



Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

I love watching films and there are quite a few that I enjoy watching again and again, but there are not too many films that you can watch, and enjoy, more than once.

I have watched a couple of films recently that I think will be worth watching again and again. One of them I have already seen a second time, and the other, I'm sure, I will have watched again by the time you read this. Both films are fiction, but both are set in Biblical times and cover Biblical themes. The films are 'The Young Messiah' and 'Risen'. I hadn't heard about them from anyone who had seen them before I watched them, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I think I was expecting to not like them because of concerns about their accuracy. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed them both, and how much they made me think about the situations they covered. We know very little about Jesus' childhood and not much more about the actions of the Romans after the resurrection. These films try to tell these stories.

The Young Messiah tells the story of a seven year old Jesus and his extended family starting in Egypt and following them as they journey to Nazareth and then to Jerusalem for the Passover. We have flashbacks to scenes in Bethlehem, but most of the story is speculative and somewhat unlikely. It is an easy film to criticise, but some of the scenes of the young Jesus reacting to what is happening around him and, more particularly, talking to his family and trying to understand his own identity are simply captivating. A scene where Mary is telling Jesus about her visit from Gabriel is incredibly moving. Fiction, yes, but very, very thoughtful and thought provoking. Highly recommended. (The Young Messiah is a PG-13 with a few difficult scenes, but nothing out of place with a story set in Roman occupied Israel.)

Risen begins with the crucifixion seen from the Roman perspective of making sure everything was 'done properly'. The story continues with a Roman quest, driven by a worried Pilate and desperate Sanhedrin, to find the body of Jesus and disprove claims of a resurrection. Again, an easy film to criticise on grounds of lack of historical evidence or likelihood, but it contains some really interesting insights into what the early Roman and Jewish reactions to Jesus' resurrection might have been like as well as some opportunities for us as viewers to encounter the risen Jesus. Well worth a watch. (Again, a PG-13 with a few fairly graphic scenes.)

If you have seen either of these films, please let me know what you think of them. If you are interested in watching them, or watching them again if you have seen them, please let me know.

God Bless, *Mike*



Sunday Service Times

	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 5 Feb	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am AAW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES 4.30 pm Baptism
Sun 12 Feb	3.00 CBE	10.30 am Baptism	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 7.00 pm Healing Service
Sun 19 Feb		10.30 am JS	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC 3.00 pm CBE
Sun 26 Feb	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am AAW
Sun 5 Mar	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am AAW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

* **All Bilson services are currently taking place in the School Room (next door to the Chapel).**

AAW = All Age Worship; CBE = Communion by Extension; CTiC = Churches Together in Cinderford; EP = Evening Prayer; ES = Evensong; FS = Family Service; HC = Holy Communion; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JS = Joint Service; MP = Morning Prayer; MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; RS = Remembrance Service; WILD = Youth Group (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

Wed 1 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Shalom at St Stephen's
Wed 8 Feb, 10.00 am CBE at St Michael's
Wed 15 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Shalom at St Stephen's
Wed 22 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St Michael's
Wed 1 March, 10.00 am **Ash Wednesday** HC
at St Ethelbert's
7.30 pm **Ash Wednesday** HC at St John's
7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday 3 March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3 March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as 'Yolanda' – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. The Cinderford and Littledean service this year will be held on Friday 3 March, 11.00 am at Cinderford Baptist Church (Commercial Street) and will be followed by lunch. All welcome.

News & Views

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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 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
Place of Worship 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 3.00 pm.



Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
Forest of Dean
01594 839106

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

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07975 994224
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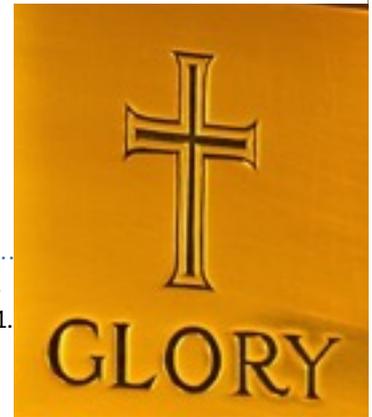
Cinderford
Methodist Church
01594 825662

Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618

Littledean URC
01452 760271

**I'm in a
Benefice
church,
but
where?**

Answers can be found on page 11.



**Seen walking
around the
Benefice, but
where?**

Answers can be found on page 11.

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From the Registers

Baptisms

14 January Esmeé-Rose Gant St John's
22 January Harper Elizabeth Walding St John's

Confirmations

22 January Thomas Howard
St Mary Magdalen, Oxford

Funerals

10 January Sydney-May Burge St Stephen's
12 January Sheila Moore St Stephen's
16 January Kathleen Hopkins Yew Tree Brake
31 January Kitty Pritchard
Gloucester Crematorium

Easter Lilies

If anyone wishes to donate towards the cost of the Easter Lilies around the Benefice: at St Stephen's please contact Rachel Witham (719438) and at St John's please contact Eve Smith (822755).

If the donation is in memory of a loved one, please let Rachel / Eve know.

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Children's Society

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated to our annual collection for the Children's Society.

The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local projects, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn. They also campaign for changes to laws affecting children and young people, to stop the mistakes of the past being repeated in the future.

We raised £77.68 carol singing around Littledean with the Salvation Army Band in early December. The Children's Society boxes amounted to £351.89 and further cheque donations totalled £320.

I have forwarded a cheque for £749.57 to The Children's Society. Well done to everyone.

If anyone would like a box please contact me, Ann Ladd (822735).

Editor's note: Money donated at the St Stephen's and St John's Christingle services was also donated to the Children's Society (totalling: £153.99) along with £62.58 raised by a small group of carol singers from St Stephen's.



Lent book

Our recommended Lent book for 2017 is 'Reflecting the Glory' by Tom Wright. The book contains daily Bible Readings and reflections for Lent and Easter week. The style is similar to the Tom Wright books we have used over Lent for the last three years which have proved so popular.

Lent is a good time to commit to read something a little different and Tom Wright's reflections are very interesting without being too complicated. I am sure you will be inspired and challenged and there is something special about so many of us reading through the same book at the same time.

We have several copies available at £6.50. The recommended retail price is £8.99 and that is currently the price at Amazon, so £6.50 is a really good price. Please contact Mike to reserve your copy at this price.

Pilgrim Course

We have run the Pilgrim course through Lent over the last two years. This year we continue with the third part of the Pilgrim Course as our Lent Course. We will be meeting at St Stephen's, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. (Tea and Coffee available from 7.15pm) The course starts on Thursday 2 March (the day after Ash Wednesday) and will run each Thursday through until 6 April. You don't need to attend all of the sessions, so don't worry if you can only make one or two evenings.

The third book takes us through The Commandments. You don't need a book to take part, but if you would like one, please let Mike know asap. They are £5.00 each.

Hope to see you there. All welcome. Any questions please contact Mike.

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- those who have recently been baptised, their parents and Godparents
- Tom, confirmed on 22 January
- Mike; in his ministry around the Benefice
- Anthea; in her ministry as deacon
- 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
- Cinderford Street Pastors
- children, young people and their leaders
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- all affected by the crises in the Middle East and North Africa, including all displaced persons
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger
- the work of GARAS here in Gloucestershire

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Activity and Event Times

Mothers' Union at St Stephen's	Tuesday 7 February, 2.00 pm
people@prayer at The Vicarage	Wednesday 8 February, 7.00 pm - 7.45 pm
BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's	Saturday 18 February, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
Film Night at St Stephen's	Wednesday 22 February, 7.00 pm
Big Brew and BakeOff at St Stephen's	Saturday 25 February, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's	Sunday 26 February, 12.30 pm
Pancakes at St Stephen's	Tuesday 28 February, 6.00 pm
St John's Pancakes at 52 St White's Rd	Tuesday 28 February, 7.00 pm
Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's	Thursday 2 March, 7.30 pm
Mothers' Union at St Stephen's	Tuesday 7 March, 2.00 pm

Weekly Activities

- Monday: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm Bellinging**, 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 (**meets during term time, not on first Tuesday of the month**)
- 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
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm IF (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (**meets during term time; restart January 6**)
- Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities

Mothers' Union Report

The first meeting of 2017 will be the Annual General Meeting, to be held in St Stephen's Church on Tuesday 7 February at 2.00 pm. Normally, officers stand down and then a new committee is elected at the meeting, with many members offering to stand again. All are very welcome to come along and find out a bit more about Mothers' Union. Our March meeting will be on Tuesday 7 March, also at 2.00 pm.

A number of members recently attended the funeral of Sheila Moore, our late branch leader, and formed a 'guard of honour'.

Her sister Barbara was given a basket of flowers in blue and white, in memory of Sheila.

Pancake Parties on Shrove Tuesday

St Stephen's will hold a pancake party on Tuesday 28 February from 6.00 pm, there will be a variety of sweet and savoury fillings; including Kim trying her hand at Sheila's legendary Butterscotch sauce.

St John's Pancake Party will be held at Eve's House (52 St White's Road) from 7.00 pm.

All very welcome to either (or both!) parties.

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Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child was started here in the UK over 25 years ago with the aim to provide gifts to children overseas. The boxes are now sent to children in a variety of countries worldwide. Each box is wrapped and then filled with toiletries, stationery, small games, teddies and toys. Last year, the benefice sent over 100 boxes, packed at packing parties in November and we'd love to aim for 100 again this year. As last year, we will be collecting one item, or type of items per month.

February's item(s) are 'something to wear'. As you can't put clothing in the boxes (as it starts to become aid instead of a gift), items that we will be collecting are hats, gloves and scarves. All can be woolly (often on offer at this time of year!) or thinner items / baseball caps for warmer weather. Please bear in mind the boxes are packed as 2-4 years, 5- 9 years and 10 - 14 years so a range of sizes from 2 upwards are needed. Hand knitted items are very welcome!

In January, we focused on bars of individually wrapped soap and flannels. (The soap needs to be individually wrapped for hygiene reasons and for the box to pass customs regulations). We are still in need of both of these, so please do bring them along to a service or drop them off at St Stephen's at any activity or event.

If you find anything through the year that you feel would be useful for shoeboxes, please don't hesitate to bring it in (even if it's the 'wrong' month - all contributions are very much welcome!). If you aren't sure if something is suitable, please just ask (Rachel - 719438). There is a list on our Benefice website.

It would be wonderful if someone would come forward to coordinate this year's

campaign. Please contact Rachel (719438) if you think this could be you!

Mike's Challenge:

My challenge this month is to order and commit to read our recommended Lent book for 2017, "Reflecting the Glory" (Bible Readings and Reflections for Lent and Easter) by Tom Wright.

Mike's Question:

Without looking them up, can you say which gospels contain the account of Jesus' being tempted three times in the wilderness?

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

Answers to last month's ?'s:

The following accounts appear in the gospels listed after each as follows: The naming of Jesus (Luke), the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke), the wise men (Matthew), the escape to Egypt (Matthew), the massacre of the infants in Bethlehem (Matthew), the return from Egypt (Matthew).

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Getting to Know You ... with Kim Howard



Favourite ice-cream flavour?

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Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite film? Where Eagles Dare or Love Actually.

Favourite actor/actress?

Harrison Ford / Meryl Streep.

Favourite food & drink?

Christmas Dinner and wine.

Favourite book? Harry Potter series.

Favourite season? They all have their own beauty.

Favourite flower or tree? Sweet Williams and Oak.

Favourite TV programme? Spooks.

If you could be any animal, what would you be and why? Cat, because they always seem to have a pampered life.

What would be your ideal holiday? Rockies in Canada.

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

Favourite hymn or church song? Lord of All Hopefulness.

What is your earliest memory? My dad hitting a rubber snake with a brush because he thought it was real.

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

Which living person do you most admire? Bill Gates.

Where would you most like to be right now? By the sea.

Favourite place to eat out? Tudor Farmhouse.

Favourite place to go shopping? Westfield Shopping Centre, London.

What was your best holiday? Amalfi Coast.

When were you happiest? When Thomas was born.

Favourite Church building? Durham Cathedral.

Favourite item of clothing? I'm a jeans girl.

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

Most treasured possession? Family photo albums.

What do you owe your parents? Teaching me to be grateful.

What would your superpower be? Invisibility.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? I quite like Kim.

What keeps you awake at night? List in my head of things to do.

Favourite family memory? Picnic at Blakeney Straits.

Favourite building? Chatsworth House.

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? Dave Allen, Alan Rickman, Bill Gates & The Queen.

First Job? Citizen paper round.

Best job you have ever had? Teaching assistant.

First Job? Sub Assemblies at Xerox.

If you could go back in time, where would you go and why? Ancient Egypt, to see its splendour.

Most embarrassing moment? Getting my foot stuck in a lampshade in a lighting shop.

News & Views

Lectionary

5 February (4th Sunday before Lent)

Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20

12 February (3rd Sunday before Lent)

Deuteronomy 30:15-end Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

19 February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 Psalm 135:1-9, 23-end
Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-end

26 February (Sunday next before Lent)

Exodus 24:12-end Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9

1 March (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-18
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

5 March (1st Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

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Cinderford Churches

Littledean Church of England Primary School

English Lessons In Miss White's English group we have been creating new species of animal – made up of body parts from different animals. Derin created a 'Stinger Shark' made up of a lion, shark, stingray and tiger. Mya's animal is made up of an elephant, monkey body and dinosaur legs, arms and neck. Lilly



created an 'Enchantroas' made of a dragon's head and wings, T-Rex tail, fox body and dog legs.

When we have finished researching the different animal features we will be writing non-chronological reports about them.



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Craft Fayre - Sat 25 March - 10 am - 1 pm

The first St Stephen's Craft Fayre of 2017 will be on Saturday 25 March from 10 am - 1 pm. The church will once again be packed with an array of stalls showcasing the amazing talents of local artisans; plus some Fairtrade stalls from international crafters! There will also be light lunches and delicious cakes to enjoy along with craft activities for children and young people.

Tables are £5, if you would like to book please contact Rachel Witham (719438 / mrswitham@gmail.com). Handcrafted / handmade items only please.

Talent Show and Film Night

The Talent Show is no longer happening on Friday 3 February, it will instead be a normal "IF" group.

On Wednesday 22 February, there will be a Film Night at St Stephen's starting at 7.00 pm. The film will be free to attend and refreshments will be available.

Epiphany at St Ethelbert's

Three rather marvellous kings joined in with the service at St Eth's!



Fairtrade Focus

Apple & Sultana Pancakes

Ingredients

- 1 apple
- 4 tbsps sultanas*
- 200g self raising flour (*use plain if you prefer non-fluffy pancakes*)
- 120g sugar (raw cane*, caster* or granulated*)
- 2 medium eggs, beaten
- 125 ml milk (or milk alternative)
- 1-2 tbsps honey*
- oil for frying (Zaytoun's olive oil is Fairtrade!)

(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).

Method

1. Peel and chop the apple into small chunks.
2. Sift flour into a bowl and add the sugar.
3. Make a well in the flour / sugar mixture and add the beaten eggs. Whisk together (will be a little lumpy).
4. Add the milk a little at a time and keep whisking, you don't want it too liquid at this point.
5. Add the sultanas and apple and honey to taste. Add extra splashes of milk if too thick.
6. Prepare a frying pan with some oil and warm to a medium heat.
7. Use a ladle to spoon the mixture into the pan. Cook for 2-4 minutes on each side (when bubbles appear, it's time to flip over!)
8. Serve as is or add a little more honey and some cinnamon!

These make excellent and easy snacks for a "Fairtrade break" if frozen and defrosted when needed (defrost in fridge or quickly in a microwave or frying pan)!

Did you know?? Sultanas and raisins are produced from the same three grape varieties at Eksteenskuil Agriculture Co-operative; the grapes are just processed differently to alter their colour and taste.

Traidcraft's Orange River Sultanas are supplied by Eksteenskuil Agriculture Co-operative (EAC) in South Africa, who were Fairtrade certified in 2003, but have been working with Traidcraft since 1995.

EAC is based in the Orange River area of South Africa, near the Kalahari Desert. The area's hot climate and soil type is suitable for growing cotton, maize and vegetables. The co-operative is made up of around 70 members, who are all small-scale raisin producers farming a total area of around 367 hectares, with around 60% of them owning less than 5 hectares of arable land each. The farmers are scattered across 21 islands with poor infrastructure (some farms still lack electricity and piped water). Three varieties of grapes



are grown which are then dried to be used as ingredients in a variety of products; including Traidcraft's raisins, sultanas, mixed fruit, chocolate and yoghurt raisins, along with their GeoBar's, muesli, cookies, cakes and Christmas puddings!



Under the apartheid regime, 85% of agricultural land was owned by the minority white farmers with the workforce largely made up of oppressed and uneducated workers. This exclusion from land ownership precluded the development of a smallholder agriculture sector which plays an important economic and social role in most developing countries. Today, progress has been made but smallholders remain marginalised in the agricultural sector, lacking the resources of land and capital to compete on quality and productivity with commercial farms.

Most of EAC members' produce is now exported on Fairtrade terms. Being part of Fairtrade has allowed this group of farmers to join together into a strong group and to develop the necessary skills and leadership to export directly to the UK Fairtrade market via Traidcraft and receive higher prices and long-term trading relationships.

Fairtrade has also provided the impetus for the co-operative to become more democratic and transparent in its operations. The Board is democratically elected and the representatives include women. Traidcraft has provided the organisation with technical support and training to help improve its business capacity and support members to meet Fairtrade Standards.

Fairtrade premiums have been used on a variety of things, including a pool of tools and equipment that members can hire for the day (including ploughs, grass cutters, pumps, building tools and tractors); building two community water pumps that filter and supply water from the canals to the communities so they no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water along with smaller projects such as giving every child a school bag and providing support to members helping to cover the costs of funerals.

Don van Wyk, the principal of George Island Primary School said (of the schoolbags), "it is like manna from heaven. I can tell you the parents will be overwhelmed. Our people are so poor in this area, these things are luxuries in their eyes. People will be talking about this for weeks and months."



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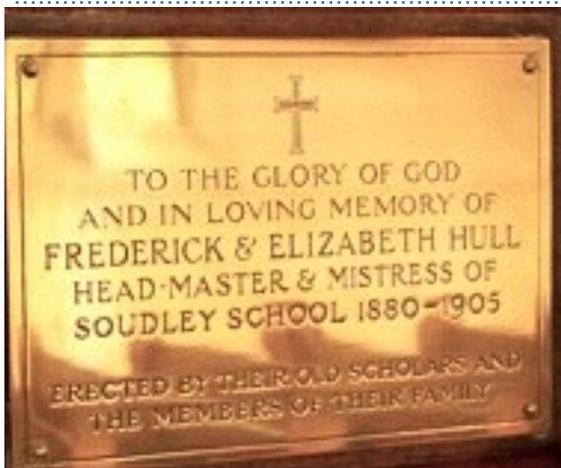
Website: sprigsgardening.net

Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Path around Soudley Ponds.

I'm in a Benefice church, but where?



Plaque at St Michael's, Soudley. In memory of Frederick & Elizabeth Hull,

Headmaster & Mistress of Soudley School, 1880 - 1905.

Who's on the Trike?



Philip Averay

Curate

Drybrook, Ruardean and Lydbrook

Dates for Your Diaries...

- 27 February - 12 March - **Fairtrade Fortnight**
- Thursday 2 March - 7.30 pm - **Pilgrim Course starts** at St Stephen's
(also meeting on Thursday 9, 16, 23 and 30 March)
- Saturday 25 March - 10.00 am - 1.00 pm - **Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's
- Sunday 26 March - **Mothering Sunday**
- Tuesday 28 March - 7.00 pm - **Ladies' Curry Meal** at The Curry Leaf
- Sunday 9 April - **Palm Sunday**
- Thursday 13 April - **Maundy Thursday Meal & Holy Communion** at St Stephen's
- Friday 14 April - **Good Friday**
- Sunday 16 April - **Easter Sunday**
- Sunday 23 April - 11.00 pm - **St John's APCM**
- Sunday 23 April - 12.30 pm - **St Stephen's APCM**
- Tuesday 25 April - 7.30 pm - **St Ethelbert's APCM**



All our meat is locally sourced

- We personally check that all of the meat we sell has been ethically treated and reared
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- Helpful and friendly advice

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www.cameronsqualitybutchers.com

Contact Us

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mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Mike's regular day off is Monday, if you need to speak to someone urgently, please contact a churchwarden)

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(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)

Churchwarden at St Ethelbert's:

Peter Meredith - 01594 822445

Churchwardens at St John's:

Evelyn Smith - 01594 822755

Chris Taylor - 01594 824197

Churchwardens at St Stephen's:

Nick Jones - 01594 825902

Chris Witham - 01594 719438

Urgent Prayer Requests –

Sian Barnsley - 07932 193291

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.)

Visit the Benefice Website:

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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

Wednesday 15 February.

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

Big Brew - Saturday 25 Feb - 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 takes place from Monday 27 February to Sunday 12 March and Fairtrade and the difference it makes to people worldwide will be celebrated around the Benefice at various events and services. This year's theme is "It's Time to Put Fairtrade in Your Break."

The Big Brew will be the first of these and is slightly before Fairtrade Fortnight officially begins, but that means it's also before Lent, so plenty of chances to eat cakes! The event will be raising funds for Traidcraft Exchange's "Let it Grow" campaign. There will be light lunches, three (!) Fairtrade stalls with a huge range of awesome Fairtrade products, Traidcraft's new catalogue to browse, cakes to (buy and) eat, products to sample, craft activities for young people (and young at heart) along with videos and lots of information about where Fairtrade products come from and the difference Fairtrade makes to real people's lives!

There will also be the annual Fairtrade BakeOff and this year the three categories are: "12 of the Same," "Let it Grow" and "Freestyle." "12 of the Same" needs to be 12 baked goods that are as similar as possible (think Paul Hollywood and a ruler!); "Let it Grow" is the campaign that we will be raising money for, focussing on providing assistance to smallholder farmers around the world, your cake could celebrate smallholder farms, include a Fairtrade 'plant' ingredient, or indeed be baked in a plant pot! "Freestyle" can literally be anything that your imagination can come up with (in baked form!) so pick up any of the ideas that Fairtrade Fortnight is focussing on this year (Fairtrade breaks) or find a new Fairtrade ingredient and base your cake around that or simply celebrate all things Fairtrade!

As the idea behind the BakeOff is to showcase the huge variety of Fairtrade ingredients that are available (many of which are available from the stall at St Stephen's), judging will be based on how many Fairtrade ingredients are included alongside taste and overall creativity. Prizes will be awarded in all categories for both adults and children/young people. Judging will take place at 11.00 am so please have your entries to St Stephen's in good time. After the judging the cakes will be sold and the money raised will be added to the total for the event and sent to the "Let it Grow" Appeal.

Keswick Convention

Once again I'm looking forward to going to the Keswick Convention with a group from around the Benefice from Sat 22 July to Sat 29 July (convention week 2). If you are interested in finding out more or joining us, then please speak to myself (719438) or Mike (822286). The conference is free to attend, but donations can be made towards the running costs.

Last year, most of us attending from the Benefice stayed at a lovely site with a mix of caravans and holiday cottages called Low Briery. This is a short picturesque walk from Keswick itself. There is lots of other varied accommodation around Keswick to choose from too. If you enjoy camping, you may like to talk to the Jones family about Springs Camp close to the convention site. Don't worry if you don't have your own transport to get to the Lake District as there is likely to be a lift available.

I always enjoy visiting the convention and find a week in the Lakes very relaxing. The convention has lots of talks and worship sessions to attend but you can also choose to just enjoy Keswick and the surrounding area too. You can choose to do as much or as little as you like and there is something for everyone. As the convention is spread across venues in Keswick town centre, it is much less formal than similar conferences and there aren't many sessions in the afternoons so there's still plenty of time for trips out or shopping if you don't want to miss anything.

It'd be great to have you join us. - Chris Witham

For more info see: <http://keswickministries.org> and <http://lowbriery.co.uk>

