



NEWS & VIEW

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



Who's on the Trike?



Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

On Thursday 1 February this year the well known and loved children's programme 'Blue Peter' celebrated its 5000th episode. You may have seen the special episode showing clips of previous Blue Peter shows. Later this year, in October the show will be celebrating 60 years of broadcasting the programme.

The first programme was aired live on 16 October 1958. The first presenters were Christopher Trace and Leila Williams. On the 1 February 2018 Leila Williams was invited on to the Chris Evans breakfast show on radio 2. I listened with interest as Chris asked Leila what she thought of the first Blue Peter show. She replied that she had no idea what the show was like as, the programme was live and in those days, there were no facilities to record programmes. She went on to say that she had to rely on feedback from friends, colleagues and national polls to know what the nation thought of the programme and what it looked like. It struck me how far we have come in the world of technology in just 60 years. Today, not only can programmes be recorded, you can watch again on the internet or, in the case of programmes that aren't live, they can be watched through the internet on computers, lap tops, iPad and even mobile phones before they are aired on television.

This applies to many things in and around our homes and our way of life. The way we communicate for instance, love it or hate it, the ever growing social media means we can constantly be in touch with friends and family. Just in the last 60 years (if you can remember that far back) life has changed out of all recognition.

As we approach Easter and cast our minds back over 2,000 years, we look at the familiar story of Jesus's betrayal, death on the cross and resurrection. That has not changed but the way in which it can be presented to us has. We not only read the story, we can watch it in any format imaginable on available technology.

Does being in the comfort of our homes/churches unaffected by the brutality and circumstances of Jesus's death take away the power of the message of salvation? Do we consider what Jesus's death and resurrection has to do with us today?

Paul, in his letters to the Hebrews (Hebrews 13:8) says that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Yesterday, active in creation, today, offering us salvation and forever, reigning in heaven.

Throughout our changing world it's a comfort to know that Jesus never changes. We can trust in our Lord and Saviour. If you don't know the story or haven't heard it for a while why not look it up on one of the many forms of technology available, it hasn't changed. Jesus is waiting for you.

Yours in the love of Christ, *Linda*



	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 4 March		10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD
Sun 11 March Mothering Sun	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW 3.00 pm Messy Church
Sun 18 March		10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC 3.00 pm HC
Sun 25 March PALM SUNDAY	3.00 pm SW			10.30 am Benefice Palm Sunday HC The Triangle (or St Stephen's)
Sun 1 April EASTER DAY		9.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	6.30 am Sunrise Service @ Littledean Hill Road 11.00 am AAHC

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

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

Midweek Service Times

Wed 7 March, 10.00 am CBE at St Stephen's
 Wed 14 March, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's
 Wed 21 March, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Mon 26 March, 7.30 pm HC at St John's
 Tue 27 March, 7.30 pm HC at St John's
 Wed 28 March, 7.30 pm HC at St John's
 7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's
 Thu 29 March, 7.30 pm HC & Meal at St Stephen's
 Fri 30 March, 10.00 am JS @ URC
 2.00 pm Last Hour at the Cross, St John's
 7.30 pm Good Friday Liturgy at St John's
 Wed 4 April, 10.00 am CBE at St Stephen's

Craft Fayre

The first of St Stephen's very popular Craft Fayres in 2018 will be on Saturday 17 March from 10.00 am till 2.00 pm. The Church will once again be packed with an array of stalls showcasing the amazing talents of local artisans;



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

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

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plus the resident Fairtrade stall offering products from international crafters!

There is a wonderful combination of returning and brand new artisans, do come along and show your support for small local businesses as well as enjoying bacon baps, light lunches, delicious cakes, raffle and craft activities to try on the day including a range of Paint-Your-Own items.

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



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 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.

Bilson Mission, Cinderford, GL14 2TQ

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



Open the Book

As many of you know teams from churches across Cinderford visit assemblies at St White's Primary School and Forest View Primary School once a week to read and act out Bible stories.

The teams, especially St White's, are in need of some extra volunteers and would welcome more people joining who can spare an hour or so a week. Men or women of any age are welcome. A DBS is required for any volunteers going into schools.

Open the Book is really good fun and very easy to be involved with, the materials are all provided and easy to follow.

Are you interested or would like to know more? If so contact Nikola Poole on 01594 822967 (St White's) or Rachel Witham on 01594 719438 (Forest View).

From the Registers

Funerals

1 Feb	Ronald Osborne	St Stephen's
6 Feb	Ivor Bennett	FoD Crem
8 Feb	Christopher Malsom	St Stephen's
12 Feb	Josephine Cottrell	St Stephen's
20 Feb	Robert Wright	St John's
21 Feb	Linda Beddington	St Stephen's
26 Feb	Edward Phelps	FoD Crem
26 Feb	Kathleen Rudge	St Stephen's

Weddings

3 Feb Adrian McCauley & Tarja Saynajakangas St Stephen's

Baptisms

25 Feb Esmaralda Lola Brain St Stephen's

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Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Answers can be found on page 11.

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



Answers can be found on page 11.

Ground clearance at St Stephen's

Despite the inclement weather, the February ground clearance day at St Stephen's was a great success. Eight of us made excellent progress clearing all the low level greenery from the side of the Vicarage lawn. This will allow the lawn to regrow back to its original size, let a lot more sunlight into church and allow us clear, safe access to the trees so we can safely remove some of them. Thank you to everyone who took part, it was a great team effort. We'll be organising more ground clearance days throughout the year, speak to Kim or Chris (Churchwardens at St Stephen's) if you're interested in helping out.

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Bishop Robert visiting the Forest

Bishop Robert will be presiding at the Eucharist during our Palm Sunday service (Sunday 25 March) after joining the procession from the Triangle to St Stephen's.

The service **starts at 10.30 am** in both The Triangle and St Stephen's (for those who don't wish to process). The service will include a reading of The Passion and Communion and will be followed by a bring and share cold finger buffet.

Bishop Robert will also be leading some teaching sessions during Lent, each session is independent and anyone is welcome.

Sun 11 March, Christ Church, Christchurch, 4.00 pm. An hour exploring our observance of Good Friday, its scriptures and liturgy. There will be time for prayer and reflection.

Sun 18 March, Holy Jesus, Lydbrook, 4.00 pm. An hour exploring our observance of Easter with its scriptures and liturgy. There will be time for prayer and reflection.

Bishop Robert will also be taking a service at St Peter's Church, Newnham on Easter Eve (Saturday 31 March) at 7.30 pm with lighting of the new fire, vigil, confirmation and communion for anyone that would like to attend.

Easter Lilies

If anyone wishes to donate towards the cost of the Easter Lilies around the Benefice: at St Stephen's, please contact Rachel Witham (719348) and at St John's please contact Eve Smith (822755).

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

News & Views

Mothers' Union Report

On 6 February, our Annual Meeting was held, chaired by Peter Poole in the absence of the Vicar through illness. We began with a short service and then moved into the meeting. With apologies given by several members, reports were received from our Branch Leader Nikola Poole, Secretary Christine Morgan, and retiring Treasurer Margaret Swiers. The officers were re-elected with the exception of Margaret Swiers following her resignation and the branch committee was also re-elected en bloc. Thanks were expressed to Margaret for her stewardship. No one was willing to accept the post of Treasurer so if any member of our congregations is interested, or would like to know more with a view to becoming Treasurer, please contact Nikola Poole on 01594 822967. The post is not onerous.

The Secretary outlined the proposed 2018 programme and the formal meeting closed; members enjoyed refreshments and a chat prior to departing.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 6 March at 2.30 pm in St Stephen's Church the speaker will be Sue Bonner talking about her time in Uganda. - Nikola Poole

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).

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Charlie Hall

Charlie Hall (Maurice Charles Hall) a well known and well loved member of St Stephen's, passed away peacefully at Gloucester Royal Hospital on Tuesday 13 February 2018, aged 93, after a long and difficult time in hospital. His daughter Ellen was at his side.



Charlie was a loyal and committed member of St Stephen's and an enthusiastic member of the St White's Open the Book team. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Charlie's funeral will be at St Stephen's at 10.30am on Thursday 1 March.



Clothes Swishing (Swap) Evening

A swishing party is a fantastic way to update your wardrobe. It's fun and doesn't cost a fortune. It's common knowledge that women in the UK have a serious obsession with shopping! In fact 50% of all the products we buy are clothes. On average, we throw away 30kg of unwanted items, per person each year. Not only is this damaging to the environment but it's damaging to our pockets as well!

We've all bought things in the past that we've never worn or have outgrown one way or another, and now's the time to swap them for something that you'll love to wear! Or you just fancy changing a few pieces and want to socialise for an evening; then come along to our Swishing Event on Wednesday 21 March at St Stephen's Church (Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford)! It's the perfect opportunity to swap any unwanted garments and pick up some new clothes.

If you've never been Swishing before here's how it works: Sort through your clothes and bring along some clean clothes in good condition. (They don't have to be new, but they should be something you'd be pleased to take home.)

The evening will start with the drop off, where tickets will be given in exchange for clothes. There will be some time for socialising and enjoying refreshments and some simple ideas for upcycling clothes at home whilst clothes are organised, then the swish will be opened and clothes can be "purchased" with your tickets. Designer items in good condition will be worth more tickets on the night.

If you run out of tickets during the night and see something that you would love, extra tickets will be available to purchase on the night. If you are unable to bring any items to exchange, you will be able to purchase some tickets on the night so that you can join in the fun!

Items can be brought along between 6.00 pm and 7.15 pm. The swish will start at 7.30 pm.

If you would like to drop off items ahead of time or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Rachel at rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk to arrange a suitable time.

More info available on our Facebook event page or website.

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- those who have recently been bereaved
- Adrian & Tarja, married in February
- Esmaralda, baptised in February
- 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
- the future of 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
- the Fairtrade Foundation and all working towards fair trade globally
- 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



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Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's
BoB Breakfast meeting at Beechenhurst
Messy Church at St Stephen's
Ladies' Curry Meal at The Curry Leaf
Pilgrim Course at St Stephen's
Craft Fayre at St Stephen's
Clothes Swishing (Swap) Evening at St Stephen's
Bring&Share Palm Sunday Lunch at St Stephen's
Maundy Thursday Meal at St Stephen's
Good Friday Walk of Witness from The Triangle
St John's Concert at St John's

Thursday 1 March, 7.30 pm
 Saturday 3 March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
 Tuesday 6 March, 2.30 pm
 Thursday 8 March, 7.30 pm
 Saturday 10 March, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
 Sunday 11 March, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
 Tuesday 13 March, 7.00 pm
 Thursday 15 March, 7.30 pm
 Saturday 17 March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
 Wednesday 21 March, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm
 Sunday 25 March, 12.30 pm
 Thursday 29 March, 7.30 pm
 Friday 30 March, 12.00 noon
 Saturday 31 March, 7.00 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

- 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 March)**

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

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Messy Church

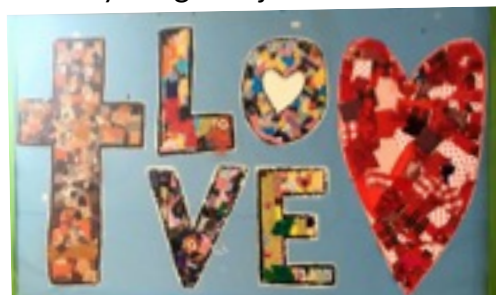
February's Messy Church was filled with crafts and activities around the theme of Love, including a wonderful mural that everyone got to join in with and a frontal for the Communion Table.

March Messy Church will be on Sunday 11 March from 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm and will include food, crafts

and activities looking at Fairtrade (so will include the chance to eat chocolate and other Fairtrade treats!).

There will also be a chance for everyone to make cards and gifts for someone that cares for them as March 11 is Mothering Sunday.

All children and young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2018 will be May 13 to May 19.

The Coop County Store (Dockham Road) has kindly agreed for a collection to take place on Thursday 17 May and Friday 18 May.

Volunteers will be needed to sign up for an hour (or two) slot. Please save the date :)

Christian Aid can also be supported on Maundy Thursday at a lunch at Littledean URC from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. There will also be bring & buy, cake and Fairtrade stalls. Please do come along and support the wonderful soup makers and Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Lunch

Maundy Thursday - 29 March
12 noon - 1.30 pm
URC Schoolroom, Littledean

Please come along and enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup and support Christian Aid.



Bring & Buy, Bric - a - Brac
Cakes
Fairtrade Stall

Mike's Question:

What passage in Luke's Gospel seems to echo The Beatitudes in Matthew 5?

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

Mike's Challenge:

Learn the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12).

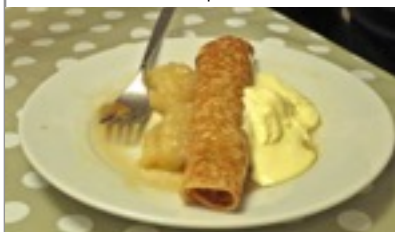
Answers to last month's question:

The Septuagint is the Greek Translation of the (Hebrew) Old Testament. It was the translation read in the early Church and quoted by New Testament writers. Septuagint is '70' in Latin and is understood to refer to a group of translators assembled by King Ptolemy II to undertake the translation. The Septuagint is often referred to simply as LXX (Roman numerals for 70).

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To donate £130 to church, simply through changing your house insurance, ring Ecclesiastical and quote TRUST130 and the name of the Church (St Stephen's / St John's / St Ethelbert's). It's that simple!

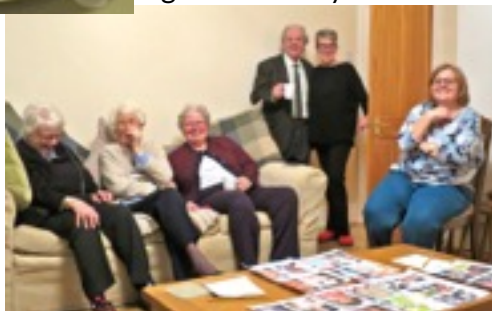
You must get the quote directly from Ecclesiastical. If you are interested in finding out more, please either look at their website: www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130 or ring 0800 783 0130 and mention TRUST130.



Pancake Parties

On a cold and icy Shrove Tuesday evening, members of St John's gathered together at Tony and Eve's

house to share pancakes with a variety of toppings. It was a very sociable evening with good companionship and lots of fun trying to solve the famous people picture quiz. The monies raised from the raffle went to church funds. Many thanks to Tony and Eve for their hospitality.



Around 40 people at St Stephen's enjoyed a variety of hot and cold fillings with pancakes being expertly flipped by Karen and Kim. Even a slight hitch with the electrics didn't stop the eating of butterscotch sauce!

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Cinderford Churches Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday Service - there is only one service in the Parish Churches around the Benefice, at 10.30 am, starting in The Triangle and then processing up to St Stephen's. If you feel unable to join the procession, the service will also start at St Stephen's at 10.30 am. Bishop Robert will lead the service.

Holy Week Communion - on Monday (26), Tuesday (27) and Wednesday (28) there will be a Holy Communion service at St John's starting at 7.30 pm. The services are a good time to reflect on the events that took place between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Holy Communion - at St Stephen's from 7.30 pm, the evening starts with a shared meal and Holy Communion and ends with the stripping of the Communion Table (others will then proceed to strip the altar at St John's).

Good Friday - there are various services around the Benefice; at 10.00 am, a Joint Service at Littledean URC; at 12.00 noon the various churches from around Cinderford and Littledean meet in The Triangle for the March of Witness; at 2.00 pm, a quiet reflective service around the Last Hour at the Cross at St John's and at 7.30 pm (also at St John's) a service using the Good Friday liturgy.

Holy Saturday - on Saturday 31 March, St Stephen's will be open for personal prayer from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm, with an Easter Vigil at 12 noon.

Easter Sunday - various services to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, starting with a sunrise service on Littledean Hill Road at 6.30 am (opposite the junction with Dockham Road). 9.30 am Eucharist at St John's; 9.30 am Communion at St Ethelbert's and 11.00 am All Age Communion at St Stephen's.

Easter Garden Competition

Entries from all ages are once again invited for the St Stephen's Easter Garden Competition. This will be judged during the Easter All Age Holy Communion (Sunday 1 April at 11 am) and is an excellent way to get involved if you have a passion for garden design, crafting or even cake making (with previous entries including cushions, cakes, drawings alongside more traditional Easter gardens!).

There will be prizes in children, young people and adult categories and judging will be based on creativity, Biblical reference, originality and overall appearance.

News & Views



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Lectionary

4 March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19:7-end
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

11 March (Mothering Sunday)

1 Samuel 1:20-end Psalm 127:1-4
Colossians 3:12-17 John 19:25b-27

18 March (5th Sunday of Lent)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-13
Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

25 March (Palm Sunday)

Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:19-24
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-end of 15

26 March (Monday of Holy Week)

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

27 March (Tuesday of Holy Week)

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

28 March (Wednesday of Holy Week)

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

29 March (Maundy Thursday)

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 Psalm 116:1, 10-end
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

30 March (Good Friday)

Isaiah 52:13 - end of 53 Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1 - end of 19

1 April (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

Littledean Church of England Primary School



End of Term

At the end of term 3 we welcomed members of the local community to the school to share some of the work that we completed during the term. The children shared stories, music, art work and science – we are very proud of what they have achieved so far this year.



Values for Life

This term our Christian Value for Life is compassion and we will be spending time learning about how to show compassion towards others.



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

Happy Birthday Heather!

On Sunday 25 February, St Stephen's congregation was thrilled to be able to celebrate with Heather Brimble, as she turned 80. We had lots of delicious cake lovingly made by members of the congregation.



Sufia's Pastry Parcels

Recipe supplied by Traidcraft Exchange based on Sufia's recipe

Ingredients

One packet of puff pastry (you can make your own if you are feeling very fancy)

250g cream cheese

60g icing sugar#

3/4 teaspoon of cinnamon*



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. Tip the cream cheese, cinnamon and icing sugar into a bowl and mix together – this will be the filling and topping
2. Cut out circles from the pastry using a cutter or an upturned glass
3. Place a dollop of cream cheese filling in the centre of the circle, and then seal the pastry along the edges
4. Bake in the oven for 12 minutes at 190 degrees, then leave to cool
5. Ice with the remaining cream cheese and cinnamon mixture then dust with icing sugar.

Sufia and her husband live in an area of Bangladesh largely reliant on agriculture, but they own very little land. This means that their opportunities to earn a decent living are severely limited.

For years, Sufia tried to make ends meet by labouring in jute extraction – extracting and cleaning the fibres from 'retted' jute (jute which has rotted under water to make it easier to work). These fibres are then sold and woven into baskets or bags.

The jute season is just three months long, and Sufia wasn't even paid a wage – instead receiving one bundle of jute sticks per basket of fibre extracted.

So Sufia got to thinking about new ways to earn money.

Having noticed the busy junction near her house, she knew there was profit to be made by selling home made snacks and hot drinks to hungry passers-by. What she didn't know was how to access the capital she needed to get started.

Traidcraft Exchange has worked with people involved with jute for many years, helping women exactly like Sufia, at the very bottom of the supply chain.

Thanks to many years of working in the jute sector, Traidcraft Exchange staff knew that women like Sufia, despite their hard work and determination, couldn't make a living from jute alone – they need alternative incomes. That's why they set up the JEWEL project, working with hidden entrepreneurs to give them the skills and opportunities they need to leave poverty behind for good.

Traidcraft Exchange helped Sufia to take part in business training, and join a local savings groups, who lent her a

News & Views



small sum of money. Following this, she felt confident enough to invest in the first batch of ingredients, baking traditional Bangladeshi fried cakes, soaked in sugar syrup.

Now her roadside stall is thriving, and her sweet snacks are selling, quite literally, like hot cakes!

Traidcraft Exchange is the charity arm of Traidcraft, working separately, but alongside the trading company. All money raised at the Big Brew will be sent to Traidcraft Exchange and until the end of April, all money sent will be doubled through the UKAid scheme!

Rice Challenge

The rice has arrived and we are all set for our 90kg Rice Challenge! Can you join in and buy a bag or two of rice to help send a child to secondary school for a year in Malawi?



This Fairtrade Fortnight, St Stephen's are partnering with Just Trading Scotland to sell ninety, 1kg bags of rice. The rice is Kilombero long grain rice, grown in Malawi. And the reason behind the challenge is that in Malawi a farmer has to sell 90kg of rice to send a child to secondary school for a year.

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

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

Each 1kg bag will cost £3. Brown and white rice are both available at the same price.

If you would like information about running the challenge at your own school / place of work, please contact Rachel. (rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438).

Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

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



"Mad Hatters", Littledean



St Ethelbert's, Littledean

Dates for Your Diaries

Sunday 8 April - **Messy Church, St Stephen's**Thursday 19 April - **St Ethelbert's APCM**Sunday 22 April - **St John's APCM**Sunday 22 April - **St Stephen's APCM**Saturday 19 May - **Craft Fayre, St Stephen's**Saturday 23 June - **St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre**Saturday 30 June - **Littledean Community Fayre**

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SPRING CONCERT
St John's Church
Cinderford
SATURDAY 31st MARCH 2018
at 7.00 PM

With the
Bream Silver Band
Adult Tickets £5 on the door
Children free

which includes Pimm's and Hot Cross Buns

Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Who's on the Trike?



Robert Springett
 Bishop of Tewkesbury

Vicar: Mike Barnsley

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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)

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(Anthea has a full-time job and her regular church day off is Saturday. Please phone / email and she will respond as soon as possible)

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(If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding anyone who attends church please contact Karen Jones or Mike Barnsley.)

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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 Thursday 15 March.

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

Big Brew & BakeOff

Fairtrade Fortnight is underway and runs until Sunday 11 March.

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

St Stephen's will be putting on the kettle to raise money for Traidcraft Exchange in an extra special way, by holding a 'Big Brew' on Saturday 3 March from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm to support the charity's 'Hidden Entrepreneur' Appeal which focuses on people in developing countries who have the talent and determination to succeed, but lack the opportunity.

In an extra special twist, this year every donation will be matched by the UK Government meaning twice as much money goes to help people build businesses and create a better future for their families and communities.

Kate Dixon, Fundraising Manager at Traidcraft Exchange, said: 'Everyone who holds or attends a Big Brew event will be helping people in countries like Kenya, Bangladesh and Senegal learn the skills they need to turn their potential into profit - and use that to feed their families and educate their kids.

Plus all donations to our Hidden Entrepreneur appeal before 11 April this year will be matched by the UK Government so we can help twice as many people.'

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

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

There will also be our well entered, rather competitive BakeOff. This year the three categories are "Biscuits", "Mini Treats" and "Freestyle". You can enter as many of the categories as you want and you can enter multiple times if you wish.

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

Judging will take place during the Big Brew at 11.00 am, after which prizes will be awarded and entries will be sold for people to enjoy on the day (or take away for a teatime treat!).

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

