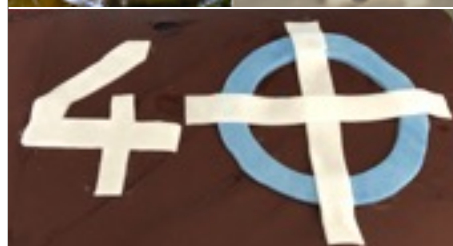
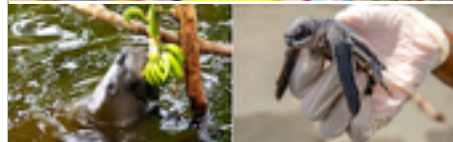
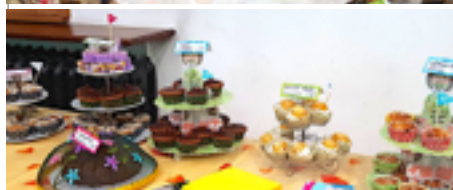




# NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

## Inside this Month...



## Who's on the Trike?



## Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

It seems a day doesn't go by these days that it isn't [insert special subject] day or [insert special campaign] week or [insert special cause] month. Don't get me wrong, there are some truly great causes out there, but it does at times feel like we're a little bit swamped in things to get involved in.



Depending on who you listen to, around 8 - 12 million tonnes of plastic enter the earth's oceans every year. News articles have run with beaches literally swamped in plastic and for better or worse, July is "Plastic Free July".

At Messy Church in June, we looked at the Creation Story and ways in which we can look after the wonderful creation God has entrusted into our care. It was great to see the children and young people recycling egg boxes into colourful critters and CDs into sun catchers for the garden.

I'd like to think that we were constantly looking for ways to look after God's creation and weren't just trying in July, but "Plastic free July" seems a good time to at least consider our options.

There's some truly fascinating ideas floating around as to how we can go plastic free. Drinking straws made from pasta and drinks bottles that dissolve in salt water have caught my eye in the last week. I'm not sure how practical these are but there are so many good ways we can reduce our plastic usage.

We now take reusable containers to Cameron's Butchers when we buy meat and it is encouraging that Cameron is reporting more customers doing the same. Buying fruit and veg that isn't wrapped in plastic is frustratingly difficult still but the Co-op and Lidl both stock some plastic free lines and green grocers are normally very good for being plastic free. At St Stephen's the Fairtrade stall has refills available for handwash, washing up liquid and laundry detergent so you can reuse your own bottles.

There are of course some financial rewards for using less plastic. Many of us will have been avoiding the 5p bag tax for the last 3 years by using reusable bags. I've been enjoying a discount on coffee as I travel around and use my reusable travel mug, some shops give you up to 50p off per cup. There have also been financial rewards offered for inventors who design devices that remove plastic from our oceans. But I'd like to think we didn't need a financial incentive. That we'd take seriously God's commission in Genesis to govern creation, take care of it and leave it in a better state for generations to come.

July's Messy Church has the theme "Jesus my Superhero". If you know any children or young people who might like an afternoon of craft and creativity, why not invite them along, Sunday 8 July, 3 pm. As you read through the rest of this month's magazine, why not think about one or two ways in which you could reduce your usage of single use plastic and be a superhero yourself?

God bless, *Chris*

	Hanover Court	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
<b>Sun 1 July</b>		10.30 am SW	9.30 am Baptism	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES
<b>Sun 8 July</b>	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW 3.00 pm <b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Sun 15 July</b>		10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW 3.00 pm HC
<b>Sun 22 July</b>	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW & Vow Renewal
<b>Sun 29 July</b>	3.00 pm Celebration Service in <b>Bilson Grounds</b>	10.30 am JHC	9.30 am PE 1.00 pm Baptism	11.00 am Baptism, JC
<b>Sun 5 Aug</b>		10.30 am SW	9.30 am Baptism	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

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

### Midweek Service Times

Wed 4 July, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wed 11 July, 10.00 am HC at St John's  
 7.30 pm Shalom at The Curry Leaf

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

Wed 25 July, 10.00 am CBE at St John's

Wed 1 August, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

### Bilson Celebration Service - Sun 29 July

On Sunday 29 July 2018, starting at 3.00pm, there will be a special service to celebrate the amazing contribution that Bilson Mission has made to the community for over 100 years.

The special service will be held in the space around the Bilson Mission buildings and the service will take place whatever the weather!

We will do our best to provide some shelter and seating. Refreshments will be served after the service. Please make every effort to attend this special event to give thanks to God for all



that Bilson Mission has meant to so many people over so many years.



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## Cinderford Churches Our Churches



### St Ethelbert's, Littledean, GL14 3NL

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

### St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX

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



### St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA



Different worship styles at 11 am and 3 pm. 11 am services reflect a more relaxed style with a worship band & children's and youth activities; 3 pm services are traditional (BCP). Messy Church every 2nd Sunday at 3 pm is a fun, creative service for the whole family. Various

midweek services.

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

## 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

### Weddings

16 June	Paul & Emma Bevan	St John's
---------	-------------------	-----------

### Baptisms

3 June	Betsy Amelia Jean Butler	St Eth's
--------	--------------------------	----------

### Funerals

5 June	Jennifer Giles	FoD Crem
6 June	Christine Harris	St Eth's
14 June	Greta Symonds	St Stephen's
14 June	Peter Hathaway	FoD Crem

### 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](http://www.forestrc.co.uk)

Cinderford  
Methodist Church  
01594 825662

Cinderford  
Baptist Church  
01594 822618

Forest of Dean  
Community Church  
07975 994224  
[www.fodcc.org](http://www.fodcc.org)

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



Answers can be found on page 11.



Answers can be found on page 11.



## Christian Aid Week 2018.

Another Christian Aid Week is over and at last all the money is in. The results are very pleasing - a little lower than last year but some people are now donating on line.

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated, and to all the hard working collectors with the Littledean Village Collections and at The County Store.

Special thanks to St Stephen's for their amazing collection. Very well done to you all.

Totals are as follows :

Littledean Village Collection	£683.19
Collections from Churches	£493.61.
Hanover Court	£60.00
Littledean School	£63.64
CTiC Good Friday Lunch	£100.00
County Store Collection	£575.66

The total sent to Christian Aid was £1976.10. Gift Aid will be added to this total.

- Ann Ladd



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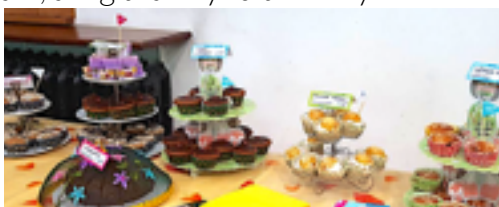
**clerk@cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk**  
**www.cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk**

## Cupcake Morning

After much baking and advertising Friday 15 June saw Rachel and myself setting up for the Alzheimer's Society Cupcake Day at St Stephen's Church. It was a great atmosphere as we played Cupcake Bingo, Guess the celebrity behind the cake and how many cakes in the picture, as well as actually eating lots of scrummy cake. We raised just over £133 on the morning with further donations of £20, giving us a total of £153. I would like to thank everyone who baked, came and supported us on the morning and donated.

If you would still like to donate to this worthy cause you still can by: texting KNJ083 £5 (or KNJ083 £10) to 70070; online by visiting [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-nick-jones](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-nick-jones); or by giving me your donation. Once again, a big thank you to everyone who supported this event.

- Karen Jones



## \*\*\*\*\* 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 meeting in June was the Deanery Quiet Afternoon, our speaker Robert Simpson led us in an interesting session combining readings, thoughts and time for meditation on several basic themes based on Mary Sumner (who started Mothers' Union).

We looked at some aspects of Mary's personality that made her who she was and how they could help us be better women of Christ in today's world. Robert discussed how Mary fostered an awareness of the world and an ability to look outwards, how she was able to support the people around her, her wonderful ways of outreach into her local (and international) community. Robert told how Mary had been empowered through Jesus Christ to support others and how we could all be the same going forward for Christ.

We also meditated on the ongoing worldwide voice of women, looking at how we can encourage each other and women around the world to be able to help and support, care for and teach, and serve those in need and restoration of situations.

Through her faith, Mary Sumner founded a worldwide organisation, doing it for Jesus. We were invited to walk in her footsteps and become springs of living water.

A collection was taken at the end of the quiet time, for the worldwide mission of the Mothers' Union, after which we gathered for tea and cakes.

It was a thought provoking afternoon and enjoyed by all, further thanks to Robert Simpson for his leading of the meditation and quiet reflection time.

Sue Bonner will be talking at our next meeting on Tuesday 3 July, 2.30 pm at St Stephen's. All welcome. - Chris Morgan

## Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- those who have recently been bereaved; especially the families of Jennifer, Christine, Greta and Peter
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Paul & Emma, married in June
- Betsy Amelia; baptised in June
- Mike; in his ministry around the Benefice
- Anthea; in her ministry as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- the future of Cinderford Street Pastors
- the Forest Foodbank and all supporting those in need locally
- children, young people and their teachers and leaders; especially as they prepare for the Summer Holidays
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict
- SEA Sunday and the work of the Mission to Seafarers globally

## Lectionary

### 1 July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

Lamentations 3:23-33	Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-end	Mark 5:21-end

### 8 July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Ezekiel 2:1-5	Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13

### 15 July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

Amos 7:7-15	Psalm 85:8-end
Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29

### 22 July (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-end	Mark 6:30-34, 53-end

### 29 July (9th Sunday after Trinity)

2 Kings 4:42-end	Psalm 145:10-19
Ephesians 3:14-end	John 6:1-21

### 5 August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35



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## Activity and Event Times

<b>Mothers' Union</b> at St Stephen's	Tuesday 3 July, 2.30 pm
<b>Safeguarding Training</b> at St Stephen's	Wednesday 4 July, 7.00 pm
<b>Messy Church</b> at St Stephen's	Sunday 8 July, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
<b>Craft Fayre</b> at St Stephen's	Saturday 14 July, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
<b>Fellowship Lunch / Party</b> at St Stephen's	Sunday 22 July, 12.30 pm
<b>Celebration Service</b> in Bilson Mission grounds	Sunday 29 July, 3.00 pm

\*As BoB Breakfast would take place on Saturday 14 July this month, men who were planning on attending are encouraged to come and enjoy a bacon bap at the Craft Fayre at St Stephen's from 10 am.

## 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 *(not on 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, finishes July 13)*

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

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**Craft Fayre**  
**Saturday 14 July**  
**10 am - 2 pm**  
**Free entry**

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

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## Fairtrading at the Dilke Summer Fun Day

Rachel packed up the Fairtrade stall from St Stephen's and, joining forces with Rachel from A Fair Deal Locally in Coleford, had a jam packed stall at the Dilke's Annual Fundraiser.

It was wonderful to be able to support the local community hospital and this year the sun even decided to shine all day.



## Ride & Stride / Heritage Open Day

Saturday 8 September will be a busy weekend for many around the Benefice and the country as nationally both Ride & Stride and Heritage Open Day events are in full swing.

Ride & Stride raises money annually for the Historic Churches Trust (locally we raise money for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust as well as our own individual local churches). This money allows GHCT to award grants for caring for the county's historic church buildings.

Participants can either ride (traditionally on a bicycle but horses are also sometimes used!), stride or even drive around churches, visiting as many as they can on one day. Our local teams are busy planning their routes, but if you would like to be involved please contact a churchwarden and they will put you in touch with someone who is riding or striding! It is definitely a wonderful way to see the beautiful churches around Gloucestershire whilst raising money!

Heritage Open Day Weekend also falls at the same time so along with their annual Ride & Stride booksale, St Ethelbert's will be open during Heritage Open Days with bellringing displays and much more. St Stephen's will be open from 10 am - 4pm on Saturday 8 September, celebrating the musical history of the church, including displays about the blind organist, Philip Charles Walding.

If you have any photographs of organists, choirs or anything related to anything musical at St Stephen's, including programmes from concerts, etc it would be wonderful to display as much memorabilia as possible on the day. Please contact Rachel Witham (719438 / [rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk)). If you don't want to leave your items, but would be happy for copies to be taken, that would also be very much appreciated.

More information on all of the above closer to the time!

## Mike's Question:

How many women are mentioned by Paul at the end of his letter to the Church in Rome (Romans 16)? How many of these are associated with specific roles within the Church?

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

## Mike's Challenge:

What do we know about Phoebe from Romans 16?

## Answers to last month's question:

The 150 Psalms are grouped into 5 books, or collections, in most Bibles.



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## SEA Sunday

SEA Sunday has been faithfully marked by Lynne Chaundy and the congregation of Bilson Mission for many years. SEA Sunday is celebrated around the world on the second Sunday in July and aims to raise awareness of the hardships of working at sea alongside those charities helping to alleviate some of the pressures.

Around the world, The Mission to Seafarers provides help and support to the 1.5 million men and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat. Piracy, shipwreck, abandonment and separation from loved ones are just a few of the problems merchant seafarers face.

Mission to Seafarers works in over 200 ports in 50 countries caring for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. Through our global network of chaplains, staff and volunteers we offer practical, emotional and spiritual support to seafarers through ship visits, drop-in seafarers' centres and a range of welfare and emergency support services.

The Mission to Seafarers strives to meet the needs of all seafarers and their families, irrespective of faith or cultural background. Its simple mission is to care for the shipping industry's most important asset: its people.

Seafarers can be separated from their friends and families for up to a year and precious shore leave is not always available. From the centres of the world's shipping industry, our chaplains and their teams support seafarers who all too often have nowhere to turn to.

Throughout a long and distinguished history, the Mission has grown to become one of the largest port-based welfare operators in the world. International Headquarters (IHQ) in London directly supports over 50 front-line Staff and around 100 Honorary Chaplains in addition to an army of Volunteers, who visit ships, offer hospitality, drive minibuses and engage in a range of other welfare activity.

The charity started close to home, when in 1836 the Revd John Ashley established the Bristol Channel Mission as a result of being struck by the loneliness and spiritual needs of the merchant seafarers at anchor.

Using his example, a number of Anglican ministries followed suit and in 1856 it was decided to establish a single organisation. The Mission to Seamen – as it was known – was made a missionary society of the Anglican Communion and its work grew in line with the rapidly expanding British maritime empire.

In 2000, the name was changed to The Mission to Seafarers to reflect its role as a society which cares for all seafarers, regardless of gender.



## Messy Church



June's Messy Church looked at the wonderful world God has created, all the wonderful animals, scenery and people and we thought about how we could better look after it.



There was plenty of chance to get creative (and messy) with painting with fruits and vegetables, making edible 'bug cakes', sun catchers for the garden and a Praise Quilt for display at church with pictures of everyone's favourite things about God's Creation. We also

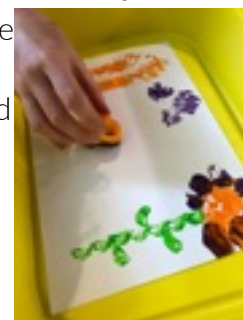


made the most of the lovely weather with chalk painting and an 'animal safari' outside!

July's Messy Church is on Sunday 8 July from 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm and will include food, crafts and activities looking at how Jesus is



our Superhero. Everyone welcome, all children and young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



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## Forest Talent on Display

St Stephen's Church will be filled with wonderful artistic and crafty creations produced by amazingly talented people from around the Forest (and beyond!). From photographs to handcrafted jewellery, watercolours to quilts, leather items to wax melts, chalk drawings to wooden animals and so much more, the church will be packed with wonderful options for that special gift or simply a wonderful addition to your own home.

There will also be bacon baps, teas / coffees, light lunches, raffle, Fairtrade and, if you want to let your own creative side out, Paint-Your-Own.

Come along and support wonderful local craftspeople, Saturday 14 July, 10 am - 2 pm, free entry and a very warm welcome to all!



## Littledean Church of England Primary School



### Gloucester Cathedral Leavers Service

The children in Year 6 have recently attended the Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral. It was an opportunity for our Year 6's to gather with children from other schools to reflect on their time during the primary years and to think about the next stage of their journey as they move on to



secondary school. Each child was given a holding cross, made from wood from Bethlehem, as a reminder of the service.

Each year, after the service, we also take the children to Ten Pin Bowling, which is great fun and much enjoyed by all – staff and children alike!



Farmers say climate change is one of the number one threats they face. Millions of farmers around the world who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods are among the worst affected.

Environmental protection is ingrained in Fairtrade. To sell Fairtrade products, farmers have to improve soil and water quality, manage pests, avoid using harmful chemicals, manage waste, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity. Here are eight ways Fairtrade supports farmers to survive climate change threats and reduce their own carbon footprint.



### 1/ Reforestation projects to store carbon

Many Fairtrade co-operatives choose to invest their Fairtrade Premium in reforestation projects. Planting trees on cleared, degraded land prevents soil erosion and reduces climate change by binding and storing carbon dioxide. The trees also improve biodiversity, protect soils, and provide a habitat for indigenous wildlife. Sireet OEP (Outgrowers Empowerment Producers) in East Africa planted 150k trees in a year alone.

### 2/ Prohibiting harmful agrochemicals

Fairtrade prohibits the use of certain agrochemicals that are harmful to the environment and encourages farmers to reduce their use of pesticides.

Vietnam is known worldwide for exporting large volumes of coffee, and farmers often suffer the negative environmental impact of using chemical pesticides. Eakiet, one of the first Fairtrade cooperatives in Vietnam, is based in a region enriched with natural resources and several national parks. Through training, the co-operative has stopped using pesticides and herbicides. If there is an outbreak of insects, they use high-pressure water to remove them. They continuously weed and prune their trees during the rainy season when the risk of pests and disease increases.

### 3/ Growing trees and crops together

Growing trees and several kinds of crops together increases families' farm yields and their access to food and income.

Trees provide shade for crops and when the leaves fall and decompose, they make the soil more fertile and crops get a better yield. It also enables diversified food production and helps to improve families' intake of nutritional food.

### 4/ Climate change adaptation training

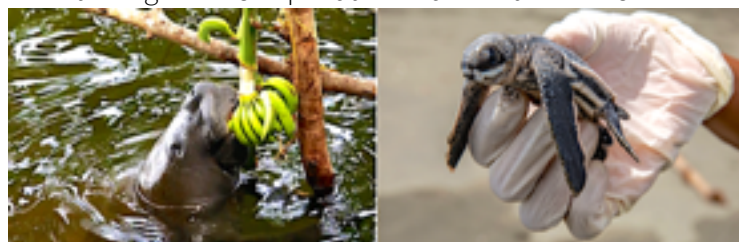
Fairtrade promotes training on climate change mitigation for farmers. Some training offers advice on switching to environmentally friendly practices, such as developing nutrient-rich soils that support healthy plants and encouraging wildlife to help control pests and diseases.



In 2013, organic banana producers in Peru were hit by a severe outbreak of 'red rust thrips' pest, believed to be triggered by climate change. This affected 40% of farms and reduced exports by 30%. In partnership with others, Fairtrade implemented a project to train farmers to find solutions to the outbreak, increasing biodiversity and using local plants to repel the insects. By the end of the project, red rust thrips were under control and the amount of discarded crop was at a minimum.

### 5/ Wildlife conservation projects

Coobana Co-operative in Panama uses some of their Fairtrade Premium from selling bananas to protect endangered turtles that hatch on beaches nearby. They invest in a local non-government organisation, patrol the beaches at night during hatching season and clean up the shoreline. A separate fund also helps feed and protect the local population of river-dwelling manatees who suffer from the high levels of pollution found in the rivers.



### 6/ Fairtrade Carbon Credits

Carbon credits in essence are tonnes of carbon dioxide that have been prevented from entering or have been removed from the atmosphere. Companies can purchase credits to take responsibility for the emissions they produce. These credits can be earned by smallholder farmers through sustainability projects such as reforestation and switching to biogas stoves. The funding for these projects is covered by the carbon credits.

### 7/ Switching to Green Energy Fuels

Deforestation for firewood is a big issue in Ethiopia; the rapid deforestation is directly related to poverty - 46 percent of felling is due to daily energy needs. Traditionally, many people cook over an open-fire, which is both harmful to the environment and women's health. The use of solid fuel open fires and leaky stoves causes an estimated 4.3 million premature deaths each year. Smoke kills more people than TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. Oromia Co-operative in Ethiopia has taken part in the carbon credit initiative to purchase biogas stoves.

This project equipped 10,000 coffee farmers with efficient cookstoves. The new stoves reduce the use of firewood by 50%, the release of harmful soot particles by 24-45%, and carbon emissions by up to 70%. Powered by cow dung, these biogas stoves create by-products which can be used as organic fertiliser on the farm.

### 8/ Reducing water usage

COOCAFE co-operative in Costa Rica spent some of their Fairtrade Premium on a new water treatment system in processing plants. This new system has reduced water use from 2,000-3,000 litres per 225 kg of coffee to 200 litres.

**In short, when you buy Fairtrade, you are helping to support farmers through the often devastating impacts of climate change.**





## Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

Disabled Toilet at the bottom of the Tower in the Cinderford Triangle.

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

St Luke's, Tutshill



St Luke's was designed by Henry Woodyer and consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester on August 12,

## Dates for Your Diaries

Sunday 12 August - **Messy Church** at St Stephen's

Saturday 8 September - **Heritage Open Day** at St Stephen's  
(plus Ride & Stride Day for GHCT)

Tuesday 18 September - **Ladies' Curry Night** at Curry Leaf

Sunday 23 September - **Harvest AAW & BakeOff** at St Stephen's

Friday 5 & Saturday 6 October - **SHINE Ladies' Conference** at St Stephen's

Saturday 13 October - **Benefice Pilgrimage**

## Phoebe: A Story by Paula Gooder

Early in June, a group from around the Benefice headed to Gloucester to hear Paula Gooder speak. Paula is a theologian, Biblical scholar, popular author and speaker; she currently works as the Director for Mission, Learning and Development in the Birmingham Diocese.

At Gloucester, Paula was talking about women in the Bible and their role in the early church. She also introduced her new book, her first work of fiction.

Paula's book, Phoebe: A Story, is based on Paul's letter to church in Rome (see Romans 16:1-2). Phoebe is described as a deacon in the church of Cenchreae and a patron / benefactor (meaning she would have been a wealthy, powerful person). She was entrusted by Paul to deliver his letter to the Romans, resulting probably in her being the first person to explain it. Along with these details, scholars suspect that Phoebe – due to her name often being given to slaves – was a freed slave who had accrued wealth and a client base.

Paula states about Phoebe, "This interesting collection of information is largely agreed on among theologians". Paula has built on what we know about Phoebe, and has allowed her imagination and biblical scholarship to fill in the gaps.

"The thing that has motivated me more than anything else in my writing, is being able to communicate the best New Testament scholarship to people, especially those who wouldn't normally read it," says Paula. "Phoebe is another way to make biblical scholarship more accessible. I want readers to imagine what it was like for people in the first century, who heard Romans for the first time."

If you would like to order a copy of Phoebe, please speak to Mike (822286) or Chris (719438 / [chris@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:chris@cinderford-churches.org.uk)). The book is currently only available in hardback and has an RRP of £14.95. If we order several copies together, we may be able to get a discount.

## Who's on the Trike?



**Rev David Gardiner**

Chaplain to the Bishop of Gloucester

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Lynne Chaundy - 01594 825997

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Sharron Hill - 01594 368054

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

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

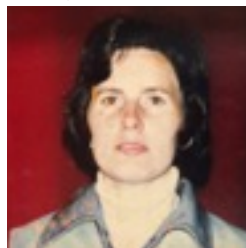
## Celebrating 40 Years of Ministry

Dear all,

What a fantastic weekend 9/10 June was! First, the Trooping of the Colour with massed bands including the Mounted one. Then more bands (and plants!) at the Dilke Fete - in the sun!



Sunday was the The Day! After 40 years ministry - a first! Leading Holy Communion with Mike at St Ethelbert's.



Chocolate cake followed – yum yum!

Going into St Stephen's after to be greeted by cheers was truly amazing!

What a lovely surprise to have a BIG container of more gardening goodies!

In the afternoon, we met at Hanover

Court with a lovely service, led by Anthea. Another cake was produced with a big 40 on it - in the Reader Badge colours! It was really enjoyed by residents and visitors!

One card that I received over the weekend summed it up (from someone I've known for over 30 years).

The writer said "since I've known you - you have been digging and planting, watching and waiting for the green shoots to appear, both in your garden and in developing the faith of those you've ministered to. It has all been gratefully accepted and we look forward to more - in the future!"

My sincere thanks to you all more a memorable weekend.

- Lynne Chaundy



On Sunday June 10th we had the pleasure of Lynne being with us at St. Ethelbert's to assist Mike at our Communion service.

This was a special day as 40 years previously she was admitted to the office of Reader in Derby Cathedral.

At the end of the service she was presented with a celebratory cake which we all enjoyed with our tea or coffee.

- Ann Ladd