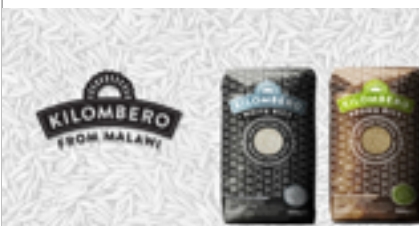




NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

This is a time of year that many of us think about making journeys. Whether that's a journey to a new school over the summer, a journey for work, a journey to visit family or friends, a day trip to the beach or maybe we're fortunate enough to be taking a journey on holiday.

Our Vicar, Mike, has been making an epic journey over the last couple of months as he has ridden his Harley Davidson Trike around the whole mainland coast of Great Britain as part of his sabbatical. I'm sure there will be many Vicar's letters in this magazine about that journey! If you want a sneak preview, you can read his daily blog on our website.

The Bible readings we've had in church recently have featured a lot of journeys and so I've had the opportunity to think about and talk about journeys at several services. I was thinking about one such talk as I drove back from my sister's ordination service in Blackburn Cathedral a few weeks ago. I was listening to the highlights from Glastonbury and was fortunate enough to hear Stormzy's headline set on the Pyramid Stage.

During his set, Stormzy talked about the journey he had made throughout his life to get him to that point. He talked about the people who had helped him along the way and supported him in his journey. He explained that he felt his entire life had led to that moment. Then he said "We're gonna take this to church and we're gonna give God all the glory right now." He then led the whole crowd in singing his hit song 'You saved me' whilst surrounded by a gospel choir on stage. He introduced his hit single 'Blinded by Your Grace' saying "This is what it sounds like when Glastonbury meets God...this is a God tune. This is everything."

'Blinded by Your Grace' details some of the tribulations and success of Stormzy's life and some of the fear he's had along the way. From growing up in London to becoming best Grime Act at the 2014 and 2015 MOBO Awards and being named as an artist to look out for in the BBC's influential Sound of 2015 list, to headlining Glastonbury, Stormzy's journey has been long and adventurous. But stood on that stage, in front of thousands of people and millions of viewers around the world, he thought it was important to talk about God and give him the glory.

You don't have to be a world renowned artist or a church minister to have a faith journey. We all have journeys in faith to take, whether we acknowledge it or not right now. Maybe as we're making journeys over the summer, we could take some time to think about our faith journey and where we're at with God. Are you still to discover God and the hope he has for you? Are you just starting to know God and develop a relationship with him? Have you been on the journey with God for many years and navigated some testing times together? Who has supported us on that journey. Who do we need to support and encourage on their journey?

If you'd like to talk about your faith journey and relationship with God, please feel free to contact myself or another member of our ministry team, details are on the back of this magazine.

Yours in Christ, *Chris*



Sunday Service Times

	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's	Hanover Court
Sun 4 August	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC 3.00 pm ES	
Sun 11 August	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC 3.00 pm Messy Church	3.00 pm HC
Sun 18 August	10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism 3.00 pm HC	
Sun 25 August	10.30 am Baptism	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW	3.00 pm SW
Sun 1 September	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC 3.00 pm ES	

Midweek Service Times

Wed 7 Aug, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Wed 14 Aug, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 Sat 17 Aug, 1.00 pm Wedding at St Stephen's
 Wed 21 Aug, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Wed 28 Aug, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 Wed 4 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

AAW = All Age Worship; HC = Holy Communion; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JHC = Joint Holy Communion; JS = Joint Service; MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; SW = Sunday Worship; URC = Littledean United Reform Church.

Exciting Times at St John's

We have almost completed phase 1 of our re-modelling scheme for St John's Church. The choir vestry has been transformed into a be-spoke kitchenette by Peony Properties. We are at present waiting for the go ahead (faculty) to remove the front two pews either side of the aisle in order to make more user friendly space at the front of the church, open the South door with a permanent disabled access and replacing old radiators for new more efficient ones.



Creating a serving hatch into the kitchen area carefully keeping the character of the wooden panelling and of course de-cobweb and redecorate. This will enable us to use the church for many more social events.



We are really excited - watch this space!

- Eve Smith & Pat Byett -
Churchwardens

Mothers' Union Report

Members met on Tuesday 2 July in St Stephen's when a short service was held followed by usual business matters; then Revd Nina Summerfield talked to us about Dementia. All agreed it was interesting and informative especially the card game played which gave an insight into the problems confronting those with the illness. Refreshments brought the meeting to a close. We meet again on Tuesday 3 September at 2.30 pm in St Stephen's church when we shall hold a 'Members Own'. Please note the following day is the Wave of Prayer but there are no details available as yet. - Nikola Poole

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Our Churches



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 a more relaxed style 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.

Services are also held at Hanover Court at 3.00 pm every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

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.

Jumble Sale

Due to the popularity of the last Jumble Sale another has been organised - Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 August from 10.30 am - 2.30 pm daily at St Stephen's Church (Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford, GL14 2PU). As well as items to rummage through to find your treasure, there will be a raffle and refreshments plus free craft activities for children / young people.

We have already had a very eclectic mix of donations - from unicorns to salt shakers - so everyone should be able to find something! FREE entry and a very warm welcome!

If you have any jumble that you would like to donate, please contact Rachel Witham on 01594 719438 or rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk or drop off at church whenever the building is open.



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Home Communion

If you live in the Benefice and would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Linda Blagg (822153).

From the Registers

Funerals

1 July	Dorothy Leighton	FoD Crem
11 July	Michael Bennet	St Ethelbert's
15 July	Ivy Haile	St Stephen's

Baptisms

6 July	Phoebe Ann Baglin-Robins	St John's
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Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
Forest of Dean
01594 839106

Littledean URC
01452 760271

Cinderford
Methodist Church
01594 825662

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

Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618

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

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel (currently on sabbatical) and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury (especially as he picks up many of Bishop Rachel's duties)
- Mike, our Vicar; as he returns to full time ministry after his sabbatical
- Anthea, our Associate Priest; in her ministry as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- Richard; as he prepares for ordination
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam + Aaron; especially during their time in the UK - visiting churches and spending time with family
- children, young people, their teachers and leaders - especially over the summer holidays
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger

Lectionary

4 August (7th Sunday after Trinity)

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Colossians 3:1-11

Psalms 49:1-9
Luke 12:13-21

11 August (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalms 33:12-21
Luke 12:32-40

18 August (9th Sunday after Trinity)

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

Psalms 82
Luke 12:49-56

25 August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 58:9b-end
Hebrews 12:18-end

Psalms 103:1-8
Luke 13:10-17

1 September (11th Sunday after Trinity)

Proverbs 25:6-7
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Psalms 112
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Craft Fayre

Once again it was great to open St Stephen's doors to local independent crafters and lots of members of our community for the July Craft Fayre. As well as all the fantastic handmade gifts and creations, the cream teas and BBQ proved very

popular. We look forward to the next craft fayre on Saturday 9 November, perfect for local Christmas shopping.



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**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

Jumble Sale at St Stephen's

BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's

Messy Church at St Stephen's

Fellowship Lunch - not on this month - regular attendees are encouraged to support Cindyfest (Sun 25 Aug)

Mothers' Union at St Stephen's

Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 August, 10.30 am - 2.30 pm

Saturday 10 August, 9.00 am - 10.00 am

Sunday 11 August, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Tuesday 3 September, 2.30 pm

Regular and Weekly Activities

Monday: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm Bellringing, St Ethelbert's Church

- 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 (**term time only; not on 1st Tues of month**)

- Craft group where members bring along their own craft and share fellowship

Wednesday: 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting, The Vicarage (**normally every other week: see Sian for dates**)

- Opportunity to pray about individuals, our churches, towns and the world

Friday: 10.00 am - 11.15 am Coffee Morning, St Stephen's Church (**NOT on Friday 2 August as there is a funeral**)

- Chance to meet for fellowship and enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee

6.00 pm - 8.00 pm IF (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (**finished for the summer - restarts September 20**)

- Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities

Messy Church

Messy Church in July explored the question, "Who is God?"

through crafts - including some rather messy outdoor ones, stories, songs and a meal.

Messy Church continues on the second Sunday of each month, with the next lot of fun, excitement and messy crafts being on Sunday 11 August from 3 - 5 pm at St Stephen's Church. All welcome to come along and join in with crafts, activities, songs and a shared meal. Children / young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



5TH & 6TH
AUGUST
10.30AM - 2.30PM

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Fairtrade Focus

Chicken, Apricot & Cashew Rice

Ingredients

350g / 12 oz Kilombero rice*

half tsp ground turmeric#

100 g / 3.5 oz dried apricots*

Zest and juice of 1 orange#

50g / 1.75 oz cashews*

1 tbsp olive oil#

1 red onion, chopped

6 chicken thigh fillets, sliced

15g / 0.5 oz fresh coriander, roughly chopped

(All starred (*) ingredients are Fairtrade products available at the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's; ingredients marked with a hashtag (#) are available as Fairtrade but not from church).

Method

1. Cook the rice according to the instructions on the pack, adding the turmeric to the water. When cooked, drain and set aside to keep warm.
2. Whilst the rice is cooking, soak the apricots in half of the orange juice for 10 minutes. Drain and then set aside.
3. Heat the oil in the same pan and cook the onion over a low heat for 4-5 minutes until soft.
4. Stir in the chicken, raise the heat, and fry for 6-8 minutes until thoroughly cooked.
5. Add the cooked rice along with the apricots and cashews, and stir through. Season to taste.
6. Pour in the remaining orange juice and sprinkle with herbs, and serve.

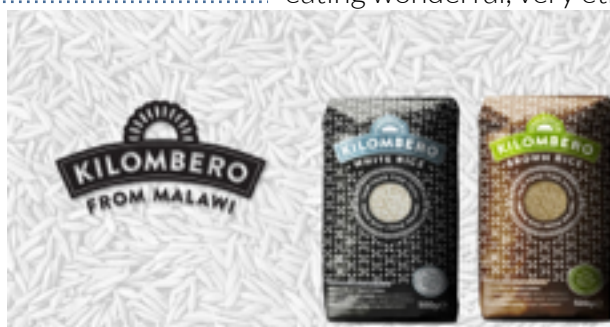
If you prefer, you can use chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley or mint instead of coriander; maybe sprinkle over some Fairtrade ground cinnamon or a drizzle of Fairtrade honey to serve.

Kilombero Rice has recently been ranked the most ethical rice on the market by Ethical Consumer Magazine! This is a huge achievement for the smallholder rice farmers in Northern Malawi. Kilombero rice, grown on single-acre plots, beat out several well known UK brands (37 other brands in total) to win the accolade of the most ethical rice you can buy. It has won Great Taste awards as well – you can enjoy the taste and feel good while eating it!

Readers may remember that we initially bought 90 one kg bags of rice which is the amount a Malawian farmer needs to sell to send a child to school for a year. We sold our initial 90 bags in just over 12 months and are well into the second lot of 90 bags.

A big thank you to all who have supported in this mission of eating wonderful, very ethical rice but also sending children to school.

The UK importers of Kilombero rice are wanting to work with the Malawian farmers even further to change the packaging to something more environmentally friendly. They can only do that with our ongoing support.



Please continue to purchase delicious, easy to cook rice from the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's to support rice farmers in Malawi and help them educate their children – you can always think of something to reuse the plastic packaging for! Even reusing a plastic bag once massively reduces the impact of single use plastic – and remember, the more rice they sell, the quicker they will have the funds to invest in plastic-free packaging!



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St Mary the Virgin, St Briavel's; a Norman church dating back to the 12th century. The tower was built in 1830.



Dates for Your Diaries...

- Cindyfest** - Sun 25 August
- Littledean Carnival** - Sat 31 August
- Heritage Open Days / Ride & Stride** - Sat 14 Sep - St Stephen's & St Eth's; Sun 15 Sep - St Eth's
- Benefice Pilgrimage** - Sat 12 October
- SHINE** - Fri 18 October & Sat 19 October, St Stephen's
- Craft Fayre** - Sat 9 Nov, 10 am - 2 pm, St Stephen's
- Christmas Tree Festival** - Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, St Stephen's

Who's on the Trike?

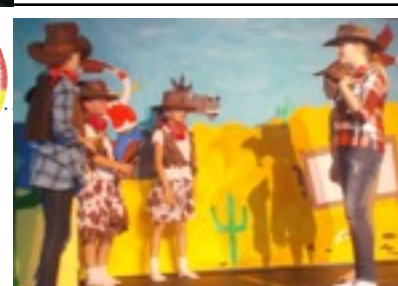


Rev Joe Knight
Curate
Newnham with Awre & Blakeney

Littledean Church of England Primary School



Ye-Ha! The children in the juniors have put on another fabulous end of year production. This time it was the western themed Ye-Ha! The children performed brilliantly and we are very proud of all of them.



Leavers It is that time of year where we say goodbye to our Year 6 children and wish them well on their move to secondary school. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Engel, Mrs Lyons and Mrs Bayliss - we would like to thank them for all of their hard work and wish them well next academic year.



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Contact Us

Vicar: Mike Barnsley

01594 822286 / 07903 436009

mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Mike returns from sabbatical on Thursday 1 August and his regular day off is a Monday.)

Associate Priest: 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:

Jim Duffin - 01594 510191

Sharron Hill - 01594 368054

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

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Andy Cole - 01594 822303

safeguarding@cinderford-churches.org.uk

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

Visit the Benefice Website:

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Or join us on Facebook:

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Or follow us on Twitter:

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Or find us on Instagram:

www.instagram.com/cinderfordchurches/

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 12 August.

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

St Ethelbert's Fayre

St Ethelbert's Summer Fete, held on 29 June, was blessed by probably the hottest



day of the year and so we did a Starship Enterprise and "boldly went" – outside of the Church! Well, at least for a couple of the stalls!



Overall, the footfall numbers were down, as they were last year, probably as a result of the hot weather after such a miserable wet spell which encouraged folk to go further away – but the reality was that we raised, to the pennies, exactly the same as last year – so well done everyone for their efforts and to all those people who supported us, including the support teams with the assembly of all the infrastructure which is needed and also those who were unable to attend but nevertheless gave us donations – thank you! We have been waiting for a kitchen for so long but the time may well be upon us!

One lovely feature this year was the team of Emma, William and George



'Books and Bands'

at St Stephen's Church
(Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AA)



Sponsored by the Forest Musical Landscape Project,
part of Foresters' Forest

Saturday 14 September

Exhibition about Leonard Clark, his books along with Pillowell Band and their 130th Anniversary PLUS an opportunity to read the contemporary writing of local young people.

10 am - 4 pm

**Pillowell Brass Band and the story
'Bands' read by Maggie Clutterbuck**

Performance starts at 2.00 pm

Leonard Clark was a chorister at St Stephen's church and wrote about the choir and local band in his memoir "A Fool in the Forest". "Bands" will be read by celebrated poet and author Maggie Clutterbuck, interspersed with musical pieces from Pillowell Band.



from Littledean School who were raising funds for the school's chosen charity, which provides water to those areas of the world where it is such a precious commodity – they made a wonderful sum of £29 towards their charity and we wish them continuing success and I do hope that the school will be able to join us in further activities. All in all, a worthwhile day of heat and effort and friendship in God's name.