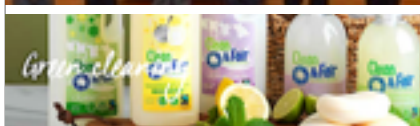




# NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

## Inside this Month...



## Who's on the Trike?



## Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

Spring is my favourite time of the year because of the new life and new hope which it brings, yet this year it seems that pleasant spring weather is very shy at making an appearance. As I write the temperature is low and I can only just see one end of the garden from the other because of the low cloud – November comes to mind rather than spring. God's plant creation however seems to know that spring has arrived with the new fat buds on the shrubs, the first signs of new leaf on the trees not to mention the daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers making a show; so not all gloom and doom.

Another reason for liking Spring is because when I was gainfully employed, May was always a good month because of the two bank holidays giving two shorter working weeks: whoo hoo. I don't think it's going to be quite the same having retired from paid employment. But spring is still #1 in my top four favourite seasons!

In the church year, we have passed the great festival of Easter and now approaching Ascension and then Pentecost which is from 10 to 20 of May. During those eleven days, Christians from around the world are being invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Justin Welby) to focus on prayer using art and scripture in connection with the theme of Changed Lives – Changing Lives. This is part of the initiative started a couple of years ago by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York called Thy Kingdom Come which encourages people to explore, through prayer, how to courageously witness to God's life-changing work.

As part of this prayer focus there will be a benefice prayer day on Saturday 12 May, when St Stephen's Church will be open between 7 am and 7 pm specifically for prayer with prayer stations set up to help with prayer ideas. More information about this day is also in this magazine.

Prayer is an essential part of Christian life, God wants his people – you and me – to talk to him and with him. Prayer does not have to use any special types of words or be complicated or wordy we can simply talk to God just as you would to a good friend or family member. Most of us will know the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him how to pray, we know it as the Lord's Prayer. It is straight forward and to the point and is used daily all around the world.

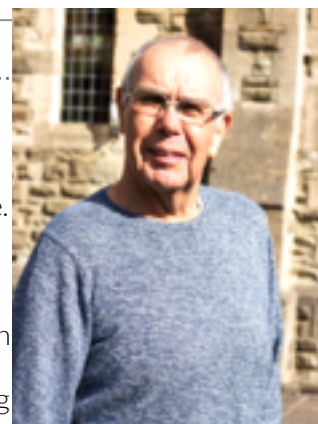
We can pray in large or small groups or on your own; in all sorts of situations from a still and quiet location to the busyness of a shopping mall. We can pray silently or out loud, but wherever or however I would encourage us all to pray more. I know it's not the easiest of things to do in groups, large or small, I don't always find it easy to pray out loud in a group situation but God loves to hear us.

Prayer groups seem to be the least popular activity within the church life, unlike eating cake, which for some reason is very popular. Perhaps the bakers within the church should bake a prayer cake where every slice contains a prayer request or with every slice you pray for a person or certain situation. Or maybe not; this could become a bit messy with hands together-n-eyes closed!

I'm not promising any cake on the 12 May at St Stephen's but really would encourage you to come along to the church sometime during the twelve hours and pray for five of your family and friends that they would come to know Jesus and to follow him as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. Or you may just want to use the quiet of the church to pray for other situations.

As I talked about at the beginning of this letter, the pleasant spring weather seems shy in showing its self but despite that, new life is there bursting through. In a similar way don't be shy about prayer life, let it flourish and be like those new buds and blossom into a new relationship with God.

Yours in the love of Christ., *Richard*



	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
<b>Sun 6 May</b>		10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 2.00 pm Baptism 3.00 pm ES
<b>Sun 13 May</b>	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am MP	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW 3.00 pm <b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Sun 20 May</b>		10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD 3.00 pm HC
<b>Sun 27 May</b>	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW
<b>Sun 3 June</b>		10.30 am SW 2.00 pm Baptism	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

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

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 2 May, 10.00 am HC  
at St Stephen's

Sat 5 May, 1.00 pm Wedding  
at St Stephen's

Wed 9 May, 10.00 am HC at St John's  
7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Thu 10 May, 7.30 pm Ascension Day HC  
at St John's

Wed 16 May, 10.00 am CBE  
at St Stephen's  
7.00 pm Episcopal Visitation  
at St Stephen's

Wed 23 May, 10.00 am HC at St John's  
7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Sat 26 May, Wedding at St Stephen's

Wed 30 May, 10.00 am HC  
at St John's

Wed 6 June, 10.00 am HC  
at St Stephen's

### Benefice day of prayer

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a call from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who invite Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus during the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops to the Church of England, has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. It is hoped that everyone who participates will deepen their friendship with Jesus, bring others to know Jesus or know him better, and understand every aspect of their life can be affected by prayer.

This year we will be responding to that call when we hold the Benefice day of prayer on Saturday 12 May at St Stephen's Church. As before the church will be open for prayer anytime from 7 am until 7 pm. There will also be chance to pray at home if you are unable to get to the church. Please come along if you are able to, or sign up to pray for part of the day. This year there will also be times of more formal prayer throughout the day at 8 am, 11 am, 2 pm and 5 pm. So if you prefer something more structured come along at one of those times.



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**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.



**Home Communion**

If you live in the Benefice and would like to receive  
home communion, please contact the Vicar, Mike  
Barnsley, (822286) or Linda Blagg (822153).

**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

4 April	Freda Jones	St Stephen's
9 April	Pamela Edwards	St Stephen's
19 April	Edna Willett	St Ethelbert's
24 April	Ruth Davies	FoD Crem
25 April	Kath Wright	St John's

**Baptisms**

22 April	Asher- James Davies	St Stephen's
29 April	Olivia Grace Joyce Wissett	
	Luke Michael Du Feu	St Stephen's

**Our Partner  
Churches**

Salvation Army  
Forest of Dean  
01594 839106

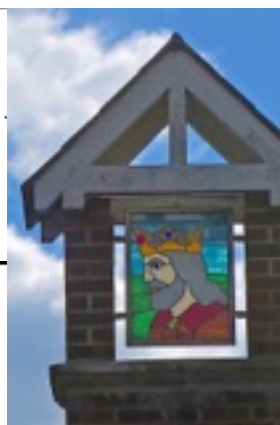
Littledean URC  
01452 760271

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

Cinderford  
Methodist Church  
01594 825662

Cinderford  
Baptist Church  
01594 822618

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



**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.

**Mothers' Union Report**

Our monthly meeting, a Lady Day Service, took  
place on Tuesday 3 April. The service was led by Pat  
Allen with hymns and readings by members. Pat  
talked about the Virgin Mary, relating the founder  
of the MU, Mary Sumner, to her. Fellowship and  
refreshments were enjoyed in conclusion.

Several members enjoyed attending a Deanery  
Lady Day service at Ruardean a little later in the  
month.

Ian Bonner will be giving a Botanical Talk at our  
next meeting on Tuesday 1 May at 2.30 pm at St  
Stephen's Church. All would be very welcome.

- Nikola Poole

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### Messy Church

Sheep took over in Messy Church April as attendees enjoyed learning all about sheep in the Bible through crafts, games, food and songs.



May's Messy Church is on Sunday 13 May from 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm and will include food, crafts and activities looking at the story of Joseph. All children and young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



News & Views

### MND & Ride London

I'm a mountain biker at heart; I love casual rides and a tea and cake stop of a weekend. But challenged by the efforts of my road bike riding buddies Paul and Kev, and affected by my mother's cousin's story and blog, I'd like to do something to help raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and their work.



My Aunt Nikki was first diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in December 2011. She died in September 2013. A third of people die within a year of diagnosis and over half within two years; there is no known cure and about 6 people a day die from the disease so inspired to do something, I'll be riding my first organised road sportive event in Wales on the 9 July at a mere 140kms (87 miles) with a 3 mile climb up the Tumble, just alongside Abergavenny. Three weeks later, I've also committed to training and riding for the Prudential Ride London 100 mile ride, following much of the route of the 2012 Olympic course including the iconic Box Hill climb.

If only it was as simple as jumping on the bike and going; it will take plenty of training between now and then to get used to long hours in the saddle without cake stops and without the comfort of low gears for the hill climbs! Anything you can donate as an incentive will be much appreciated and used for this important and life-changing cause.

I will have a sponsorship form with me in church, but if you're able to support me via my fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andycolecycling2018](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andycolecycling2018) that would be fantastic! There is even a rumour that if I manage to raise £1000, there will be a leg-waxing event for the full road cyclist look.... Many thanks for your support, especially to those who've already kindly donated.

- Andy Cole

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## Cinderford Churches Easter Concert at St John's

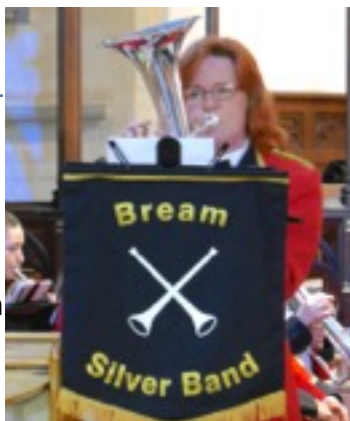
On Holy Saturday evening those who went to the concert at St John's church were treated to an evening of lovely music ranging from compositions from Andrew Lloyd Webber to the Beatles by the Bream Silver Band conducted by Phil Turner.

There were 3 excellent solos, One Day by Jenny Lane on the cornet, The Swan by Elaine Turner on the baritone and

Facilita by Duncan Robertson on the euphonium and the concert concluded with a rousing

rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus.

During the interval Pimm's and lemonade, soft drinks and hot cross buns were served by members of St John's Church. Thanks must go to the members of the band and all those who worked hard to make the evening such a success.



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May 2018

## Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- those who have recently been bereaved; especially the families of Edna Willett and Kath Wright
- 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
- the Forest Foodbank and all supporting those in need locally
- children, young people and their leaders
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- all those working for justice and peace in the world, especially those working with and for Christian Aid
- Christian Aid Week, all collectors and all who will donate to help those in need around the world
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict

## Lectinary

### 6 May (6th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 10:44-end Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

### 10 May (Ascension Day) - Thursday

Daniel 7:9-14 Psalm 47  
Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-end

### 13 May (7th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 1:15-17, 21-end Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

### 20 May (Pentecost)

Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:26-36, 37b  
Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

### 27 May (Trinity Sunday)

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

### 3 June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23 - 3:6

**Mothers' Union** at St Stephen's

**Fairtrade Pop-Up Shop** at St Stephen's

Tuesday 1 May, 2.30 pm

Tuesday 8 May, 11.30 am - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 9 May, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

Thursday 10 May, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Friday 11 May, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

**BoB Breakfast** at The Withams (6 Greenhill Close)

Saturday 12 May, 9.00 am - 10.00 am

**"Thy Kingdom Come" Day of Prayer** at St Stephen's

Saturday 12 May, 7.00 am - 7.00 pm

*Formal prayer times at 8.00 am, 11.00 am, 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm.*

**Messy Church** at St Stephen's

Sunday 13 May, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

**Christian Aid Week**

Sunday 13 May - Saturday 19 May

**Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

Saturday 19 May, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

**Fellowship Lunch** at St Stephen's

Sunday 27 May, 12.30 pm

**Mothers' Union Quiet Afternoon** at St Stephen's

Tuesday 5 June, 2.30 pm

## Weekly Activities

**Monday: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm Bellringing**, St Ethelbert's Church **(not on the first Monday of the month)**

- Group to practice ringing for Sunday services. (Bells rung on a Sunday from 9.45 am - 10.30 am)

**Tuesday: 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm Craft & A Cuppa**, St Stephen's Church **(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)**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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

\*\*\*\*\*



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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## Fairtrade Pop-Up Shop

With World Fairtrade Day fast approaching, and after the success of Fairtrade Fortnight's "Pop-Up Shop" in church, it's all to be repeated in the second week of May (8 May - 11 May).

St Stephen's will once again be full of a wonderful array of Fairtrade food, gifts, handicrafts and clothes and open for shopping! The Lady Chapel will be clear for anyone who wishes to use the opportunity of church being open to have some quiet time.

There will be hot drinks available whilst you browse (Fairtrade of course!) and there is likely to be some delicious Fairtrade treats to sample. For more details, see our website Facebook event page.

Tuesday 8 May - 11.30 am - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 9 May - 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

Thursday 10 May - 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Friday 11 May - 10.00 am - 1.00 pm



## Mike's Question:

Other than David, who are noted as authors of one or more Psalms?

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

## Mike's Challenge:

Other than references to authorship, what is the most common note in the superscriptions at the beginning of many of the Psalms?

## Answers to last month's question:

Psalms 3, 7, 18, 30, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, and 142 are all associated with specific events in David's life.

## Maundy Thursday Meal

The Holy Week Communion services concluded on Maundy Thursday with a meal followed by Communion. The meal and the service took place at St Stephen's, with guests enjoying lamb, pittas and Fairtrade wine.



Anthea presided over communion using wine and pitta from the meal, which all who were there then shared together before stripping the communion table and leaving in silence to remember the events of the first Maundy Thursday.



## Craft Fayre - Sat 19 May

To see some of the amazingly talented artisans from across the Forest displaying their handiwork, head to St Stephen's on Saturday 19 May from 10 am - 2 pm. You can also enjoy a bacon bap and / or delicious cake between browsing, get crafty yourself with Paint-Your-Own and stay for lunch afterwards.

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## Christian Aid Corner

Christian Aid Week 2018 will be May 13 to May 19 and this year's theme, "Together we are stronger than the storms," encourages us to look further at the ways that Christian Aid are helping families in some of the poorest parts of the world to weather future storms. The campaign is specifically focussing on the stories of several individuals and families in Haiti who Victoria Jean-Louis



told us about during her visit to St Stephen's. One of the stories that Victoria, head of Christian Aid's

work in Haiti, shared with us, was that of Vilia. Vilia lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010. She heard people running and shouting, saw wires fall and houses crumble. In the confusion and terror, she couldn't even recognise her home or neighbourhood.

As Vilia searched for her home and for her mother, she had to step over bodies lying on the ground. She never found her mother and sadly still doesn't know how she died. Bereaved and homeless, Vilia went back to her home town, 200km from Port-au-Prince, with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle and she had nowhere safe to stay.



Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire Vilia's situation was, and reached out to help her. They built her a new home, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. Vilia will never forget her mother, but help has allowed her to move on from the other things she lost. The new

house made Vilia incredibly happy, but it's done more than that. It's been a safe haven for dozens of people when they needed it most.

On the terrifying night in October 2016 when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours quickly realised that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the hurricane. One by one, they fled to her house and she welcomed them in.

In all, 54 people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia's house. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, which left more than 800 people dead and thousands more displaced, her house lost only one roof panel. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed.



News & Views

Vilia is incredibly grateful for the help she's received, and she has used it to help others. But she knows that there remains many others in her neighbourhood who are still



struggling. She wishes she could help them too.

Could you join in this Christian Aid Week to help more people like Vilia? Each year, Christian Aid Week brings tens of thousands of people together to achieve incredible things. Please consider donating so

Christian Aid can do more and make sure that none of Vilia's neighbours have to fear the next hurricane.



The Co-op County Store (Dockham Road) has kindly agreed for a collection to take place on Thursday 17 May and Friday 18 May. Volunteers are needed to sign up for an hour (or two) slot. If you want to sign up for an hour slot, please contact Ann Ladd (01594 822735) or Rachel Witham (01594 719438 / [rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk)). It really is not an onerous task and most people normally collect in pairs. Please do consider volunteering for an hour, we need your help!

There will also be donation envelopes in local churches along with a house to house collection in Littledean. This has been done since 1987, 31 years - which is a tremendous commitment. Cinderford and Littledean can feel very proud of their generous donations over such a long period.

### Maundy Thursday Lunch



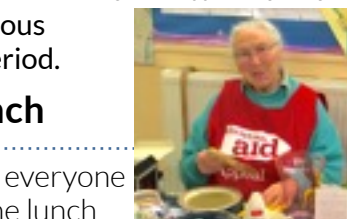
Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the lunch on Maundy Thursday. It was a rather wet, miserable day but everyone who attended donated generously.

I am also grateful for the generous donations of those unable to come.

We raised £138.13 which has been sent to Christian Aid.

Thank you to all the helpers and to Rachel for bringing the Fairtrade Stall.

- Ann Ladd





## Littledean Church of England Primary School



### Visit from the Bishop of Tewkesbury



At the end of last term we were visited by the Bishop of Tewkesbury.

The children in the school council took him on a tour of the school and pointed out many of the interesting features. During the visit, each class shared the work that they had prepared for our end of term Easter Service. It was a real pleasure to be able to welcome Bishop Robert to our school and we hope that he is able to visit again in the future.



### Happy 70 Birthday Jim!

On a lovely sunny and warm afternoon in April, members of St Ethelbert's Church along with the URC and Salvation Army gathered in Bethel Tearooms to celebrate Jim Duffin's 70 Birthday.



Two hours later and everyone was deliciously full of party food including a selection of the homemade cakes traditionally on offer at Bethel.



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Plastic reduction and palm oil are two major topics that have been surfacing both in the environmental world and also national news recently, often it leaves you wondering what we can actually do to make a difference. Traidcraft are working on some sustainable solutions.

Many of you may have heard a little about the connection between Palm Oil and the destruction of rainforests and the wildlife that live there; you may have seen pictures of the devastating land loss in Indonesia and it's effect on the local communities.

Palm Oil is one of the world's most traded commodities, shockingly it's in MORE THAN HALF of the packaged products we buy from the shops. Products such as toothpaste, sweets, biscuits, sauces, cosmetics, shampoos, cleaning products, handwash and many more! Sometimes palm oil is simply listed



as "vegetable oil" on a list of ingredients so it's hard to know which products even contain it!

But Palm Oil isn't produced sustainably. It's often grown on huge plantations with whole ecosystems being destroyed to produce it. In the early 1900's, palm oil was one of West Africa's biggest exports, a major source of income for farmers. But, soon, demand far outstripped supply so huge plantations were developed across the Far East to produce cheaper palm oil. These are largely based in Indonesia and Malaysia, with 85% of all palm oil produced globally coming from these two countries.

Keeping up with demand for palm oil means MAJOR deforestation, habitat loss, climate change alongside animal cruelty and loss of rights for indigenous people. According to the World Wildlife Fund, an area the equivalent size of 300 football fields of rainforest is cleared each HOUR to make way for palm oil production. This large-scale deforestation is pushing many species to extinction, and findings show that if nothing changes, orangutans could be extinct within the next 5-10 year and Sumatran tigers in less than 3 years (and those are just two of the MANY species that face the same fate).

So what has this got to do with Fairtrade and Traidcraft? Traidcraft have always been keen to focus on smallholders, to grow things in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way and to do things a bit differently. Traidcraft are working to reverse the trend of unsustainable palm oil production by sourcing their palm oil from small-scale farmers in Ghana. In and around the town of Asoum the palm oil grows naturally, so the farmers are working with nature rather than destroying it.

Not only is the environment being protected and wildlife not being slaughtered but the farmers are paid FAIR prices. Serendipalm also has much better facilities and working conditions than traditional mills, and works with farmers to help them improve



**News & Views**



their crop, providing farming advice as well as interest free loans for high yield seedlings.

The mill is the largest employer in Asoum. Over 260 employees work there in the peak harvest season, mostly local women. Workers are paid 25% above normal local levels and receive healthcare and a hot meal each day, plus the fair trade premium provides extra community benefits like clean water and healthcare for the whole community. Already facilities to obtain clean water locally, a police station, toilet blocks and a maternity facility (including local midwives) have been built.

Traidcraft's palm oil (FairPalm) was first included in their Clean & Fair cleaning products. This includes handwash (used in the toilets at St Stephen's church), washing up liquid (used in the church kitchen), laundry liquid, surface spray and bar soap. The FairPalm is also used in Traidcraft's biscuit ranges.

In conclusion: Yes, palm oil is controversial. Yes, orangutans and tigers and all manner of other species are being horrendously affected by human interference. Yes, we need to take responsibility and start thinking about where the ingredients in our products come from and avoiding unsustainable palm oil if possible. Yes, Clean & Fair products from Traidcraft can be a BIG part of that answer!

To take things one step further in making steps towards being as environmentally friendly as possible, refills are available of the Clean & Fair washing up liquid, laundry liquid and hand wash. In fact, all the laundry liquid available on the stall is refilled bottles, but you can also bring your own in to fill up if you would like.

Every refill means one less plastic bottle, which is a great step towards reducing our plastic consumption. You can either bring your own bottle / hand wash dispenser to refill or buy one of the bottles off the stall labelled as a refill. If you bring your own, you only pay for what you have, so you can bring as large or a small a container as you want!

If you have any more questions, I would LOVE to talk to you about them. Please email ([rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk)) or phone (01594 719438) or catch up with me in person.



## Peony Properties UK Ltd



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Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

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



On the corner of Woodside St and Abbey St.



Holy Trinity, Drybrook

## Dates for Your Diaries

Sunday 10 June - **Messy Church** at St Stephen's

Friday 15 June - **Coffee Morning for Alzheimer's Society**

Saturday 23 June - **St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre**

Saturday 23 June - **RBL Cream Tea** at Eve's House

Saturday 30 June - **Art Workshop**

Saturday 30 June - **Littledean Community Fayre**

Sunday 8 July - **Messy Church** at St Stephen's

Saturday 14 July - **Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

Saturday 13 October - **Benefice Pilgrimage**

## Not one, but TWO Bishops...

Both Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury will be heading to the Forest for the "Episcopal Visitation Service" on Wednesday 16 May at St Stephen's.

It is during this service that Churchwardens for each Parish Church are admitted to office for the coming year, along with thanking new and retiring churchwardens for their care and commitment to the churches and clergy. It is also a wonderful opportunity to join together with members of churches across the Forest and the Bishop to pray and celebrate together.

The service will start at 7.00 pm and be followed by refreshments.

## Donate £130 to church!

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](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130) or ring 0800 783 0130 and mention TRUST130.

News & Views

## Who's on the Trike?



**James Parsons**

Reader in Training from Tidenham

On placement in Cinderford and Littledean during May & June 2018

# GORDON BLAKE

Established 1982

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**Vicar:** Mike Barnsley

01594 822286 / 07903 436009

mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Mike's regular day off is Monday, if you need to speak to someone urgently on a Monday, please contact someone else from the list below)

**Assistant Curate:** Anthea Beresford

01594 822396

anthea@cinderford-churches.org.uk

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

**Readers:**

Linda Blagg - 01594 822153

linda@cinderford-churches.org.uk

**Richard Blagg - 01594 822153**

richard@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Lynne Chaundy - 01594 825997

**Chris Witham - 01594 719438**

chris@cinderford-churches.org.uk

**Churchwardens at St Ethelbert's:**

Richard Blagg - 01594 822153

Jim Duffin - 01594 510191

**Churchwardens at St John's:**

Pat Byett - 01594 823713

Evelyn Smith - 01594 822755

**Churchwardens at St Stephen's:**

Kim Howard - 01594 827933

Chris Witham - 01594 719438

**Urgent Prayer Requests -**

Sian Barnsley - 07932 193291

Linda Blagg - 01594 822153

Mike Barnsley - 07903 436009

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer:**

Karen Jones - 01594 825902

safeguarding@cinderford-churches.org.uk

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

**Visit the Benefice Website:**

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk

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

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



## Easter

Easter, as usual, was a huge celebration at all the churches around the Benefice, with wonderful displays of flowers, music and remembering that very first wonderful Easter by sharing Communion together and proclaiming the Risen Lord!

John Holliday writes, "St John's church and Lady Chapel were beautifully decorated with spring flowers and the crowning glory was the cross made from the trunk of the Christmas tree which brought together the events of

Christmas and Easter in a very symbolic way.

The service started with the singing of the hymn 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!' We were treated during the giving of Communion to the singing of Eve, Peter and Andrew.

After the service, we enjoyed fellowship over coffee and hot cross buns. Many thanks to all those who helped to make the church so beautiful and to Pat and Graham who constructed an excellent 'Easter Garden'

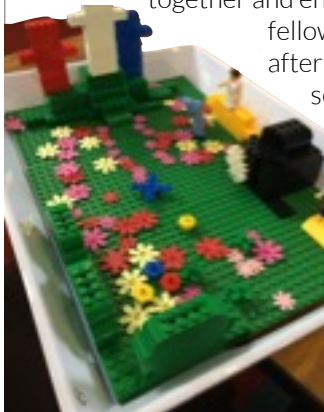


Chris Witham writes, "The Sunrise Service was well attended again this year and was brilliantly timed with the sun bursting over the horizon after the final prayer. It was a beautiful setting to welcome in the good news of Easter Day. A big thank you to Richard and Linda for organising the service and cooking an excellent breakfast to follow."



St Stephen's was filled with a very lively atmosphere and some very enthusiastic music. There were bright displays of wonderful flowers, eggs were rolled, Courtney won the Easter garden competition (with an impressive garden made from Lego!) and everyone joined in with flowering the cross to produce a spectacular display. It was really great to celebrate

together and enjoy fellowship after the service too."



St Ethelbert's was no exception and Easter was celebrated at a joint service, with members of the congregations of the URC, Salvation Army and St Ethelbert's coming together for the occasion.