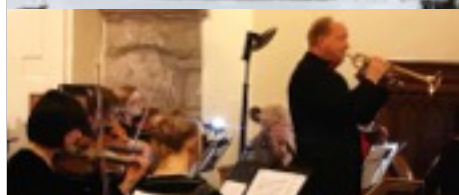




NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

Over Christmas we had a family meal at my daughter Sarah's. We had crackers and my grandson Matty enjoyed sharing the jokes. His was "Why is it getting harder to buy Advent Calendars?" The answer was "Because their days are numbered!" I thought this was a pretty good joke!

The thing about the days on an Advent Calendar is that they are normally numbered incorrectly. Advent Calendars pretty much always have 24 days, but Advent doesn't often have 24 days. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In 2017 this was 3 December, so, in 2017, Advent had 22 days. This is shortest Advent can be. (With Advent Sunday on 27 November, 2016 saw the longest Advent at 28 days.)

Advent Sunday also marks the beginning of the Church year. Being on a different date each year, the Church year is a different length from one year to the next. The Church year that finished on 2 December 2017 was 371 days long. The Church year that started on 3 December 2017 will be 364 days long. As I write this, on New Year's Day, it seems odd thinking of 'years' being different lengths (notwithstanding leap years). But this isn't that uncommon historically as all kinds of changes have been made to our calendar over the years. And 1 January hasn't always been New Year's Day.

Lady Day, the Annunciation to Mary, celebrated on 25 March from the second century, was assigned as the start of the year in AD 525 and was recognised as such in England until 1752. With March as the first month, October was the eighth month (ref octal, octet, octave, octopus, octagon, etc.) and December was the tenth month (ref decade, decimal, decathlon, etc.) and the 'leap day' was added at the end of the year (i.e. at the end of February). (Sept and Nov have less obvious connections to the numbers seven and nine respectively.) As the rotation of the earth and its movement around the sun were better understood, the Roman Calendar evolved into the Julian and then the Gregorian Calendar. Months were renamed and the number of days changed and the frequency of 'extra' ('leap') days recalculated. Note that Christmas Day was more likely to have been established on 25 December because this was nine months after the recognised date of annunciation / conception (on Lady Day), than because of some pre-existing pagan festival (despite current popular understanding).

The Gregorian Calendar was first introduced in 1582, including adjusting dates to take account of mistakes that had been made earlier by 'deleting' or skipping 10 dates. The new calendar was not initially universally adopted, leading to much confusion as to what dates, or even years, events occurred in. The new calendar was finally introduced in England in 1752 along with establishing 1 January as the beginning of the New Year (making 1751 only 282 days long). The legal New Year remained as 25 March (Julian calendar) adjusted to 5 April (and then 6 April in 1800) to take account of the discrepancy between the Julian and Gregorian calendars. 6 April remains as the start of our tax year.

So what does all of this mean to us now? Hopefully some of that will have been interesting to some of you; but, what's my point? Well, I'm not trying to reintroduce Lady Day as New Year's Day, although it does have a much longer tradition than 1 January. I'm not saying that we shouldn't celebrate New Year's Day (or New Year's Eve). But, without even considering Chinese New Year or other celebrations and traditions, I am saying that 1 January doesn't mean as much as we might think it does. We can make a new start or a new resolution on any day, on any date. So if you think you have missed out on doing something you intended to, go for it. And let's remember Lady Day when we get to it. It has all kinds of historical as well as theological significance.

Happy New Year!

God Bless,

Mike



	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 7 Jan 2018		10.30 am AAW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD
Sun 14 Jan	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm Messy Church
Sun 21 Jan				10.30 am CTiC Covenant Service
Sun 28 Jan	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW
Sun 4 Feb		10.30 am AAW	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; CTiC = Churches Together in Cinderford and Littledean; HC = Holy Communion; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JS = Joint Service; MP = Morning Prayer; MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; WILD = Youth Group (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

Wed 3 Jan, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wed 10 Jan, 10.00 am HC at St John's

Wed 17 Jan, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wed 24 Jan, 10.00 am HC at St John's

Wed 31 Jan, 10.00 am HC at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

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

Trust 130

All three of our Parish Churches are insured through Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, based in Gloucester. They are celebrating their 130th Anniversary this year and as part of their

celebrations they have set up a scheme called "Trust130"

whereby anyone who switches to an Ecclesiastical Home Insurance

policy during the next 12 months and quotes TRUST130 along with the name of the participating church, Ecclesiastical will donate £130 to the church on your behalf. You must get the quote directly from them.

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.

Remember you will also need to give the church's name in order for the church to benefit. All three of our Parish churches are participating in the scheme: - St Ethelbert's, Littledean - St John's, Cinderford - St Stephen's, Cinderford



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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

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.



Mothers' Union Report

Members had two opportunities to get together in December. First on the 4th the Deanery Carol service took place at Holy Trinity Drybrook led by Revd Alan Wearmouth when members took part either with a bible reading or by leading prayers. Seasonal refreshments followed in the adjacent hall. Then on the 7th we had our enjoyable Christmas meal at The Belfry in Littledean.

The Branch Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday 6th February at St Stephen's Church at 2.00 pm.

- Nikola Poole

St Eth's Christmas Fayre

... provided a fine display of goods, produce and bonhomie as befits the occasion. The array of offerings included Fancy Goods, Fair Trade items, Fine Arts, Handbags and Gladrags, Plants and Bric-a-Bac as well as the ever-popular Jams & Pickles, Raffles, Books and the all-important refreshments - a veritable



Aladdin's Cave of delights to the effect that a total of £930 was raised - thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort and hard work.

It is easy to forget the fact that this is about people visiting our Church, buying, eating and talking together and it is a delight to see the regular faces at these events and a reminder that this is a tradition we must never overlook.

- Jim Duffin



From the Registers

Funerals

1 December	Phyllis Bird	St Ethelbert's
14 December	Graham Davis	St Stephen's
22 December	Mary Worgan	FoD Crem

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

Answers can be found on page 11.

Answers can be found on page 11.



Our Partner Churches

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Changes due to weather...

Thanks for your patience and understanding regarding relocated or missed events due to changes necessary because of weather. We often announce immediate decisions on our Facebook page so if you are on Facebook, why not join us?

Search “Cinderford Churches” for lots more information about last minute changes along with event and service times, videos and photographs.



Advent Carol Service

On Sunday 3 December, members of St John's held their annual Advent Carol Service in Soudley. This year, as it was no longer possible to hold the service at St Michael's, it was held in the village hall.

On a cold afternoon, people from the village and the wider Benefice gathered to hear the story of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, told through readings and carols.

The service was led by Richard Blagg, one of our Benefice readers and was a lovely way to start the season of Advent and preparation for Christmas.

Forest Branch Church Bellringers Christmas Carol Service

This year the Forest Branch of the Gloucester & Bristol Church Bellringers held their annual Christmas Carol Service at St Ethelbert's church on Saturday 16 December. The bells were rung before the service by various members of the Forest branch of ringers. This was followed by a short Advent service of readings and Carols held in the Brayne chapel.

Warm fruit punch and mince pies were enjoyed after the service.

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Celebration of Christmas

St Ethelbert's Church hosted its Celebration on the Wednesday of Christmas week for a packed and expectant audience who were not to be disappointed. Impresario Kate Hook assembled a most delightful cohort of performers (the majority of whom were regular ones happy to pitch in again) and the level of quality brought to what is, after all, a small village concert, was quite amazing.

Kate wanted to ring a few changes whilst keeping to the overall spirit of the event and so it was that we were treated to an incredible Trumpeter, a Consort of Recorders and Kate



playing (fantastically) upon a Harpsichord, as well as to the beautiful and soporific playing of the String and Woodwind Orchestra, which

itself seems to be getting better and better as the years roll by; it would not be Christmas without the Handmaidens making their delightful presence felt, too!

Our cobbled-together choir was boosted not only by our friends from the United Reform Church but also by the contingent from the Salvation Army and I am told by more than one person that the rendition of "Joy To The World!" at the end of proceedings by the Orchestra, Trumpeter, Harpsichord and Choir brought people out in goose bumps - such is the power of music! All this and four Christmassy readings, too!



Although this is a free event, a leaving collection produced a wonderful sum of £268, which will be heading to a charity in India.

May I repeat my thanks to all of the performers, to the Stage Manager Andy Jenkins (who took such a load off my ever-weakening shoulders) and to the ladies who did a wonderful job of keeping the crowd fed and watered after the event; and especially to Kate, without who's derring-do, determination and drive the event would simply not happen.

As a post script, several of the village people present have asked if they could be involved in the performance next year - it really goes to show what can be achieved when the spirit is able to reach out. - Jim Duffin

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 - as they settle back into life in Spain after 6 months in UK
- 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
- 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
- all those affected by leprosy; for early diagnosis, for education; for minimising the fear and stigma surrounding the disease
- medical staff working in the leprosy field, especially those in Nepal, Bangladesh and Northern India

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BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's

Saturday 13 January, 9.00 am - 10.00 am

BoB Breakfast is "Band of Brothers" and is for any men to come along, eat breakfast and get to know each other.

Messy Church at St Stephen's

Sunday 14 January, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Gospel Reading (Mark) at The Vicarage

Sunday 21 January, 6.00 pm

Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's

Sunday 28 January, 12.30 pm

Mothers' Union at St Stephen's

Tuesday 6 February, 2.00 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 **(not on Friday 5 Jan due to funeral)**

- 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; restarts January 19)**

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

St John's Concert Postponed

The planned concert with Bream Silver Band and St White's choir was postponed due to the snowy weather in December. The concert will be rescheduled around Easter when the band has finished competition season. More details will be available closer to the time!

Many thanks for your understanding.

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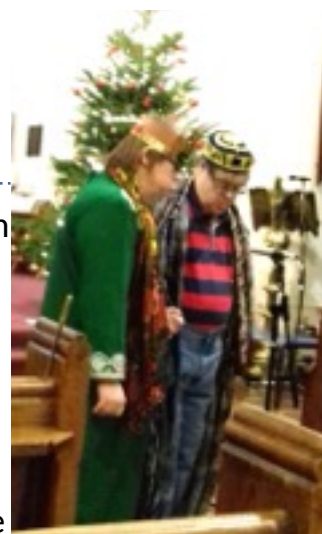
Open: Mon - Fri 9.15 - 5.00**Sat 9.00 - 12.00****Shalom Christmas Carol Service**

The Shalom group had fun acting out the Nativity at their Christmas Carol service.

Everyone was eager to

dress in costume

and immerse themselves in the drama as well as singing carols before enjoying tea and mince pies.



Christmas Tree Festival

The first weekend of December saw St Stephen's first (hopefully annual) Christmas Tree Festival. It was wonderful to see the Church full of wonderfully decorated trees representing a wide cross section of the community.



There were also performances from an inspiring selection of performers including organ recitals, Forest Sensory Service's Hand Bell Choir, Bella Musica, Forest View School Choir, the Belle Vue Singers and members of St Stephen's Church band playing carols.

Various trees were selling decorations, handmade by local or Fairtrade artisans, to place on your own tree as well as highlighting the work of local charities, businesses and organisations.

Congratulations go to Forest High School for winning the best children's tree and Forest View for coming close second and to the Cinderford Branch of the Royal British Legion for being voted the best adult tree, closely followed by St Ethelbert's "Dove of Peace" tree.



A big thank you to all who helped make the festival possible by providing or decorating a tree (including Cameron's butchers who sponsored the main St Stephen's tree in memory of Clive Matthews); those who provided and served refreshments

throughout the weekend; all who helped with raffles, welcoming and in many other ways; those providing the music; but above all to the hundreds of people who visited and made the event so special.



Mike's Question:

About how far is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem?
About how far is it from Jerusalem to Bethlehem?

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

Mike's Challenge:

Read through the Christmas story in Luke and Matthew in one sitting, trying to get the different sections in the right order.

Answers to last month's question:

None of the words 'camels, singing, donkey, kings, innkeeper, lamb, archangel, hay/straw, "no crying", Orient, oxen, winter, snow, cold, stable, cherubim, seraphim, or sheep' appear in the Bible passages telling the Christmas story (in the NIV, NRSV or ESV)! Talk to me if you find this surprising and want to talk it through.

(Some other translations may have some of these words, but they do not occur in the original text in Greek!)

Thank you...

... to everyone who donated to The Children's Society by cheque/box donation. A total of £429.20 has been forwarded to the society. This total is less than last year as some people donated on line. Well done everyone. - Ann Ladd



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Cinderford Churches Getting to Know You ... with Di Martin

Member of St Stephen's

Favourite actor? Bill Nighy.

Favourite colour? Red.

Favourite film? Love Actually.

Favourite season? Summer.

Favourite food & drink? Salmon & Red wine.

Favourite ice-cream? Cornish cream vanilla.

Worst job you've ever done? Cleaning in West Norwich hospital.

Favourite flower or tree? Oak.

Favourite item of clothing? 1960's Carnaby Street jacket.

Favourite TV programme? House of Cards.

What would be your ideal holiday? Go to a Caribbean island and just relax.

Favourite book? Pride and Prejudice.

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

Favourite hymn or church song? Silent Night.

First car (and did it have a name)? Renault Savannah.

What was your best holiday? My honeymoon in Greece to a small island called Ios.

Favourite Church building? St Stephen's.

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

Where would you most like to be right now? Where I am (Vicarage New Year's Eve Party).

Favourite family memory? Holiday with Dave and the children at Centre Parcs many years ago.

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? Rosa Lexenbourg, Jane Austen, Beatrix Potter and Janice Joplin.

First Job? Working in a bakery, after school.

Earliest memory? Being at home at Christmas with my mum, dad and nana.

Best job you've ever had? The one I'm doing now.

What do you owe your parents? Everything, the love I had from them has enabled me to endure many challenges in life.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? A cat, so I could curl up on people's laps.

Favourite building? My grandmother's sweet shop.

Favourite place to eat out? The Speech House.

Which living person do you most admire? Although I can't name the person, one of the women I work with has been through such a lot and yet has an amazing outlook on life.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? It would be Diana, which is actually my second name as I've always used that!

News & Views



January 2018

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Lectionary

7 January 2018 (Epiphany)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:10-15

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

14 January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalms 139:1-9

Revelation 5:1-10

John 1:43-end

21 January (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)

Genesis 14:17-20

Psalms 128

Revelation 19:6-10

John 2:1-11

28 January (Candlemas)

Malachi 3:1-5

Psalms 24:7-end

Hebrews 2:14-end

Luke 2:22-40

4 February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

Proverbs 8:1, 22-31

Psalms 104:26-end

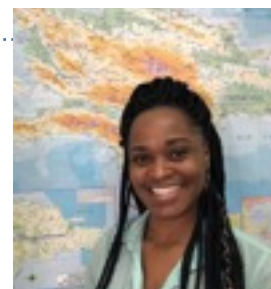
Colossians 1:15-20

John 1:1-14

Christian Aid Evening

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

More details next month, but please put the date in your diaries now!



Littledean Church of England Primary School

Cheerleading Club

At the end of term we were treated to a performance by our Cheerleading Club. They worked with their coach to produce a very detailed routine (with lifts) in quite a short period of time – we are very proud of them.



Christmas

Our Christmas festivities were somewhat hindered by the snow that we had during the last week of term. It meant that we were unfortunately unable to have our Christmas

Fair and Christmas dinner. We did, however, still manage to attend the pantomime at the Roses Theatre and have our end of term discos. We ended the term with our Christmas service which was held in the school hall this year and was attended by many family members and friends.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2018.



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Messy Church

On Sunday 14 January, St Stephen's will host a "Messy Church" around the theme of Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the three wise men.



Starting at 3.00 pm and finishing at 5.00 pm, Messy Church is an opportunity for the whole family to come and join in craft activities, games, an interactive service and enjoy a meal together.

Prepare to get messy!

As the idea is for family groups to attend together, children and young people need to be accompanied by a responsible adult, even if they normally attend other services / events on their own.

For more information, please see our website, Facebook page or contact the vicar, Mike Barnsley on (01594) 822286 / mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk.

Fairtrade Focus

Many of you will have tried this cake at one of the events at St Stephen's in the past year (and there will be more available in 2018!), but as the recipe has been requested many times, it was felt best to include it here.

The recipe is easy to make your own, by changing the amount or type of spice or even adding crystallised ginger pieces.

Spiced Pound Cake (Vegan options available)

Ingredients

230 g (8 oz) unsalted butter *(or dairy free margarine)*
 650 g (10.5 oz) light brown sugar*
 5 eggs *(or 'aquafaba' - the liquid from one can of chickpeas)*
 240 ml (7.5 fl oz) whole milk *(or dairy free alternative)*
 1 tsp vanilla extract#
 1/4 tsp ground cloves*#
 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon*#
 1/4 tsp ground ginger*#
 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg*#
 1/4 tsp mixed spice#
 400 g (14 oz) plain flour
 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda



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. Preheat the oven to 170°C / 325°F / Gas Mark 3.
2. Grease and flour a 25-cm ring mould.
3. Place the butter (or dairy free alternative) and sugar in an electric mixer (or use a hand held electric whisk) and cream until light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs (or aquafaba) one at a time, mixing well between each egg.
5. Beat in the milk and vanilla extract until well mixed.
6. Sift the spices, flour and bicarbonate of soda together in a separate bowl.
7. Add flour mixture and beat until all ingredients are fully combined.
8. Pour into the prepared ring mould.
9. Bake in the preheated oven for 60-70 minutes or until golden brown and a skewer inserted in the deepest part of the cake comes out clean.
10. Allow to cool slightly before removing the mould and turning out onto a wire cooling rack to cool completely. *(The aquafaba can make the cake have a delicious sticky coating, so you may need a plastic knife to gently separate the cake and the ring mould.)*

Dalit Spices are relatively new to the Traidcraft stall at St Stephen's but the Dalit Goods brand was launched in 2010 to raise awareness of



the Dalit people of India and funds to support them through trade.

The Dalit people are part of the 'untouchables' caste in India and for thousands of years a symbol of their oppression has been that they are forced to smash clay pots they have drunk from so that no one else can use them. It was this that prompted the very idea for Dalit Goods to start.

For over 3,000 years, the Dalits, or 'Untouchables', have been at the bottom of India's society. They are born into a culture that devalues them from birth with society generally considering them lower than animals.

"Dalit" literally translates to downtrodden or oppressed and there are currently over 250 million Dalit people living in this unjust system.

Dalit Goods supports a charity which runs orphanages, training programmes, schools and many other things aimed at supporting the Dalit people and increasing their self worth and helping them change their station in life.

Buying products from Dalit Goods, including spices, but also candles and scent infusers, helps to provide employment for people that generally struggle to find jobs. Not only that, but the jobs come with decent wages and support.

Many of the products are using traditional skills passed down from generation to generation. So you will see lots of clay pots in the candles, a symbol that previously represented oppression but now can help people trade their way out of poverty.

The spices are always very popular on the stall and can take a few weeks to restock, so if you know you need some, please order well in advance!

The chilli is also hotter than most other chilli available in the UK, so you can use less in your recipe (as anyone who tried the chilli at the Christmas Tree Festival may testify to!).



Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight is fast approaching, this year it will run from Monday 26 February to Sunday 11 March.

There will be lots more information about events, shopping opportunities and school visits in the upcoming editions of News & Views, but you can pop Saturday 3 March in your diary for the annual Big Brew, when there will be lots of activities, games, stalls, food and much more about all things Fairtrade at St Stephen's Church.



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

Telephone box, Station Street, Cinderford

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Gloucester
The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester on October 11, 1883.

**Pancakes, Ash Wednesday and Lent...**

There will be pancake parties around the Benefice on Shrove Tuesday (February 13), final times and locations in next month's News & Views, but most likely to be hosted at both St Stephen's and 52 St White's Road on Tuesday evening with the usual variety of fillings available.

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. 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 through Lent at St Stephen's Church starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm.

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).

**Who's on the Trike?**

Paul Holroyd
Head at Forest High School

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01594 822599
clerk@cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

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)

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.)

Visit the Benefice Website:

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk

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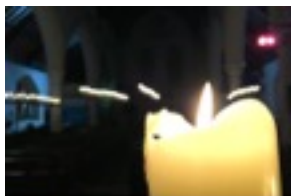
If you have anything for the next magazine (articles, photographs) or would like to enquire about placing an advert please contact magazine@cinderford-churches.org.uk by Monday 15 January.

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

Christmas Services around the Benefice

December around the Benefice was filled

with candles, nativity scenes, wreaths, trees, carols, prayers, twinkly lights, Christingles, mince pies, flowers, snow (!), mulled wine and communion.



It was wonderful to celebrate the birth of our Saviour together with so many members of the community.



A big thank you to all who donated to the work of the Children's Society at our Christingle services.

