



NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Assistant Curate's Letter

Dear friends,

Following my Ordination as Deacon at Gloucester Cathedral on 19 June, I'm now serving our benefice as Curate. Officially my title is Assistant Curate as Mike's the Curate. You probably all think he's the Vicar—and he is! I'll explain it if you'd like me to, but won't bore you with that now!

The Ordination was an incredibly special occasion for me and it was wonderful to see so many family and friends there, friends from school, work in London and Bristol, college, and so many from my connections with our churches over the years. As Bishop Rachel led us out of the service, seeing row upon row of you there to support me was extremely touching. Thanks so much to all. (Don't forget 15 July 2017 for my priesting if my curacy goes well!)

I know some weren't able to get to the Cathedral but were at the gathering afterwards at St Stephen's. It was wonderful to see you too. Thank you for being there, and for everybody's patience in waiting for me! There were also some who wanted to be with me on the day, but were unable to. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers in your absence. Thanks must also go to all those that worked so hard to get the church and food ready for the gathering and for cleaning up afterwards. You're amazing!

Now all that excitement's over, I'm just beginning to settle in as Curate. Mike and I are beginning to spend time talking about things I need to learn. Apparently there are a further 84 competencies I need to show I've achieved during my curacy! Curacy's very much a time of training. There's still plenty for me to learn and for Mike and I (and others of course) to have theological discussions about.

As a Deacon I'm now able to do baptisms. This came as a bit of a shock as I thought I had to wait until I'm priested. I've obviously been to many over the years, but more recently I've been looking more closely, in view of me doing them.

Mike and I have recently spent some time looking at the service, and thinking and talking about it. In one of our conversations we happened to have the St Stephen's Baptism Register there, and I wondered if it stretched back to the time of my baptism—it did! Some of you may even remember it. It's made me think about both my baptism and confirmation and why I chose to take those steps at that time in my life. I remember them well as they were just a week apart, and at a significant time in my life. I'd love to have a chat about them if you'd like to.

It's also reminded me that Bishop Rachel will be coming to the benefice in September for confirmations—her first visit to us. I wonder if any of you are thinking about taking that next step in your journey of faith. It's a wonderful thing to do, and if you're thinking about it, please have a chat to Mike or me. I know Bishop Rachel's very much looking forward to coming to the benefice as we spoke about it during my interview with her while on retreat before my ordination.

God bless. *Anthea*



Sunday Service Times

	Bilson	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 7 August	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am FS	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD
Sun 14 Aug	3.00 pm CBE	10.30 am HC	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 7.00 pm Healing Service
Sun 21 Aug		10.30 am JS @URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC 3.00 pm HC
Sun 28 Aug	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW
Sun 4 Sep	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am FS	9.30 am CBE 6.00 pm Harvest	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

AAHC = All Age Holy Communion; AAW = All Age Worship; CBE = Communion by Extension; EP = Evening Prayer; ES = Evensong; FS = Family Service; HC = Holy Communion; HS = Healing Service; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JS = Joint Service; MP = Morning Prayer; MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; RBL = Royal British Legion; WILD = Youth Group (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

	St John's	St Michael's	St Stephen's
Wed 3 Aug			10.00 am HC
Wed 10 Aug		10.00 am HC	
Wed 17 Aug			10.00 am HC
Wed 24 Aug		10.00 am HC	
Thu 25 Aug	1.30 pm Wedding		
Wed 31 Aug	10.00 am CBE		
Wed 7 Sep			10.00 am CBE

CBE = Communion by Extension; HC = Holy Communion.

Healing Service

Healing services take place every 2 months at St Stephen's. The next one will be Sunday 14 August at 7.00 pm.

Services are informal and normally include a time of worship, teaching relating to healing, a general time of prayer and the opportunity to receive prayer ministry. We believe in God's healing power and want to give him the opportunity to move among us bringing wholeness and healing of body, mind and spirit.

Services are open to all and you can join in with as much or as little as you want. It would be wonderful to see you and meet with you.

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Mothers' Union



We were pleased to welcome Liz Curtis from Brockworth MU as our speaker for July. Liz entertained us with poetry readings, all written by herself; some were serious on religious theme, while others were more humorous. Liz ended by inviting us all to join in with the Lord's Prayer while she demonstrated at the same time how to sign the prayer.

We do not meet in August but on Saturday 20, we are holding an Afternoon Tea at 2.00 pm at St Stephen's Church, with the proceeds for Away From It All, a fund which helps assist families with holidays or providing money for children to attend school trips. The Afternoon Tea will be by ticket only, £5 covers a full afternoon tea and there will be a raffle on the day. Although not required, it would be wonderful if people would dress for the occasion - including ladies donning hats!

On Tuesday 6 September we look forward to meeting Dot Fliello who, together with her husband, walked from Lands End to John O'Groats for charity and she will be talking about their experiences during that walk.

Also, on Sunday 4 September we will be holding the MU Wave of Prayer from 9.00 am - 9.30 am here in Church. You are all welcome to join us for any or all of these meetings. For more information about MU or to book tickets for the Afternoon Tea, please contact Sheila Moore (823055).

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Afternoon Tea

At St Stephen's Church

Saturday 20th August 2pm



Price £5



Ticket only

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Operation Christmas Child



Continuing with our aim to pack 100 shoeboxes as a Benefice at the Bilson Packing Party in October...

In August, we felt it was best to recap over some items from previous months that we don't yet have enough of. These include: pencil sharpeners, rubbers, pencil crayons or chunkier crayons, biros, felt tips. Also brushes or combs along with hair slides / hairbands / bobbles.

Although we have lots of soft toys, we are still in need of cars, small jigsaws / lego type sets, Barbie type dolls and clothes (we have some unclothed barbies, so clothes on their own would also be appreciated).

If you have any shoeboxes (medium sized) or Christmas paper that you could donate, there are people willing to wrap them, and it is going to take some time to wrap 100, so please give them to Eunice when you can!

Happily we can report that we have a full complement (for 100 boxes) of soap, toothbrushes, toothpastes and flannels.

If you aren't sure if an item is suitable or would like more information about anything to do with Operation Christmas Child, please speak to Eunice Wilson (826753), Rachel Witham (719438) or Lynne Chaundy (825997).

Cinderford Churches
Our Churches



St Ethelbert's, Littledean, GL14 3NL
Holds a range of services at 10.30 am. On the 3rd Sunday of each month the service alternates between St Eth's and Littledean URC.

St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX
9.30 am services in the moderate catholic tradition with a Eucharistic and sacramental focus.



St Michael's, Soudley, GL14 2UA
Chapel of Ease in Soudley with a similar tradition to St John's. Eucharist on alternate Wednesdays at 10 am.



St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA
Different worship styles at 11 am and 3 pm. 11 am services reflect an evangelical tradition with a worship band & children's and youth activities; 3.00 pm services are traditional (BCP) with organ. Various midweek services.



Bilson Mission, Cinderford, GL14 2TQ
A tin church, originally built in 1880, hosting traditional services on three Sunday afternoons each month at 3 pm.

Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
Forest of Dean
01594 839106

Our Lady of Victories
Roman Catholic
01594 833173
www.forestrc.co.uk

Forest of Dean
Community Church
07975 994224
www.fodcc.org

Cinderford
Methodist Church
01594 825662

Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618

Littledean URC
01452 760271



Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

Answers can be found on page 11.

I'm in a Benefice church, but where?

Answers can be found on page 11.



From the Registers

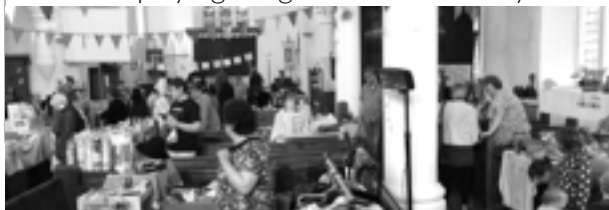
Funerals

8 July	Harold Butler	St Stephen's
19 July	Eric Haile	Forest of Dean Crematorium
19 July	Vera Bevan	St Ethelbert's

St Stephen's Summer Fayre

A big thank you to all who donated to, baked for, grew plants for, helped at and attended the St Stephen's Summer Fayre at the end of June, we raised around £1300 for church funds, which assists in paying the ongoing running costs associated with such a large building!

It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the delicious food, browsing the many stalls and playing the games. The next Fayre at St Stephen's is the Craft Fayre on Saturday 22 October.



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ON YOUR MARKS...

Holiday Club

Two days of fun with the 'On Your Marks...' holiday club; full of games, crafts, drama, music, video presentations, Bible stories, songs and prayers to help children learn about God's great plan.

Who for: Children aged 5 – 11 years

Where: St Stephen's Church, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford

When: Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 August

What time: 10 am – 3 pm (lunch provided)

There will not be a charge but donations towards craft materials and food would be welcome.

Places will be limited so please register early.

Registration forms available on the website www.cinderford-churches.org.uk or from Linda Blagg; tel: 01594 822153 e-mail: linda@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Confirmation - Sunday 11 September

Bishop Rachel is leading a Benefice Confirmation Service at St Stephen's Church on Sunday 11 September at 10.30 am. Bishop Rachel will also be preaching and confirming candidates.

If you are interested in being confirmed (or your child being confirmed), or would like to discuss what confirmation means and what it involves, please contact Mike, your Vicar, as soon as possible on (01594) 822286 / 07903 436009 or via mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

There is no age limit on Confirmation and it is for all who wish to 'confirm' their faith. Last year's confirmands enjoying the celebration:



Littledean Church of England Primary School

Taurus Craft – Paint a Bin Competition

The children in Year 4 have painted a bin in the style of the artist David Hockney. Please do go to Taurus Crafts over the summer holiday and vote for our bin.

Country Dance Festival

The children in Chestnut class took part in the Country Dance Festival

again this year. It was a fantastic evening and it was great to see so many parents there.



People with time for Children



Activity and Event Times

BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's	Saturday 20 August - 9.00 am - 10.00 am
BoB Breakfast is the monthly men's breakfast, all men welcome to attend.	
Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea at St Stephen's	Saturday 20 August - 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Benefice Pilgrimage	Saturday 27 August
Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's	Sunday 28 August - 12.30 pm

Weekly Activities

- Monday: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm Bellringing**, St Ethelbert's Church (*not on the first Monday of the month*)
- Group to practice ringing for Sunday services. (Bells rung on a Sunday from 9.45 am - 10.30 am)
- Tuesday: 10.30 am Pause for Prayer**, DoubleView Villa, Littledean Hill Road
- Group meeting to pray for the needs of the church, community and mission partners
2.00 pm Craft & A Cuppa, St Stephen's Church (*currently on summer break, will restart in September*)
- Craft group where members bring along their own craft and share fellowship
- Friday: 10.00 am Coffee Morning**, St Stephen's Church
- Chance to meet for fellowship and enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee
5.00 pm - 6.00 pm F.A.N. Club (Years 1-6), Bilson Mission Schoolroom
- Craft and activity club for primary school children (*currently on summer break, will restart in September*)
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm SMILE (girls, Year 7+), The Vicarage (*currently on summer break, will restart in Sep*)
- Youth group for girls in secondary school with food, games and activities
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm IF (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (*currently on summer break, will restart in Sep*)
- Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities
- Sunday: 7.00pm WILDER (Year 9 +)**, The Vicarage (*currently on summer break, will restart on 18 September*)
- Chance for the older half of the youth group to discuss the 'big issues' over food.



Heritage Open Day - Leonard Clark Display at St Stephen's - Sat 10 Sep

Leonard Clark was a famous literary figure who grew up on Belle Vue Road in the early twentieth century before leaving the Forest to become an internationally recognised poet and educationalist. He never lost his deep affection for the Forest, Cinderford and St Stephen's Church, where he was a chorister. He had been fostered shortly after birth by Sarah George, who raised him along with her own sons. The gifted young poet became a scholarship student at Monmouth School and his literary talent was encouraged by another Forest Poet,

F.W. Harvey. He requested after his death that his ashes were brought back to the Forest and interred in St Stephens Church. 'Reading the Forest,' a University of Gloucestershire project promoting the literary heritage of the Forest, will be staging an exhibition of Leonard Clark's books, info about his life and recordings of him reading his work from 10am - 4pm on Saturday 10 September as part of the Heritage Open Day events held across the Forest. The organisers are aware that many parishioners knew Leonard Clark, may have corresponded with him or have insights into his life and would be very pleased to meet with you on the day and see any memorabilia. More about the life and work of Leonard Clark in September.

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St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre



Once again, our Fayre brought family, friends and members of the community



together for another successful year, without the support and collective spirit there would be no Fayre. The weather plays a big part in these events and luckily it stayed warm and dry for most of the morning. £640 was raised on the day, a big Thank You to all stall holders and everyone who contributed to this enjoyable event. - Maureen



Mike's Question:

What are the names of the seven churches that "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" is addressed to by John?

Mike's Challenge:

What different things are there seven of in the book of Revelation?

Answers will be in next month's "News & Views" but please do discuss with Mike in the meantime!

Answers to last month's's:

Paul mentions others by name in seven of his letters and mentions 'all of the brothers with me' in one other (Galatians). So, eight is probably the correct answer, but seven is a reasonable answer as well. Those named are Timothy (6 times), Silas (or Silvanus, 2 times, both with Timothy) and Sosthenes (once).

Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride

The Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday 10 September. The national event is supported locally by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT).

Various churches around the county will be open and the event encourages people to try and visit as many as they can either cycling, walking, horse-riding or even driving. As the idea is to raise money for your local church as well as GHCT, the aim is to be sponsored whilst 'collecting churches'.

St Ethelbert's, Littledean is supporting the event and will be open from 10 am - 1 pm. Refreshments will be available along with a book sale. Jim Duffin (and maybe also his son-in-law) will be on an exercise bike 'riding' the distance between local churches and would welcome sponsors.

Members of St John's will be walking around Gloucester City centre churches; they will be collecting sponsorship as a team for the churches they 'collect' on their travels. Whilst St John's will not be open, there will be a sheet on the door for people to record their attendance at the church.

St Stephen's will be open from 10 am - 4 pm, with refreshments being served. There is also a Leonard Clark exhibition that day, see page 6 for more details. Andy Cole and Chris Witham will be riding between churches around the Forest and would welcome sponsors.

If you are interested in riding or striding, sponsoring any of the individuals or teams or for more details please see the Benefice website or speak to a churchwarden (see page 12).



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Getting to Know You ... with Pat Allen



Favourite ice-cream flavour? Honeycomb / Vanilla.

Are you a cat person or a dog person? Both.

Favourite season? Summer.

Favourite item of clothing? Fleeces.

Favourite colour? Blue-green of the sea.

Favourite flower or tree? Beech.

Favourite book? Lord of the Rings.

First job? Junior Librarian.

Worst job you've done? Shelving books as a junior librarian - for a whole day at a time!

Favourite food & drink? Steak and chips and a glass of good red wine.

Favourite actor/actress? Alan Rickman / Maggie Smith.

Favourite film? Dances with Wolves - director's cut only.

Favourite hymn or church song? O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go.

Favourite Church Building? Gloucester Cathedral.

What was your best holiday? Seaside in Pembrokeshire.

What would be your ideal holiday? New Zealand.

Would you prefer to live in a big city or small village? Small village.

Earliest memory? Getting soot from a kettle all over new red velvet dress - I was about 3, I think.

Which living person do you most admire? Dalai Lama - lost so much, never bitter.

Where would you most like to be right now? Freshwater West beach in Pembrokeshire.

First car (and did it have a name)? Vauxhall Viva - no name, except when it broke down.

If you could have any car in the world, what would it be? A renewed Toyota Spacecruiser - why did they stop making them!?

When were you happiest? Playing with my kids.

Favourite TV programme? Twin Peaks.

What do you owe your parents? My mum, everything, especially not giving up and humour.

If you could go back in time, where would you go, and why? Spend a little more time with my mum.

Most embarrassing moment? Going out with my trousers inside out, and not noticing till I got home.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? Happy with Pat / Patricia as it was mum's choice.

Favourite place to eat out? Lotus Chinese restaurant.

What would your superpower be? Removing fear.

Favourite building? King's College Chapel in Cambridge.

What keeps you awake at night? Thoughts of all the things I haven't done.

Favourite family memory? Family camping holidays in Scotland.

Favourite place to go shopping? Cheltenham.

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why? Probably a cat - like their independence.

Best job you've ever had? Teaching Readers at WEMTC.

Favourite joke? The apple, the orange and the piece of string.

Most treasured possession? Probably the iPhone as it keeps me in touch with everyone.

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? Dave Allen, Dalai Lama, CG Jung, Malala Yousafzai.

Lectionary

7 August (11th Sunday after Trinity)

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-21

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

14 August (12th Sunday after Trinity)

Jeremiah 22:23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

21 August (13th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 58:9b-end

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-end

Luke 13:10-17

28 August (14th Sunday after Trinity)

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

4 September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

Deuteronomy 30:15-end

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Harvest Lectionary

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Philippians 4:4-9

Psalm 100

John 6:25-35

Postcards

While you're enjoying your



The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

summer holiday, could you write a postcard to a teenager affected by leprosy in India? These young people often suffer both physically and mentally from stigmatisation and receiving a postcard would help to show them that people around the world care.

Post to The Leprosy Mission, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5GZ

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Benefice Pilgrimage - Saturday 27 August

The Annual Benefice Pilgrimage essentially involves visiting all 5 churches in the Benefice and walking between them. At each church there's a short reflection and time for prayer and at all but the first, there will be refreshments with lunch being served at St Stephen's. In short, it is a great time for fellowship and getting to know each other better plus a chance to enjoy God's creation and to get some exercise!

The walk is mainly off-road and provides a varied and interesting opportunity to walk between all the churches. An undulating excursion just over 9 miles in total, you may want to do it all, or one or more sections. There are about 10 stiles and a couple of steepish climbs. We shall walk quiet lanes, graded paths, tracks and typical narrower Forest paths once regularly used to link the various settled areas large and small. We pass fields, woods, water, agricultural and industrial activity past and present and houses in all their variety.

In good, clear weather there are wonderful views and we have the chance to see familiar places from an unfamiliar aspect.

As some sections can be muddy at any time and several places are uneven, it is recommended that stout walking shoes or boots be worn. The first two sections are undulating with the second two much less so. Unfortunately the terrain is not pushchair friendly.

It is advisable to consider bringing waterproof clothing and also to carry water if you are walking the whole way. We aim to keep to the schedule as closely as possible so if you wish to join for one or more of the sections please note the departure time and arrive in good time. If you are unable to walk the whole way, or indeed unable to walk any of the journey, please consider joining us at one or more of the churches to join in the fellowship times and prayer.

The walk begins at St Michael's, Soudley with prayers beginning at 9.30 am. Please be aware that there are no toilet facilities at St Michael's. Walkers will depart at 10.00 am to walk to St Ethelbert's, Littledean. There are toilet facilities available and drinks will be available. Walkers will aim to arrive at 11.30 am and depart again at 12.00 noon to walk to St Stephen's, Cinderford. Lunch will be served at St Stephen's from 1.30 pm followed by a time of prayer. Walkers will depart at 2.15 pm and walk to the penultimate church, Bilson Mission, where again drinks will be available along with toilet facilities. After a short time of prayer, walkers will depart at 3.45 pm for St John's, Cinderford. Arriving at 5.00 pm for a final time of prayer along with light refreshments.

There is a group of walkers already planning on doing the whole thing and some people planning on joining in sections or for prayers. Please do consider joining us for some or all of the walk and help to carry greetings around the Benefice. If you are concerned about mobility, please speak to Peter about which section might work best for you, or just join us at one or more of the churches for prayers and fellowship (St Stephen's is a good choice as you can have lunch!).

For more information speak to Peter Poole (822967) or Mike Barnsley (822286).

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Chris and Richard; preparing for licensing as readers in September
- Anthea; as she begins her ministry as deacon
- Eunice, Linda and Lynne; our Licensed Readers
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- Cinderford Street Pastors
- children, young people and leaders
- Syrian refugees, especially young children living in tents and unaccompanied minors
- Ryan & Ami and Adrian & Joanne, married in June
- all Scripture Union holiday camps on the beaches such as Polzeath and Perranporth this month
- summer camps run by SILOAM Christian Ministries in Eastern Europe



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Fairtrade Focus

Coffee Cream Torte Taken from Traidcraft's "Bake A Difference" - available at St Stephen's

Serves approximately 10, requires overnight refrigeration before serving!

Ingredients

- 450 g / 16 oz butter
- 170 ml (6 fl oz) Fairtrade strong black coffee (instant or ground - made up)*
- 450 g (16 oz) Fairtrade dark chocolate, broken into pieces*
- 200 g (7 oz) Fairtrade cane sugar*
- 50 ml (1.75 fl oz) Irish liqueur (optional)
- 6 eggs

(All starred (*) ingredients are Traidcraft products available at the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's; ingredients marked with a hashtag (#) are available as Fairtrade but not from church - speak to Rachel for advice on where to purchase - 719438).

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°C / gas mark 3.
2. Grease a 20 cm springform tin and base line it with baking parchment
3. In a large pan melt the butter, coffee, liqueur (if using) and sugar over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved.
4. Add the chocolate pieces and stir until melted and the mixture is smooth and glossy. Remove from the heat.
5. Using an electric mixer whisk the eggs until they are pale yellow and have tripled in volume.
6. Stir a third of the whisked eggs into the chocolate mixture to loosen it, then fold in the rest.
7. Pour the batter into the lined tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. It is ready when the sides are starting to puff and crack but the centre is still a bit wobbly - it will set as it cools.
8. Cool in the tin, on a rack and then cover tightly and refrigerate overnight.
9. To serve, loosen the edge by running a knife around it and then unclip and remove the tin. Delicious served in slender slices with extra pouring cream and some soft fruit.

Did you know? Traidcraft's Decaffeinated Freeze Dried Coffee is made in Guatemala using the Mountain Water Decaff Process, which removes caffeine naturally. Unlike the chemical processes used in other decaff coffees, Traidcraft's actually enhances the taste of the coffee.

Traidcraft's Fairtrade Coffee range covers instant, ground and whole beans. Traidcraft have a passion for excellent coffee but also a passion for the people who grow it. They are committed to working with small-scale, marginalised coffee producers. For example, they worked with CIPAC, a coffee producer in Guatemala, to help them get Fairtrade certification and develop and improve the

quality of their products. They also arranged for their coffee to be packed locally, providing extra income for communities.

CIPAC produce

Traidcraft's instant coffee, which is made from 100% high-grown, Arabica beans, which are renowned for being high quality. The instant decaffeinated coffee is also produced in Guatemala. All of these processes add value for the local community and help increase jobs and income.

CIPAC have recently suffered from the crop being affected by 'coffee rust,' a fungus which attacks the leaf of the plant. Over 20% of the cooperatives coffee bushes were lost to the disease and another 20% badly damaged. Traidcraft are working with CIPAC to address the problem through the Supporting Social Enterprises programme, plans include replanting lost coffee plants, replacing them with stronger Arabica coffee varieties.

Traidcraft also have two ranges of ground coffee everyday and speciality. The everyday range are blended coffees, made with Arabica and Robusta beans handpicked by fair trade co-operatives in Tanzania, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua. Money from the Fairtrade premium (the extra money farmers receive on top of the fair price for the product) has been spent on training to improve the quality of their crops along with community projects such as schools and healthcare.

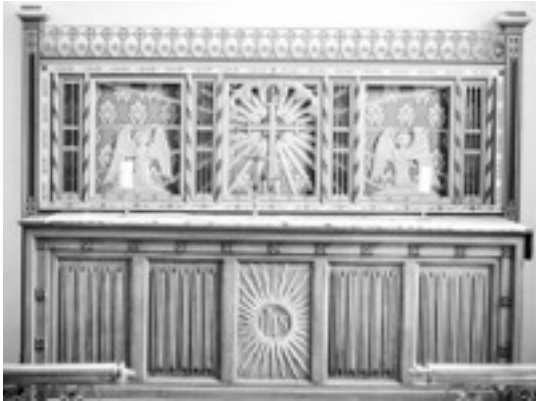
Mario Hernandez from Nicaragua says, "We have seen achievements. Now I have money to buy clothes for my children and to build my house. Day to day things are improving because of the better price."

Traidcraft's speciality coffee range are all single-source products, meaning the coffee beans are all from one place (rather than blended as in the everyday coffees). Coffees from Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda and Peru (ground decaffeinated) vary in strength but all provide a fair price for small scale farmers around the world.

Fairtrade premiums have been spent on a huge variety of things benefitting both the farmers and wider communities. Projects include schools, a library, a clinic, boreholes, roads, donations of cows and goats to farmers, bicycles for farmers to carry their coffee from the remote fields, along with training on improving farming techniques and long term sustainability.



I'm in a Benefice church, but where?



Decorative panel on the front of the Communion Table at St Ethelbert's, Littledean.

Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Door handle for the new Camerons shop on the Triangle.

Thanks to Camerons for their ongoing support of News & Views and for providing delicious meat for BBQ's and BoB events at a very reasonable cost.

Who's on the Trike?



Rev Geoff Bowyer

Former Vicar of St Stephen's and St Ethelbert's

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Dates for Your Diaries...

- Sun 4 Sep - 6.00 pm **Harvest Service** at St John's
- Sun 4 Sep - 7.00 pm **Harvest Supper** at St John's
- Sun 11 Sep - 10.30 am **Confirmation Service** at St Stephen's
- Sun 18 Sep - 10.30 am **Joint Harvest Service** at St Ethelbert's
- Sun 18 Sep - 5.00 pm **Harvest Songs of Praise** at Littledean URC (followed by Supper)
- Tue 20 Sep - 7.00 pm **Ladies' Curry Night** at the Curry Leaf
- Sat 24 Sep - 9.00 am - 10.15 am **Community Prayer Breakfast** at St Stephen's
- Sat 24 Sep - 4.00 pm **Reader Licensing Service** at Gloucester Cathedral
- Sun 25 Sep - 11.00 am **All-Age Harvest Service followed by BakeOff & Lunch** at St Stephen's
- Sun 25 Sep - 3.00 pm **Harvest Service** at Bilson

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Editorial Team

St John's - Ann & John Holliday
St Eth's - Maureen Wheeler
St Stephen's - Rachel Witham

If you have anything for the next magazine (articles, photographs) or would like to enquire about placing an advert please contact magazine@cinderford-churches.org.uk by Monday 15 August.

Comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the PCCs or the Vicar of the Benefice.

Benefice Coach Trip

On Thursday 7 July, 25 people headed to Hartlebury Castle on a coach trip. Hartlebury Castle was the residence of the Bishop of Worcester for many years (dating back to the mid-13th century) until 2008. There is now a museum on site along with several rooms open to the public, including the State Rooms and the Chapel. We had a very informative tour around the building, including an extended session in the Hurd Library. One of our tour guides was the wife of the late Bishop Goodrich, who had lived in the Castle with her husband and children up until 1996.

After the tour, we had a lovely meal at the onsite cafe followed by a walk

around the gardens and the museum. The tour certainly sparked many conversations about history as many of the Bishops were key characters in various events of national importance. The coach trip home certainly gave us time to think!



Bellringers Striking Championship

On Saturday 18 June, the Forest Branch of the Gloucester & Bristol Association of Church Bellringers held their striking championship at Staunton (Coleford) church. The championship is very light hearted and always fun.

Ringers from St Ethelbert's in Littledean were able to enter 3 teams of regular Sunday ringers into the competition. The teams were named All-age Littledean, Young Littledean and Old Littledean. The teams won 1st, 2nd and Highly Commended respectively. All-age Littledean also won the Goodwin clapper, an award for the team with a band member who has learnt to ring within the last 2 years. The ringing was followed by afternoon tea at Newland church, then more ringing!

The Littledean band ring every Sunday for services and meet for ringing every Monday evening (except the first in the month) from 7.00 pm – 8.45 pm.



If you are interested in learning to ring, come along on a practice night. You will be made very welcome.

