



NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month



Who's on the Trike?



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

In my sabbatical report, published in last month's magazine, I talked a little about wanting the sabbatical to be an opportunity for me to get into a more regular pattern of prayer and quiet time during the day. My plan was to start the day with Morning Prayer, read Evening Prayer when I got to my destination and got settled each day, and finish the day with Night Prayer (Compline). (On top of this, I wanted to read a variety of different books along the way. Some to educate me about the Celtic Saints, others to encourage and challenge me, and others to engage with scripture in different ways.) There were two reasons behind this plan. One was simply to spend time with God on a regular basis during the sabbatical. That seemed to make sense and be a significant part of what the sabbatical was about. The second was to develop a pattern, or 'rule of life', that I could carry with me back into regular life in the Benefice.

The pattern of prayer met with differing levels of success. Morning Prayer generally worked well. Every day had a beginning that was under my control. I could decide when I was getting up. I could decide when I was going to have breakfast (within the parameters set by wherever I was staying). I could decide when I was setting off for the day, either travelling to my next destination or doing whatever I was doing on days when I wasn't travelling. In some places Morning Prayer was a part of the routine of where I was staying. This was the case on Great Cumrae (at the Cathedral of the Isles), Iona and Lindisfarne. In these cases I joined in with whatever was going on. The styles varied a little, but were fairly standard and it was nice to pray with other like-minded souls. On other days I had to decide whether to read Morning Prayer in bed, get up and ready first and then read Morning Prayer in my room, read Morning Prayer at Breakfast, or read Morning Prayer in my room after breakfast. I suppose there were other options too. I could have gone out, early in the morning, and sat on a beach or somewhere near the sea to pray, or I could have had a mid-morning break on my travels, or on a walk, and spent some time in prayer. Most days, when not attending led Morning Prayer, I would either pray first thing while still in bed, or whilst having my breakfast. (The latter worked well where I was going to be sat for a while waiting for a 'cooked to order' breakfast and less well where there was a buffet!)

Compline went reasonably well most of the time. 'Last thing at night' is not a complicated idea! It was, however, sometimes difficult when I was particularly tired or struggling with sorting out my blog (due to lack of immediate inspiration, Wi-Fi connectivity issues, or both).

Evening Prayer was the most variable. Thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile on good days, but really difficult on days when I was particularly tired, wet, hungry, or struggling in some way or another.

I have tried to settle into a regular pattern of Morning Prayer since getting back into 'normal life'. At the moment this is going well and I am enjoying it, but I know that I will struggle to keep this up when I am particularly busy or tired. Please ask me how I am doing with this! It will help to keep me going.

If you are considering committing to a new pattern of prayer, quiet time, or Bible reading or study, let me know and we can encourage each other. If you already have a firmly established pattern that works for you, let me know and that will encourage me.

God bless,

Mike



	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's	Hanover Court
Sun 6 Oct	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC	
Sun 13 Oct	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC 3.00 pm Messy Church	3.00 pm SW
Sun 20 Oct	10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC	
Sun 27 Oct	10.30 am Baptism	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW	3.00 pm HC
Sun 3 Nov	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE 6.00 pm All Souls	11.00 am HC, JC	
Sun 10 Nov	10.30 am AoR @ Memorial 10.50 am RS	2.30 pm AoR @ SOUDLEY Memorial	9.30 am RS 11.00 am AoR @ Triangle 3.00 pm Messy Church	3.00 pm RS
Sun 17 Nov	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC	
Sun 24 Nov	11.00 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Wedding	3.00 pm SW

Midweek Service Times

Tuesday 1 October, 1.30 pm "Easy Church" at St Stephen's

Wednesday 2 October, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wednesday 9 October, 10.00 am HC at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Tuesday 15 Oct, 7.00 pm Wave of Light at St Stephen's

Wednesday 16 October, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Wednesday 23 October, 10.00 am HC at St John's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wednesday 30 October, 10.00 am HC at St John's

Wednesday 6 November, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wednesday 13 November, 10.00 am HC at St John's

Wednesday 20 November, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's

Wednesday 27 November, 10.00 am HC at St John's

AAW = All Age Worship; **AoR** = Act of Remembrance;

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; **RS** = Remembrance Service; SW = Sunday Worship;

URC = Littledean United Reform Church.



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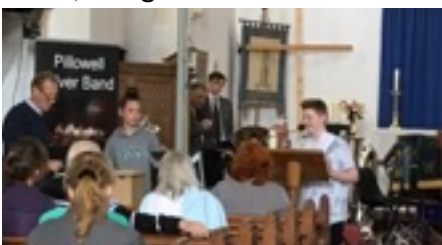
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Heritage Open Days

Both St Stephen's and St Eth's had very successful openings through the support of Heritage Open Days. People especially enjoyed ringing the bells at St Eth's and reading a new booklet on the history of the church put together by Pauline Rea-Dickins.

At St Stephen's, it was wonderful to have the church filled with the sound of music provided by Pillowell Band, along with the words of Leonard Clark and the



wonderful new work of young poets from Forest High School. With grateful thanks to Roger Deeks and all at Foresters Forest for their support and planning of the event at St Stephen's and the competition at Forest High.

Cinderford Churches Our Churches

St Ethelbert's, Littledean, GL14 3NL

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

St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX

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

St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Different worship styles at 11 am and 3 pm. 11 am services reflect a more relaxed style with a worship band & children's and youth activities; 3 pm services are traditional (BCP).

Messy Church every 2nd Sunday at 3 pm is a fun, creative service for the whole family. Various midweek services. Services are also held at Hanover Court at 3.00 pm every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

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.



Benches

A huge thank you to Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Men's Shed who have recently refurbished the two wooden benches in the Peace Garden at St Stephen's Church. The Men's Shed completed the work at no cost to the church and have done an excellent job. The benches were installed nearly 15 years ago in memory of George Arnison. With the work that has been completed, they look ready to be used for at least another 15 years. A new plaque will soon be installed in memory of George's wife, Dorothy Arnison who setup the garden.



If you haven't visited the peace garden before, why not pop by? It is a beautiful place to sit, relax, think or pray.

Men's Shed provides a safe, supportive and friendly setting where people can socialise,

learn new skills and hone existing ones. Their aim is to address the social, health and wellbeing needs of men in particular, of all ages and backgrounds. Men's Shed meet on Thursdays in Whitecroft.

From the Registers

Funerals

3 Sep	Gerald Grindle	FoD Crem
5 Sep	Dennis Damsell	St John's
9 Sep	Clive Bevan	FoD Crem
11 Sep	Ceciley Hale	FoD Crem
13 Sep	Margery Mould	St Stephen's

Baptisms

23 August	Shannon Davis	St Stephen's
24 August	Isla Brisbane	St Stephen's
29 September	Ross Carpenter	St Stephen's
	Violet-Belle	St Stephen's
	Toby Byett	St John's

Weddings

17 August	Mark & Onika Venus	St Stephen's
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Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army - Forest of Dean	Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church
01594 839106	01594 833173
	www.forestrc.co.uk
Littledean URC	Cinderford Baptist Church
01452 760271	01594 822618
Cinderford Methodist Church	Forest of Dean Community Church
01594 825662	07975 994224 www.fodcc.org

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Messy Church



Messy Church in September explored the question, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" wrapping up our series on the Trinity. We melted candles, painted glass jars, made hama bead coasters, stamped with

fruit, coloured in, got nice and painty, sung, listened, watched and ate whilst enjoying each other's company.

Messy Church continues on the second Sunday of each month, with the next one being on Sunday 13 October from 3 - 5 pm at St Stephen's Church. All welcome to come along and join in with crafts, activities, songs and a shared meal. Children / young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Those providing food do their utmost to cater for as many allergies and dietary requirements as possible, just let a leader know when you arrive.

Further dates for 2019 are Sunday 10 November and Sunday 8 December.

Benefice Pilgrimage - Saturday 12 October

Once again we shall walk between our three parish churches and spend a short time in prayer and reflection in each. Through the generosity of wonderful volunteers, we enjoy coffee and biscuits at St Ethelbert's, lunch at St Stephen's and tea and cake at St John's. The day will begin at 9.30 am at St John's for prayer; last year we went through Abbots Wood after leaving St John's at 10.00 am emerging on Grange Lane then taking the Byway up to Dean Hall and from there on to St Ethelbert's at 11.00 am. Next we used Greenway and the path up via the fields to arrive at St Stephen's for lunch at 1.00 pm. Afterwards, by way of the Linear Park we arrived at the end of our pilgrimage at St John's at 4.00 pm. This year we intend to follow the same route.

Above are the likely arrival times in each place; do join us for all or part of the excursion which unfortunately is not wholly suitable for pushchairs. If you feel unable to walk then do come along for prayer and fellowship at one or more of the churches. A group is expected to walk the whole way but otherwise join in on one of the three sections. A detailed information sheet with all the expected timings should be available in any of our churches. Any queries – contact Peter Poole 01594 822967



Maintenance at St Johns

On Wednesday 21 August, a number of people gathered at St Johns to carry out some maintenance to our hymn books whilst outside Tony continued with the removing of the weeds that surrounded the church.



Mothers' Union Report

For our September meeting we met on Tue 3 when, after a short service, a Members' Own took place. Interests and hobbies were explained and discussed and a range of items to look at brought along, among them tapestries, paintings, and felting. This year's Wave of Prayer was held mainly in members' homes, during which time branches overseas were prayed for.

An Overseas Coffee morning and a light lunch forms the next meeting on WEDNESDAY 2 Oct following the 10.00 am Holy Communion in St Stephen's church. Please do join us for this time of fellowship open to all.

- Nikola Poole

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Wave of Light

The Wave of Light is an opportunity to join with bereaved parents, families and friends around the globe to commemorate and remember all babies who have sadly died too soon; it is an international movement as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week and takes place on October 15 each year, which is specifically designated International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.

The idea is that in each country around the globe, people light candles and remember little lives gone too soon between 7.00 and 8.00 pm, as this passes around the world, so does a Wave of Light.

St Stephen's Church will be open for the Wave of Light from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm on Monday 15 October. There will be opportunities for lighting candles, quiet reflection and prayer. People will be available to pray with you if that would be helpful.

All Souls' Service - Sunday 3 November - 6.00 pm

This is the time of year when the church especially remembers those who have died, and when we seek God's comfort and help in living after the death of those whom we have loved and lost.

During a special service at St John's Church on Sunday 3 November at 6.00 pm, there will be an opportunity to recall the names of those who we wish to remember.

There will also be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of lost loved ones as well as time to pray for ourselves.

Please contact Mike Barnsley, the vicar, on 01594 822286 for more information or to submit a name.

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

Please pray for:

October / November 2019

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- Mike, our Vicar
- Anthea, our Associate Priest; in her ministry as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- Richard; as he prepares for ordination
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- children, young people, their teachers and leaders
- the Forest Foodbank
- all those who have lost babies during pregnancy or infancy, recently or many years ago
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger
- the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), using small planes to reach some of the world's isolated people with supplies and the gospel

Lectionary

6 October (16th Sunday after Trinity)

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10

13 October (17th Sunday after Trinity)

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19

20 October (18th Sunday after Trinity)

Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5	Luke 18:1-8

27 October (Bible Sunday)

Isaiah 45:22-end	Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 15:1-6	Luke 4:16-24

3 November (All Saints' Day)

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-end	Luke 6:20-31

3 November (All Souls')

Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29 Psalm 94:14-19
Luke 14:1, 7-11

10 Nov (Remembrance Sunday)

Job 19:23-27a	Psalm 17:1-8
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-end	Luke 20:27-38

17 November (2nd Sunday before Advent)

Malachi 4:1-2a	Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19

24 November (Christ the King)

Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43

"Easy Church" at St Stephen's
Mothers' Union Bring & Buy + Lunch at St Stephen's
Benefice Pilgrimage starting at St John's
Messy Church at St Stephen's
Wave of Light for Baby & Infant Loss at St Stephen's
SHINE Ladies' Conference at St Stephen's

BoB Breakfast meet at 6 Greenhill Close
Christmas Preview Fairtrade Shop at St Stephen's

Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's
Movie & Games Night at St Stephen's
Light Party at St Stephen's
Mothers' Union at St Stephen's
Christmas Craft Fayre at St Stephen's
Messy Church at St Stephen's
OCC Shoebox Packing Party at St Stephen's
Christmas Market at St Ethelbert's
Christmas Tree Festival at St Stephen's

Tuesday 1 October, 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm
 Wednesday 3 October, after 10 am Communion
 Saturday 12 October, 9.30 am start
 Sunday 13 October, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
 Tuesday 15 October, 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm
 Friday 18 October, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm
 Saturday 19 October, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
 Saturday 19 October, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
 Friday 25 October, 10 am - 2 pm
 Saturday 26 October, 10 am - 2 pm
 Sunday 27 October, 12.30 pm
 Thursday 31 October, 5.30 pm - 9.00 pm
 Friday 1 November, 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm
 Tuesday 5 November, 2.30 pm
 Saturday 9 November, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
 Sunday 10 November, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
 Wednesday 13 November, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
 Saturday 23 November, 11.00 am - 1.30 pm
 Friday 29 November, 10.00 am - 7.00 pm
 Saturday 30 November, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
 Sunday 1 December, 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

Regular and Weekly Activities

Monday: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm Bellringing, St Ethelbert's Church

- 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 (*term time only; not on 1st Tues of month*)

- Craft group where members bring along their own craft and share fellowship

Wednesday: 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting, The Vicarage (*normally every other week: see Sian for dates*)

- Opportunity to pray about individuals, our churches, towns and the world

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

6.00 pm - 8.00 pm IF (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (*not on Fri 18 October, Fri 1 November or Fri 29 November*)

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

Christmas Craft Fayre

Saturday 9 November sees St Stephen's Church host the Christmas Craft Fayre from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. It's a great opportunity to kick start your Christmas shopping and support local independent businesses. There will be a wonderful range of artisans selling a fabulous variety of hand-crafted items. From beautiful jewellery to handstitched items to gorgeous felted decorations to photos of the gorgeous Forest we live in and everything in between.

In between browsing the wonderful stalls, there will be the opportunity to relax with a Fairtrade hot drink and a slice of homemade cake. Or why not grab a bacon roll or some lunch cooked by Chris and Andy in the kitchen?

There will be also be craft activities for children and young people to join in with, creating beautiful items for themselves or as gifts for loved ones, along with decorations for your tree.

Please come along and support local artisans plus Fairtrade producers from around the world! FREE entry and a very warm welcome to all.





SHINE 2019 - Annual Ladies' Conference

The annual Benefice Ladies' conference is taking place on Fri 18 and Sat 19 of October at St Stephen's around the theme of "Encountering Him" with speakers talking about individuals in the Bible who encountered God and what that meant for them and their lives going forward.

Friday (18 Oct) starts at 6 pm with food and 7 pm for the evening session. Friday will finish around 9 pm. On Saturday, the first session begins at 10 am, but tea and coffee will be available beforehand. Sessions will run through the day, with breaks for tea/coffee and lunch. The day will finish about 4 pm.

It's a weekend of fun, food and fellowship which serves to involve women from across the Benefice, but anyone is welcome to come and join us, as long as you are female! The aim is to create a safe place for women to feel free to be themselves and spend time together, as well as exploring their relationship with Jesus.

If you haven't been before and are wondering if it is for you, please do speak to someone who has been before. The event is designed to try and have something for all ladies, with a range of speakers, song styles and chances to talk or just be quiet all mixed in. There is no requirement to attend one of our churches, all are welcome.

There is no charge to attend, but if you would like to make a donation during the weekend, you are very welcome. You don't need to come to the whole conference, although obviously it would be awesome if you could! If you are interested in coming or have any questions, please contact Sian Barnsley (822286).

There is no requirement to register, but it helps hugely with catering. There is a registration form available on our website: www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/shine or speak to Sian and let her know you are coming and if you have any special dietary requirements.

Harvest around the Benefice

Services to celebrate Harvest took place around the Benefice, with beautiful flower displays being prepared by members of the congregations.

At all services, those present remembered how much we had to say thank you to God for his creation, the food we eat and all that he has given us. As part of saying thank you, food was donated to the Foodbank and the Salvation Army.

At St Johns, the Benefice Choir joined the congregation singing two pieces. Mike gave a sermon which was both humorous and thought provoking on the theme of Harvest, the thanking God for all what he has provided. After telling a story of his bread making Mike produced a loaf of bread emphasising the point of Harvest that Jesus is the bread of life. After the service everyone enjoyed the lovely bring and share supper.

St Stephen's also welcomed students from Forest View and Happy Turtles nursery to talk about Harvest and join in with activities.



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Easy Church is a new initiative for the benefice which will be held in St Stephen's Church on Tuesday 1 October, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

Easy church is for seniors of all abilities to share in a relaxed, friendly, community based event. We will share activities, have a short relaxed easy service with hymn singing and share tea and cakes.

There is no need to book, just pop along at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 1 October to St Stephen's Church (Belle Vue Rd). If you would like more information please contact Richard or Linda Blagg on 01594 822153.

Ride & Stride for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)

A group of walkers from St John's (Tony, Eve, Nancy, Peter, Nikola, John plus Jean from St Briavels) "strode" around Gloucester churches, starting at St Nicholas Church in Westgate St, a warm welcome at St Mary de Lode, past the Cathedral and many other churches to St Peters in London Rd - a really beautiful church.



On then to the outskirts, Barton Road and Mosques, past more places of worship, through a small park, disappointment a place of worship last time was now a 'Wash and Dry'! Onto the Stroud Road, past St Paul and St Stephens and eventually arriving at the Quays at 1.00pm in time for lunch in the Pasty shop. Refreshed we left but were led astray by Nancy disappearing into the sweetie shop; we followed and emerged like excited children clutching our bags of sweets. Next stop the Mariners Church in the Docks and a wedding. On to Brunswick Square and then headed back to the Quaker Meeting House in Greyfriars where we were greeted with a cup of tea and a delicious flapjack. Thanking them for their hospitality we stopped at St Mary de Crypt before returning to our car.

It had been a lovely day, good conversation and companionship; we had walked 6.5 miles and visited 33 places of worship. Many thanks to all who walked, those who generously sponsored them and we raised at the last count £200 for Historic Churches of which half will be returned to St Johns Church. - John Holliday

In contrast to the St John's team, Andy and I were high on miles and low on churches. Starting out from St Stephen's, we rolled down to St Eth's for a very early tea break and one of Ann's lovely Welsh Cakes. From there, we rolled further down hill to Flaxley and saw the FOD Beekeepers setting up for their demonstration day. The down hill continued to Westbury where more tea and cakes awaited. Unfortunately we didn't have time to complete a tour of the tower.

The rolling flat tarmac of the Severn Vale Deanery unfolded before us and Northwood Green, Tiberton and Highleadon all seemed to go by quickly. We admired the bee shelter at Hartpury Church and inscribed our names onto the register on the noticeboard with a drawing pin as neither of us had packed a pen! A warm welcome was found at Upleadon, a



church which everyone should visit to admire the unusual architecture. 10/10 for the Victoria sponge here too! From here, the flat become less flat and we started to feel like we were no longer 'on the way out'. We headed into Newent and found a grassy bank in the grounds of St Mary's. We enjoyed a much needed hot pork roll and watched the Onion Fayre drift by. A quick photo outside Newent URC before we left the crowds and headed to Oxenhall. Another warm welcome, a contender for the Brasso World Championships and a very smart looking new roof. If you want a church with a view, Oxenhall puts up firm competition too.



From Oxenhall onwards, Andy really earns his coaching badge. The gradient got steeper, the muscles got heavier and the mind got blurrier. But thanks to great pacing and much encouragement, I was pleased to reach Drybrook without getting off and walking at all. After Drybrook Methodist and URC, we (I really), decided we really didn't need to go up and over the hill to Holy Trinity Drybrook - despite the vicar having said he'd sponsor us per church. A brief respite as we rolled through Steam Mills before the final drag up through Cinderford to the Methodist church and then back to St Stephen's.

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The cold air inside St Stephen's was very welcome. The temperature had really risen during the day and we were both looking rather pink at the finish. Cycling shorts are fantastic at creating stark tan lines and my sunglasses and helmet created some interesting tan patterns on my face. 15 churches in total (we managed to get a photo of us in front of Lea church although it did look small!) 42.5 miles, a good number of cups of tea and slices of cake and over £200 raised for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us, we saw a number of projects GHCT have supported and it really does make a huge difference. - Chris Witham

Cinderford Churches
Christmas Tree Festival

The 2019 Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Friday 29 & Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December at St Stephen's Church, Cinderford.

Last year, there were over 50 trees representing a fabulous cross section of our local community, including community groups, schools, businesses, individuals and local craftspeople.

There will be a special service on the Sunday (1 Dec) at 11 am taking place amongst the trees and celebrating the first Sunday of Advent.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to really kick start your Christmas preparations and the season of Advent. Various groups will be playing music or singing carols during the festival, with some Carol Singing planned at 3.00 pm on Sunday if you fancy joining in yourself. There will be an opportunity to buy some of the ornaments or to 'paint your own' in a craft activity suitable for adults and children. We will be selling delicious refreshments throughout the three days including Fairtrade tea & coffee, homemade cakes and light meals. Plus you can vote for your favourite tree!

If you would like a tree or you would like to play festive music during the festival, there are still spaces available - email Rachel (rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk) or see our website for more info.



Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 29 November - Sunday 1 December
At St Stephen's Church, Cinderford
Friday 10 am - 7 pm
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

With a special service amongst the trees at 11.00 am, Sunday morning.

A wonderful variety of fantastically decorated trees from community groups, businesses and individuals. Come and kick start your festive season with twinkly lights, Christmas music, delicious refreshments and lots of decorations to buy or a chance to make your own.

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Cinderford Churches



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St Ethelbert's Christmas Market - Sat 23 Nov

St Ethelbert's will hold their Christmas Market on Saturday 23 November from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm.

Stalls will include cakes & produce, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Raffle, Bottle stall, Fairtrade, Christmas Gifts, Handicrafts and a Soft Toy Stall. Light Lunches including homemade soup, teas & coffee, cakes and gateaux will be available.

FREE entry, all welcome! (Parking available at the school, please take care crossing the road).



Littledean Church of England Primary School

New Academic Year

We would like to welcome back our children, families, staff and governors for what I am sure will be another busy year. We would also like to welcome our new children and families who have just joined us and we look forward to working with you over the coming years. We have had a great start to the term with a visit from 'Mad Scientists' who carried out some amazing experiments in front of the whole school. We have also had a visit from PC Darren Peters and PCSO Amber Jenkins who came to speak to all the children about the importance of internet safety.

We have elected our new House Captains and Deputy House Captains for the year and they will be working on a number of different projects, such as fund raising for Well Found, the charity that we are supporting for the next few years. They will also have the exciting job of choosing some new equipment for our trim trail on the school field.

In other news, Niki from Mad Nana's is organising a pantomime on December 27 & 28. Rehearsals will start soon for anyone interested and the performance will take place at Littledean URC. All funds raised will go towards the school.

Sustainability is a bit of a hot topic at the moment, but what is it and how does it fit with Fairtrade?

Sustainability is defined as the ability to maintain something at a certain rate or level or the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

Sustainability is about more than the environment, in the same way that Fairtrade is about more than just fair prices.

They are both ultimately about people and meeting their needs today without compromising the needs of people in the future.

To work this out, our economies, societies and the environment all need to be sustainable. You can't tackle any of them on their own because they are all very interconnected.



Fairtrade is about all of them. Fighting for a living wage for workers, training farmers to be more resilient to climate change or enabling communities to invest in education (largely through the Fairtrade premium).

One of the ten principles of Fairtrade is "Respect for the Environment" which states that organisations producing Fairly Traded products must maximise the use of raw materials from sustainably managed sources in their ranges, buying locally wherever possible. Organisations should also seek to use technology that reduces energy consumption and where possible use renewable energy technologies, minimising greenhouse gas emissions.

Fairtrade producers should seek to minimise the impact of their waste stream on the environment and those in agriculture should aim to minimise their environmental impacts by using organic pesticides or reduced use through alternative production methods.

Priority should be given to buying products from raw materials that originate from sustainably managed sources, and have the least overall impact on the environment.

All organisations should seek to use recycled or easily biodegradable materials for packing and dispatch goods by sea wherever possible.

Those of you who have shopped at the stall at St Stephen's recently will notice that many of the food products are still wrapped in plastic. This is for a variety of reasons and NOT because the fairtrade producers don't understand the environmental impact.

Some of the products are packaged overseas in the country of origin. This adds value to the product in the country of origin by providing extra employment. For example, the sugar packaging is done by an organisation that provides employment for people with special needs who might otherwise struggle to get a job. To then transport the sugar to this country without it being ruined in transit requires a packaging that will keep it dry and free from pests. At the moment, the best option is plastic.

Also, many of the fairtrade producers are much smaller than bigger non-fairtrade businesses and as such tend to invest in large amounts of packaging in one go to reduce the cost. This means that although many of them may wish to switch to alternative packaging (such as biodegradable

plastic alternatives) they may have years worth of plastic packaging left.

Obviously, it would be worse for the environment to throw the packaging away and purchase replacements.

Many of the bigger companies within the Fairtrade marketplace (still small players compared with the supermarkets) are looking towards alternative packaging. Traidcraft and Tropical Wholefoods are both working on compostable packaging for the dried fruit that will keep the food fresh.

Traidcraft have already sourced compostable packaging for the sweets and chocolate raisins, and once the current packaging is used up we should see the new packaging in our orders.

In short, sustainability is very important to think about in all our food. It has long since been enshrined as part of the 10 principles of Fairtrade and continuing to support Fairtrade producers will help further steps towards sustainability in packaging over the coming months and years. During this time, it means that through the Fairtrade Premium and extra training and support, producers can seek to adapt to climate change and mitigate any loss of crops to changes in rainfall and pests.

Christmas Preview Days for new stock, Christmas cards and plenty of wonderful gift ideas - St Stephen's Church, Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October, 10 am - 2 pm.

Shoebox Packing Party - Wed 13 Nov

The time has arrived for the annual Shoebox Packing Party! Anyone is welcome to come and join in the joy of packing shoebox gifts on **Wednesday 13 November at St Stephen's Church from 11 am until 2 pm**. Refreshments will be available during the morning and there will be lots of people to explain the process and help you pack some wonderful gifts. You don't need to come for the whole time, if you just want to pop in and see what happens, you would be very welcome. Or if you just want to come along and wrap shoeboxes that's also great!

Items haven't been collected through the year, so boxes that are made on the day will be from items brought on the day. There's a lot happening in October and November, so please wherever possible bring items on the day or give to someone who is coming along on the day.

Boxes are made up for boys and girls in three age categories: 2-4 years, 6-9 years and 10-14 years.

This year toothpaste and sweets (or any food) are not allowed due to customs regulations. A brief list of items required (please contact Rachel for a more complete list - rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk): shoeboxes, wrapping paper, soap, flannel, toothbrush, gloves, scarf, hat, stationery (notebook, pencils, pens, crayons, chalk, coloured pencils, sharpener, etc), hair brush & accessories, small bag (for: toiletries, foldable backpacks, purses, etc), small toys (balls, LEGO, jigsaws, cars, play-doh, skipping ropes, etc), teddies, dolls. Money for transport is also very much needed and appreciated. Items should be as new or handmade.

Please remember that hand-stuffed toys are not allowed due to customs regulations - anything with stuffing in should have a label with the CE mark on. Please no war related items or anything that could be associated with gambling (cards / dice).

Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



The memorial to the Sheep Cull in April 2001 can be found on the Blue Rock Trail between Ruspidge and Soudley.



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

Holy Jesus Church, Lydbrook. The greater part of the church was built in 1850 and 1851.

Dates for Your Diaries...

Friday 29 & Saturday 30 November, Sunday 1 December -

Christmas Tree Festival at St Stephen's

Sun 8 Dec - 10.30 am **Ordination** at St Stephen's

Sun 8 Dec - 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - **Messy Church**

Tue 10 Dec, 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm - **Wreath Making Workshop** at St Stephen's

Wed 11 Dec, 7.00 pm - **Looking for the Light Service** at St Stephen's

Sun 22 Dec, 4.00 pm - **Christingle** at St Stephen's

6.00 pm - **Carols by Candlelight** at St Stephen's

Tues 24 Dec, 4.00 pm - **Christingle** at St John's

10.00 pm - **Christmas Eve Communion** at St John's

11.30 pm - **Christmas Eve Communion** at St Stephen's

Tue 25 Dec, 9.30 am - **Christmas Communion** at St Eth's

11.00 am - **All Age Christmas Communion** at St Stephen's

Wreath Making

If you would like to make a Christmas wreath for your door or for a loved one's grave, there will be a wreath making workshop at St Stephen's on Tuesday 10 December from 1 pm until 5 pm (it won't take that long to make a wreath, but gives people chance to drop in and out or make several).


There will be a cost of £5 per wreath for materials. If you have any particular decorations or ribbons you would like to include, please bring them along.

If you don't fancy a wreath, you could make a floral centrepiece for your table, complete with candle!

If you know you are coming, it is helpful if you can let Rachel know (719438) so there are definitely enough materials. Please just come along though if you aren't sure, even if you haven't let anyone know.

Home Communion

If you live in the Benefice and would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Linda Blagg (822153).



Wave of Light

for International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day
Part of Baby Loss Awareness Week
Tuesday 15 October
7.00 pm - 8.00 pm

St Stephen's Church will be open for lighting candles, remembering & prayer. There will be someone available to pray with you, if you would like.

Or light a candle at home and join with others around the globe remembering all babies lost during pregnancy and infancy.

This candle shines out tonight in memory of all the tiny lives lost in pregnancy

Who's on the Trike?



Mike Smith

Diocese of Gloucester
Funeral Project Officer

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Cinderford Churches Contact Us

Vicar: Mike Barnsley

01594 822286 / 07903 436009

mike@cinderford-churches.org.uk

(Mike's day off is a Monday; on that day, please contact someone else from the list below)

Associate Priest: 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:

Jim Duffin - 01594 510191

Sharron Hill - 01594 368054

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

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Andy Cole - 01594 822303

safeguarding@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Judith Knight - 07801 750664

jknight@glosdioc.org.uk

(If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding anyone who attends church please contact Andy Cole, Mike Barnsley or Judith Knight.)

Visit the Benefice Website:

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk

Or join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/cinderfordchurches

Or follow us on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/cinderfordcofe

Or find us on Instagram:

www.instagram.com/cinderfordchurches/

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

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

News & Views



Cinderford Churches
MOVIE & GAMES NIGHT
AN EVENING OF FUN WITH GAMES,
REFRESHMENTS AND A FILM
THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER | 5:30 PM
ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH
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Light Party - Friday 1 Nov

This year's Light Party will once again be filled with games, food and crafts for children in years 1-6 to enjoy. Fancy dress is very welcome, but please nothing scary. There is no charge to join in with the fun.

The party will run from 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm. Children will all need to be signed in at the event by a parent or guardian, even if they regularly attend children's or youth groups.

Although every effort will be made to cater for various dietary requirements, if you know your child is coming and they need a particular menu, please let Rachel Witham know (01594 719438 / rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk).

October / November 2019 Movie & Games Night - Thu 31 Oct

All ages welcome to come and enjoy a movie & games night at St Stephen's, Thursday 31 Oct from 5.30 pm - 9.00 pm.

Free entry, bring along a favourite game to introduce to others, or just join in with the ones at church.

The movie will be suitable for all ages and rated PG.

Refreshments available, but more snacks than a meal.

Children / young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

You're Invited to the

LIGHT PARTY

St Stephen's Church

Friday 1 November

4.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Children Years 1-6

Games, Crafts, Food

Fancy dress optional,
but nothing scary please.

FREE ENTRY



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