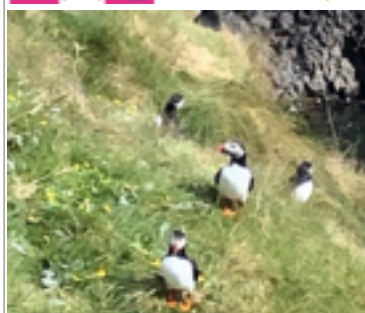




NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month



Who's on the Trike?



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

Sian and I often go away at the beginning of September. It's a wonderful time of year, normally with mild weather, typically fairly dry, a little bit quieter in most places than in August, and, if we are going to Scotland (as we often do), after midge season!

In 2016, we stayed in a little cottage in Terrington, North Yorkshire. It was a wonderful base, and we had great days out, on the trike, to different places on the coast (Whitby, Scarborough, Filey, Bridlington), across in the Dales (Bainbridge, Hawes), nearby (Helmsley, Kirkby Mills, Pickering, Malton) as well as a day at nearby Castle Howard and a visit to my Aunt and family in Darlington. Terrington is possibly best known for Yorkshire Lavender, situated on the edge of the village. We spent some time there and were amazed at the range of products that they had managed to include lavender in! Very creative, and very good business.

As it was September, it was harvest time, and we were very much in a farming area. Every day, whatever direction we were going in, we got stuck behind tractors on the roads and passed teams working in the fields harvesting. I am not always the most patient of people when stuck in traffic, but this was completely different. It was wonderful. We were in no hurry, and we just got caught up with the sights, and smells, of the harvest. It was slightly different each day as we encountered different farmers in different locations at slightly different stages of the process. We felt a connection with what was going on and it was an important part of our time away, making the whole trip more meaningful and memorable. It reminded me of my childhood, 'helping out' with harvesting on a farm down the road from where I grew up where one of my school friends lived. (I say 'helping out' because I'm pretty sure, looking back, that we were no help at all, and probably hindered the process greatly. But it didn't feel like that at the time. We felt we were working hard and really making a difference.)

There's something about harvest that I think many of us can connect to, even if we have no real connection to farming (real or imagined). Possibly we feel a connection because we will benefit from the crops being harvested at some point in the future. Possibly because it invokes a feeling of connection to the land, that isn't necessarily real for most of us, but still has some sort of attraction (possibly based on a lack of knowledge as to how hard a life farming actually is!). Possibly because we associate harvest with God's goodness to us, and his provision to us through the wonders of the world he created. Possibly because of memories of Harvest Services and celebrations from different points in our lives.

Whatever your feelings about such things, I invite you to enjoy September, hopefully a mild month without the extremes of weather we have experienced recently. And enjoy harvest at whatever level you have the opportunity to engage. It would be great to see you at one of our Harvest services (details inside) and/or one of the meals afterwards, but whether or not you get to a service or not, please enjoy Harvest, enjoy the moment if you get stuck behind a tractor (even if you are in a hurry), and remember to thank God for all his goodness.

God bless,

Mike



	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's	Hanover Court
Sun 1 Sep	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC	
Sun 8 Sep	10.30 am HC	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC 3.00 pm Messy Church	3.00 pm Harvest
Sun 15 Sep	10.30 am JS @ URC	9.30 am PE 6.00 pm Harvest	11.00 am MW, JC 3.00 pm HC	
Sun 22 Sep	10.30 am MP	9.30 am PE	11.00 am AAW Harvest	3.00 pm HC
Sun 29 Sep	5.00 pm Harvest @URC	9.30am PE	11.00 am MW, JC	
Sun 6 Oct	10.30 am SW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am HC, JC	

Midweek Service Times

Wed 4 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Wed 11 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 Wed 18 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Wed 25 Sep, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 Sat 28 Sep, 1.00 pm Wedding at St Eth's
 Tue 1 Oct, 1.30 pm "Easy Church" at St Stephen's
 Wed 2 Oct, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

AAW = All Age Worship; 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; URC = Littledean United Reform Church.

Christmas Tree Festival

It seems very early in the year to be writing about Christmas, but organisation is well underway for the 2019 Christmas Tree Festival at St Stephen's. This year's tree-

based excitement will take place on Friday 29 & Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December.

Showcasing the community is a major part of the Christmas Tree Festival, so if you would like to be involved this year, please see our website (www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/ctf) or contact Rachel Witham (rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk / 01594 719438) for more information.

There is no requirement to have a 'traditional' tree, in fact less traditional trees are often voted as the favourite by visitors each year.

The idea is to represent your business / community organisation / charity through your tree, decorations or both. There is no charge for taking part, unless you are using your tree to sell decorations, in which case there is a £5 charge.

Last year, there were over 50 trees representing a fabulous cross section of our local community. It would be wonderful to increase the number of local groups and businesses featured.

Trees need to be set up on Thursday 28 November and taken down on Monday 2 December.

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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.



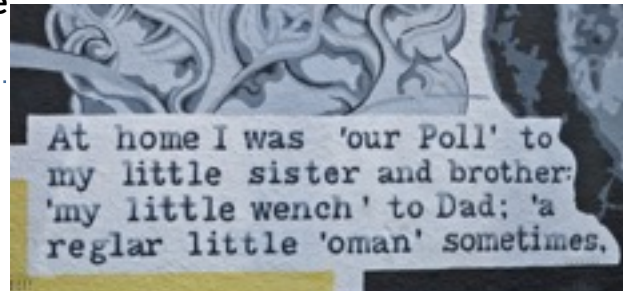
St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

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.

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.

Sponsored Bellringers Visit

On Saturday 3 August 2019, St Ethelbert's Church was delighted to host a 15-strong band of Bellringers from Basingstoke and here they are seen being welcomed by Linda and Richard Blagg prior to their performance, all as part of a six-Church sponsored ringing.




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From the Registers

Funerals

2 Aug Adrian Woods St Stephen's

Baptisms

4 Aug Poppy Amelia Hill St Eth's

Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
 Forest of Dean
 01594 839106

Littledean URC
 01452 760271

Cinderford
 Methodist Church
 01594 825662

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

Cinderford
 Baptist Church
 01594 822618

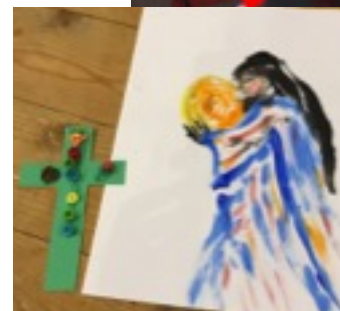
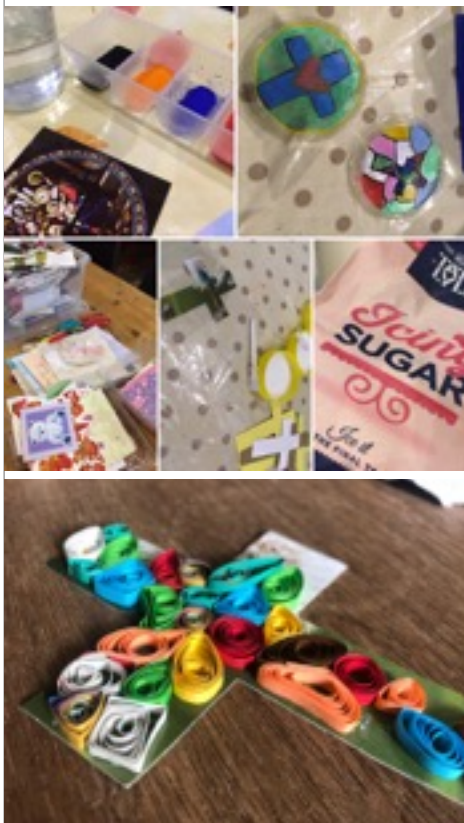
Forest of Dean
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Messy Church

Messy Church in August explored the question, "Who is Jesus?" looking at different stories from the Bible about Jesus and what Jesus means to us today. We painted, planted, glued, drew, 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 8 September 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.



Benefice Pilgrimage

This is scheduled to take place on Saturday 12 October starting and finishing at St John's Church following the route used last year for the first time taking in all three Parish churches around the Benefice during the day.

Please do put the date in your diary and join in for part or all of the route or aim to be at one of our churches for the prayers and fellowship. Full details will be available nearer the time.

- Peter Poole

Mothers' Union Report

There was no Cinderford with Littledean Mothers' Union branch meeting in August; but, on August 9, Mothers' Unions worldwide did celebrate "Mary Sumner Day" when the life of the founder is celebrated. Her vision for Christian care for families lives on through the work of the 4 million members worldwide.

The Mary Sumner prayer is used at services around the world, "All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen"

Mothers' Union will next meet on Tuesday 3 September in St Stephen's Church at 2.30 pm.

A Huge Thank You from Anthea...

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for all the help and support given during Mike's sabbatical. I think we've all worked really well together. I've been extremely pleased to have Linda, Richard and Chris preach at some services I've lead to share the load, as well as support from clergy colleagues, arranged by Mike before he went. And of course all the support from those doing lay-led services. It's been a great experience for me following my recent licensing, but it's good to welcome Mike back from his travels.

I'd like also to thank St John's for the beautiful flowers and card they presented me. I was very touched. The flowers look and smell beautiful. And I'm impressed someone knows of my love for Winnie the Pooh in choice of card!

- Anthea Beresford



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part of Foresters' Forest

Saturday 14 September

Exhibition about Leonard Clark, his books along with Pillowell
Band and their 130th Anniversary PLUS an opportunity to
read the contemporary writing of local young people.

10 am - 5 pm

**Pillowell Brass Band and the story
'Bands' read by Maggie Clutterbuck**

Performance starts at 2.00 pm

Leonard Clark was a chorister at St Stephen's church and wrote
about the choir and local band in his memoir 'A Fool in the Forest'.

"Bands" will be read by celebrated poet and author Maggie
Clutterbuck, interspersed with musical pieces from Pillowell Band.



Please pray for:

- 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 + Aaron; especially as they return to Spain after 2 months in the UK
- children, young people, their teachers and leaders - as they return to school; especially thinking of those changing schools
- farmers, and all involved with harvesting the food we eat
- the Forest Foodbank and Harvest collections
- fairtrade producers around the world, especially those in the Kashmir region of India in the current uncertain times
- the worldwide Church, especially those worshipping in places of conflict
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger

Lectionary

Harvest Lectionary

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 100

Philippians 4:4-9

John 6:25-35

1 September (11th Sunday after Trinity)

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

8 September (12th Sunday after Trinity)

Deuteronomy 30:15-end

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

15 September (13th Sunday after Trinity)

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-11

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

22 September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

29 September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-end

Michael and All Angels

Genesis 28:10-17

Psalm 103:19-end

Revelation 12:7-12

John 1:47-end

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



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Mothers' Union at St Stephen's

Tuesday 3 September, 2.30 pm

Messy Church at St Stephen's

Sunday 8 September, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Heritage Open Day / Ride & Stride at St Stephen's

Saturday 14 September, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

at St Ethelbert's

Saturday 14 September, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday 15 September, 12 noon - 5.00 pm

Harvest Supper at St John's

Sunday 15 September, following 6.00 pm service

BoB Breakfast at St Stephen's

Saturday 21 September, 9.00 am - 10.00 am

Harvest Lunch at St Stephen's

Sunday 22 September, 12.30 pm

Ladies' Curry Meal at The Curry Leaf

Tuesday 24 September, 7.00 pm

Harvest Supper at Littledean URC

Sunday 29 September, following 5.00 pm service

"Easy Church" at St Stephen's

Tuesday 1 October, 1.30 pm - 3.30 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 (*restarts on Friday 20 September*)

- 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 20 September. IF is for boys of secondary school age. We meet at St Stephen's Church, Friday nights during term time from 6 pm - 8 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).

Please do note the change of time to 6 - 8 pm. This is because many of the boys had asked for it to be brought earlier and it also enables us to make better use of the light for using the outdoor space.

Ladies' Curry Meal

On Tuesday 24 September, all ladies are welcome to join the ladies' night out at The Curry Leaf (Cinderford). The meal starts at 7.00 pm and costs £12 per person.

Please contact Sian Barnsley (01594 822286) for a menu and return by Sunday 22 September with a £5 deposit.

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

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 at any of the services around the Benefice.

Harvest festivities around the Benefice start at Hanover Court with a service at 3.00 pm on Sunday 8 September; St John's have a service at 6.00 pm on Sunday 15 September followed by Harvest Supper (making excellent use of their newly updated kitchen facilities). On Sunday 22 September at 11.00 am, St Stephen's have an All Age Harvest Festival Service followed by Fellowship Lunch.

Littledean Churches will celebrate Harvest on Sunday 29 September at the URC. There will be a Songs of Praise at 5.00 pm, followed by an auction of produce and a Harvest Supper. The Salvation Army will be doing the catering which will be a two course meal at a cost of £5 each or £10 for a Family Ticket.

Everyone is welcome at the service and the Supper but Viv would like some idea of numbers wishing to eat so you could let her know or contact me (Ann Ladd, 822735). If you would like to be involved, the decoration of the church (Littledean URC) will take place on Saturday 28 from 10.00 am - 12 noon. Please bring your donation of goods that morning if you are able.

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.)

Home Communion

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

SHINE 2018 - Annual Ladies' Conference

The annual Benefice Ladies' conference will be happening on Friday 18 and Saturday 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.

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.

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).

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Looking forward to seeing you there!

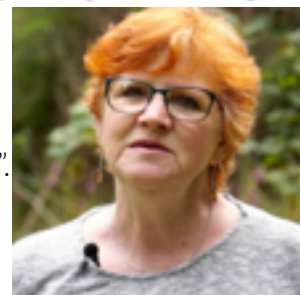
There is no requirement to register, but it helps hugely with catering. There is a registration form available on our website: www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/shine or speak to Sian and let her know you are coming and if you have any special dietary requirements.

Cinderford Churches Heritage Open Day

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



St Stephen's (Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford) will be open on Saturday 14 September from 10 am – 5 pm. The day will be a celebration of Leonard Clark's story 'Bands'. Leonard Clark was a chorister at St Stephen's Church and wrote about the choir and local band in his memoir "A Fool in the Forest". At 2.00 pm, 'Bands' will be read by celebrated poet and author Maggie Clutterbuck, interspersed with musical pieces from Pillowell Brass Band who are celebrating their 130th anniversary this year. Throughout the day, information about Leonard Clark, his books and the band will be available. There will also be an opportunity to read and appreciate the contemporary writing of local young people that will be on display. Light refreshments available all day.



On the weekend of 14 and 15 September 2019, St Ethelbert's is throwing its doors open in conjunction with the Heritage Open Weekend. On the Saturday, the Church will be open from 10.00 am until 5.00pm and several hardy souls will be riding on exercise bikes in the Nave in support of the Ride & Stride charity appeal (see below); we shall also be welcoming any participants of the scheme from further afield and there will be food and drink on sale as well as a Book and Bric-a-Bac sale.

On the Sunday, the Church will be open from 12 noon for visitors and the main attraction will be the fantastic opportunity to visit the bellringing loft, where campanologist-extraordinaire Steve Coleman will be on hand to explain the history and procedures of the art and quite literally "show you the ropes".

Churchwarden at St Eth's, Jim, says, "Please, if you have never visited our little Church then pop in for a look around; if you have and wish to remind yourself of just how lovely it is, we'll be delighted to see you!"

Ride & Stride



On Saturday 14 September, Chris & Andy will be riding around the Deanery 'collecting churches' on their bicycles; Jim will be on his exercise bike at St Ethelbert's and a team from St John's team are striding around Gloucester also 'collecting churches'. It's all to raise money for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and our own churches here in

Cinderford and Littledean.

GHCT is a charity that has supported all our churches over the years and all money raised is split 50 / 50. Please speak to Chris, Andy or Jim if you'd like to get involved or to sponsor someone.

HARVEST

St John's Church
Cinderford

SUNDAY
15th September 2019

at 6.00 PM

Followed by
A Bring and Share Supper
All are welcome

Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean





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Cinderford Churches Sabbatical Report 2019 - Mike Barnsley

I am now looking back on my sabbatical; my intention for the major part of this time was to travel around the coast of mainland Britain on my Harley trike, visiting and spending some time at various holy places - reading, reflecting and in prayer; along with gentle and relaxed travelling days with ample time for reading, reflecting and prayer on a daily basis as well as time to enjoy the beauty and variety of our wonderful coastline. My route between the 'holy sites' was to follow the coast as closely as possible, using minor roads and visiting points of interest and lighthouses along the way.



On completion of my travels, I had covered 5,425 miles over 56 days, stayed in 44 different places, visited (or at least seen) over 200 lighthouses, and had many profound experiences. The plan went reasonably well, but, sadly, a fair number of the travelling days weren't as relaxed as I had hoped they would be. However, a few route and accommodation adjustments along the way to cope with adverse weather and road conditions (and a failing battery), kept me more or less on track.

I very much enjoyed visiting or travelling through many places I had been before and had many positive memories from a wide variety of points in my life. I also really enjoyed visiting new places and travelling along stretches of coast I had not seen before. The beauty of our coastline continuously impressed and invigorated me. I was fortunate to see whales, dolphins, seals, and many, many varieties of birds, including puffins, on my travels.

Times at the Cathedral of the Isles, Iona, Lindisfarne, Walsingham, Lee Abbey, Caldey, St David's, and Bardsey Island were very special. I had previously visited Iona, Lindisfarne and St Davids, but had never stayed overnight or attended services. The Cathedral of the Isles, Walsingham, Lee Abbey, Caldey and Bardsey Island were new to me, and I was impressed and moved in each location, generally leaving with a desire to go back and spend more time at some future point. My time at Lee Abbey was a Church leader's retreat led by Bishop Bob Evens, which was encouraging, thought provoking, and much appreciated. My time at Aberdarron (mainland base for travel to and from Bardsey Island), unexpectedly, and wonderfully, coincided with a Literary and Arts Festival there which, in turn, led to the presence of Archbishops Barry Morgan and Rowan Williams at the service in the Church there on the final Sunday of my trip, both of whom I had some time with after the service. I enjoyed sharing Holy Communion, Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer in a wide variety of locations and settings.

I had dozens of wonderful conversations along the way, with clergy and laity, Christians and non-Christians, pilgrims, bikers, cyclists, walkers, holiday makers, visitors, accommodation hosts, fellow guests and others I happened upon along the way. I was impressed with many and disappointed by few. I appreciated honesty, openness and integrity.

I read much more than I would normally do at home, (the Bible, a variety of books, articles and blogs). I spent more time in prayer than I would normally do at home. I had more time for quiet and reflection than I would normally do at home.

I spent a good deal of time thinking about 'thin places'. George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community, wrote that Iona is 'thin place, where only tissue separates the material from the spiritual'. Many of the places I was visiting could be similarly described. These are places where people go on pilgrimages, and have done for centuries. Places where people go to be closer to God. Places where people feel they will be able to be closer to God because of being in that place.

Although it seems an odd question, I pondered why trips to places like Iona or the Holyland can be so meaningful. When George Macleod spoke of 'thin places', he was talking about connections between heaven and earth. Whilst this makes sense in terms of what I've experienced on the trip, I'm not sure I really believe theologically that we can get closer to God by going to particular places, so how do I explain this?

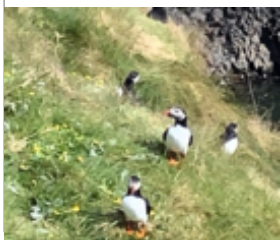
I think when we go on 'Pilgrimage', we are setting out to encounter God. The places we go, the history we encounter, the events we engage with, the emotions we experience, all in a mindset of wanting to connect to God, help us to do just that. By definition, we have stepped out of our normal routine, we are more likely to be spending more time in prayer, in reading Scripture, and in quiet contemplation. Perhaps it is our hearts and minds that are the 'thin places' at such times.

Rather wonderfully Archbishop Barry preached at St Hywyn's in Aberdarron about the importance of 'place' in our relationship with God. He was talking about the writer and poet R.S. Thomas, who had been Vicar there from 1967 to 1978. He talked about RS's passion for place and his belief of the importance of 'place' in meeting with God, argued through references to Moses and the burning bush, and Jacob and the ladder. He then talked of RS's conclusion that Jesus is 'the place' where we can meet God. (Jesus says as much to Nathanael in John 1:51, when he tells Nathanael he will "see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.")

Does this diminish my trip and the importance of pilgrimage generally? No, not at all. For many people, the break from routine and the attitude of mind involved in pilgrimage are as important as the destination. The busier we are, and the more involved we are with what we are doing, can make this break even more important. However, I am hoping that I can bring some of my sabbatical/pilgrimage practice of spending more regular time praying and reading. I have also had thoughts about ways in which I can alter my work pattern to be more available to people in the parishes. I am hoping that the practices and thoughts from my sabbatical will impact my ministry going forward.

I would like to thank my wife, Sian, for understanding my desire to undertake this trip, and to accompany me for the last section around the coast of Wales. I would like to thank all those who supported me in prayer during my sabbatical, especially whilst I was travelling. I would like to thank all those, lay and ordained, who took on additional roles and responsibilities during my absence. And finally, I would also like to thank those organisations and individuals who supported me financially during this time.

- Mike Barnsley



Fairtrade Focus



Asha Handicrafts

Based in India, Asha is an organisation who support the lives of the artisans who lovingly create their products. In Sanskrit, Asha translates as 'hope', which is exactly what the organisation gives to 100s of craftspeople who have

inherited their artistic methods from generations before them.

Asha has been practicing Fair Trade since 1975, even before the concepts of Fair Trade became popular abroad. It was set up in 1975 by Mrs Iscah Andrews, whose mission was to diffuse the love of Christ in love and in deed to artisans.

Asha is a fair trade organisation whose business model works to support artisans, which isn't typically found in business or social organisations. Their vision and mission is to provide marketing support to artisans through a sustainable global market as well as helping to preserve the art and craft of India. As a social enterprise, all the profits are ploughed back towards the social welfare of the artisans and their families, helping to improve artisans' development and quality of life.

Asha work with producer groups throughout India who depend on them for assistance: from carpet weavers and paper mache makers in Kashmir, the Northern most part of India, to Kalamkari artisans of Andhra Pradesh in South India, to leather workers of Kolkata in the East, to tribal women of Gujarat in the West doing their ethnic embroidery on cotton, to the many other wood workers, brass workers, weavers, silver smiths and more located all over different parts of India

Asha have several policies in place to help protect the environment. Within factories and workshops, they have dust extractors which are better for the environment but also make for a better working atmosphere for artisans.

Asha also run awareness programmes with artisans about the fragile environment and how everyone can work to protect it together alongside projects looking into chemical control within their products. Artisans are encouraged to plant trees in designated plantations; additionally, members are encouraged to recycle paper,

metal and plastic and try to reduce the use of paper and electricity; solar lanterns are sent to artisans' homes!

Alongside all of these things, Asha are extremely into upcycling existing items and turning



them into something completely fresh and new; using leftover textiles, metals and paper in products which have already been used, taking on an upcycling approach and aiding sustainability.

The stall at St Stephen's sell a variety of Asha Handicrafts products, come along and browse the variety of items on offer.

One of the regions that Asha Handicrafts operates in is Kashmir, in Northern India. Kashmir is actually a large region in the Himalayan region of both Pakistan and India, with each country controlling part of the region. The region has been a long disputed territory, particularly since Partition in 1947, which has led to lots of fighting in the region with thousands of deaths over several decades of clashes. The region is one of the most militarised areas in the world.

Tensions have been increasing throughout 2019 and the special status that the region has been protected with has been removed on 5 August. This gave the region control over its own constitution, the freedom to make laws along with rules about who could live there and own property.

The revoking of the special status has already meant imposed curfews, and telephone and internet access has been removed for all residents. There are also raised fears about increased violence in the region along with persecution of religious minorities, who have enjoyed a large amount of freedom under the special status.

Obviously, for the producers in the region there are also concerns that it may be difficult to continue work and to transport finished products out of the region. There is also increased concerns regarding Christian producers, as part of religious minorities.

Please pray:

- for peace in Kashmir, and that the change in status won't lead to an increase in conflict and violence.
- for producers in the region, that they will be able to continue working and exporting their products
- for anyone of a religious minority, that they would not face increased persecution

If you would like more details about the work of Traidcraft, Fairtrade in general, Fairtrade around our Benefice or you would be interested in having a Fairtrade stall at your event - please contact Rachel - 01594 719438 / rachel@cinderford-churches.org.uk.



There is so much unequal distribution in the world we live in, but fair trade makes the world more equal, and this is the sort of world we want to see!





The first mural of writers in the Forest of Dean is in Cinderford and features poet Leonard Clark, novelist Winifred Foley and playwright Harry Beddington painted by Tom Cousins on the side of a former bakery.



St Nicholas, Gloucester

A 12th-century church in the centre of historic Gloucester. St Nicholas' was rebuilt in the 13th century and the west tower was added in the mid 15th century. The spire was hit by cannon fire in the Civil War siege of Gloucester in 1643, and it was lowered and topped with a lead cap in 1783 to produce the current oddly truncated look.

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 Benefice Pilgrimage will be on Saturday 12 October - all the information you need will be in next month's magazine.

Tuesday 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.

The SHINE Ladies' Conference will be on Friday 18 & Saturday 19 October around the theme of "Encountering Him."

At the end of the month, on Thursday 31 October, there will be Film & Games Evening at St Stephen's (for all ages). The night after, on Friday 1 November, St Stephen's will be hosting a Light Party for children up to Year 6 from 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm. Lots more details next month!

Dates for Your Diaries...

Saturday 12 October - **Benefice Pilgrimage**

Sunday 13 October - **Messy Church** at St Stephen's

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

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 Oct - **SHINE Ladies' Conference** at St Stephen's

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

Friday 1 November - **Light Party** at St Stephen's

Saturday 9 November - **Christmas Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

Saturday 23 November - **St Ethelbert's Christmas Market**

Friday 29 & Saturday 30 November, Sunday 1 December -
Christmas Tree Festival at St Stephen's

Who's on the Trike?



Right Reverend Barry Morgan

Archbishop Emeritus of Wales
(The longest serving Archbishop in the Anglican Communion)

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Contact Us

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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:

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linda@cinderford-churches.org.uk

Richard Blagg - 01594 822153

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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

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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 by Thursday 12 September.

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

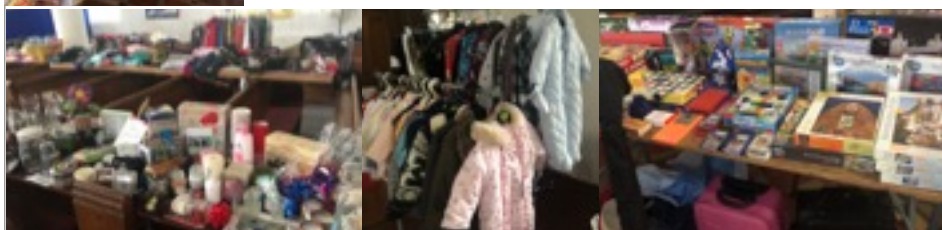


Treasures Untold...

The Jumble Sale at St Stephen's was once again a great source of excitement as people found their treasure after a good search through the huge variety of goods on sale.

The range of cakes alongside Fairtrade teas and coffees were also very much appreciated, especially on the Tuesday as the weather turned slightly wetter.

A big thank you to all who donated, baked and supported, £300 was raised for church funds.



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Harvest Around the Benefice

Sunday 8 September

Hanover Court

3.00 pm Harvest Service

Sunday 15 September

St John's, Cinderford

6.00 pm Harvest Service

followed by Harvest Supper

Sunday 22 September

St Stephen's, Cinderford

11.00 am All Harvest Service

followed by Harvest Lunch

Sunday 29 September

Littledean Churches at URC

5.00 pm Harvest Service

followed by Harvest Supper