



# NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

## Inside this Month... Vicar's Letter



Dear friends,

I have good memories of Harvest Festival services from my childhood. By that I mean two different things: Firstly, I remember Harvest Festival services from my childhood well. Secondly, my memories of Harvest Festival services from my childhood are positive.

I can remember looking forward to the Harvest service. I can remember taking a basket of fruit and veg along to Church (St Paul's Methodist Church in Rugeley, Staffordshire). I can remember the Church already being decorated with Harvest produce. I can remember taking the basket to the front of Church during the service. I can remember lots of other children doing the same (there was a big Sunday School there at the time). I can remember all the gifts being organised and laid out at the front of Church. I can remember how impressive it all looked. I can remember a large piece of coal always being centrally placed in the display. I can remember thinking that the coal was odd in a Harvest display, but being told that the coal was as much a part of the harvest as the fruit, veg and crops.

What are your memories of Harvest Festival Services from your childhood? Similar to mine? I would love to share more memories with you.

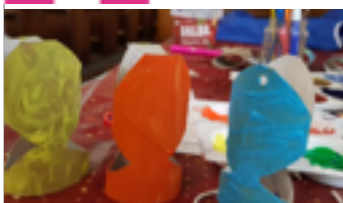
After the service, some of the donated produce were sorted into gift baskets for elderly members of the congregation and surrounding community. Some were auctioned at the Harvest Supper on the Monday following the Harvest Service on the Sunday. I always assumed that some were used in the preparation of the food at the supper, (there were always apple pies for dessert!), but possibly this wasn't actually the case as possibly the food was already sorted. I don't know. I'll ask my Mum.

Thinking about the coal as I think about Harvest this year, it struck me that here in the forest we should perhaps have some wood on display as well as some coal. Then I thought that for much of us not involved in farming, mining, forestry or any other similar 'produce' oriented industries, our 'harvest' offerings should be something completely different. Perhaps something we've cooked or baked; drawn or painted; sewn, knitted or crocheted; written or composed; read or sung; perhaps something we've achieved physically; some we've done for someone else; something we have worked on and are proud of.

What would you like to give to offer this Harvest? What are your 'firstfruits' the best of what you have produced or achieved?

Please come along to one of our Harvest services around the Benefice, please consider bringing gifts of fresh, dried, or tinned produce so we can continue to support those less fortunate than we are through our local foodbank and the Salvation Army, but also think about how you can offer back to God something of who you are and what you can do. Let me know your thoughts.

God bless, *Mike*



## Who's on the Trike?



## Sunday Service Times

	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's	Hanover Court
<b>Sun 2 Sep</b>	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES	
<b>Sun 9 Sep</b>	10.30 am MP	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW 3.00 pm <b>Messy Church</b>	3.00 pm SW
<b>Sun 16 Sep</b>	10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE 6.00 pm <b>Harvest</b>	11.00 am MW 3.00 pm HC	
<b>Sun 23 Sep</b>	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW <b>Harvest</b>	3.00 pm <b>Harvest</b>
<b>Sun 30 Sep</b>	5.00 pm <b>Harvest @ URC</b>	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism	
<b>Sun 7 Oct</b>	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES	

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

## Midweek Service Times

Wed 5 Sep, 10.00 am CBE at St Stephen's  
 Wed 12 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St John's  
 7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's  
 Sat 15 Sep, 1.00 pm Wedding at St Stephen's  
 Wed 19 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's  
 Sat 22 Sep, 4.00 pm Wedding at St John's  
 Wed 26 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St John's  
 7.30 pm Shalom at St Stephen's  
 Sat 29 Sep, 11.00 am Wedding at St Stephen's  
 Wed 3 Oct, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's



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10 AM - 6 PM

# JUMBLE SALE

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

midweek services.

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

**Home Communion**

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

**From the Registers**

**Weddings**

4 August Wayne & Victoria Nicholls St John's

**Baptisms**

29 July David Daniel James St Stephen's

Isla Lily Marie Boulton St John's

5 August Archie Valentine Trillo St John's

**Funerals**

2 August Christine Lauder St John's

16 August Margaret Hawkins St Eth'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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

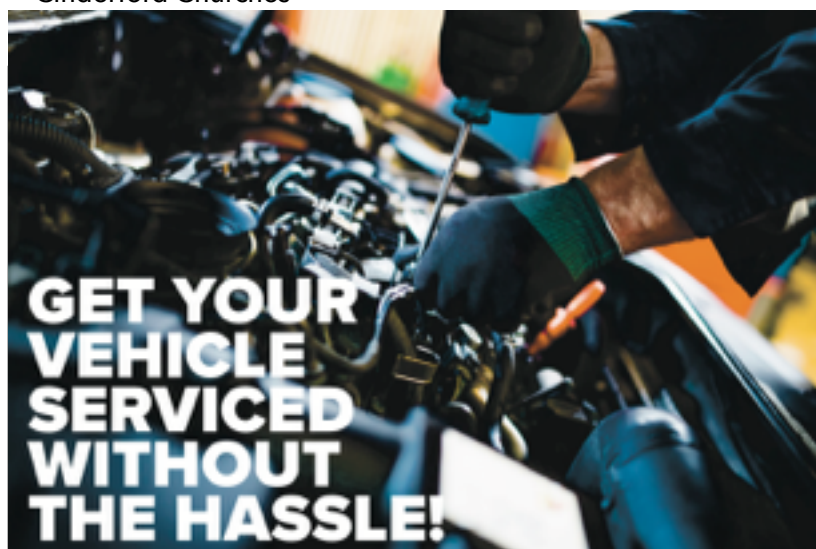


Answers can be found on page 11.



Answers can be found on page 11.





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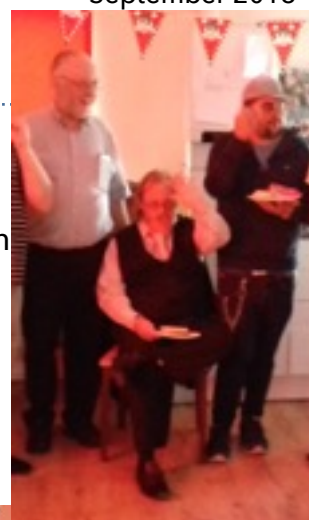
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## Happy Birthday Mark!!

Mark, a member of St Stephen's Church, celebrated his birthday in style! Mike and Sian were thrilled to be invited to his special birthday party.



Happy Birthday Mark, from all of us!



## Christine Lauder: May 1, 1947 - July 2, 2018

It was with much sadness we said our final goodbye to Christine on Thursday 2 August.

Christine was a much loved regular at St John's she has worshipped with us for almost 40 years, each Sunday in the same pew; she will be greatly missed.

The number of friends and family at her service of thanksgiving was uplifting and carers and friends spoke of her with love and laughter, because Christine enjoyed life and she was very loyal to her friends.

The family at St John's will miss you Christine, rest in peace.

## Mothers' Union Report

We didn't meet during August due to the school holidays, our next meeting will be on the Tuesday 4 September at St Stephen's Church at 2.30 pm, when we will be taking part in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer.

- Nikola Poole

News & Views



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01594 829279

## Farewell to Archdeacon Jackie

Archdeacon Jackie will be leaving us in September to become the next Bishop of Crediton.

Everyone is invited to Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 4 September at 7.00 pm for a service of Holy Communion at which Bishop Rachel will preside and Archdeacon Jackie will preach. There will be light refreshments after the service and an opportunity for some personal goodbyes.

## Sound Check

Thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal to repair and upgrade the sound system at St Stephen's Church, especially those who donated in memory of a loved one.

Andy and Chris are now working hard to install new equipment and improve the overall setup. So far we have a new sound-desk, CD player and wireless microphones which have already improved the quality of spoken voice at services. The wireless microphones and new CD player will also significantly contribute to the smooth running of funeral and wedding services. Further improvements will be installed over the coming weeks.

## Bishop Rachel visiting Forest

Bishop Rachel, Bishop of Gloucester, will be visiting the Forest of Dean for the weekend of 17 and 18 November to join in with an exciting event planned at Speech House.

There will be marquees packed with stalls, live music, prayer spaces, Messy Church, sports and much much more!

There is no charge for entry to the event, and Bishop Rachel looks forward to welcoming as many people as possible, whilst we look forward to giving her a very warm Forest welcome!

There will be no services at any of our churches on Sunday 18 November, but please do put the dates in your diaries and plan on coming along to join in the fun! There will be lots more details nearer the time.

If you think you might be able to volunteer during the weekend (for anything from refreshments to parking) please speak to Richard Blagg (01594 822153) or Mike Barnsley (01594 822286).

If you are interested in having a craft stall over the weekend, please contact Rachel Witham (01594 719438 / rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk) for more information and a booking form.

News & Views

## Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury
- Mike; in his ministry around the Benefice
- Anthea; in her ministry as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- those who have recently been bereaved; especially the friends and families of Christine & Margaret
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- Wayne & Victoria, married in August
- David, Isla & Archie; baptised in August
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- the Forest Foodbank and Harvest collections
- children, young people and their teachers and leaders; as they all return to school. Especially thinking of students changing schools
- comfort for those remembering lost loved ones
- farmers, and all involved with harvesting the food we eat
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict

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## Activity and Event Times

<b>Jumble Sale</b> at St Stephen's	Monday 3 September, 10.00 am - 6.00 pm
<b>Mothers' Union</b> at St Stephen's	Tuesday 4 September, 2.30 pm
<b>BoB Breakfast</b> at St Stephen's	Saturday 8 September, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
<b>Heritage Open Day</b> at St Stephen's	Saturday 8 September, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
<b>Heritage Open Day</b> at St Ethelbert's	Saturday 8 September, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
	Sunday 9 September, 12 noon - 5.00 pm
	Sunday 16 September, 12 noon - 5.00 pm
<b>Messy Church</b> at St Stephen's	Sunday 9 September, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
<b>Harvest Supper</b> at St John's	Sunday 16 September, after service at 6.00 pm
<b>Ladies' Curry Night</b> at The Curry Leaf	Tuesday 18 September, 7.00 pm
<b>Harvest Fellowship Lunch &amp; BakeOff</b> at St Stephen's	Sunday 23 September, 12.30 pm
<b>Harvest Supper</b> at Littledean URC	Sunday 30 September, after service at 5.00 pm
<b>SHINE Ladies' Conference</b> at St Stephen's	Friday 5 & Saturday 6 October

## 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 *(restarts Tuesday 11 September)*  
- 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, restarts Friday 14 Sep)*  
- Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities

## IF Starts Back

Our boy's youth group 'IF' (It's Friday!) starts back this month after the summer break. The first night will be Friday 14 September. IF is for boys of secondary school age. We meet at St Stephen's Church, Friday nights during term time from 7 pm to 9 pm. While the weather is good enough we play games outside like football and frisbee. When it gets colder and wetter, we have table football, table tennis and other activities inside church. Food is also provided. If you'd

like more information, please contact Chris (719438).

## Jumble Sale

St Stephen's is hosting a Jumble Sale on Monday 3 September from 10 am - 6 pm to give everyone a chance to shop. There will be a range of items for sale from homewares to toys and everything in between. Refreshments will be available through the day.

If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it along on the day, or contact Rachel Witham (01594 719438 / [rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk)).

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## Harvest around the Benefice

Services to celebrate Harvest will take place around the Benefice during September. Donations of tinned goods (or anything off the list below) for the Cinderford Branch of the Trussel Trust / Forest of Dean Salvation Army would be most welcome.

Harvest festivities kick off at St John's on Sunday 16 September at 6 pm and the service will be followed by Harvest Supper. Sunday 23 September at 11 am, St Stephen's have an All Age Harvest Festival Service followed by Fellowship Lunch. The Harvest edition of the Fairtrade BakeOff will be judged shortly after the service and then the entries enjoyed as pudding after lunch. Later in the afternoon at 3 pm, Harvest will be celebrated at Hanover Court. Littledean Churches are joining together for their Harvest Service at the URC, which will also be followed by Harvest Supper.

All welcome at any or all of the services and meals.

Current list of items: Milk (UHT or powdered), sugar, fruit juice, soup, pasta / curry sauce, tinned sponge puddings, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, cereals, tinned rice pudding / custard, tea bags, instant coffee, instant mashed potatoes, rice, pasta, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits, packaged cake, snack bars, treats. (Not on official list: toilet rolls, nappies, jars of baby food, ladies' toiletries - including sanitary products, dog and cat food.)

(If you are in need of support at this time or at any point, please contact Mike, in confidence, on 01594 822286.)



**Cinderford Churches**

### Harvest in Cinderford and Littledean

<b>Sunday 16 September</b> St John's, Cinderford 6 pm Harvest Service followed by Harvest Supper	<b>Sunday 23 September</b> St Stephen's, Cinderford 11 am All Age Harvest Service followed by Fellowship Lunch and Fairtrade BakeOff
<b>Sunday 23 September</b> Hanover Court, Cinderford 3 pm Harvest Service	<b>Sunday 30 September</b> Littledean Churches 5 pm Joint Harvest Service @ URC followed by Harvest Supper

[www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/harvest](http://www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/harvest)

### Mike's Question:

How many different New Testament characters called Mary can you find?

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

### Mike's Challenge:

Read Psalm 119. How closely does your view of scripture match that of the Psalmist? Are you inspired by the Psalmist's passion? What could you do to engage with scripture more deeply?

### Answers to last month's question:

Reading one chapter a day, David would read through the Old Testament in just over 2 1/2 years.

Reading one chapter a day, David would read through the New Testament in a little under 9 months.

### Lectionary

#### Harvest

Joel 2:21-27 Psalm 126  
 1 Timothy 2:1-7 or 6:6-10 Matthew 6:25-33

#### 2 September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15  
 James 1:17-end Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### 9 September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146  
 James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7:24-end

#### 16 September (16th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-8  
 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-end

#### 23 September (17th Sunday after Trinity)

Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54  
 James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

#### 30 September (18th Sunday after Trinity)

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-end  
 James 5:13-end Mark 9:38-end

#### 7 October (19th Sunday after Trinity)

Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8  
 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16



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## Heritage Open Day

Heritage Open Day Weekends take place in September. There will be various places of historical importance open with exciting activities, exhibitions and displays to learn more about the heritage of buildings and the area.

This year, St Stephen's and St Ethelbert's will both be open as part of the countrywide Heritage Open Days. St Stephen's will be open on Saturday 8 September from 10 am - 4pm, celebrating the musical history of the church, including displays about the blind organist, Philip Charles Walding. There will also be opportunities to listen to local organists playing during the day. If you have any photographs of organists, choirs or anything related to anything musical at St Stephen's, including programmes from concerts, etc it would be wonderful to display as much memorabilia as possible on the day. Please contact Rachel Witham (719438 / [rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk)).

St Stephen's will be part of a Heritage Walking Tour on Saturday 8, with participants able to have a walking tour around various places of historical importance in Cinderford, including the Council Offices.

St Ethelbert's, Littledean will be open for three days during Heritage Open Days with bellringing displays (and for a lucky few, a chance to ring the bells!) and much more. Saturday 8 September, the church will be open from 10 am - 5 pm, with a book sale, bric-a-brac stall, a chance to look around the beautiful church, plus cakes and refreshments all day. Sunday 9 and 16 September, church will be open from 12 noon - 5 pm (with a service at 10.30 am), there will be refreshments available along with tours of the historic Bell Tower and a chance to ring the bells on Sunday 16 September.

## Ride & Stride

On Saturday 8 September, Chris & Andy will be riding, a team from St John's will be striding and Jim will be on his exercise bike at St Ethelbert's. It's all to raise money for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and our own churches. GHCT is a charity that has supported all our churches over the years and we also receive 50% of all money that is raised. Please speak to Chris, Peter or Jim if you'd like to get involved or to sponsor someone.



## SHINE 2018 - Annual Ladies' Conference

The annual Benefice Ladies' conference will be happening on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 of

October at St Stephen's around the theme of "Gold Mining".

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.

Friday will start with tea at 6 pm and the conference will begin in earnest at 7 pm; Saturday will start with tea/coffee and registration from 9.30 am, with talks beginning at 10 am.

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).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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](http://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.

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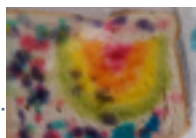
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## Messy Church

Messy Church in August looked at stories of Jesus, including the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 through crafts, activities, puppets and songs. Painting bread and making fish were amongst the favourite activities. September brings two opportunities for Messy fun! The next Cinderford Churches Messy Church is Sunday 9 September from 3 pm - 5 pm at St Stephen's Church. All welcome to come along and join in with crafts, activities, songs and a shared meal. Those providing food do their utmost to cater for as many allergies and dietary requirements as possible,



**Mega Messy Church**  
Sunday 16 September 2018  
2 pm - 5 pm

Messy Church meets Viney Hill Christian Activity Centre — A fun and exciting afternoon for leaders, children and parents.

Discover the great facilities and enjoy Messy Church activities, celebration and refreshments.

Everything is provided free of charge.  
Booking [www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org) September events page

Viney Hill, Lydney GL15 4NA

Diocese of Gloucester

just let a leader know when you arrive. Children / young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Diocese of Gloucester are also hosting a MEGA Messy Church at Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre (GL15 4NA) on Sunday 16 September from 2 pm - 5 pm.

Entry is free, but booking is recommended:  
[www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org)  
(look for the September events page).



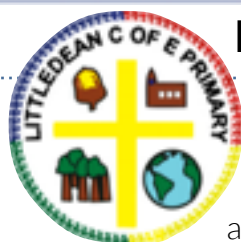
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## Littledean Church of England Primary School

**Leavers' Service** We held our Leavers' Service on the last day of term, where we said goodbye to all of our Year 6's. They all read out their favourite memories of their time at Littledean and activities such as the Whitemead Residential trip and the Leavers Service at the Cathedral followed by 10 pin bowling all featured very strongly as did tales of Miss May's competitiveness!!

During the service awards were given for achievements in English, Maths and Football. We also gave an award to a pupil who has demonstrated the Christian values of compassion, friendship, kindness and perseverance along with the Huggett Award for someone who consistently tried hard and always gave 100%.

We would like to wish all of our Year 6's the

best of luck in their new secondary schools – we know that they are all ready for their next adventure.



## Fairtrade Focus

### Stuffed Marrow

Reprinted from *Traidcraft's Bake A Difference Book*.

#### Ingredients

1 medium sized marrow	1 tbsp olive oil*
1 onion, chopped	
1 green pepper, seeds removed and diced	
250g pork shoulder, finely diced	
1 tin chopped tomatoes	200 ml water
1 tbsp tomato puree	125 ml red wine#
1 stock cube (pork, chicken or vegetable)	
1 tsp fennel seeds*	1/2 tsp crushed chilli flakes*
150 g pasta*	parsley for garnish

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](mailto:rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk) / 01594 719438.

#### Method

1. Prepare the marrow by trimming the ends off the marrow and cut into four equal slices (rounds).
2. Use a small sharp knife to remove the seeds and soft centre from each piece of marrow then stand the pieces in an oven dish. Sprinkle with a little salt and pour about 50 mL of water into the dish. Cover and set aside.
3. Heat the oil in a sauté pan and soften the onion and pepper.
4. Add the pork to the pan and fry until golden brown.
5. Stir in the fennel seeds and crushed chilli.
6. Add the tinned tomatoes, red wine, water, stock cube and the tomato puree.
7. Bring to the boil, then cover the pan and simmer over the lowest possible heat for an hour or until the pork is tender.
8. Meanwhile, place the marrow in the oven and bake until tender. Depending on how thick the slices are this will be about 30 / 40 minutes at gas mark 6 / 200°C.
9. Add the pasta to the pan, bring up to the boil and cook until the pasta is al dente.
10. Serve by spooning the pork and pasta mixture into and around the marrow pieces and garnish with parsley.

## Harvest BakeOff - Sunday 23 September

The Harvest BakeOff will take place as part of the Harvest Festival celebrations at St Stephen's All Age Worship at 11.00 am.

The 'rules' for the Harvest BakeOff are simple, try and include as many Fairtrade or locally produced ingredients in as possible! Things grown in Cinderford are extra special!

There will be two categories, freestyle - so your entry could be anything from an apple pie to plum chutney and homemade crackers.

The second category will be for entires themed around the ideas we will be covering in our Harvest service - looking at how climate change is affecting our neighbours around the world and the



difference solar panels are making to women supported by Christian Aid. Let your creative juices flow, maybe your cake will have a mirror glaze like a solar panel, or represent togetherness; the choice is yours.

Entries will be judged on the number of Fairtrade or locally produced ingredients along with overall appearance and taste!

As always, there will be prizes in children's and adult categories. Ready, steady ... bake!!!

Entries will be consumed as pudding after Fellowship Lunch on the same Sunday (lunch starts at 12.30 pm for anyone who wants to join in eating!) and donations will be sent to Christian Aid.

## Together we're powerful

This Harvest, we stand together with women like Aster in Ethiopia, to rejoice and call for gender justice through Christian Aid's 2018 Harvest Appeal. As we celebrate and praise God for providing all we need, we also stand with our sisters whose harvests are uncertain.

For the once-overburdened Aster, life was a constant struggle, simply because she is a woman. Farming, cooking, carrying firewood - no matter how hard she worked, she was unable to save enough money to support her family. But Aster refused to be beaten by poverty.

She came together with women in her village to set up their own shop, powered by the sun. With training from our partner, Aster and her sisters turned this shop into a thriving business that benefits her, the community and the environment.

Solar energy has given Aster's village not just literal power - they once had no access to electricity - but also the power to change their lives. Now Aster and her sisters can save for the future, make their children proud, and challenge traditions while caring for the planet. All this in an environment where climate change hits women and girls the hardest.

Now thanks to supporters of Christian Aid, women like Aster have the power to own their own businesses, adapt to climate change, and nurture their environment for future generations. They have the power to transform their lives and communities.

'There are many members, yet one body in Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.' (1 Corinthians 12:20,26)

When we stand together as one body, we rejoice to see Aster's life transformed. With your support this Harvest,



Christian Aid can expand on our solar energy initiatives across Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras.

Together we're powerful. And together, we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.



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

Logo on the gates of St Anthony's School site.

**Coming up in October...**

October is set to be a jam packed month! Don't miss out on events happening and get the dates in your diary now!

The SHINE Ladies' Conference kicks the month off (Fri 5 & Sat 6) and the Benefice Pilgrimage which may take a slightly different route this year will be on Saturday 13 October - all the information you need will be in next month's magazine.

Monday 15 October, all are invited to join with the International Wave of Light for Baby and Infant Loss. St Stephen's will be open for prayer, reflection and the chance to light a candle in memory of all little lives gone too soon.

At the end of the month, we will be hosting a Light Party, which will take place on the Friday (26 October) and will be split into two age groups: up to Yr 6, 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm and then up to Yr 13, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm. Lots more details next month!

On Wednesday 31 October there will also be a Film & Games Evening at St Stephen's (for all ages).

**Dates for Your Diaries...**

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

Saturday 13 October - **Benefice Pilgrimage**

Sunday 14 October - **Messy Church** at St Stephen's

Monday 15 October - **Wave of Light for Baby and Infant Loss** at St Stephen's

Saturday 20 October - **Art Workshop** at Bethel

Friday 26 October - **Light Party** at St Stephen's

Wednesday 31 October - **Film & Games Evening** at St Stephen's

Saturday 10 November - **Christmas Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 November - **Event at Speech House with Bishop Rachel**

Saturday 24 November - **St Ethelbert's Christmas Market**

Friday 30 November, Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 December - **Christmas Tree Festival** at St Stephen's

**News & Views**

St Stephen's,  
Cinderford

**Who's on the Trike?**

**Rev Richard  
Atkins**

BBC Radio  
Gloucestershire



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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 Saturday 15 September.

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

Unfortunately, the celebration service for Bilson Mission on 29 July, had to be moved to Hanover Court due to torrential rain and the threat of thunderstorms. However, there was still a fantastic turn out and it was great to see members of the congregation old and new along with Hanover Court residents and members of the wider community.

Maria Leighton produced an amazing likeness of Bilson Mission in cake form which formed a centre piece for the celebration. Megan Knight did the honours cutting the cake at the end of the service.

It was rather fitting that the service could take place at Hanover as Mike Barnsley spoke of the church as the community and the ways in which the buildings had moved, changed and adapted over the decades to accommodate changes in the congregation. Mike referred to a quote from the 1930 Butterfly Book of Quotations, published as a fundraiser for an extension to the Mission building, which spoke of the importance of not giving a lamp more importance than the flame which it carried. Mike stressed that, in the case of Bilson Mission, the flame burns on, and recognised the commitment of Lynne Chaundy and the Bilson congregation to making this happen.

Hanover Court has hosted 'Bilson' services twice a month for around 18 months since the Mission building and the School Room were closed on safety grounds. We are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from Hanover Court in hosting us in such a comfortable setting and are thrilled that so many more people are now coming along to services and becoming part of the ongoing Bilson Mission community and story. The flame burns on.



**New Cooker for St Stephen's**

We have finally got a new cooker at St Stephen's. Despite cancelled orders, a damaged cooker turning up and almost being locked out of church when the electrician came to fit it, we've managed to get a brand new cooker installed. The cooker has been purchased with money donated to church in memory of Sheila Moore. Many of you will remember Sheila's fantastic catering at events over the years and I think the new cooker would put a big smile on her face.

We've slightly altered the kitchen to allow for a 90cm wide cooker with one large oven, perfect for lots of jacket potatoes, pizzas and bacon. It will be a great asset as we cater at more and more events and will remind us of our dear friend as we offer service with a smile.

**CLIVE LEIGHTON PLUMBER**  
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The kitchen alterations have also allowed us to have a dishwasher installed and some people have already been quick to volunteer for the washing up! Many thanks to our plumber Clive

Leighton who has also taken out an advert in News & Views so get in touch if you've got any plumbing that needs doing.

Chris Witham - Churchwarden