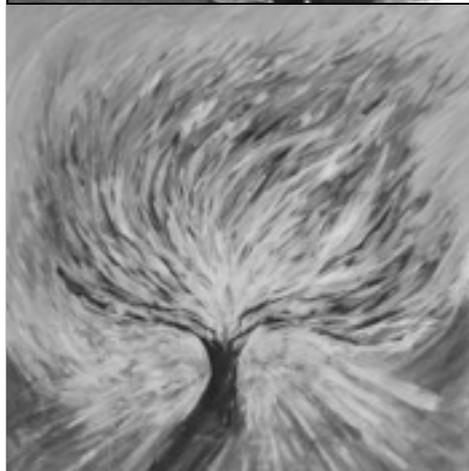




NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

As I write this, it is a few days since our service to celebrate 150 years of Reader ministry. It was a good service where, as well as thinking a little about the history of Readers, we heard from our Benefice Readers past, present and future. David, Lynne, Eunice, Linda, Pat, Richard and Chris all spoke about their calling and their ministry. It was interesting and inspiring; hearing stories of calling, training and ministry.

The Reader celebration service reminded me of my ordination as a priest in September 2007, not least because of the song 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' which we sang at both services. I actually chose it for my ordination service. If you are not familiar with the song, it has three verses, each of which speak (in the first person) of God's desire to reach out to, and connect with, his people. Each verse ends with the question: Whom shall I send? The chorus is, essentially, our response to God's question. It goes like this "Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart." When I sang it at my ordination, I was very emotional. It was very personal. When I sang it at the service at St Stephen's, again I was very emotional. Again, to me, it was very personal. I think it probably was to the readers who were there.

On 19 June, Anthea will be ordained as Deacon at Gloucester Cathedral. I'm sure that will be an emotional occasion for her. (If you are reading this early in June and you have not booked a place on the coach to go and support Anthea at the Cathedral, and would like to do so, then please let me know.)

I said above, that the Reader's service was interesting and inspiring. It was also challenging. Challenging because thinking about their calling encouraged us all to think about our own calling. Although we tend to use the word 'calling' to talk about those who go forward for ordained or reader ministry, it really applies to all of us. God calls each of us who would call ourselves Christians to ministry of some kind. Occasionally that call might be to ordained or licensed ministry, but much more often it is to a role within the Church, or community, or family that might not even feel like it is a call.

I said above that the song 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' was powerful and emotional to me. I said that I thought it would be meaningful to our readers too. But the point is, it should be meaningful to all of us. We are all called in different ways and the words "Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?" should be our response.

I hope that you give thanks for the ministry of our readers past and present. I hope that you pray for their, and Anthea's, ongoing ministries. I hope that you consider what God is calling you to. I hope that, whatever that is, your response is "Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?"

As always, happy to talk.

God Bless, *Mike*



Sunday Service Times

	Bilson	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 5 June	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am FS	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES
Sun 12 June	3.00 pm CBE	10.30 am HC	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 7.00 pm HS
Sun 19 June		10.30 am JS @ URC	No Service - 11 am Ordination @ Cathedral	
Sun 26 June	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am Baptism	9.30 am Baptism	11.00 am AAW
Sun 3 July	3.00 pm FS	10.30 am FS	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

AAHC = All Age Holy Communion; AAW = All Age Worship; CBE = Communion by Extension; EP = Evening Prayer; ES = Evensong; FS = Family Service; HC = Holy Communion; HS = Healing Service; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JS = Joint Service; MP = Morning Prayer; MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; RBL = Royal British Legion; WILD = Youth Group (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

	St John's	St Michael's	St Stephen's
Wed 1 June			10.00 am CBE
Wed 8 June		10.00 am CBE	7.30 pm Shalom
Wed 15 June			10.00 am HC
Sat 18 June	1.00 pm Wedding		
Wed 22 June		10.00 am HC	7.30 pm Shalom
Sat 25 June			12 noon Wedding at St Ethelbert's
Wed 29 June	10.00 am HC		
Wed 6 July			10.00 am CBE

CBE = Communion by Extension; HC = Holy Communion.

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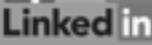


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Anthea's Ordination - Sun 19 June

After 3 years of studying and hard work, Anthea Beresford will be ordained at Gloucester Cathedral at 11 am on Sun 19 June. After her ordination, she will serve as a curate in the Benefice. It would be wonderful if lots of people could go along and support Anthea. A coach will be leaving St Stephen's at 9.30 am (with a stop in Littledean). £3 per person, seats need to be booked in advance. Please contact Rachel Witham (719438) to book a place. There will be a party at St Stephen's on our return to celebrate with Anthea and her family, starting around 2.00 pm.

Cinderford Churches

RBL Garden Party - Sat 2 July

Cinderford Royal British Legion Branch are hosting a Garden Party to recognise the Battle of the Somme, July 1916 in the Vicarage Garden on Saturday 2 July from 5.00 pm. Entertainment will be provided by Cinderford Town Band and 'Ukes uv Azzard'. There are a limited number of tickets available costing £5 each, which includes Pimms, Pork Roast and a Pudding.

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. Tickets from Soldiers & Sailors Club; St White's School or The Old Post Office, St White's Road.

Doreen Young

On Wednesday 4 May, we said goodbye to a much loved and long serving member of Bilson Mission. Her volunteer activities both at Bilson Mission and outside of church included fundraising on the cake stall, teaching at Sunday School and organising coach trips for the Derby & Joan club, cooking for the WI Market and much more were well covered by her son-in-law, Dennis. Even in the last few years with failing health she still managed to cover 50 shoeboxes (in 2015) with lovely pretty paper for the OCC campaign. She will be very much missed.

Operation Christmas Child

Continuing with our aim to pack a 100 shoeboxes as a Benefice at the Bilson Packing Party in October...

In June, we are focussing on hairbrushes or combs along with hairbands / bobbles and jewellery! If you aren't sure if an item is suitable, please speak to Eunice Wilson (826753), Rachel Witham (719438) or Lynne Chaundy (825997).

Eunice is coordinating our efforts and will be storing items during the year, so if you have items ready to donate, please give them to her or drop off at St Stephen's or Bilson.

As you can see from the photograph, we have quite a lot already! We have enough toothbrushes / toothpaste, soap and flannels. Still need more soft toys, colouring pencils / felt tips / crayons, rulers, pencil sharpeners, largish notebooks, small toys and cars.



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Mothers' Union

We were pleased to welcome Celia Wear to our May meeting. Celia came to give us information about Forest Routes, a Lottery funded partnership which aims to raise awareness of community transport in the Forest of Dean. There are a few providers, including the Bream Voluntary Car Service; a Lottery funded independent charity serving the Forest of Dean - transporting carers and those who need transport for medical appointments. Drivers provide a door-to-door service, ensuring that you are booked in for your appointment and waiting until you are ready to return home, at no additional cost.

They routinely travel to medical appointments in and around the Forest of Dean, along with hospitals serving the area (including Oxford), but do go even further if needed. Standard mileage charges apply from the point the driver leaves their home.

Celia was thanked for her informative talk. For those of us who are not fortunate to have our own transport it is reassuring to know that this service is available in our area. Our next meeting is on Monday 6 June at 2.00 pm at The Pludds Village Hall by Rev Helen Rodwell, the theme being that of the MU 140 year anniversary, "Celebration of Faith."



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 the service alternates between St Eth's and Littledean URC.

St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX

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



St Michael's, Soudley, GL14 2UA

Chapel of Ease in Soudley with a similar tradition to St John's. Eucharist on alternate Wednesdays at 10 am.

St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Different worship styles at 11 am and 3 pm. 11 am services reflect an evangelical tradition with a worship band & children's and youth activities; 3.00 pm services are traditional (BCP) with organ. Various midweek services.



Bilson Mission, Cinderford, GL14 2TQ

A tin church, originally built in 1880, hosting traditional services on three Sunday afternoons each month at 3 pm.

Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
 Forest of Dean
 01594 839106

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

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

Cinderford
 Methodist Church
 01594 825662

Cinderford
 Baptist Church
 01594 822618

Littledean URC
 01452 760271

Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Answers can be found on page 11.

I'm in a Benefice church, but where?



Answers can be found on page 11.

From the Registers

Funerals

4 May	Doreen Young	St Stephen's
6 May	Christine Powell	St John's
17 May	Ivor Ward	Forest of Dean Crematorium
27 May	David Parry	St Ethelbert's
27 May	Jean Baker	Forest of Dean Crematorium

Baptisms

8 May	Olivia Hope Amelia Brain	St Ethelbert's
15 May	Toby John Lissenden	St Stephen's

Weddings

7 May	Gethin Hammond & Faith Fellows	St John's
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Christian Aid

As this magazine goes to print, Christian Aid Week is happening. Envelopes have been delivered in Littledean and to local churches. Banners have been displayed in prominent places. The rota for the County Store Collection has been prepared so here goes ! We hope we collect a lot of money for the poorest people on our planet.

Hopefully by our next magazine all monies will have been counted and totals can be reported.

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**Saturday 25 June
10:30am - 2:30pm**

St Stephen's Church
Belle Vue Road, Cinderford



www.cinderford-churches.org.uk



Flaxley Church Flower Festival

"Gloucestershire Life"

Saturday 2nd July 11am to 5pm

Saturday 2.30 Wimberry Clog Dancers

Sunday 3rd July 12am to 5pm.

On Sunday there will be a church service at 11am to which everyone is invited.

Programme £3.00

Refreshments, cakes and plants for sale

Enquiries 01452 760563

Registered charity number 1078041

St Stephen's Summer Fayre - Sat 25 June

Preparations are already underway for the annual Summer Fayre at St Stephen's (Saturday 25 June from 10.30 am - 2.30 pm). There will be plenty of stalls to browse along with delicious food including Cream Teas and goodies from the cake stall and the BBQ team (who will be serving delicious sausage sandwiches for breakfast too!). Games for the young (and young at heart) are being organised by FAN Club - see page 12 for more details. Pat and Margo are very busy growing a huge variety of plants and hope to better last year's incredibly impressive plant stall. Free entry and a very warm welcome to all.

If you would like to donate anything to the Fayre, please contact Rachel Witham (719438 / mrswitham@gmail.com) or bring along to a service at St Stephen's church. All items gratefully received by Wednesday 22 June, thank you!

Please also remember Elaine's request from last month's magazine for "Flowery Feet." The idea is to have a trail of flower-filled footwear leading from town to church on the day of the Fayre.

If you feel able to plant a flower or attractive plant in an old piece of footwear, please give them to Elaine by Friday 24 June so that she can arrange them on Saturday morning. They may disappear during the event, so please don't plant anything you specifically want returned!

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- those in training for lay and ordained ministry (Anthea, Chris and Richard)
- Eunice, Linda and Lynne; 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 leaders
- Syrian refugees, especially young children living in tents and unaccompanied minors
- Gethin and Faith, married in May
- couples getting married in June; Ryan & Ami-Jo and Adrian & Joanne

Activity and Event Times

Mothers' Union at The Pludds (this month)	Monday 6 June - 2.00 pm
people@prayer at 30 Belle Vue Rd	Wednesday 1 - 7.00 pm - 7.45 pm
Bible Study at 30 Belle Vue Rd	Wednesday 1 - 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm
people@prayer at The Vicarage	Wednesday 15 and 29 June - 7.00 pm - 7.45 pm
Bible Study at The Vicarage	Wednesday 15 and 29 June - 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm
BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's	Saturday 18 June - 9.00 am - 10.00 am
Ordination Party at St Stephen's	Sunday 19 June - following return from Cathedral ~ 2.00 pm
St Stephen's Summer Fayre	Saturday 25 June - 10.30 am - 2.30 pm
Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's	Sunday 26 June - 12.30 pm
St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre	Saturday 2 July - 11.00 am - 1.30 pm
RBL Garden Party at The Vicarage	Saturday 2 July - 5.00 pm onwards

Annual Coach Trip

The Annual Coach Trip is planned for Thursday 7 July and the venue will be Hartlebury Castle, near Kidderminster. This is the former home of the Bishop of Worcester.

A guided tour of the State Rooms including the medieval Great Hall, a beautiful Georgian Saloon, the Chapel, the Bishop's House including the Prince's Bedroom and the nationally important Hurd Library is £6 per person and the museum entrance (if desired) is £2.25 each (for seniors). Coach fare would need to be added on top, but will depend on how many people are interested in going.

Please give names to Lynne Chaundy (825997) as soon as possible.

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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: 10.30 am Pause for Prayer**, DoubleView Villa, Littledean Hill Road
- Group meeting to pray for the needs of the church, community and mission partners
- 2.00 pm Craft & A Cuppa**, St Stephen's Church (**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 Coffee Morning**, St Stephen's Church
- Chance to meet for fellowship and enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee
- 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm F.A.N. Club** (Years 1-6), Bilson Mission Schoolroom
- Craft and activity club for primary school children (**during term time; not on 3 June**)
- 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm SMILE** (girls, Year 7+), The Vicarage (**during term time; not 3 June + at Wesley 10 June**)
- Youth group for girls in secondary school with food, games and activities
- 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm IF** (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (**during term time; not on 3 June**)
- Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities
- Sunday: 7.00pm WILDER (Year 9 +)**, The Vicarage (**not on 19 June (join party at church); meeting 26 June**)
- Chance for the older half of the youth group to discuss the 'big issues' over food.



RBL New Standard

The Service of Dedication of the New Standard of the Cinderford Branch of the Royal British Legion took place on Sunday 15th May at St Johns Church. The service was conducted by the Branch Chaplain, Revd Mike Barnsley.



Craft Fayre

A big thank you to all who attended the Spring Craft Fayre at St Stephen's on Saturday 7 May. The range of talent displayed on the variety of stalls filling the church was incredible and it was wonderful to see the



support for the local artisans.

Thank you also to the Mayor of Cinderford, Max Coborn for opening the Fayre and supporting the event.

The next Craft Fayre is on Saturday 22 October. Contact Rachel Witham for further information (mrswitham@gmail.com / 719438).



Summer Fayre - Sat 9 July

Littledean Community Centre is holding a Summer Fayre on Saturday 9 July from 2.00 pm. There will be tea, cake, jams, tombola, plants, stalls (including Fairtrade and painted glass), a magician, fire engine, activities for children and much more! The community centre is off George Rd, behind the Belfry Pub (coming from Cinderford take the first left after Littledean House Hotel). All proceeds will go towards centre and the activities that take place there. If you would like more information or a table, please contact Pauline Rea-Dickins (823735) or Keith Wallis (826125).

Mike's Challenge:

There are several passages in the Bible that talk of connections between heaven and earth, or describe visions of heaven from earth, or possibly describe visits to heaven from earth. How many can you find? There is a free ESV Study Bible for the person who comes up with the most references!

Mike's Question:

What is the literal meaning of the word 'Pentecost'? Why is the word Pentecost sometimes used to refer to the Jewish 'Feast of Weeks' (also known as 'Feast of Harvest' or 'Feast of the firstfruits')?

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

Answers to last month's's:

The eight-day **Feast of Dedication**, also known as Feast of Lights or Hanukkah (Hebrew for Dedication), celebrates the rededication of the Jewish temple in 164/165BC, after its desecration in 167BC (1 Maccabees 1:59).

St John's May Fayre

A big thank you to all who came along and supported. Just over £600 was raised for church funds. More info and photos next month.

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Getting to Know You ... with (Rev) Anthea Beresford

Favourite ice-cream flavour? Creamy vanilla (with a chocolate flake of course!).

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

Favourite season? Spring.

Favourite food & drink? Chocolate and a Gin & Tonic.

Favourite colour? Red.

Favourite flower or tree? Clematis.

Favourite film? The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.

Favourite actor/actress? Dame Judi Dench.

First job? Groundsperson.

Worst job you've done? Cutting frozen cabbages from a field.

Favourite book? Tess of the Dubervilles.

Favourite hymn or church song? Crown Him With Many Crowns.

Favourite Church Building? St Martin's in the Fields.

Favourite item of clothing? Stripy rugby shirt.

What was your best holiday? Camping with the family.

What would be your ideal holiday? Away with family and friends somewhere nice by the sea.

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

Earliest memory? The birth of my brother.

Which living person do you most admire? The Queen.

Where would you most like to be right now? On a beach.

First car (and did it have a name)? 3.5 L Rover (old shape) called Rupert.

Best job you have ever had? Being an aunty.

If you could have any car in the world, what would it be? MG Soft-top Sports Car with wire wheels.

When were you happiest? Right now (apart from the essays that need to be finished!).

Favourite TV programme? Morse.

What do you owe your parents? Love.

If you could go back in time, where would you go, and why? A Medieval Banquet so I could eat the meat and throw the bones over my shoulder!

Most embarrassing moment? Getting the giggles in a lift.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? Anthea, I'm used to it!

Favourite place to eat out? An Italian restaurant.

What would your superpower be? Healing.

Favourite building? La Sagrada Familia.

What keeps you awake at night? 6,540 words to go!

Favourite family memory? Seeing my sister holding her first child.



Lectionary

5 June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

1 Kings 17:17-end Psalm 30
Galatians 1:11-end Luke 7:11-17

12 June (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10,13-15 Psalm 32
Galatians 2:15-end Luke 7:36 - 8:3

19 June (4th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-end Luke 8:26-39

26 June (5th Sunday after Trinity)

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-end Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-end

3 July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-8
Galatians 6:7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Update

Marianne Richards (widow of the recently deceased Rev Anthony Richards) died following a fall at her home on April 26. Following cremation in France, her ashes were interred with Tony's on May 23, 2016.

Little Acorns Nursery

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Littledean Church of England Primary School



Design Technology in Chestnut Class

We have been studying the Romans as part of our history topic. We have looked at weapons used in battles and have started to make Roman catapults in DT – looking at levers.

‘Making a catapult is great fun if you enjoy being creative.’ Kaylie

‘We’ve really enjoyed firing the catapult, it’s been great fun! It looked impossible to begin with but it was easy when we worked as a team.’ Bethan, Ashleigh, Mia and Paige.



Visitors to the School

The children in Holly Leaves had some interesting visitors this week.....some sheep and their guardian dog (who is very gentle). The sheep belong to Evelyn ‘s mum and they are about 6 weeks old. They were walked to the school on leads!!

‘When I gave the sheep a drink it liked it and drank all of it.’ Asha

‘I liked the sheep because I have never seen a real sheep so close before.’ George



SATS Week

It has been SATS week for the children in Year 6 and we have held the traditional SATS breakfast club to help the children relax before the tests. We are very proud of all of them!!





St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre

 **Saturday 2 July** 

11.00 am to 1.30 pm

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cakes Chutney & Preserves Produce Plants Gifts Crafts Bottle Stall 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raffle Books Fairtrade Bric a Brac Light Lunches Coffee / Tea Cakes
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Fairtrade Focus

Blueberry Orange Bread *Taken from*

Mothers' Union Families First magazine

Ingredients

140g / 5oz fresh or frozen blueberries#

1 tbsp plain flour

1 tsp shredded zest of an orange#

390g / 14oz plain flour

200 g / 7oz sugar*

1/4 tsp cream of tartar

1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1/2 tsp salt

1 egg, beaten

320 ml milk

60 ml orange juice#

60 ml oil (sunflower or vegetable)

1 tsp vanilla extract #

(All starred () ingredients are Traidcraft products available at the Fairtrade stall at St Stephen's; ingredients marked with a hashtag (#) are available as Fairtrade but not from church - speak to Rachel for advice on where to purchase - 719438).*

Method

1. Grease and flour the bottom and sides of a 9 x 5 x 3 inch (23 x 13 x 8 cm) loaf tin or line with baking paper.
2. Preheat the oven to 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4.
3. Combine the blueberries, tbsp flour and orange peel in a small bowl, tossing to mix and coat. Set aside.
4. Combine the 390g flour, sugar, baking powder, cream of tartar, bicarbonate of soda and salt.
5. Make a well in the centre and set aside.
6. In another bowl, combine the rest of the ingredients.
7. Add this egg mixture to the well in the dry mixture and stir until the batter is just moistened - the batter will be lumpy.
8. Fold in the blueberry mixture.
9. Place the batter into the baking tin and bake for 45 - 50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted near the centre of the cake comes out clean.
10. Cool in the tin on a wire rack for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin and cool further on the wire rack.
11. Serve with orange cream cheese (just add some orange juice to cream cheese!)

Did you know? The fresh Fairtrade blueberries the Coop sell in the winter and the blueberries in Traidcraft's GeoBar's both come from the same cooperative in Chile!

Fairtrade blueberries currently are all supplied by Apicoop in Chile who started growing blueberries to widen their income source from honey. Hopefully other cooperatives in the region will realise there is a market for Fairtrade blueberries and get involved. In the meantime, you can enjoy them in the Mixed Berry GeoBar's available at St Stephen's or from the Coop in the winter months. More information about Apicoop was in the April magazine.



Fairtrade on the move...

The Fairtrade stall will be visiting the Dilke Annual Fete on June 11 (from 2.00 pm), Littledean School Summer Fayre on June 18 (from 2.00 pm), St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre on July 2 (from 11.00 am) and Littledean Community Centre Summer Fayre on July 9 (from 2.00 pm). Look out for me (Rachel) and do come along and say 'hi'! It is very exciting to be able to promote Fairtrade and support the community at so many events!

Benefice Day of Prayer

In 2012 a Diocesan vision statement was produced: *Journeying Together 2012 - 2016*. As we are now in 2016 Bishop Rachel is seeking to Journey on by asking parishes/benefices to pray and seek God to find out what the Holy Spirit is saying to us in this Diocese. What is your dream or vision for the Church in our Diocese in five years' time? What could we do to realise this vision?

We responded to this request by holding a 12 hour day of prayer in St Stephen's church, for the benefice, on Saturday 14 May. The whole 12 hours was covered in prayer, there was always somebody in church praying and many more people prayed at home.

There were 12 prayer stations for people to engage with, some involved craft, others were intended for people to just sit and come into the presence of the Lord. There was an opportunity to encourage others and to pray for other churches in the Diocese as well as our link missionaries and other countries around the world.

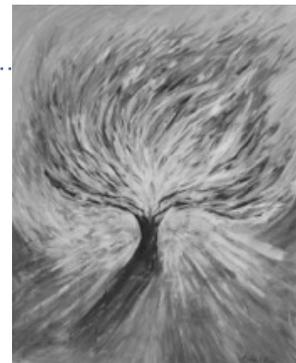
From the book of responses some of the comments received were: "What a wonderful calming experience, feel totally at peace now".

"Really useful to connect with God in the stillness + quiet" "I felt God's presence at the picture - particularly his light, his love touched me greatly".

"God speaks - Listen". "I felt at peace with God".

In a world of speed and modern day technology we don't always put aside time to come into God's presence. Many people suffer because of stress., mental Health services are stretched to their limit. Perhaps our dream for the Diocese should be to provide a place for people to come and be refreshed and find peace in the Lord. Jesus said "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I

will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). We as a church have the key to providing that rest. There was certainly great interest in this benefice in making a prayer day at the very least an annual event.



Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



The old Lloyds Bank building in Commercial Street. Does anyone know when they moved to the High Street?

I'm in a Benefice church, but where?

In St Ethelbert's Church roof, but does anyone know what it is?



Who's on the Trike?



Matt Jones
Project Manager
Forest Upcycling Project

Dates for Your Diaries...

- Sunday 19 June - 11.00 am -
Anthea's Ordination at Gloucester Cathedral (followed by a party at St Stephen's)
- Saturday 25 June - 10.30 am - 2.30 pm -
St Stephen's Summer Fayre
- Saturday 2 July - 11.00 am - 1.30 pm -
St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre
- Saturday 2 July - 5.00 pm onwards -
RBL Garden Party at The Vicarage/St Stephen's
- Thursday 7 July - **Annual Benefice Coach Trip**
- Saturday 6 August - 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm -
Vicar's BBQ at The Vicarage
- Saturday 27 August - **Benefice Pilgrimage**

Reader Celebration Service

On Sunday 15 May, a service to celebrate the ministry of past, present and future Readers in the Benefice along with the ministry of Readers in the Church of England over the last 150 years took place at St Stephen's. It was wonderful to hear so many memories from Pat, Lynne and David and the beginnings of journeys from Eunice, Linda, Richard and Chris. A big thank you to all our Readers!



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Contact Us

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Tel: 01594 822286

Mobile: 07903 436009

Email: mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

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

Churchwarden at St Ethelbert's:

Peter Meredith - 01594 822445

Churchwardens at St John's:

Evelyn Smith - 01594 822755

Chris Taylor - 01594 824197

Churchwardens at St Stephen's:

Nick Jones - 01594 825902

Chris Witham - 01594 719438

Urgent Prayer Requests –

Please contact:

Sian Barnsley - 07932 193291

Eunice Wilson - 01594 826753

Mike Barnsley - 01594 822286

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Editorial Team

St John's - Ann & John Holliday

St Eth's - Maureen Wheeler

St Stephen's - Rachel Witham and
Angela Lewis

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

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

Queen's 90th birthday celebrations at Bilson Mission

As we have been holding FAN (Friday Activity Night) Club in the Bilson Mission schoolroom since September,

we were asked if we would like to join them for their Queen's

90th birthday celebrations on Saturday 23 April. We put on some fun activities enjoyed by both children and adults. We made tasty 3D golden carriage cookies, crowns and flags.



We also held a quiz about the Queen, her life and family. For those who didn't know all the answers, there were photos and information sheets around the church. The 'Guess the number of sweets in the royal tin' competition was won by Dave Burt. Many thanks to the ladies of Bilson Mission for the delicious lunch.



FAN Club will be putting on more games and activities at St Stephens Church Summer Fayre on Saturday 25th June. We will be having an Old Macdonald's Farm theme. There will be farm animal crafts, hook a duck, lucky egg game, guess the name of the duck competition, farm animal hoopla and more! It would be great if you could join us on the day for lots of fun and to find out more about FAN Club.

- Karen, Jane and Linda



Despite the cold weather, the lunch provided by Kath Greenman, Barbara Marshall and Muriel Jones was enjoyed by all. Many thanks also to those who manned stalls in the church.



A pink rose cutting entitled 'Queen Elizabeth' was available at a small cost as a memento of the day.



Long may she reign!

- Lynne Chaundy

Archdeacon's Visitation

On Monday 16 May, three of our elected churchwardens visited St Peter and St Paul, Westbury-on-Severn to be admitted to office for another year. Nick Jones, Chris Witham and Eve Smith with Archdeacon Jackie.

