



NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

I'm guessing that many of you will recognise the lyrics 'When I get older losing my hair, many years from now, will you still be sending me a valentine, birthday greetings bottle of wine?' They are, of course, from the Beatles' 'When I'm Sixty-Four'. The song was written by Paul McCartney (but credited to Lennon and McCartney), and is generally understood to be one of his earliest compositions. It wasn't recorded until 1966, the year in which his father turned sixty-four, and there is some debate about whether the song as we know it now, was actually written at that time based on an earlier tune and lyric. The song is sung by a young man to his partner and explores how their relationship will last as the years go by, specifically how things will be when he reaches sixty-four.

I'm not concerned about ageing, as per the singer of the song. The lyric above says 'When I get older losing my hair, many years from now'. Sadly, 'losing my hair' is not an issue for me to contemplate 'many years from now'. That ship has sailed. Also, I turned sixty last year, so don't view sixty-four as some far off concept that I find difficult to understand or imagine. I can't say that any of this particularly bothers me. I've never been concerned about growing older and don't feel much older than when I was in my teens. (At least not in my head. My body might have other views!) The song came to mind when I was thinking about this letter, because of the reference to sending 'valentines'.

It's interesting that this year Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday. It seems an opportunity to consider what we mean by 'love'. We tend to think of love as being to do with romantic relationships, of people being 'in love', and the word love describing our feelings or emotions. But Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent, perhaps challenges us to think of love in a different way, or to think of a different sort of love. Lent reminds us of Jesus' time in the wilderness where he was tempted to take easy paths to popularity and power. Jesus rejected these options because he knew that the only way he could achieve what he came for, was through the cross.

His purposes were fulfilled because of his love for us. Not feelings or emotions. Not nice words on a card. Not based on something 'attractive' about us. Jesus loved us, loves us, despite who we are. His love is a decision, a commitment, costly, sacrificial, with nothing expected in return.

As you celebrate love on Valentine's Day this year, remember Ash Wednesday, remember Lent, remember Jesus' sacrificial love for us that gives us the opportunity to have a right relationship with God, now and on into eternity.

God bless,

Mike



	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 4 Feb		10.30 am MW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD
Sun 11 Feb	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm Messy Church 7.00 pm Healing Service
Sun 18 Feb		10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm HC
Sun 25 Feb	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW
Sun 4 March		10.30 am MW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD

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

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

Midweek Service Times

Sat 3 Feb, 12.00 noon Wedding at St Stephen's

Wed 7 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wed 14 Feb, 10.00 am **Ash Wednesday HC** at St John's

7.30 pm **Ash Wednesday HC** at St Eth's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wed 21 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wed 28 Feb, 10.00 am HC at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wed 7 March, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

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Clothes Swishing (Swap) Evening

On Wednesday 21 March, at St Stephen's Church a clothes swap or 'swish' will take place. Clothes can be dropped off from 6.00 pm and the swish will start at 7.30 pm.

The general idea is to reduce the amount of textiles going to landfill. Last year it was estimated that Britons would get rid of 680 million pieces of clothing as they spring-clean their wardrobes with a staggering 235 million of those items heading straight to landfill!

Swishing helps swap clothes you may have bought in error or that you have loved, but just don't want to wear any more for something that you will wear more.

The idea is that everyone has fun spending time together and also reduces the contents of their wardrobe that they aren't wearing in an environmentally friendly way and as a bonus everyone goes home with something they will enjoy adding to their wardrobe.

If you would like to join in, start looking through your wardrobe for clean, dry, good quality clothing to bring along to the swap.

The evening will start with the drop off, where tickets will be given in exchange for clothes. There will be some time for socialising and enjoying refreshments whilst clothes are organised, then the swish will be opened and clothes can be "purchased" with your tickets.

Designer items in good condition will be worth more tickets on the night.

If you have any questions about the event, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel on rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438. More information will be available on our Facebook event page, website and in next month's "News & Views".

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 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

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

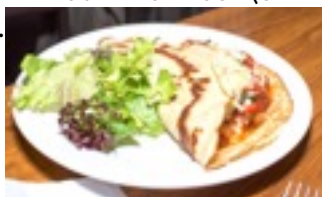


Pancake Parties

St Stephen's will hold a pancake party on Tuesday 13 February from 6.00 pm, there will be a variety of sweet and savoury fillings for everyone to enjoy.

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.



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).

From the Registers

Funerals

5 January	Margaret Bluett	St Stephen's
12 January	Vanessa Harries	FoD Crem
17 January	Dorothy White	St Stephen's
25 January	Morris Jones	FoD Crem

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



"Roads made at the expense of the crown 1897" - there are 3 in Cinderford. One in the High St that we have previously published, but where is this one?



Answers can be found on page 11.

Answers can be found on page 11.

Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
Forest of Dean
01594 839106

Littledean URC
01452 760271

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

Cinderford
Methodist Church
01594 825662

Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618
Forest of Dean
Community Church
07975 994224
www.fodcc.org

Ground clearance at St Stephen's

Our quinquennial inspection is due in November and there are a number of maintenance tasks we need to complete before then. One is to finish removing a number of trees down the side of the church so that

sun light can reach the stonework. This is important so that the stonework has a chance to dry out and not remain constantly wet which allows water to cause damage.

We also hope that allowing more sunlight in to church will help warm the building too. Ground clearance will take place on Saturday 10 February from 10am. All help gratefully received.

- Chris Witham & Kim Howard, churchwardens

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Filming at St Stephen's

During December, a group of students studying Television Production at the University of Gloucestershire

visited St Stephen's with actors and film equipment to film several scenes for a short film they were producing for their coursework.

It was wonderful to be able to see church used in a very different way to support students from the Forest.



Emily and Libby have kindly sent us some photographs of them and their team on the day.



Mothers' Union Report

The first meeting of 2018 will be The Branch Annual Meeting on Tuesday 6 February at St Stephen's Church at 2.30 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.

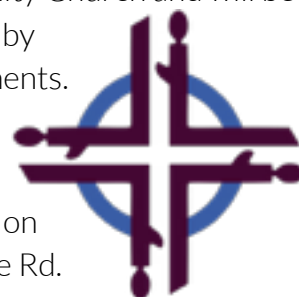
- Nikola Poole

Women's World Day of Prayer

A note for your diary: Women's World Day of Prayer is Friday 2 March.

This year's service has been prepared by women in Suriname. And the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good". The service in Cinderford will take place at 3.00 pm at the Community Church and will be followed by refreshments.

There is parking available on Parragate Rd.



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Ash Wednesday, Pilgrim Course, Lent Books and more...

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 14 February and services of Holy Communion and imposition of ashes will take place at St John's at 10.00 am and St Ethelbert's at 7.30 pm.

Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of Lent, generally a time of reflection within the church year. During Lent, our regular home groups often choose not to meet and rather come together for a Pilgrim course.

This year's Pilgrim Course will seek to answer the question "What is the Christian vision for the world?" Anyone is welcome to join the course and you do not need to attend all sessions. The course begins on Thursday 15 February and will run weekly throughout Lent at St Stephen's Church starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm.

Our recommended Lent book for 2018 is 'Live Lent: Let Your Light Shine' which has been written by John Kiddle and The Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The book has a short Bible reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and an idea for a simple action that will enable the light of Jesus to shine through your life. Books are available to purchase from Mike for £3 each.

You can also follow the daily reflections online through Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or by texting "Lent" to 88802.

Introduction by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York:

The gospel is God's rescue mission to bring us from darkness to light. This is the work of Jesus, the light of the world.

But Jesus is not the only one called the light of the world by this title. He himself turns to his followers and says, 'You are the light of the world... so let your light shine.'

To witness is to let your light shine. A light shines simply by virtue of being a light. A follower of Jesus witnesses simply by virtue of being a Christian. We have been brought into his light, now he appoints us to bring his light to others. This is what witness is.

These Lent reflections take you on a journey through the Gospel of John and give you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life.

In the middle of John's Gospel is a verse that goes to the heart of it: *Jesus said, 'I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly'*

It is our prayer that this booklet helps and encourages you as you take hold of God's gift of life and live it – to the full. God offers us this life for the sake of others. The light he gives us in Jesus Christ is not to be hidden but to shine – it's a gift to be lived and shared. Indeed, the more we share it and let it shine, the brighter it burns.

Archbishop Justin Welby &
Archbishop John Sentamu

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
- 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
- Cinderford Street Pastors
- children, young people and their leaders
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- all caught up in natural disasters around the world
- all aid workers working to assist in rescue and rebuilding
- Victoria Jean-Louis and all who work for Christian Aid in Haiti and 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 as we enter into the season of Lent and reflection, especially those worshipping in places of conflict

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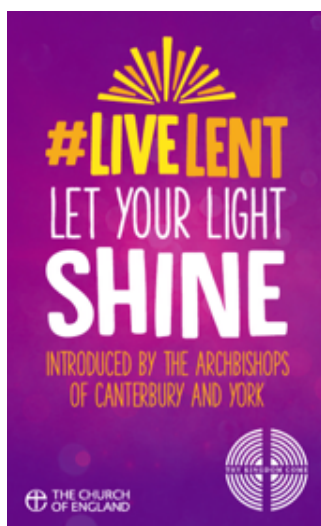
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Mothers' Union at St Stephen's
BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's
Ground Clearance at St Stephen's
Messy Church at St Stephen's
Pancake Party at St Stephen's
Pancake Party (St John's) at 52 St White's Road
Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's
Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's
Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's
Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's
Big Brew & BakeOff at St Stephen's
Mothers' Union at St Stephen's

Tuesday 6 February, 2.30 pm
 Saturday 10 February, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
 Saturday 10 February 10.15 am onwards
 Sunday 11 February, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
 Tuesday 13 February, 6.00 pm
 Tuesday 13 February, 7.00 pm
 Thursday 15 February, 7.30 pm (and weekly)
 Thursday 22 February, 7.30 pm
 Sunday 25 February, 12.30 pm
 Thursday 1 March, 7.30 pm
 Saturday 3 March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
 Tuesday 6 March, 2.30 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: 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; not on February 16)**
 - Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities



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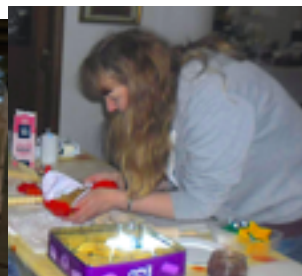
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Messy Church

St Stephen's hosted it's first Messy Church on Sunday 14 January, where everyone who attended enjoyed a variety of crafts and activities around the theme of the visit of the three kings.

In February, the theme will be Love with lots of food, crafts, activities and fun for families to join in together.

Come along on Sunday 11 February between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm to join in the fun. All children and young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Christian Aid Evening - Monday 26 Feb

On Monday 26 February from 7.00 pm till 8.30 pm at St Stephen's Church, Victoria Jean-Louis is coming to talk about her work as Christian Aid's Senior Project Officer in Haiti.

This year's Christian Aid campaign will focus largely on Haiti and the response that people have had to make after several hurricanes affecting the region.

Victoria will be talking about her experiences working in Haiti in response to these natural disasters but also the difference our donations can make to help build houses that weather the storms.

All welcome, refreshments available.

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.

News & Views

Mike's Question:

What is the Septuagint? Where does the name come from? Answers will be in next month's "News & Views" but please do discuss with Mike in the meantime!

Mike's Challenge:

Buy and read this year's Lent book (see page 5) or sign up to follow the reflections online.

Answers to last month's question:

It's about 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

It's about 7 miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

Bishop Robert visiting the Forest

Bishop Robert will be visiting various churches around the Forest during Lent including celebrating Palm Sunday here in the Benefice, joining the procession from the Triangle to St Stephen's and then presiding at the Eucharist.

He will also be leading some teaching sessions during Lent, each session is independent and anyone is welcome. If you would like more details, please speak to Mike (the Vicar).

Sun 18 February, Holy Trinity, Primrose Hill, 4.00 pm
(Topic: Palm Sunday & Maundy Thursday)

Sun 11 March, Christchurch, 4.00 pm (Topic: Good Friday)

Sun 18 March, Holy Jesus, Lydbrook, 4.00 pm (Topic: Easter)

Bishop Robert will also be taking a service in Newnham on Easter Eve (Saturday 31 March) with vigil communion for anyone that would like to attend. More information in next month's "News & Views".

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Cinderford Churches Getting to Know You ... with Anthony Reeves

Member of St Ethelbert's

Favourite colour? Green.

Favourite film? The Court Jester.

Favourite season? Summer.

Favourite ice-cream? Chocolate.

Favourite actor? Jack Hawkins, Richard Todd, Peter Cushing, John Mills, James Mason, Danny Kay.

Favourite flower or tree? Oak, Tulip, Daffodil, Lupin, Rose.

Favourite item of clothing? Bedroom slippers.

Favourite TV programme? Dad's Army, 'Allo 'Allo, anything historical.

What would be your ideal holiday? Honeymoon.

Favourite book? They Came to Kerne Bridge.

What do you owe your parents? Love, happy family upbringing.

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

Favourite hymn or church song? Onward Christian Soldiers.

First car (and did it have a name)? 1939 Standard Flying 12 called 'useless old banger'!

What was your best holiday? Israel, January 1959; Austria, June 1962.

Favourite Church building? St Francis of Assisi, Epsom.

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

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? Nurse Edith Cavell, Florence Nightingale, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden.

Favourite family memory? Christmas gatherings at home of my grandmother.

First Job? Telegraphist, RAF.

Earliest memory? Playing with my sister and cousins on Skips Hill, Littledean, 1939 where evacuated.

Best job you've ever had? Telecommunications, RAF.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? Human.

Favourite building? Forth Railway Bridge.

Favourite place to eat out? Bridge Cafe, Lydney.

Which living person do you most admire? HM Queen Elizabeth II.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? Satisfied with Anthony, named St Anthony's Well.

Favourite place to go shopping? Tesco or any model railway shop.

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

When were you happiest? Sheephatch Camp Boarding School, Tilford, Surrey.

Most treasured possession? Rolex Oyster Wristwatch with Rolex explorer hands. Rolex did this for me, making the watch unique.

Most embarrassing moment? Kicking the door wide open while falling off a toilet because the seat was not fixed. To make it all worse, I then discovered I was in the ladies!

What keeps you awake at night? Nothing.



February 2018

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Lectionary

4 February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

Proverbs 8:1, 22-31

Psalms 104:26-end

Colossians 1:15-20

John 1:1-14

11 February (Sunday next before Lent)

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

14 February (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-18

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

John 8:1-11

18 February (1st Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-end

Mark 1:9-15

25 February (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-end

Romans 4:13-end

Mark 8:31-end

4 March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19:7-end

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

St John's Concert

St John's postponed concert featuring Bream Silver Band will be held on Saturday 31 March at St John's starting at 7.30 pm.

Littledean Church of England Primary School



Values for Life

This term the value that we are focusing on is courage.

Young Voices

Following months of practice, on 11th January we took a group of children to participate in the Young Voices Concert at the Genting Arena

in Birmingham.

As part of the concert the children had the opportunity to



sing with around 6000 other children.

It was a fantastic experience, thoroughly enjoyed by children, staff and parents alike.



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Craft Fayre - Sat 17 March - 10 am - 2 pm

The first of St Stephen's very popular Craft Fayres in 2018 will be on Saturday 17 March from 10 am till 2 pm. The church will once again be packed with an array of stalls showcasing the amazing talents of local artisans; plus the resident Fairtrade stall



St Stephen's Church (Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford)

Wonderful range of stalls from local artisans, bacon baps, lunches, cakes, Fairtrade tea & coffee, craft activities, raffle.

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk



offering products from international crafters!

There is a wonderful combination of returning and brand new artisans, do come along and show your support for small local businesses as well as enjoying light lunches, delicious cakes and craft activities to try on the day.

For more information, contact rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk or see our event page on Facebook.

Fairtrade Focus

Bara Brith

Ingredients

350 g (12 oz) dried mixed fruit*

OR

50 g (2 oz) dried apricots, chopped*

150 g (5.5 oz) raisins*

150 g (5.5 oz) sultanas*

140 g (5 oz) dark muscovado sugar*

300 ml (10 fl oz) strong hot tea*

275 g (10 oz) self-raising flour

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon*

1/4 tsp ground ginger*

1 large free range egg, beaten

All starred (*) ingredients are products available at the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's (or can be ordered); ingredients marked with a hashtag (#) are available as Fairtrade but not from church - speak to Rachel for advice on where to purchase if needed - rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438.

Method

1. Put the dried fruit and sugar into a large bowl.
2. Pour over the hot tea and leave to soak overnight or at least 2-3 hours to allow the fruit to swell up.
3. Preheat the oven to 130°C / 260°F / Gas Mark 1/2.
4. Line and grease a 2lb / 900g loaf tin.
5. Add the sifted flour and spice and the beaten egg and give a very good stir to mix thoroughly.
6. Put into the prepared tin.
7. Bake in the preheated oven for 1.5 hours, the loaf should be well risen and a skewer inserted into the middle should come out clean.
8. Put the tin on a wire rack and leave loaf in the tin for about 10 minutes before turning out.



Traidcraft produce various teabags, several of which are available on the stall at St Stephen's and many of which are also used in the kitchen at St Stephen's.

Everyday teabags (and everyday decaffeinated teabags) contain a blend of Fairtrade everyday black tea grown in tea gardens in East Africa and makes a medium strength crisp and refreshing

brew.

Traidcraft green tea is a single origin product and is grown in tea gardens in Rwanda. Green tea is naturally high in antioxidants and is proven to speed up your metabolism, so it's an ideal beverage choice to start your day.

Traidcraft's Breakfast Tea blend is made from tea grown in East Africa and Tanzania and makes a medium strength bright, brisk and refreshing brew.

Traidcraft's Earl Grey tea is grown in East Africa and gently infused with natural bergamot oil to create a relaxing yet uplifting traditional

News & Views



earl grey blend.

Traidcraft also produce a loose leaf black tea which can be ordered in. It is single origin and grown on a single plantation in Tanzania

All tea from Traidcraft has been sourced in an ethical and sustainable manner directly from tea farmers around the world. Purchasing directly from the farmers ensures they are paid a fair price for their tea, and can then go on to support themselves, their families and their community towards a higher standard of living. A better cup of tea for you, a better future for the farmers!

Traidcraft tea can be more expensive than many Fairtrade options in the supermarkets because they are working with much smaller scale producers.

Rice Challenge

We are partnering with Just Trading Scotland for a 90kg rice challenge during Fairtrade Fortnight. In



short, we need to sell ninety, 1kg bags of rice during Fairtrade Fortnight. The rice is Kilombero long grain rice, grown in Malawi where a farmer has to sell 90kg of rice to send a child to secondary school for a year.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa, dependent on agriculture but beset by economic, social and environmental issues. Primary education is free, however, secondary school is not, which means that less than 1 in 3 children attend high school in Malawi.

Coming together to purchase 90 kg worth of rice will send a child to school for a year. The Kaporo Smallholder Farmers' Association (KASFA) are also able to offer 50 orphan bursaries, 5 students receiving this have gone on to college or university which is very rare for young people in this area of Malawi. These bursaries are only possible through the sale of Kilombero rice and community groups coming together to support a rice challenge.

Each 1kg bag will cost £3. The rice will arrive towards the end of

February, but if you would like to preorder with Rachel that would be wonderful. Brown and white rice are both available at the same price, so if you prefer brown rice that would be especially beneficial to know before the order is placed.

(Rachel: rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438).



Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?**I'm a church around the Diocese, but where?**

Corner of Commercial Street & Victoria Street,
Cinderford

St John's,
Cinderford

**Dates for Your Diaries**

26 February - 11 March - **Fairtrade Fortnight**

Saturday 3 March - 10.00 am - 2.00 pm - **Big Brew & BakeOff** at St Stephen's

Sunday 11 March - **Mothering Sunday**

Sunday 11 March - **Messy Church**

Tuesday 13 March - 7.00 pm - **Ladies' Curry Meal** at The Curry Leaf

Saturday 17 March - 10.00 am - 2.00 pm - **Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

Wednesday 21 March - **Clothes Swishing (Swap) Evening** at St Stephen's

Sunday 25 March - **Palm Sunday (Bishop Robert visiting)**

Mon 26, Tue 27, Wed 28 March - 7.30 pm - **Holy Week Communion** at St John's

Thursday 29 March - 7.30 pm - **Maundy Thursday Meal & Holy Communion** at St Stephen's

Friday 30 March - **Good Friday**

Sunday 1 April - **Easter Sunday**

Who's on the Trike?

Benjamin Preece-Smith
Diocesan Secretary

**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

Vicar: Mike Barnsley

01594 822286 / 07903 436009

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)

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Churchwardens at St Stephen's:

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Chris Witham - 01594 719438

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Linda Blagg - 01594 822153

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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:

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk

Or join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/cinderfordchurches

Or follow us on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/cinderfordcofe

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 Thursday 15 February.

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

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018



Fairtrade Fortnight is fast approaching, this year it will start on Monday 26 February and runs until Sunday 11 March.

There will be a variety of events happening during Fairtrade Fortnight and the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's will be available at the church throughout packed with wonderful things supporting farmers, producers and artisans around the world.

On Saturday 3 March, the annual Big Brew & BakeOff will take place at St Stephen's from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

There will be lots of Fairtrade products for sale from the resident St Stephen's stall along with two other visiting stalls. There will also be lots of information about the producers and artisans who are behind the products.

There will be lunches, cakes, Fairtrade food to sample, activities, games and much more about all things Fairtrade!

There will also be our well entered, rather competitive BakeOff. This year the three categories are "Biscuits", "Mini Treats" and "Freestyle".

Biscuits will cover anything from ginger biscuits to shortbread to chocolate chip cookies. Mini Treats could be anything from cupcakes or brownie squares to bread rolls or even miniature versions of your favourite cake. And Freestyle covers anything else you can think of, from banana loaf to decorated sponge cake.

You can enter as many of the categories as you want and you can enter multiple times if you wish.

All entries must contain Fairtrade sugar and as the idea is to promote all things Fairtrade, points will be awarded for the number of Fairtrade ingredients alongside taste and overall appearance.

Judging will take place during the Big Brew at 11 am, after which entries will be sold for people to enjoy on the day (or take away for a teatime treat!).

All money raised at the Big Brew will go towards Traidcraft Exchange's Hidden Entrepreneur campaign. And to top it all off, any donations that we send will be doubled by the UK Government through the UK Aid scheme. Traidcraft Exchange is the charity arm of Traidcraft and works with people around the world helping to equip them with the skills they need to invest in a brighter future.



People assisted by Traidcraft Exchange internationally receive training and assistance to improve their skills in farming, business and investing in their children's futures.

For more information see our event page on Facebook, or contact Rachel rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438.