



NEWS & VIEW

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

Shortly before writing this letter, I had the honour to go to the funeral of Cllr Lloyd Wilce. Cllr Wilce will have been known by many in Cinderford and the surrounding area. It was a privilege to be able to serve on Cinderford Town Council alongside him as he was named "Britain's Longest Serving Councillor". Lloyd gave 69 years to public service as a councillor.



Many people gathered together at Lloyd's funeral; family, friends, fellow councillors and members of our community. As Linda gave the eulogy, there were happy memories and things to celebrate. Lloyd's long marriage, his son's, grandchildren, carnivals, fundraising, pram races, a pink pub and much more. But, as with most funerals, there was an undeniable sadness in church. Lloyd has passed away. We will not see him walking up the High Street, sitting in the Council Chamber or chatting in the garden. Adrian and Nigel have lost a father they were clearly very fond of. Many of us have lost a friend.

It is right that we mourn and take care of those who are grieving. Funerals are an important part of that process and I'd encourage people to think a little about their own funeral. It's not something we're keen to do. It's not normally a topic for the dinner table or the coffee shop. But I know it can be a lot easier for family members, if they know that their loved one has had their wishes included in their funeral service. If you don't feel able to talk about it, maybe write down your favourite hymns, music and memories and leave them with a copy of your will.

The past weeks have also been solemn as we've been in Lent, a time that starts with us being reminded of our own and Jesus' humanity on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when we reflect and repent, where we prepare for the death of Jesus, when there are often no flowers in church and this year the cold weather has seemingly added bleakness. But as Christians, this is not the end, funerals are not the end.

As Linda read at Lloyd's funeral and is often read at funerals, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and I am the life; those who believe in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" This month started with Easter and I presume a fabulous celebration, albeit we went to print before the main event! Easter is the most marvellous celebration of our year, for after Jesus' death, came his resurrection.

At Lloyd's funeral, Linda said "Lloyd loved and lived for Cinderford". And Jesus loves and lives for us. Because of Jesus, we have the hope of eternal life. The grave is not the end.

I spend a lot of time driving and enjoy listening to music whilst on my travels. Currently I'm hooked on the News Boys track 'God's not Dead'. The lyrics "God's not dead, He's surely alive. Let hope arise and make the darkness hide" are a brilliant anthem to blast out at this time of year. So now the solemn period of Lent has passed, let's celebrate the good news. Let's share the Easter truth. If you don't know the eternal hope that Easter gives us, talk to me or a member of our ministry team, we'd love to share it with you.

Yours in Christ, *Chris*

	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 1 April EASTER DAY		9.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	6.30 am Sunrise Service @ Littledean Hill Road 11.00 am AAHC
Sun 8 April	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW 3.00 pm Messy Church
Sun 15 April		10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm HC
Sun 22 April	3.00 pm CBE	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC
Sun 29 April		10.30 am JHC @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC
Sun 6 May		10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 2.00 pm Baptism 3.00 pm ES

*** All Bilson services are currently taking place at Hanover Court.**

AAHC = All Age Holy Communion; AAW = All Age Worship; CBE = Communion by Extension; ES = Evensong;
 HC = Holy Communion; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JHC = Joint Holy Communion; JS = Joint Service;
 MP = Morning Prayer;
 MW = Morning Worship;
 PE = Parish Eucharist;
 SW = Sunday Worship;
 WILD = Youth Group (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

Wed 4 April, 10.00 am CBE at St Stephen's

Wed 11 April, 10.00 am CBE at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wed 18 April, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wed 25 April, 7.30 pm HC at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at The Curry Leaf

Wed 2 May, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Snow and Cafe Church

It feels like we've had above our average dose of snow this year already. At St Stephen's we've had a few cafe style services on snow days so we can gather under the stronger heaters at the back of church and enjoy warm drinks during the service. I've been very glad for help with clearing snow from the drive and paths. Kim, Jane and Neil all put in big efforts to help people get into church safely.

I've always loved the snow, I

understand not everyone shares that opinion and for some, the snow makes things very difficult, but it does seem to bring out some good community spirit. When it snows, town is often a lot busier with people on foot making good use

of the local shops. I'm also always amazed at how many photos and bits of information get shared online with people trying to share how roads conditions are and find people who are willing to offer lifts in 4x4s. It's often a time when we check on our neighbours and the more vulnerable people in our community. But that got me thinking, wouldn't it be great if we didn't need it to snow to encourage us to visit our neighbours and check they're ok. I wonder if we should try and set ourselves each a "snow day" once a month or a few times a year when we make a special effort to visit someone, even if it's not snowing. Maybe you'd visit the same people you visit when it snows, or maybe there's someone else you think would welcome a friendly hello?

- Chris Witham



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St Ethelbert's, Littledean, GL14 3NL

Holds a range of services at 10.30 am. On the 3rd Sunday of each month a joint service is held at Littledean URC.

St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX

9.30 am services in the moderate catholic tradition with a Eucharistic and sacramental focus.



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 pm

services are traditional (BCP). Messy Church every 2nd Sunday at 3 pm is a fun, creative service for the whole family. Various midweek services.

Bilson Mission, Cinderford, GL14 2TQ

Bilson services are currently taking place at Hanover Court, whilst essential maintenance work is being assessed.



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2018 will be May 13 to May 19 and this year's theme is "Together we are

stronger than the storms," encouraging us to look further at the ways that Christian Aid are helping families in some of the poorest parts of the world to weather future storms. The campaign is specifically focussing on the stories of several individuals and families in Haiti who Victoria Jean-Louis told us about during her visit to St Stephen's. Lots more information next month.

The Coop County Store (Dockham Road) has kindly agreed for a collection to take place on Thursday 17 May and Friday 18 May. Volunteers will be needed to sign up for an hour (or two) slot.

If you want to sign up for an hour slot, please contact Ann Ladd (01594 822735).

From the Registers

Funerals

1 March	Charlie Hall	St Stephen's
13 March	Lloyd Wilce	St Stephen's
27 March	Elaine Hale	St Stephen's

Baptisms

31 March	Jacob Charles Dickerson-Scriven	St John's
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Our Partner Churches

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Our Lady of
Victories Roman
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Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618

Forest of Dean
Community Church
07975 994224
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Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Answers can be found on page 11.

I'm a church around the Diocese, but where?



Answers can be found on page 11.

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Mothers' Union Report

Owing to the bad weather the meeting due to be held on March 6 had to be cancelled.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 April at 2.30 pm and will be our Lady Day Service which will be led by Pat Allen at St Stephen's Church. - Nikola Poole

100 not out!

Our congratulations to Mrs Doris Bennet who turned 100 years of age on February 18! Although Doris is housebound, partially sighted and unable to attend meetings, she is keenly interested in the activities of the local Mothers' Union.

Doris is still a respected member of Cinderford with Littledean Mothers' Union (formerly St Stephen's MU). She has belonged for over 60 years.

Doris was an esteemed member of St Stephen's Church PCC and organised the Flower Rota for over fifteen years. Her artistic talent shows in her oil paintings, along with membership of both Bilson WI (now Cinderford WI) and Cinderford Flower Club.

The family celebrated Doris' big day on February 18.

A new chapter for St Michael's

At about 7.15 pm on 21 February, at the Village Hotel Auction, Cardiff, the next stage of the future of St Michael's, Soudley was decided. After the auction, as Eve and I on behalf of the PCC of St John's signed the Memorandum of Sale, we pondered what we were just a part of.

In the days that followed, I

spoke with one of the owners several times and learned an outline of their plans to retain the building as part of the village heritage and for it eventually to become their home. On 21 March, completion and handover day, I met Helen

Bailey and David Coles, the new owners and in lovely sunshine gave them the keys. They are looking forward very much to the challenge and we wish them good fortune with the new chapter.



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Cinderford Churches Craft Fayre March 2018

On Saturday 17 March, St Stephen's hosted its first Craft Fayre of 2018. 20 independent artisans brought a wide variety of crafts including photography, knitting, sewing,



jewellery, woodwork, fused glass and gifts.

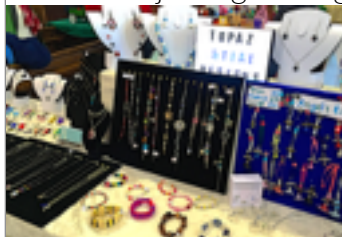
Despite the threat of



snow and some falling early in the morning, there was a good turn out with lots of



new faces joining the regular shoppers. Andy and Chris



cooked up the ever popular bacon baps along with hot lunches and a range of cakes.

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the event,

baked and helped invite people to come along. It was wonderful to see the support for local artisans and small businesses. The next craft fayre will be on Saturday 19 May, with another wonderful range of local craftspeople.



Littledean Community Fayre

The Fayre will take place at Littledean Community Centre (just behind the Belfry hotel) on Saturday 30 June from 11.00 am - 3.00 pm.

The organisers are looking for a few extra stallholders. If you would be interested, please contact Pauline Rea-Dickins at paulinereadickins@gmail.com or on 01594 823735.

News & Views

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Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- those who have recently been bereaved; especially the families of Charlie Hall, Elaine Hale and Lloyd Wilce
- Jacob, baptised in March
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Mike; in his ministry around the Benefice
- Anthea; in her ministry as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- the future of Cinderford Street Pastors
- the Forest Foodbank and all supporting those in need locally
- children, young people and their leaders
- all children, young people and their families over the Easter holiday
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- all caught up in natural disasters around the world
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger
- all those working for justice and peace in the world
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict

Mothers' Union at St Stephen's
Messy Church at St Stephen's
BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's
APCM* at St Ethelbert's
Forest Bellringers Training Day at St Ethelbert's
APCM* at St John's
Bring & Share Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's
APCM* at St Stephen's
Art Workshop at St Stephen's

Tuesday 3 April, 2.30 pm
 Sunday 8 April, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
 Saturday 14 April, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
 Thursday 19 April, 7.30 pm
 Saturday 21 April, 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm
 Sunday 22 April, 11.00 pm
 Sunday 22 April, 12.00 pm
 Sunday 22 April, 12.30 pm
 Saturday 28 April, 10.30 am - 2.30 pm

*APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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: 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm Craft & A Cuppa, St Stephen's Church
(meets during term time, not on the first Tuesday of the month)
 - Craft group where members bring along their own craft and share fellowship

Friday: 10.00 am - 11.15 am Coffee Morning, St Stephen's Church
 - Chance to meet for fellowship and enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm IF (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church
(meets during term time; off during Easter, restarts Friday 20 April)
 - Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities

BoB Breakfast

Last month, we ventured out to Beechenhurst for our BoB Breakfast. We were slightly down on numbers this month due to holidays and work but still had a good time. The breakfast was excellent and I was glad for a month off from cooking too. We'd thought about a walk around some of the sculpture trail after breakfast but the rain came just in time to prevent us burning off too many of those calories. This month we're back at St Stephen's on 14 April at 9am. All men are welcome to join us for breakfast and a chat. Conversation topics are always very varied and often light hearted. It'd be great to see you there.

- Chris Witham (01594 719438)



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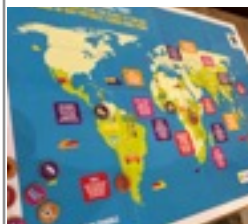
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Messy Church



All those who attended Messy



Church in March enjoyed sampling a variety of Fairtrade treats, painting their own Fairtrade Mark, making chocolate crispy cakes with Fairtrade chocolate and the very popular junk modelling!

Everyone was also able to make a card and choose and wrap a gift for someone that cares



for them. After being visited by two Fairtrade bananas, everyone enjoyed sharing a meal together.

April's Messy Church is on Sunday 8 April from 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm and will include food, crafts and activities looking at stories about sheep in the Bible. All children and young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Trust 130 Insurance

To donate £130 to church, simply through changing your house insurance, ring Ecclesiastical and quote TRUST130 and the name of the Church (St Stephen's / St John's / St Ethelbert's). It's that simple!

You must get the quote directly from Ecclesiastical. If you are interested in finding out more, please either look at their website:

www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130 or ring 0800 783 0130 and mention TRUST130.

Mike's Question:

Can you find the 14 Psalms, all written by David, associated with specific historic events?

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

Mike's Challenge:

An alphabetic acrostic poem is a poem where certain words, usually the first words of each verse or line, start with the different letters of the alphabet. There are several alphabetic acrostic poems in the Psalms. Psalm 34 is an alphabetic acrostic poem with a difference. One of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet is missed in the pattern through the verses, and the last verse is an additional verse that does not follow the acrostic pattern (repeating a letter already used). Why do you think the final verse is different in this way?

Answers to last month's question:

The passage in Luke's Gospel which seems to echo The Beatitudes (in Matthew 5) is Luke 6:20-23.

Home Communion

If you live in the Benefice and would like to receive home communion, please contact the Vicar, Mike Barnsley, (822286) or Linda Blagg (822153).



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Favourite ice-cream flavour?

Clotted Cream.

Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite film? Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Favourite food & drink? Sweet and Sour Quorn pieces.

Favourite season? Summer.

Favourite flower or tree? Daffodil.

Favourite TV programme? Match of the Day.

Favourite actor/actress? Johnny Depp.

If you could have any car in the world, what would it be?

Lamborghini Huracan!

Where would you most like to be right now? Brazil, so I could play football every day.

Favourite place to eat out? McDonalds.

Favourite place to go shopping? GAME.

What was your best holiday? Cornwall.

Favourite Church building? Notre Dame Cathedral.

Favourite item of clothing? Joggers.

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

Most treasured possession? Nike Hypervenom Superfly.

What would your superpower be? Super speed.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? Thomas, because of Thomas the Tank Engine.

What keeps you awake at night? My xbox!!

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why? Cheetah, because I would be the fastest land animal in the world.

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

Favourite hymn or church song? Hallelujah (by Leonard Cohen).

Favourite family memory? Happy times spent with my Aunt Mary (who recently passed away).

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? King Arthur, The Queen, Prince Harry and Daniel Radcliffe.

Most embarrassing moment? When my King Louie head fell off in a production of the Lion King (at school)!

First Job? Play rangers young leader.

Best job? Being an IF leader.

If you could go back in time, where would you go and why? Back to 1966 when England won the world cup against Germany!

Earliest memory? Going into secondary school.

Person you most admire? Michelle Rodriguez

When are you happiest? When I'm playing on my xbox.

Favourite joke? The one about the banana peeling very well.

What do you owe your parents? Thanks for taking me places that other kids don't get the chance to go.



Putting a Bit Back into the Community

We retired last year and bought a cottage in Cinderford.

We have started a blog at
<https://vandaandeddie.uk/>

We wanted to put something back into the community here and have created a free directory for any Forest of Dean business or organisation and an event calendar.

There are no charges at all,
so why not take a look?

Vanda & Eddie

Lectionary

1 April (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

8 April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 - 2:2	John 20:19-end

15 April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48

22 April (4th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-end	John 10:11-18

29 April (5th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 8:26-end	Psalm 22:25-end
1 John 4:7-end	John 15:1-8

6 May (6th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 10:44-end	Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17

Sunrise Service - Easter Day - Sunday 1 April

If you are an early riser (or even fancy rising early for a change) why not celebrate the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ at a Sunrise service on Easter Day (Sunday 1 April).

The short service will start at 6.30 am on Littledean Hill Road opposite the junction of Dockham Road. Followed by breakfast at 30 Belle Vue Road.

Littledean Church of England Primary School



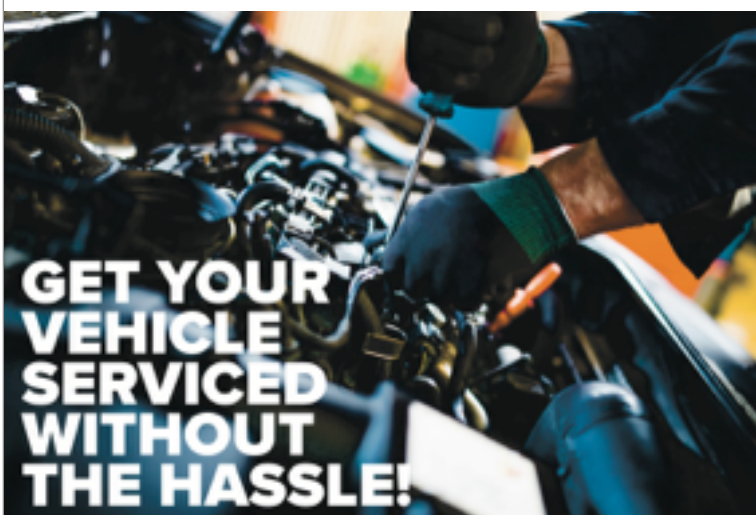
Mother's Day

Over the last few weeks, the children in Maple class have been lovingly making clay roses using our recently repaired kiln. They were really pleased with their results and enjoyed seeing their mother's faces

as they opened their gift on Mother's Day.

World Book Day

On Thursday 8th March we celebrated a delayed World Book Day. After a catwalk procession in the hall showing off our wonderful costumes and a quiz organised by the school council, the children and their parents enjoyed a shared reading session followed by an iced bun (and a cup of tea for the parents). It was a wonderful morning and lovely to see families sharing and enjoying books together.



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Benefice Day of Prayer

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a call from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who invite Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus during the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. It is hoped that everyone who participates will deepen their friendship with Jesus, bring others to know Jesus or know him better, and come to know that every aspect of their life is that of prayer.



THY KINGDOM COME

This year we will be responding to that call when we hold the Benefice day of prayer on Saturday 12 May at St Stephen's Church. As before the church will be open for prayer anytime from 7 am until 7 pm. There will also be chance to pray at home if you are unable to get to the church. Please come along if you are able to, or sign up to pray for part of the day. If you wish to find out more or make more of a commitment you can pledge to pray on the website, www.thykingdomcome.global.

Cinderford Churches Big Brew & BakeOff

The day of the Big Brew arrived and unlike previous Big Brews, the weather was less like spring and more like winter.

But despite the snow making it tricky to make it to St Stephen's, around 40 people braved the elements and enjoyed hot food and drinks, browsing the large pop-up shop packed with fairly traded goods from around the world, delicious samples of various Fairtrade products and of course deciding which of



Entrepreneurs Campaign, helping some of the poorest people around the world trade themselves out of poverty.

The pop-up shop then remained in church for the rest of the week with various opening times, which proved very popular with visitors

enjoying being able to see the wide range of Fairtrade food and beautiful



handicrafts from around the world spread out with information about the producers and artisans that have lovingly created each piece.

A big thank you to all the Fairtrade companies that sent samples for people to try; including Divine, Plamil, Equal Exchange, Chocolate and Love, the Raw Chocolate Company, Tropical Wholefoods and JTS.



the wonderful BakeOff entries to eat for pudding!

Congratulations go to the prize winners: Pat for her peanut cookies, Kim for her lemon drizzle cake and chocolate crunch squares and Linda for her chocolate and oatmeal cookies and banana muffins. A big thank you to all of those who baked one of the 15 entries for the BakeOff.



Just over £100 was raised to send to Traidcraft Exchange, which will be doubled through the UKAid scheme. The money will go towards their Hidden



Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

I'm a church around the Diocese, but where?



Mercury Works Sign,
now Artspace, Woodside Street



All Saints, Longhope

Dates for Your Diaries

Saturday 12 May - **"Thy Kingdom Come" Day of Prayer, St Stephen's**

Sunday 13 May - **Messy Church, St Stephen's**

Sunday 13 May - Saturday 19 May - **Christian Aid Week**

Saturday 19 May - **Craft Fayre, St Stephen's**

Sunday 10 June - **Messy Church, St Stephen's**

Saturday 23 June - **St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre**

Saturday 30 June - **Littledean Community Fayre**

Mothering Sunday Thank You

A big thank you to the Cooperative Funeralcare branch in Cinderford for their kind donation of daffodils for Mothering Sunday services at St Stephen's and St John's.

Flowers were distributed to all who attended services as well as being used to decorate the churches.



Who's on the Trike?



Robert Simpson

Associate Parish Priest,
St Briavels and Hewelsfield

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Vicar: Mike Barnsley

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mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Mike's regular day off is Monday, if you need to speak to someone urgently on a Monday, please contact someone else from the list below)

Assistant Curate: Anthea Beresford

01594 822396

anthea@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Anthea has a full-time job and her regular church day off is Saturday. Please phone / email and she will respond as soon as possible)

Readers:

Linda Blagg - 01594 822153

linda@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Richard Blagg - 01594 822153

richard@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Lynne Chaundy - 01594 825997

Chris Witham - 01594 719438

chris@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Churchwardens at St Ethelbert's:

Richard Blagg - 01594 822153

Jim Duffin - 01594 510191

Churchwardens at St John's:

Pat Byett - 01594 823713

Evelyn Smith - 01594 822755

Churchwardens at St Stephen's:

Kim Howard - 01594 827933

Chris Witham - 01594 719438

Urgent Prayer Requests -

Sian Barnsley - 07932 193291

Linda Blagg - 01594 822153

Mike Barnsley - 07903 436009

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Karen Jones - 01594 825902

safeguarding@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding anyone who attends church please contact Karen Jones or Mike Barnsley.)

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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 Sunday 15 March.

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

Palm Sunday

On a beautifully sunny day, Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury, joined



members from churches around the Benefice for a Palm Sunday service.

A small part of the service was conducted in the Triangle followed by a procession with



songs whilst walking. Branches and Palm Crosses were carried as all sought to remember the first Palm Sunday and Jesus' own procession into Jerusalem.



The service continued in St Stephen's, with Bishop Robert presiding over Communion, and was followed by a bring & share lunch, which many people stayed to enjoy together.



Successful Swish!



The evening of Wednesday 21 welcomed the inaugural 'clothes swishing' event at St Stephen's. It was a great success with over 300 items being exchanged as everyone brought items they no longer required from their own wardrobe and swapped them for something else. Plus the added bonus of enjoying tea and cake.



Another event will be organised later in the year.