00pm.

Our plans include:

- A live streaming of the coronation in St James church
- Children's crafts, activities and games
- Entertainment in the Market Place
- Stalls in the Market Place and Parsonage Street
- Cake baking competition.
- Traditional games
- Shop Front Window competition
- Cream teas on the Church green
- Town centre trail

A Celebration of Jo Downing's Life in St James' Choir and her Love of Music



Saturday 13th May

Jo joined the choir a number of years ago as she was keen to re-kindle her love of singing in a church choir, something she had done from an early age as her father was a church organist and choir master in a village near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Following Jo's funeral it was decided to celebrate Jo's life and love of choral and organ music at an event in May, based on the successful Coffee, Cake and Music format. The choir will sing some of Jo's favourite music, Nigel will play glorious organ music and we will remember Jo through reminiscences and readings; the month of May and this wonderful time of year were very special to Jo and something to celebrate.

Coffee and cake will be available from 10am and the music will start at 11am and last approximately 40 minutes.

There will be a retiring collection and at Jo's family's request any donations will go to further the music in the choir, in memory of Jo.

Edwina Walton



MUSIC LIST FOR MAY 2023

May 7th	am	Zadok the Priest – Handel	Coronation Mass – Mozart
May 14th	am	Lo Round the Throne – Ley	Sumsion in F
	pm	O Praise the Lord – Batten	Smith Responses
		Walmisley in D minor	Insane Vanæ Curae – Haydn
May 18th	pm	God is Gone up – Finzi	Ireland in C
(Ascension Day)			
May 21st	am	Service of The Word	
May 28th	am	Be Still for the Presence – Evans arr How -Stanford in Bb	
	pm	Open Thy Gates – Harrison	Rose Responses
		Bairstow in D	Listen Sweet Dove – Ives



Cam, Dursley and District

14th May 2023

Christian Aid Service and Workshop

St Bartholomew's Church, Cam.

(car parking is available on Cam High Street and in Tesco's car park)

4.00pm Workshop and Discussion

Traidcraft has gone – what is next and why does it matter?

A chance to explore new ways of sourcing fairly traded goods

5.30pm cup of tea and cakes

6.00pm. Worship

The Ewelme Benefice

Pet Thanksgiving Service

At St James The Great, Dursley

3pm
21st May
2023

All pets are welcome, but dogs must be on leads and cats and other small animals should be in baskets or similar.



in Cam, Dursley and District

11th June 2023

Summer Worship Event
at
St James Church, Dursley

5.00pm

"Art and Faith "

Chloe Reddaway will lead a brief personal reflection on the relation between art, faith, and theology, followed by an introduction to the Visual Commentary on Scripture

The evening will conclude with Choral Evensong



ST JAMES-THE-GREAT, DURSLEY

2023 COFFEE, CAKE AND MUSIC

(18th Series)

April 29th

Nigel Davies
(St James-the-Great,
Dursley)

May 27th

Eric Tyson
(All Saints Clifton, Bristol)

June 24th

Paul Walton
(Bristol Cathedral)

July 29th

William Reynolds
(St Mary Swansea)

August 26th

Huw Tregelles Williams, OBE
(Swansea)

September 30th

Matthew Redman
(St John, Glastonbury)

October 28th

Jonathan Hope
(Gloucester Cathedral)



**Coffee and home-made cake
will be served from 10.30am**

**The music begins at 11.00am
and lasts for about 30 – 40 minutes**

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

DURSLEY ACADEMY EASTER SERVICE MARCH 2023

Joyce Lombarde (2nd Alto)



For me this was an introduction to singing with the young would-be choristers at Dursley Academy.

We arrived to the rehearsal at Dursley Academy after school had finished for the day, and fought for parking spaces at the school. It was a revelation to be photographed and mini-interviewed at the reception desk, then issued with a stick-on pass to prove my identity and that I was a bona-fide visitor.

When we arrived at the rehearsal hall the children were already singing along to a tape, their fluting voices proving that they had already been well prepared.

Other members of our choir arrived, and we were issued with John Rutter's "Look at the World". We sang it through several times, Nigel at the piano, and Edwina conducting us. I found the experience strangely uplifting and looked forward to the actual service two days later.

St James' was buzzing before the service started, even when we rehearsed around the piano. I wondered how Michael could quell the noise of so many excited children, but once he had captured everyone's attention his audience were remarkably quiet and well-behaved.

We (the choir) were relegated to the choir stalls, with the juniors (excited to be dressed in blue cassocks, like us, but without the medals) in the front rows. We enjoyed children waving palms and the story of Palm Sunday from the performers in "Open the Book", we sang some very modern hymns/songs (and even joined in the jolly movements – well, some of us did).

Eventually it was our turn to sing, and Nigel took his place at the piano as we arranged ourselves behind the excited juniors. The performance went well – it's a lovely piece to sing (isn't all Rutter's work? Or perhaps I'm biased), and it went down well with the young congregation.

There were more modern hymns, then Michael's blessing, and then it was all over. The level of noise increased and then the children were organised to return to school, while some of us repaired to "Belle's Kitchen" for a welcome coffee.

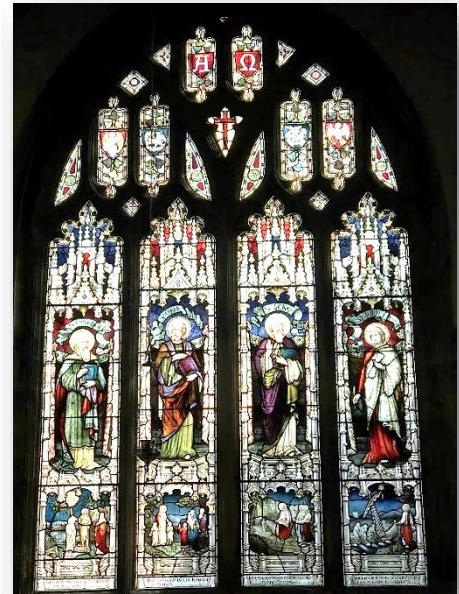
Congratulations must go to Michael, Edwina and Nigel for organising this event, with the hope that we will at some point have new young recruits for St James' Choir.



WINDOW AT THE WEST END OF THE NORTH AISLE/LADY CHAPEL IN ST JAMES

...by Canon Richard Morgan

Our window at the west end of the North Aisle / Lady Chapel fits late Eastertide. It is a striking picture of John 21's account of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples by Lake Galilee, giving them a miraculous catch of fish and breakfast, and commissioning Simon Peter again to 'Feed my lambs, pasture my sheep, feed my sheep.' Jesus' words are given in Latin in the window. The catch of 153 fishes is thought to echo the number of nations then thought to be on the earth. So the story reminds us that Jesus is for all people. Jesus' three questions to Peter echo Peter's three denials of Jesus, and were a clever if painful way of showing these were fully forgiven.



The incident continues with Peter asking Jesus what will happen to the beloved disciple, who was also present. Jesus tells Peter, '... What is that to you? Follow me.' The account shows Peter's enthusiasm and his insecurity. Our window reminds us of Jesus being for everyone, of his provision for our needs, of his full forgiveness, and that we need not be jealous or worried about the position of other people.

PRAYER

Help us, Lord Jesus, to trust you for ourselves and for others.

Thank you that you enabled your disciples to make a miraculous catch of fish.

Bless all people in their work and make it bring good results.

Thank you that you fed your disciples.

Help us to trust you for our needs.

Thank you for your love for all peoples.

Help your Church to reach out to all.

Thank you for your full forgiveness.

Do not let us be haunted by anything in our pasts.

Help us to follow you in all our days, even in times of suffering.

Let us not be envious of others.

May each of us know your care for themself.

EXCELLENT
REVIEWS



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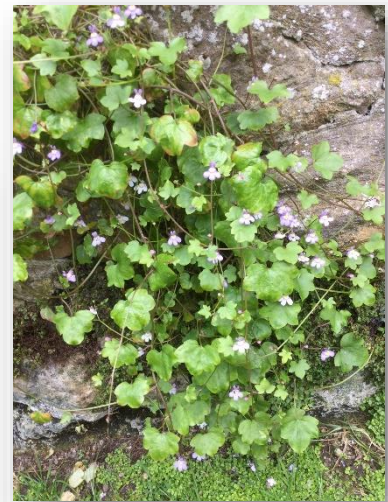
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Hollies



Now is the time of year when the conservation charity Plantlife encourages us all to keep our lawnmowers in the shed for No Mow May and let some wildflowers grow to feed our pollinators. At St James, while keeping the town-facing lawns and the Memorial garden areas short, we stop mowing some of the grassy areas on the north and east sides of the church at the beginning of May and let them grow longer for six weeks or more, resulting in a lovely display of buttercups, clover and flowering grasses. Last year, a common spotted orchid popped up among the daisies! Wildflowers and insect-friendly herbs are also being planted on and around the bug hotel. Here are some photos taken in the churchyard over the past year:



We will be holding another Count on Nature event on Saturday 10th June, from 10 am till 1 pm. The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will have a stall, and their representative will be happy to chat and answer questions about wildlife. There will be craft activities, displays and, most importantly, the opportunity to find, photograph and identify as many different species of plant and animal as we can in the churchyard. Our results can then be uploaded to a national database. Do come and join us.

Did you watch the Wild Isles series of television programmes, presented by David Attenborough? It was good to be reminded that fascinating plants and animals can be found on our own doorstep, not just in far-flung exotic locations. Now that the warmer weather is here (we hope!), we should have more opportunities to enjoy our gardens, or get out into the wonderful countryside we are so lucky to be surrounded by. Let's all try to slow down a bit, listen to the birds, watch the bees and butterflies and take in the beauty of the trees and flowers, while thanking God for the everyday miracles occurring in the natural world around us.



Bellringing *by Frank Byrne*



Coronation

On Saturday, May 6 a full peal will be attempted at St James' to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

If successful it will last about 3 hours and 15 minutes.

There will be lots of other ringing around the country on that day and, it's expected, some from across the globe where they have a tradition on English style bellringing.

There are not enough ringers to go round and ring at all available churches with a peal of bells so many ringers will be busy helping out at other places.

Coronation of King Charles III

All are invited to a special service to celebrate His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation at Gloucester Cathedral.



The Coronation ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place on 6 May at Westminster Abbey. As well as the ceremony itself, other events are being planned around the weekend of the Coronation, including the 'Coronation Big Lunch' on 7 May, with a concert taking place at Windsor in the evening, and the nationwide 'The Big Help Out' community activity day on Monday 8 May.

The theme of the Coronation celebrations is to highlight the positive impact of community volunteering. We are so proud of our voluntary network in and around the Diocese of Gloucester. From serving our churches as churchwardens, treasurers, Messy Church teams, or foundation governors to serving our communities as Cats Protection volunteers, hospital drivers, or leading Girl guides or Scouts, Church of England volunteers across the country devote over 23 million hours to community action over and above their normal church activities.

As part of the Big Help Out day, everybody is warmly invited to attend a special service at Gloucester Cathedral on Monday 8 May at 11am. The service will be led by the Rt Revd Bishop Rachel Treweek and the new Dean of Gloucester, the Very Revd Canon Andrew Zihni.

However you volunteer, you are making a difference and we really do hope you will come so we can thank you for all you do.

Please book your place via this link:

<https://gloucestercathedral.artsvp.com/aa9b0f>

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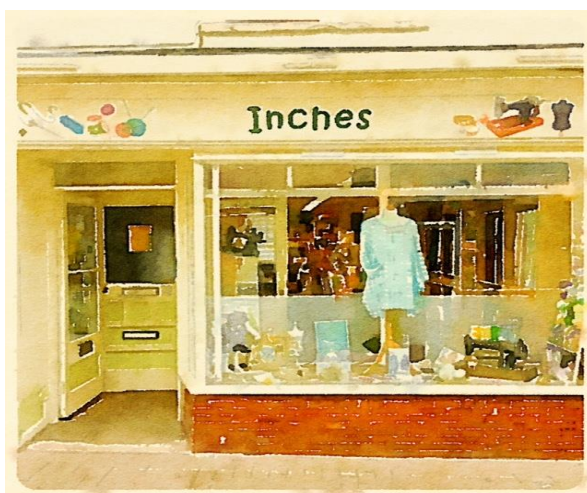
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A message from the Very Revd Andrew Zihni, Dean of Gloucester

The new Dean of Gloucester, who was installed at Gloucester Cathedral on 23 April, shares a message as he begins his role.

"I am much looking forward to getting to know the various worshipping communities of the Diocese, to forming new friendships, and to journeying with you as together we seek to proclaim the light and love of Christ to all.



"Having grown up in the Far East with a Chinese-Thai and Mediterranean heritage, I have a passionate interest in fostering diversity; in sharing hospitality; and in building strong relationships. As I begin ministry in Gloucester, the call to strengthen our commitment to diversity and social justice; to take the Cathedral deeper into prayer and worship; to grow our work with children and young families; to reach out into the city of Gloucester and the wider Diocese as a beacon of hope fills me with a real sense of Gospel joy.

"In my free time, my partner, Lloyd, and I enjoy cooking, reading contemporary fiction, and our Jack Russell terrier, Bertie. The light of hope in Jesus' love is what I shall endeavour that your Cathedral continues to share, as we seek to be a place of welcome and a place for all."

Three Choirs Festival launches 2023 programme

The Three Choirs Festival, taking place in and around Gloucester between 22 and 29 July, has launched its programme for 2023.



This year, Three Choirs celebrates its 295th festival at Gloucester Cathedral with 21 premieres and music by almost 50 living composers included in a programme of over 60 events.

Familiar masterpieces will showcase alongside newer works from Gloucestershire composers, with large-scale choral-orchestral concerts, solo recitals, chamber concerts and family events making up just part of this wide-ranging celebration of music. The Festival Village, situated on College Green just outside Gloucester Cathedral, will offer the opportunity to relax in between events, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy free live entertainment on the community bandstand.

Booking and full programme details can be found at **<https://3choirs.org/gloucester-2023>**

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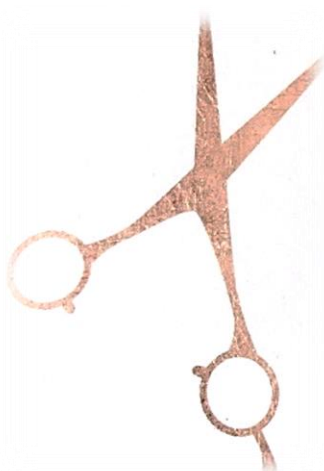


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May 2023

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED - No Evening Prayer

Tuesday 2nd May - OFFICE CLOSED

9am Morning Prayer in St James

Wednesday 3rd May

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 4th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 6th May – Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

Ceremony starts at 11am

Coronation live stream and cream teas

Sunday 7th May - 5th Sunday of Easter

10am Benefice Holy Communion in **St Giles**.

NO SERVICES IN ST JAMES

Monday 8th May

Bank Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED - No Evening Prayer

Tuesday 9th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Staff Meeting in the Rectory

2pm Holly Oak Communion

Wednesday 10th May

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 11th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11am Pastoral Prayer Group. Choir Room

3.30pm DUC AGM Choir Room

Saturday 13th May

From 10am Memorial Concert in St James (see page 5)

Sunday 14th May - 6th Sunday of Easter – Magazine Deadline

10am Parish Holy Communion

12.30 Baptism at St James

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 15th May

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Tuesday 16th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

Wednesday 17th May

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7pm Finance and Fabric Committee at the Rectory

Thursday 18th May - Feast of The Ascension

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

7.30pm Benefice Communion at St James

Saturday 20th May

10.30am Coffee Morning at Owlpen Wood

TBC Dursley Male Voice Choir Concert

Sunday 21st May 7th Sunday of Easter

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Informal Worship in St James

3pm Pet Blessing Service in St James

Monday 22nd May

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Tuesday 23rd May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

Wednesday 24th May

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 25th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 27th May

10.30am Coffee, Cake & Music in St James

Sunday 28th May Pentecost – Magazine Issue

10am Parish Holy Communion followed by

1pm Baptism at St James

Monday 29th May

Bank Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED - No Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th May

9am Morning Prayer in St James

2pm The Hollies Communion

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The Shrines at Walsingham – Destruction, Act 1, Supremacy



On 18th September, 1534, The Prior of Walsingham, Richard Vowell, and all 21 canons of Walsingham Priory, 'each in his own hand signed with unanimous consent and assent of all, by this deed, given under our common seal in our chapter house' affirmed 'by the pledge of our conscience and our oath' that the King is the Supreme Head of the Anglican Church and that they would never, in private or public discourse, call the Bishop of Rome by the name of Pope or Chief Bishop.

Henry VIII had been a loyal and faithful Catholic. He looked askance at what was happening in Germany and when in 1520 Luther published '*The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*', denying the Seven Sacraments and using the words Anti-Christ and Babylon for the Pope and the Catholic Church, Henry was moved to write a rejoinder entitled '*Defence of the Seven Sacraments*' for which Pope Leo X awarded 'this great prince' with the title '*Fidei Defensor*' (Defender of the Faith.)

So what went wrong? What led this devoted Catholic to promote himself above the authority of the Pope?

To say it was just his divorce is rather simplistic. Henry's initial defence of the Church concealed deep unhappiness and turmoil in his personal life. He had been married for 12 years Katherine of Aragon (the childless widow of his brother Arthur) but after the untimely death of their son, Prince Henry, five more pregnancies resulted in only one living child, his daughter Mary.

Marrying Katherine had required a dispensation from the Pope, but although one biblical text seems to command a man to marry his brother's childless widow, (Leviticus 20: 21), another appears to forbid it. (Deuteronomy 25:5). In his predicament Henry read this text and wondered whether the Pope had been right. He began to think that his marriage to Katherine was invalid and that he stood under the judgement of God.

An appeal was made to the Pope to declare the marriage invalid. But by one of the quirks of history the Pope was a virtual prisoner of the Emperor Charles V in the Castel Sant' Angelo. The Emperor was the nephew of Queen Katherine and would not allow the Pope to end the marriage of his aunt, inflicting on her the distress and dishonour of divorce. Nevertheless, at some stage a decree of nullity was drawn up and remains today in the Vatican archives, unsigned.

Henry rested his case on conscientious scruples that his marriage to his brother's widow was offensive to God, but a love-letter in which Henry

not only professed his undying love for Anne Boleyn, but actually promised to marry her, seriously undermined his plea. This letter was stolen, and reached the Vatican, where it too remains in the archives.

The Pope then received a petition, signed by 83 nobles, abbots and bishops, urging him to annul the marriage, But the Pope played for time, hoping that the King might tire of Anne, and there was evidence that at this stage Henry was in no hurry.

Another idea was forming in his mind. A Cambridge theologian, Thomas Cranmer, suggested writing to the Universities of Europe on the validity of the marriage to Katherine. Again, this came to nothing and in 1530 Cranmer and others assembled a dossier, the '*Colectanea Satis Capiosa*' which became a kind of charter of Anglicanism and the basis for a national church, over which the King had supreme jurisdiction.

Thomas Cromwell, the King's First Minister, pushed successive Acts through Parliament putting pressure on the clergy to recognise Henry as the supreme religious authority in England. The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Wareham, protested strongly but as Henry prepared to punish him, he died.

Suddenly time ran out. Anne Boleyn was pregnant. In January 1533 Henry secretly married her, for the child had to be legitimate. Henry appointed Cranmer as Archbishop of Canterbury. No sooner was Cranmer consecrated than he ruled that the marriage to Katherine was invalid, and pronounced the King legally married to Anne Boleyn. The Pope now had no choice and excommunicated Henry, announcing that his marriage to Anne Boleyn was null and void,

More legislation was rushed through Parliament in 1534 declaring Henry to be Supreme Head to the Anglican Church. Bishops, religious and clergy were required to subscribe to it on oath.

Although there were those who refused, they were small in number, and were severely punished. Almost all the bishops, religious and clergy signed the oath accepting Henry as Supreme Head of the English Church, and repudiating the authority of the Pope.

To be continued.

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

Tony King

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Val Sheen 01453 545596 or

Jane Jennings 01453 546332

Please note that we meet on Wednesday not Thursday
as advertised last month! (I'll be given the sack
shortly}



This month we have the chance to discover a bit more about John Taylor, Bell ringer, choir member and wise man/king. Thank you John

Do you have a favourite author or book?

That depends on whether you ask my head or my heart. Head says – William Shakespeare, if he counts as an author as well as a playwright and poet. He just understands and communicates the human condition so well. Although his English is 400 years old, the way he uses it is as if he wrote it yesterday, though the 21st century reader or listener does need to persist and work at it a bit. My favourite play is probably “Midsummer Night’s Dream” or “Henry IV”. I know, that’s three favourites!

Heart says – a Welsh author, Brian John, from whom Sara and I nearly rented a house in Cwm-yr-Eglwys, Pembrokeshire for a holiday once. He sets his books in the historical reality of the Preselis in the 19th Century, including the invasion near Fishguard by a French Army. Reading them transports me to some of my best-loved locations in West Pembrokeshire. They also transport the reader to an agricultural, uncrowded, unspoiled world, the remains of which can still be experienced by the sympathetic visitor.

What are you reading at present? - Sorry, Pembrokeshire again. “The Pembrokeshire Murders” by Steve Wilkins and Jonathan Hill. Set in the Pembroke area, where my younger son, Chris, his partner, Vicky and their unborn, soon to be firstborn, daughter and my third granddaughter live. As the book’s blurb says “In the beautiful, unspoiled landscape of Pembrokeshire during the 1980s, a serial killer is at large.....the fascinating true story of a brutal murderer finally unmasked and the detectives who worked for six years to bring him to justice.....”

Is there a book which you feel you should have read? - “The Little Bach Book: An eclectic Omnibus of Notable Details about the Life and Times of the esteemed and highly respected Johann Sebastian Bach” and lots more, including plenty of unread Dickens and Thomas Hardy.

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

Any of the Haydn Symphonies or his “Creation”. “Papa” Haydn wrote very little music that wasn’t cheerful and tuneful, and he wrote a lot of it. His family and friends must have seen him as a real gift from God. Most of the symphonies are quite short, too, so easy to digest.

Do you have a favourite piece of music? - Lots of them, mostly from what is generally known as the “Classical” repertoire, though I do like Flanders and Swan and anything with a good, memorable tune. As an absolute favourite, and if you push me very hard, I would say

Beethoven's Violin Concerto (the last movement goes to "Thank God it's over, Thank God it's over) or Debussy's "La Mer" (Descriptive mood music).

Do you play a musical instrument? - When I was at School, I played the violin, having lessons with a violinist from the BBC West of England Orchestra. I was never introduced to "Grades" – I don't know why. The City of Bristol Education Authority had a scheme for lending out instruments and I had one of their violins for several years. It was a tatty-looking instrument with a lovely rich tone. Unfortunately, when life became dominated by A – Levels, the violin-playing suffered and the instrument found itself left on a windowsill, in its black case, got too hot and fell apart. That was the end of my violin-playing.

When my father was off detecting German Radio Signals during WW II and my mother was keeping his fledgling domestic radio business going, I had been looked after by a teenage girl called Kit Hale who was subsequently employed in my Dad's business. Kit, with a very young me in the passenger seat, used to drive around the lanes of Gloucestershire servicing the needs of customers and singing whatever came into Kit's head, much of it from the "News Chronicle Song Book". We had a great time. I had always loved singing. I sometimes WAS the Choir at All Saint's Church, Stone. So my natural inclination, singing with Kit, singing in Church and my violin lessons gave me a strong sense of tuning and rhythm, together with some sight-reading practice. I attempt to exercise all that in Dursley Parish Church Choir.

When I went to University in Southampton, I fell in with the Southampton University Guild of Change Ringers because I had been at School with a bell-ringer from Stoke Bishop called Malcolm Powell. I took to it like a duck to water, made rapid progress and am still doing it. Ringing has been, and still is, a massive part of my life. It took John Cornock, originally from Stone himself, to point out to me a few years ago that learning to ring at Southampton has been responsible for a huge part of my life. I belong to a countrywide fellowship (almost a freemasonry) of ringers who make me welcome wherever I go. I married a ringer, Sara Cornock, as was, from Painswick. Our sons learned to ring. Chris gave it up when he went to University. Simon came back to it and is quite an accomplished ringer, though now living in Spain and isolated from it. I am in the Choir at Dursley because I was asked to help to ring for the Induction Service of Revd. Eric Hoskin and found myself in the "Old Bell" afterwards with Cecil Adams and members of the Choir, where I was recruited.

What about a favourite Television Series? - Difficult! It's easy to be biased by what has just been on, but I have been catching up with "Happy Valley" which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also enjoyed "Line of Duty".

If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it? - I already own some of my favourite paintings, by David Collins and Maureen Wood. David seems to me to have a rare talent for painting water. Maureen is just a lovely person and a good, sensible friend.

The idea of owning an Old Master, or even a young one, frightens me to death. I would probably spill wine on it or let my grand-daughter-to-be poke a hole in it.

My first trip abroad at the age of 14 to Belgium introduced me to the work of Pieter Bruegel with his activity among people in villages. I still love these.

Do you have a special building which means a lot to you and if so, why? - There are many candidates. I have rung in some magnificent buildings such as York Minster, Lichfield Cathedral, Worcester Cathedral and many fine parish churches in Somerset, Suffolk and elsewhere. Not to mention Gloucester Cathedral, of course, which is a magnificent building but the bells are horrible.

At the end of the day, and to name one, I have to come back to Dursley Parish Church. The bells, the choir and the congregation have given me hours of pleasurable activity, good friends and community. Incumbents and curates have cared for me, taught me things that I needed to know and entertained me with their individual curiosities and obsessions.

Is there a location where you have felt happiest? - As an individual and with family, this has to be West Pembrokeshire. However, there is little or no ringing there and I don't belong to a Choir or a Community. So I have to come back to my roots in Gloucestershire, particularly the Berkeley, Dursley, Wotton area. There are generations of my ancestors in the churchyard at Berkeley and others at Stone, Oldbury-on-Severn, etc. I just feel so rooted and connected in this area and that is of huge value to me. I belong.

Who would you invite to a Fantasy Dinner Party for Five? - Anyone with whom I can relax and don't feel that I have to make conversation, impress or be anyone but myself.

Confirmations on Easter Eve at Gloucester Cathedral 2023

After sunset on the evening before Easter, on Holy Saturday 8 April, a group of people including Felicity and Elizabeth Arnold, Sandra Longstreth and Lydia Tutton affirmed their faith and trust in Jesus during a confirmation service at Gloucester Cathedral.

Sandra: says "I was baptised as a baby on 29 April 1962 where my journey of faith began. I grew up in a loving, secure family with my parents and younger brother. I am blessed with three grown up children and seven wonderful grandchildren. Throughout the years, I have endured many challenges, both good and bad yet, each time, I know that God has been by my side and helping me. I am so grateful for his guidance and the happiness and blessings he shows me.

"My confirmation will enhance my journey of faith, allowing it to grow and reaffirm God's presence in my life."

"I have wanted to be confirmed for many years and despite always feeling God's presence, I never found the right time to complete my desire. Two years ago, I lost my lovely mum and, having lost both parents now, I feel closer to God than ever. I know he keeps me strong, knows my tears and brings me happiness.

"I believe I've lived my life in a Christian way, always being kind and non-judgemental. My confirmation will enhance my journey of faith, allowing it to grow and reaffirm God's presence in my life. I loved every minute and it was so very special. I'm still on a high from it! A very special Easter. "

Lydia (age 13): says "I have been attending St Giles' Church in Uley since I was born. I was baptised when I was six months old on the 66th anniversary of D-Day. I was confirmed because I believe in Jesus and want to continue my Christian journey.

"I think that Christian values are really important, and I think it is especially important to try and be generous, forgiving, loving, compassionate and respectful and I try to follow these values in my day-to-day life. I really like being part of the church community in Uley and I think that being confirmed will help me to feel as though I belong to and am a member of the wider church community as well as the Uley community."





April Fool's Day, play many
Pranks; left
Red faced, it's
Important to have a good
Laugh.

May Acrostic Poem.

May this year there's
A lot happy happenings from Prince Charles
 being crowned King Charles 111
Years gone by and many memories stay with us

Springtime Acrostic Poem.

Springtime is one of the
Prettiest seasons with Lambs being born and Tortoises
Returning after their hibernation
Including Hedgehogs
New beginnings; in our
Garden we have got Daffodils, Crocuses, Primroses and
The Tulips are
In bud and
More importantly
Every Gardener has so much pleasure in
 their gardens throughout the year

Poem

Family Photos by Elizabeth Oakley. A Dursley Poet

That generations come in rows
I know from old grey photos.
Formal hats and shiny shoes
Representing that which comes and goes.
And behind the gently serious smiles Time flows.
Actual names are beside the point?
(But lack of recognition leaves me out of joint).
Relatives who had connections
And oh so natural expectations?
Lives with various indentations
And mild and major complications?
I'm several generations down now.
So I don't know. But time - flows.



Mouse Diary

You have to imagine dear reader we are back in the past a la Dickens times whereby stories come in interesting instalments.

Well, we know that, you might say, we have been waiting with bated breath for a month or two to hear what happened when Aimiee's microchips went funny and the AwayDay entourage ended up on the canal bank at Saul Junction. So herein the story continues:

MBFTLP was waving her agenda and hoping to, "get everyone on board". But fiddlesticks, I said, we are stuck on the canal bank. What we need is a barge pole. MBFTLP, was not deterred. I would not touch it with a barge pole if I were you, she said, consulting her agenda again. Item one was, "Corporate Governance Facilitation", Underneath it said, "Reverse Narratives Revisited", and finally, "Community Engagement Parameters". I don't mind reverse narratives, I said, that will do fine. The only trouble is we still need a barge pole. At this opportune moment there was a large splash. Fiddlesticks, I said. Now then, language if you don't mind, said MBFTLP staring at the water in a rather strange way. I think it's Terence fallen in the water who is now proceeding to swim around the boat in large circles. Oh, we shall be here for nearly ever, I said, judging by how long it took him to go around St James in 293 days. At this juncture the focus of attention shifted to the canal bank as various sundry of hopeful passers by carried on making Noah's Ark type comments. No, I said, crossly, we are not from the Old Testament as they had not invented people like me then. And dinosaurs were not in the Old Testament at all. At mention of his genre Mr Dinosaur seemed to wake up to the situation and was imminently going to comment on agenda item 3, Community Engagement Parameters, when there was another commotion. Meaning there was another splash. MBFTLP said, I don't know that it is about Terence but he seems to be making friends with Mr Dinosaur as there they are swimming around together. MBFTLP was on the ball at this point. Well, now that the boat is somewhat lighter by 66,926, perhaps we don't need a barge pole after all. I had to step in with a little correction of sorts though, that's Mr Dinosaur's age and not his weight. I never did have time for the niceties of numbers said MBFTLP, mopping her brow rather carefully. I don't know but I feel as if I need to go to Therapy when we get back, she continued after having dropped her agenda in the water where it was not rescued by Anyone At All. Fortunately someone from the bank-side Noah's Ark commentary group had had the initiative to actually find a large barge pole and would you believe it, now that we were

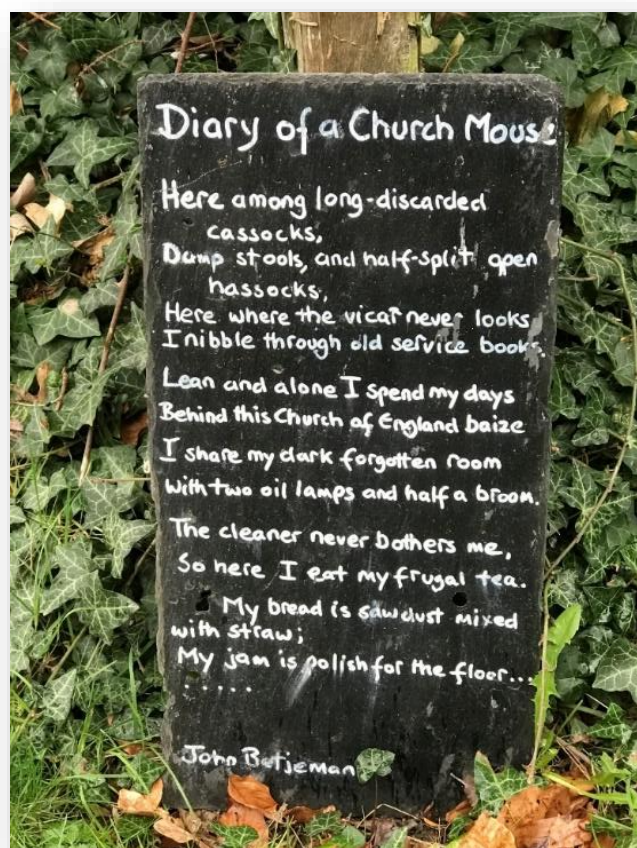
temporarily minus both Terence and Mr Dinosaur, managed to push us off the bank, and Aimiee being moderately intact with some of her microchips being ok, fired up the engine and off we went. The moral of the Tale? Remember to book some Therapy sessions before you even start out so that you have something to come back to, and remember that size isn't everything but it sometimes helps. (In the end we forgave Mr Dinosaur as we all hopped onto his back and he lolloped up the A38 until we all got home safely to the lovely cosy church of St James).

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



Another church Mouse kept a Diary too this one was helped

by Sir John Betjeman.....



This was seen outside the tiny church at
Croft Castle (National Trust) near Leominster Herefordshire. (Judith)

CORONATION QUICHE



1 x 20cm FLAN TIN, SERVES 6

Eat hot or cold with a green salad and boiled new potatoes, perfect for a Coronation Big Lunch!

Ingredients

Filling

- 125ml milk
- 175g double cream
- 2 medium eggs
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon.
- Salad and pepper
- 100g grated cheddar cheese.
- 180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped.
- 60g cooked broad beans or soya beans.



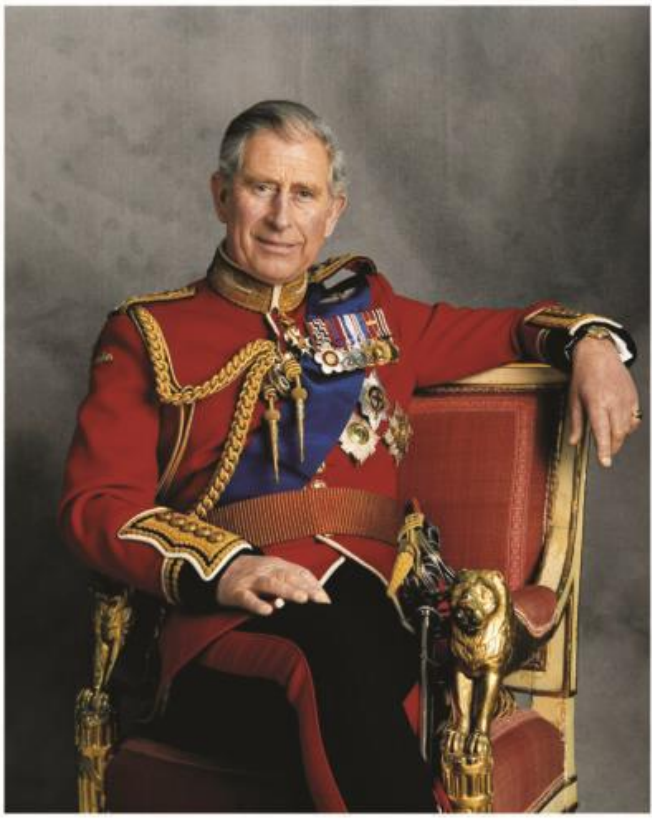
Pastry

- 125g plain flour
 - Pinch of salt
 - 25g cold butter, diced
 - 25g lard or Trex
 - 2 tablespoons milk
- or 1 x 250g block of ready-made shortcrust pastry

Method

1. To make the pastry...
 - a. Sieve the flour and salt in a bowl; add the fats and rub the mixture together using your fingertips until you get a sandy breadcrumb texture.
 - b. Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients together into a dough.
 - c. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes.
2. Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick.
3. Line the tin with the pastry, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak (giving a soggy bottom!) Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.
4. Preheat the oven to 190°C.
5. Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes before removing the greaseproof paper and baking beans.
6. Reduce the oven temperature to 160° C.
7. Beat together the milk, cream, eggs, herbs and seasoning.
8. Scatter ½ of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans and herbs, then pour over the liquid mixture.
9. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly brown.

I have tried this recipe, it is delicious and not an onion in sight! *Judith*



A Prayer for King Charles III

Almighty God, the fountain of
all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King
Charles,
and all who are in authority
under him;
that they may order all things in
wisdom and equity,
righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church
and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

King Charles III Acrostic Poem *by Sally Hayward.*

King Charles III
Is
Now taken the place of our Queen Elizabeth
Given a

Coronation Day
Honouring him has taken place;
Already to undergo further
Royal roles and
Learning and knowing what our Queen did
Everlasting memories; we all
Stand and sing 'God save our King'.

HOW IT WAS.....says Jennifer Kendrick

I was nine years old in 1946, just after World War Two ended. I had an older brother. Our father had come back safe and sound from service abroad in the RAF and we were a complete family, quite content once we got used to the idea of having a man about the house again! He was fun with a generosity of spirit and understanding that knew no bounds, but more than able to sanction with a single stern stare when needed! I adored him.



My mother had a different approach, somewhat detached and determined that I be nothing less than a "little lady" so anything reckless or rough that my brother and friends engaged in, was not allowed for me! Obviously, this led to me just disappearing out of her sight to climb trees, paddle in the stream catching sticklebacks, meeting strangers or anything else I could think of, only coming home when I was hungry! I was self-assured!

Then I was enrolled in a prissy girls' preparatory school where we curtsied to the headmistress and changed shoes before going to class. The uniform was posh purple and grey with navy gym slip, blazer and hat, velour in winter, Panama in summer. A welcome change after years of pass-ons and renovations! Gym kit consisted of white shirts and big baggy bloomers that had a pocket for your handkerchief. We wore old smelly black daps because footwear was still scarce! I was sporty, safe and happy!

Ballet classes were a must for my "style and deportment"! Much more interested in high jump with my long legs, or running fast with no thought for grace and elegance, my dancing career lasted no more than a year and ended when I refused to take the stage at the Victoria Rooms in Bristol when cast as a busybody (no finesse or fancy outfit needed : I was offended and flounced off on the day of the eisteddfod)

Fortunately I enjoyed elocution lessons, which embraced poetry and language, learning about voice production and stage craft, leading to membership of the Junior Arts Club, later followed by acting in local dramatic society productions as well as singing and dancing anywhere! Here and now, in Dursley I volunteer with the Open The Book Team and we go into the Primary School to share Bible Stories at Assembly time, so I have recently had to do a training course on Safeguarding to renew my certificate to authenticate my status!

It gave me pause for thought. I recall a piano teacher I had as a little girl! I was not a model pupil. Practise seemed pointless once I had

mastered the art of producing a recognisable tune with reasonable accuracy, and simple scales were just plain boring!

I am pretty sure he would have been recommended, or at least carefully chosen, but he seemed very odd to me! Tall with a languid appearance, colourless face, sharp features, sparse gingery hair, always in beige clothes that smelt of mothballs, he made me feel uncomfortable. His hands were bones held together with thin skin and his long fingers ended in nails that were like talons. His voice came out in whispers that made it hard to hear whilst his breath sent shivers down my neck as he bent closer, gently and firmly putting my hands on the keyboard, which seemed slow and quite unnecessary!

I was not frightened and kept going to lessons as any alternative was not for discussion! Despite slow musical progress and my absolute refusal to interact with him in any way, he still put me in for exams which I passed with credits and pleased my parents! Eventually, he gave up teaching me as he said it was clear that I was in danger of spoiling his 100% success rate. Was he grooming me? I have no idea, and certainly did not have the words to express the discomfort I felt! After that I was simply happy to be free from lessons and able to enjoy playing the piano by myself whenever I chose!

The world has changed dramatically since then, so power to all those who take on the thankless task of identifying issues of molestation and trying to keep children safe from predators in this modern age. Thanks too, to my parents, to whom I owe so much!

The Poetry Group will still be meeting on the last Friday in the month at 2.15pm.

Our new venue will be Dursley Library.

The next meetings is 26th May.

A Small Market Town by Jill Francis.



A small market town was where I was born.
Rolling hills of green and fields full of corn.
The 'Peak' and the 'Hill' were everyday sights
Picking strawberries on hills from morning 'til night.
The Broadwell, the Slade, Kingshill play park
Were places we played in, just for a lark.
A day out on the Peak, a climb just for fun
Where a piece of cardboard sent you flying on your bum.
Then the 11+ came. and for some it was cool.
At the start of the term we were sent off to school.
To 'Highfield' or 'the Grammar' now called Rednock
with a beret, a blazer and a very long frock.
Walking past my old school with a farm on its border
Where cows crossed the road in slumbering order.
A supermarket now, but how long will it be?
Before that's just a memory for you and for me.
The Dorothy Café was a place to be seen
Where blackcurrant sauce was poured over ice cream.
Wintles the grocer, oh the smell of bacon and coffee.
I've forgotten the shop that sold lovely soft toffee.
Some empty shops now. how I wish they were back
They're gone now, instead we have seats and a plaque.
It's been fun thinking and writing about all that's above
Yes you've quessed that it's Dursley a town that I love.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



FUNERAL

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:

3rd April
27th March

Thanksgiving for Sue Hollins at St James
Burial of Robert & Margaret Elliott's ashes
in St James Churchyard

FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY

May 7th & 14th

High Altar

Tanner Chapel

Lady Chapel

PENTECOST (28th May)

May 28th & June 4th

High Altar

Tanner Chapel

Lady Chapel

Pulpit

Font

Nave Pillar

Hymn book chest

Porch

Glena Neale

Glenys Muir

Kim Pugh

Kate Sant

Ann Bussey

Sarah Hodge

Anne Shipton

Chris Raffle

Margaret Lloyd

Marion Paisey

Sheila Gardner



100 CLUB

100 club draw for April 2023 as follows:-

1st # 181 - Angie Philips

2nd # 167 - Chris Raffle

3rd # 103 - Jacquelin Hill

Many Thanks

and Best wishes

Sarah

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E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

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Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 543536.

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