

**News and views from the parishes of Badgeworth,
Shurdington and Witcombe with Bentham**

Three in One



LENT

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Vicar

The Revd Susan Cooke tel (01242) 321806

The Vicarage, School Lane
Shurdington, Cheltenham, GL51 4TF
Email: revsusancooke@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rebecca Spear

Email: nedspear@icloud.com

Retired Clergy: The Revd Ian Gobey
Tel 01242 863977.

Reader and Funeral Minister: Mr Robert Poole
Tel 01452 855660

Email: reader.rob.bswb@gmail.com

THE GREENWAY LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Revd Susan Cooke	Robert Poole	Sue Padfield
Paul Stanfield	Christine Jeffs	Clare Stewart
Revd Rebecca Spear	Vaughan Kerry	

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Chris Langham

email: greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

I am usually in the office between 10 and 12 noon on
Mondays, other times by arrangement.

Office phone 01242 861218.

Safeguarding Officer & Care Homes Liaison: Mrs Rachel
Cottell

Tel 01452 715034 email admin.bswb@googlemail.com

THREE IN ONE MAGAZINE

Editor John Cummins tel (01242) 862518

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293
email: iandavies@pobox.com



Mardi-Gras Joker

SHURDINGTON CHURCH HALL

School Lane, Shurdington

Lettings for groups and private functions.

Rates £22 large room, £16.50 small room per session

Further details from Mrs Julie Miller

Tel. 01242 701127 (no later than 8pm please)

WITCOMBE & BENTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Enquiries should be made to the Custodian

07518 137635

witcombevillagehall@gmail.com

www.witcombevillagehall.co.uk

BADGEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely old school hall is an excellent venue for meetings, rehearsals, receptions and small parties, seating a maximum of 50 people.

Reception hall, main hall, fully fitted kitchen with crockery and cutlery for 50.

Car park opposite the hall for hall users.

Hire charge £25 per session

(8am-1pm, 1-6pm, 6-11pm).

For enquiries and bookings, please email

badgeworthvillagehall@gmail.com

or call 07895 764947.

Badgeworth Village Hall Management Committee

SHURDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre consists of two spacious halls, a room which Links both, and a grassed open space.

Events may be booked by following the 'Bookings' link on our website : shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Email: bookings@shurdingtoncomcentre.net

Tel: 07483 303190

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Contributors please note: material for the
March 2024 issue to
John Cummins at editor3in1@gmail.com
by Wednesday 14th February



Pastoral Letter

Susan writes



January 2024

My dear friends,

As I write this letter, it is bitterly cold, with bright blue skies, and the threat (or promise) of snow across the north. And in that time of chilly days, we start to see the first flowers blossoming and we look towards spring and Easter. Before that of course we have the season of Lent.

In Lent we think about **Temptation**. Oscar Wilde claimed “I can resist everything except temptation” and Mae West said “I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it.”

American comedian Robert Orben noticed that “what makes resisting temptation difficult for many people is they don't want to discourage it completely.”

The language of temptation has been taken over by the advertising industry, which plays to the “naughty but nice” idea: the sense of doing something a little bit forbidden. Far from being seen as a failure if we give in to temptation, it's inevitable - desirable, even. Temptation is to be resisted just enough to make it more enjoyable when we eventually give in, and eat, buy, or do whatever it is that's been tempting us.

All of this is as much like real temptation as pink balloons and heart-shaped chocolates are like real love – which is quite apt this year, since Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is on 14th Feb!! Real temptation isn't about things we are unable to do, or don't want to do – I doubt anyone is tempted to ask the dentist for an extra filling, or HMRC for an extra tax return.

It's not about something we are "a bit partial to" in a "don't mind if I do" sort of way. We might talk about being tempted to another biscuit, or a few more minutes in bed, but really, we know it's not that big a deal.

Real temptation comes when part of us desperately wants to do something which the rest of us knows we must not. Real temptation makes us sweat. It hurts to resist. It feels as if it would be so much easier to give in.

In the season of Lent, we remember how Jesus faced real temptations in the wilderness at the start of his ministry. They boiled down to the temptation to be selfish, the temptation to grab power, and the temptation to superficial celebrity – all of which are just as much with us today. We can be sure that whatever temptations we are facing – the real ones that make us sweat and are so painful to resist – God knows all about them, first-hand.

And of course, if we do find ourselves defeated by temptation, we mustn't despair. Ultimately, what saves us is not our success or failure, but the strength and salvation of Jesus, who identified himself with us in this as in every other way, and defeated this enemy just as he defeated all others.

You might choose to give something up for Lent, or to start a new good habit. These things help us to remember that we are in a solemn season and to build a closer relationship with God.

We can mark Lent in other ways such as coming along to the Lent Lunches we offer in the church hall on Thursdays, or by joining one of our small groups (ask me for details) or in learning more about Christianity – there is an advert in this magazine for conversations about faith.

As we move away from Christmas and the Crib, and turn to face the cross of Good Friday and the eventual triumph of Easter, why not take one of these opportunities to explore your own spirituality this Lent?

Blessings, Susan, vicar.

Away Day 2024

You are invited to our annual churches Away Day
on

Saturday 2nd March

Please save the date!

**This year, we will meet at St Peter's
church cottages, Leckhampton.**

We usually have bible study, informal holy communion, conversation, and prayer activities.

You may wish to bring your own lunch, although we may offer soup, bread & cheese (yet to be decided as we go to print) for a small charge.

Full details and booking via
greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

This is our regular pattern of worship each month. Please look at noticeboards, online and elsewhere in this magazine for special services e.g. Ash Weds, Easter etc.

1st Sunday of the month

8am	St Paul's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11am	St Mary's	Worship

2nd Sunday of the month

8am	St Mary's	BCP* Holy Communion
9:30	St Paul's	Worship
11am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

3rd Sunday of the month

9:30	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Trinity	BCP* Morning Worship
11am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
3pm	St Paul's Hall	Cake & Prayers

(sometimes with Holy Communion)

**These are services using the Book of Common Prayer*

4th Sunday 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

January, April, July, October at Holy Trinity

February, May, August, November at St Mary's

March, June, September, December at St Paul's

5th Sunday Benefice Service at 10am "Let's Worship"

usually in Shurdington Church of England Primary School

Special Church Services & Events in February and March 2024

14th February Ash Wednesday

6pm at St Mary's, Benefice Holy Communion (with optional imposition of Ashes)

During Lent: 9pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Fri 16th Feb St Mary's

Fri 23rd Feb on zoom

Fri 1st Mar St Mary's

Fri 8th Mar on zoom

Fri 15th Mar St Mary's

Fri 22nd Mar on zoom

Please email greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com for the zoom link.

Thursday prayers:

On the first Thursday of each month we usually meet in person, at school at 8:30am and then in St Paul's church at 9am.

Details for February and March:

Thursday 1st February School prayers 8:30am at Shurdington School, then Morning Prayer at 9am at St Paul's.

Thursday 7th March School prayers 8:30am at Shurdington School, then Morning Prayer at 9am at St Paul's.

On other Thursdays in the month (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th), morning prayer is online at 9am on zoom.

Please email greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com for the link to the meetings. All are welcome.

LENT LUNCHES

On every from Thursday 22nd Feb to Thursday 21st March, you are invited to a Lent lunch at St Paul's Church Hall, starting at 12:30pm.

Please contact Susan, by email to revsusancooke@gmail.com, if you would like to attend, so that we can cater for you. We will offer soup, bread and fruit for lunch, with a reflection and short time of prayer together.

24th March Palm Sunday Walk see fuller notice in this magazine.

Holy Week and Easter Special Services:

Holy Week theme – “Lord of the Dance”

Monday 25 th March	6pm Holy Trinity – music and readings
Tuesday 26 th March	6pm St Paul's – art and prayer
Weds 27 th March	6pm St Mary's – evening prayer
Maundy Thursday 28 th	9am Morning Prayer in St Paul's & 6pm Holy Communion Holy Trinity
Good Friday 29 th	9:30 Morning Prayer St Paul's 11am Worship Holy Trinity 6:15pm meet at Witcombe Village Green for walk of witness to 7pm Taizé service at St Mary's

Holy Saturday 30th March – **SAVE THE DATE** - in the afternoon, a family event for Easter.

Easter Day 31st March

9:30 Holy Communion St Paul's
11am Holy Communion Holy Trinity
11am Holy Communion St Mary's

SAVE the DATE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS at WITCOMBE

Saturday 2 March	ABBA theme evening
Saturday 13 April	Big Breakfast
Saturday 15 June	Wheels-(+Teas)-on-the-Green
Sunday 7 July	Family Funday
Friday 18 October	The Witcombe Quiz
Saturday 23 November	Bingo + Fish'nChips

GREENWAY GIFTS FOOD BANK CONSULTATION

MONDAY 18TH MARCH

**If you are a client, we are interested in your thoughts and ideas!
The Greenway Gifts team invite you to coffee and conversation on
Monday 18th March, between 10 and 10:30am.**

Tell us what you like about the food bank, and what you think we could do differently.

Do the times work? Is there some other food item you'd like added to our usual stock list?

Do you feel comfortable when you visit? Would you tell other people about this free food provision?

This is your food bank and we can only get it right if we know what you need. We can't necessarily accommodate all requests, but we can listen.

So on 18th March, please come along a little later, stay for coffee and tell us your thoughts.

Thank you!

The Greenway Gifts Food Bank Team

Are you interested in learning more about being a Christian?

We'd love to invite you to a series of conversations, with refreshments. In a casual friendly environment, you can ask those awkward questions, or the questions you think you should know the answers to but don't! We want to share the basic understanding of our faith and talk about what we believe and why.

There is no such thing as a stupid question – we want to make it as easy as possible for you to explore Christianity and there is no commitment to attend church as a result of the conversations.

If you might be interested, please contact Susan, the vicar, either by email revsusancooke@gmail.com or by telephone 01242 321806. There is no obligation in expressing interest. Susan will set up conversations in small groups according to the responses she receives, or she can set up one to one conversations.

We can also run a more formal course if people are interested.

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar

JANUARY

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority.

From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Further ideas can be found at arochoa.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

FEBRUARY

Go green for Lent.

The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living?

Explore some of these changes at arochoa.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/

MARCH

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers.

Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces.

Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at arochoa.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-over-lent/

APRIL

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine.

Re-evaluate your journeys: explore walking or cycling options, or modify your route to include some form of active travel, e.g. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot, indulge in a leisurely stroll, or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route.

Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences.

Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.

MAY

Say no to the mow. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home.

If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8-16 June 2024) at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/.

JUNE

Join #30DaysWild. One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it.

The Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June.

Find some wild ideas at wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild

JULY

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Plan to incorporate locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness, ensuring superior flavour compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles. If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, this month, include giving thanks for your local food producers.

AUGUST

Assist local wildlife during hot weather.

Provide hedgehogs with a juicy snack like mealworms or canned dog food as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal,

soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce.

More tips can be found at arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/

SEPTEMBER

Step outside this Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October).

Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life.

Choose an idea or two from our resource and encourage your church family to take part too!

Free to download at arocha.org.uk/step-outside-this-season-of-creation-resource/

OCTOBER

Contribute to wildlife conservation.

Clean bird feeders to prevent diseases spreading to winter migrants.

Install a nest box well before breeding season to provide a cosy retreat for small birds during cold winter nights.

Prepare to support more birds next year, with more tips at arocha.org.uk/give-a-bird-a-home.

As you observe the local birds reflect on this verse, 'I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.' Psalm 50:11.

NOVEMBER

Green your home. Combat climate change and reduce heating costs by identifying and sealing drafts around your home.

Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, cracks around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards, etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials and online tutorials.

Additionally, place foil or radiator panels to reflect heat into your room.

Pray for those who might be experiencing the cold this winter.

DECEMBER

Celebrate a Greener Christmas.

Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious.

Explore A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas at arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas.
Visit arocha.org.uk/wild-christian for more eco tips



St Paul's Shurdington
Snowdrop Day 2024
Saturday 17th February

More flowers inside
the Church



Tea, coffee and cake
in the Church Hall:
10 -12 & 2pm - 4 pm





Useful Phone Numbers:



Furniture Recycling Warehouse	01452 331333
Removal of Bulky Waste	01684 295010
Glos Highways	0800 0 514 514
Faulty Streetlights	0800 0 514 514
Police (non-emergency)	101
101 is 15p, the local call number is	01452 726920
Fire/Police/Ambulance	999
(emergency only)	
NHS 'Out of Hours'	08454 220220
NHS Help line	111
Adult social services and	
District nurses	01452 328224
Samaritans	116123
Citizens Advice	01452 527202
Children's social services	01452 328213
CARE direct	0800 444000
Electricity Power Loss	0800 328 1111
Water Services &	0800 783 4444
Emergencies	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Emmaus*	01452 413095

*at Chequers Road, Gloucester:

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

**at Chequers Road, Gloucester:*

Collections and Sale of furniture, electrical goods etc.

Julian Meeting

Meeting in silence with God

Please do join us for 30 minutes of silent prayer
followed by a cup of tea together.

Time: 2:30pm Wednesday February 28th 2024

Place: 52 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington. GL51 4ST
Ian & Wendy Davies (01242 861293)



Shurdington church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Clare Stewart	(01242) 862598
	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
	Mrs Anita Jackson	
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mark King	(01242) 862505
Gift Aid Officer	Mrs Cheryl Gobey	(01242) 863977
Sacristan	Mr Andrew Spence	(01242) 862101
Church Flowers	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lisa Pearson	(01242) 862538
Mothers' Union		
Church Hall Lettings	Mrs Julie Miller	(01242) 701127
Verger	Mr Michael Cass	(01242) 861139
Parish Council Clerk	John Kay	07841204404
Shurdington Pre School	Kelly Clifford	07867813627
Gardening Society	Mr. G. Woodruffe	07792269353
Scouts Group	Mrs Louise Slee	
	15thcheltenhamscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Shurdington Sports Club	Mr J Barnfield	(01242) 862826
Friendship Club	Mrs Maureen West	(01242) 863991
Children's Society	Mrs Helen King	(01242) 862505

In time of illness if you would like a visit and / or to be remembered in prayer please contact Clare Stewart (01242) 862598, Sue Padfield (01452) 862509.

Three in One Magazine
Editor John Cummins
(01242) 862518

e-mail address: editor3in1@gmail.com

Business Manager Ian Davies tel (01242) 861293
email: ilandavies@pobox.com



Witcombe & Bentham church and village organisations

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
	Mrs Lynne Cooper	(01452) 864523
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer	Mr Jon Frewin	(01452) 862583
Verger	Mrs Jane Bell	(01452) 862558
Captain of Bells		
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lynne Cooper	(01452) 864523
Magazine Coordinator	Mrs Sue Padfield	(01452) 862509
Village Hall Enquiries Custodian		07518137635
Witcombe Social Fundraisers	Mrs Christine Dyer	(01452) 862399
Witcombe Under 5s	Kyla Hill	thevictoria@btinternet.com



Badgeworth church and Village organisations

Churchwardens	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
	Mr Paul Stanfield	(01242) 463626
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally O'Hare	07887422010
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Hazel Cotton	(01452) 857180
Gift Aid Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Sacristan	Mrs Sue Avery	(01242) 520388
Verger	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Captain of Bells	Mr David Turner	(01452) 712302
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Roger Brown	(01242) 239179
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs H.L. Jones	07840073143
Village Hall	Mrs Rachel Cottell	(01452) 715034
Friends of Church	Mrs Beverly Pickering	(01452) 712907
Church Flowers	Mrs Diana Brown	(01242) 239179

JUST ASK...

...if you're thinking of a wedding, a marriage blessing or a christening, then your local churches are here for you.

All three churches are ready to welcome you and your family and friends, subject to the appropriate Covid and legal restrictions, to celebrate one of these special occasions with us!

If you're not sure whether you can get married in church... JUST ASK.

We'd be glad to answer any queries you might have.

Please email
greenway.bswb.office@gmail.com
and JUST ASK.

Do you need someone to talk to?

Would you like someone to listen to you?

Someone to pray with you or for you?

We have a small, dedicated team of people ready to listen.
We can also pray with you or for you, if you would like us to:

Clare Stewart on 01242 862598, Sue Padfield 01452 862509,
Mary Tombs 01452 713200, Chris Nation 01242 521280, Rob
Poole 01452 855660, Revd Ian Gobey 01242 863977
Revd Susan Cooke 01242 321806

Why not give one of us a call if you're struggling with life?
We've all been there and are pleased to lend a listening, sympathetic ear.

It doesn't matter if you've never been to a church, used to go, or
are never planning to go. Our support is for everyone.

All three churches are open every day for visits and private
prayer but if you're not sure when your church is open, just ask!

You can call Clare, Sue or Paul to check the opening times or
arrange for the church to be opened for your private prayer:

Holy Trinity - Paul Stanfield 01242 512926

St Mary's - Sue Padfield 01452 862509

St Paul's - Clare Stewart on 01242 862598

Susan and the church teams.

Greenway Gifts



Food Bank



If you need some help with groceries, please come along to our non-referral food bank, every Monday, except Bank Holidays, between 9am and 10am, at St Paul's Church Hall. This for Shurdington, Witcombe, Bentham and Badgeworth.

If you would like to support the Food Bank, you can offer long dated items by leaving them in our churches, dropping in on a Monday morning, or you can donate directly to Shurdington Parochial Church Council – see below. Thank you!



Alan Pilbeam Lectures

The next lecture is on:-

Tuesday 27th February 2024

then

Tuesday 26th March 2024

These lectures will start at:-

7pm in Shurdington Chapel

Paddy Brownrigg

Open Mondays at Shurdington Community Centre

Century Hall is open from 11am – 4pm to anyone who wants to come along on the second and last Mondays of the month. A NOTE from Editor. The last Monday this month is Christmas day. It is unlikely that Open Monday will take place then.

There will be refreshments – soup, sandwich or full meal – and always tea/coffee/biscuits.

There is no charge and all are welcome. You can read the newspaper, do a jigsaw, play table tennis, charge your phone or just have a rest and a chat.

Between 2pm and 4pm, there will be a family film showing on our cinema system – come along and enjoy - or get involved and request a favourite film.

There are play facilities for children and on the last Monday of the month, there is an NHS run Baby Hub.

All welcome – hope to see you there!



SHURDINGTON
&
BADGEWORTH
GARDENING
SOCIETY



Please note the following dates for your diary – our next meeting is on 15th February and our Spring Show is on 16th March.

This time of the year is really getting ready for Spring. As long as the ground is not frozen prepare the soil and then try warming it with fleece or a cloche. Organise your seeds by the sowing date. Get a box with dividers and file your seed packets by the month they need to be sown; you will be glad of this effort in the months to come.

Give tools and equipment the once over and apply a little TLC to anything that needs it. This includes washing empty pots by scrubbing them with hot water and a mild detergent, but remember to rinse well afterwards. Install water butts ready for the summer.

Stay safe keep gardening

Janette Willis (Secretary)



BOOKS AND BANTER

book club

We are a friendly bunch of book lovers, meeting ten times a year in Beauty and the Teacup in Shurdington at 6pm.

New members are always welcome.

Our February meeting is on Friday 9th February.

Dates for 2024

8th March

No April meeting

10th May

14th June

12th July

No August meeting

13th Sept

11th Oct

8th Nov

13th Dec

If you'd like to join, please email revsusancooke@gmail.com
or ask Wendy in Beauty and the Teacup or just turn up!

All welcome! *Susan & Wendy.*



COFFEE AND CHAT



Sat 3rd February

Sat 2nd March

Sat 6th April

Sat 4th May

10am-12noon

Badgeworth Village Hall

Coffee and home-made cakes, good company,
a raffle & the morning papers.

Please bring items for the Foodbank box.

A community event organized by Holy Trinity Church

Badgeworth Stitch & Social Group

Old School House

Every alternate Monday

Next Session - February 5 th

10.00 am – 12.30pm

All ages and abilities welcome

Sew, knit, bring along your own
projects,

or just come along enjoy a cuppa
and have a natter.

Sessions are informal and fun

Contact number :- 01452856726

Unexpected youth club thriving in Gloucester

When Gloucester City deanery started focusing on new ways to engage with secondary-aged young people, they had no idea that within a year God would give them what they needed to start a thriving and expanding youth club.



At the start of 2023, Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester, visited the deanery to help them think around ways to connect with youth and teenagers in their area. Together, they hit upon the idea of ensuring that the excellent relationships the church has with primary school children were not lost as they got older.

The deanery decided to prioritise being there for the Year 6s as they dealt with all the challenges of transition and ensuring that they had a safe space to meet with their friends.

Inspired by this idea, the Revd Rachel Beck, Vicar of Gloucester St George's Tuffley, paid particular attention to a couple of Year 6 children who came along to their church's family drop-in and attended the summer holiday club.

Led by Laine Lewis, ordinand on placement, the church invited them back for games, chat and doughnuts on Monday evenings in September.

The initial plan was to trial a group for four weeks, chat to the three or four children they had invited and see if there was an appetite to meet more often going forward.

Barrie says, “What started out as a simple conversation with the deanery about connecting with teens in our parishes has grown into something much bigger.

Showing these young people that the church cares about them and wants to provide for their needs has seen the group of young people grow and grow!

It is fascinating to see how God has worked through the personal invitation given to these children to speak to ever-growing numbers of young people.”

Every week, more and more 11 to 14-year-olds turned up. The original group inviting their friends and those inviting more.

For an hour each Monday evening, the church hall is full of youth playing games, making things and chatting to the encouraged, if slightly surprised, volunteers.

Rachel says, “We have accidentally started a youth group! We are full of praise and thanksgiving to God for this, of course, and are very excited by it,

whilst also having a few challenges and questions about how to sustain it and help the young people as they develop in faith.”

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/unexpected-youth-club-thriving-in-gloucester

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Diocese

This May, we will be welcoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to our Diocese as part of the Big Mission Weekend in May.

From Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, the Archbishop will be visiting various locations across the Diocese followed by a special service in the Cathedral on the Sunday afternoon.

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/the-big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-24-to-26-may-2024

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EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION 2024

Children - We would love you to design an Easter-themed front cover for our 3in1 magazine. The magazine goes to lots of houses across Shurdington, Badgeworth and Witcombe with Bentham. We will also use other entries to brighten up our magazine. There will be prizes!

We are looking for Easter pictures drawn by primary or preschool children. It needs to be something about Jesus, rather than the Easter bunny. It's a happy ending, so make it colourful. Please draw/colour your design in the space opposite. **Try to fill the whole space!**

*Parents – please fill in the details here and return your entry to school/preschool/nursery/church/chapel/scouting group by **Thursday 8th February**.*

*If your child is not in any of those groups, please put your entry in the post box at the church hall in Shurdington by **Thursday 8th February**, and add your contact details.*

Thank you!

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____

School/Preschool/Meadows/Church/Chapel/Scouting/resident*

*please delete as appropriate

I confirm that this is my child's own work (parent/carers please sign) _____

This Page has been left intentionally blank (Easter card competition)

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Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

The spectacular music of Harry Potter

Gloucester Cathedral

2 February, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Featuring music from the Harry Potter films performed by the International Film Orchestra.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/the-spectacular-music-of-harry-potter

Gaia by Luke Jerram

Tewkesbury Abbey

2 to 20 February

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface.

The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions.

gloucester.anglican.org/gaia-exhibition-by-luke-jerram

Movement Worship night

St Lawrence Church, High Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2AW

2 February, 7.30pm

Movement Worship nights are specifically designed for youth and young adults.

Gathering together to meet with God in a dynamic environment with contemporary worship and life applicable teaching that is practical, relevant and useful.

gloucester.anglican.org/movement-worship-night

Quiet Days for anyone in ministry

Brownhill Monastery,
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27 February, 10am to 4pm

A gentle day of prayer and reflection.

In the beautiful countryside of Stroud, enjoy a chance to stop, reflect and make space for God to speak.

gloucester.anglican.org/quiet-days-for-anyone-in-ministry-2

Have your say

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PALM SUNDAY WALK

IN SHURDINGTON

SAVE THE DATE!

24th March 2024 @3pm

– all welcome –

*We start and finish at Shurdington Church of England Primary
School*

***THERE WILL NOT BE A 5TH SUNDAY SERVICE IN SCHOOL IN
MARCH, AS THE 5TH SUNDAY FALLS ON EASTER DAY.***

*The usual services will be held in each church on Easter Day (Sun-
day 31st March 2024).*



Mothers' Union Tuesday 11th December at 2.30 pm in St. Paul's Church Hall.

As our members arrived, the afternoon was set with Winter Music playing in the background for our annual 'Preparation for Christmas'.

An afternoon of readings, poems and Prayers with Carols chosen by members, accompanied by ever faithful John Stanley on the keyboard. Thank you John.

Readings also chosen by our members varied from an extract from Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee to a Longfellow Poem. Rev'd Ian read a Bidding Prayer and Rev'd Susan finished the programme with the Gospel and Collect.

Refreshments of mince pies, gingerbread men and tea were enjoyed and the Hall was filled with chatter.

Secret Santa Raffle was then distributed and the afternoon finished at 4.00 pm.

Special thanks to Rev'd Ian and Rev'd Susan for their love and support over a difficult and busy period. Also thanks to all contributors whose readings made the afternoon so special.

The Committee and members wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to a new beginning in 2024.

It was a bitterly cold afternoon as members arrived for our Corporate Communion led by the Rev'd Ian Gobey.

Fourteen members and three visitors were welcomed by Chris. Charlotte sent her apologies.

Rev'd Ian led us in our Eucharist and spoke about 'New Beginnings' and to embrace our future challenges and not dread them.

The two readings were read by Helen and Cathy and Chris led Prayers.

Faithful John Stanley accompanied three hymns on the keyboard, the first 'My faith it is an oaken staff' a favourite of Kate Thompson, she used to sing

as a child. The second 'I heard the voice of Jesus say' and the third 'I the Lord of sea and sky'.

It was a lovely service to share together and we thank Rev'd Ian for his thoughtfulness and kindness to our Branch through a challenging time.

Tea and refreshments were served ,the Raffle drawn and the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Next meeting AGM on Tuesday 13th February 2024, in the Church Hall at 2.30pm

Note from the Editor. The above reports are for two months because the December report arrived late for the January edition.

Susan's Sabbatical

Part three – Good Habits

In November's magazine, I wrote about water, and in particular walking by water. In January, I wrote about music, especially singing. This month is my final report on my sabbatical, and it's about good habits. I learned a lot about myself on my sabbatical. I learned what things are important to my physical, mental and spiritual health. That's great, but of no use if I don't put it into practice.

I'm sure most of you have no idea what I do, as a vicar, day to day, week by week, but it is true to say that the job is not a job, but a vocation, and like many of you who are called to a vocation, it can take over your life. This is because we are passionate about what we do, and sometimes it doesn't even feel like work.

In fact, that is quite a problem, because sometimes when I am at an event that I enjoy, I forget that there is an emotional and physical price to pay, in terms of tiredness or lack of opportunity to spend time with family and so on. Just because I enjoy something, doesn't mean it's not work, and it still adds to the hours I spend in ministry.

As a result, I need to develop good habits to keep myself physically, mentally and spiritually well. There are some obvious things, such as taking my day off each week. I try to do this, although that can be tricky, as there are ministerial opportunities that only happen on Fridays

(my usual day off) and through December, there were several carol singing events on Fridays, and I didn't want to miss them.

I read a few books while on sabbatical. One of them was "Sabbath as Resistance" by Walter Brueggeman. Brueggeman talks about taking time out of our busy lives, to rest and pray, for all sorts of reasons. Some are simply about our health and the need to rest. Some are more radical and encourage us to stop working as resistance against the non-stop world we find ourselves living in nowadays.

I remember when shops were closed on Sundays. I didn't like it, but looking back, I can see that there is merit in this, not just for us as consumers, but also for shopworkers and everyone involved in retail.

In the bible, we are told that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. We might understand the creation story to be allegorical rather than literal, but the meaning of a day of rest is clear. God rested. We are made in the image of God. We need to rest.

Obviously, for vicars, Sunday is not a day of rest! It also isn't the busiest day of my week, but that's another story! So, taking another day off is important.

Also, working long hours says something about our self-esteem and our ego. Do I feel the need to work long hours to prove that I am a "good vicar" or that I am worth my wages? Or is my ego so inflated that I feel that I must do things, no one else can do them, and then leave no room for God to do God's work?

There is always more work to do. Some days are long because they really must be, but other days, I need to turn to those good habits, exercising, walking by water, finishing work at a sensible time in the evening, eating healthily, having a good sing, saying my prayers.

Apparently it takes four weeks for something to become a habit. At a time of year when resolutions are a thing, I didn't make any! I already have enough ideas for good habits. So, if you see me out walking, or if I say no to working on my day off – perhaps you can congratulate me on maintaining my good habits? I don't get it right all the time, but I will try, and I hope that you will try to look after yourself too. Resist the pressures of modern society to work so hard, be kind to yourself.

I returned to work refreshed and ready to continue the work that I love in these parishes that I love. This is my last sabbatical report. I hope you have found them interesting. Thank you for reading them.



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NEWSLETTER

December 2023 &
January 2024



Gingerbread Houses – An eagerly anticipated Christmas tradition from Beavers to Scouts! This year, the Group bought 62 kits to assemble & decorate, with a spirited competition for the best-decorated house.

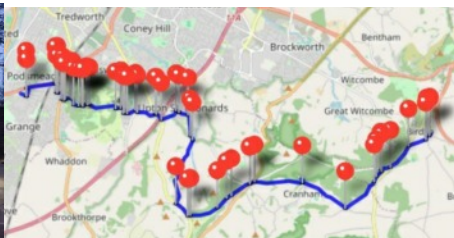


Improving our Communication Skills & Learning to Sign – Both our Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a fun evening learning BSL (British Sign Language) with Jo, our Beaver leader. They learnt colours using the song 'I can sing a rainbow' and how to sign basic greetings (hello/bye and how are you). They also started learning the alphabet so they can sign their names.

Benefice Diary

Next on Jo's list is to challenge all sections to be able to sign their Promise on St George's Day in April.

Cotswold Marathon Practice Hikes - If you've spotted groups of walkers with hiviz gear in recent weekends, it's a telltale sign of Scouts gearing up for the Cotswold Marathon winter night navigation hike! Scheduled for February 3rd, 2024, this marks the 51st year of the marathon, commencing at Murray Hall, Tuffley Gloucester. With hundreds of Scouts participating in the Bronze (10-mile), Silver (20-mile), or Gold (30-mile) routes, the event promises adventure, challenge & plenty of mud! This year we have 2 Scout teams taking part in the Bronze route & 2 Explorer teams in the Silver – Good Luck to them all & thanks to the leaders supporting their practice hikes.



BENEFICE DIARY

February			page
Monday	5	Badgeworth Stitch	29
Friday	9	Book Club	27
Monday	12	Open Monday	25
Wednesday	14	Ash Wednesday	6
Thursday	15	Gardening Society	26
Saturday	17	Snowdrop day	14
Thursday	22	Lent Lunches begin	7
Monday	26	Open Monday	25

Tuesday	27	Alan Pilbeam Lecture	25
Wednesday	28	Julian Meeting	15
March			
Saturday	2	Benefice Away Day	4
Friday	8	Book Club	27
Monday	11	Open Monday	25
Saturday	16	Badgeworth Concert	9
		Gardening Society Show	26
Sunday	24	Palm Sunday Walk	34
Saturday	23	ABBA evening	8
Monday	25	Holy Week begins	7
		Open Monday	25
Wednesday	27	Julian Meeting	15
Friday	29	Good Friday	7
Saturday	30	Easter Family Event	8
Sunday	31	Easter Day	7
Every Monday Greenway Gifts			24
Every Thursday Community Choir			



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TIME MYSTERY AT HOLY TRINITY, BADGEWORTH

On the south east corner of Badgeworth church is a buttress which bears evidence of being moved or rebuilt at some time. The stone blocks are marked with simple Roman numerals 1, 11, III, and IV and although they appear to be laid in the correct ascending order, number III has been replaced upside down. How could we know that?

Apart from the clue given by the position of its number (relative to the others) stone III is also inscribed with a Scratch Dial, commonly used on churches from as far back as Saxon times, before the advent of clocks. Mass dials, as they are also known, usually take the form of a semi-circle with a hole at the centre and downward radiating lines extending to the circumference. A style, or gnomon, in the form of a simple peg would have been fixed in the style - hole and when the sun shone, the shadow passing over the scratch lines would mark the passing of time for mass. To cast a shadow on the Badgeworth dial, the sun would now have to shine from the ground! So, there' the clue —the dial is upside down and a stonemason was in error many years ago. We may never know when or why, but it does provide this church with an interesting curiosity.

A 'roper'sundial generally shows all 12 hours of the day and markings are calculated to suit its exact, fitted location.

Unless it is a direct —south facing dial of the same latitude, a dial from one place will not show correct time in another. The gnomon which casts the shadow is angled to suit the particular latitude, and with practice the shadow can be read to tell the time with a fair degree of accuracy at any time of the year. Badgeworth Church has a fine example inscribed 'ohn Stanby his gift 1645' This can be seen 'resting' inside the church on a windowsill near the font. It appears to be a true south —facing dial and might have been fixed to the wall where the porch now stands —the subject of some future research?

Scratch dials would have fallen into disuse over the centuries as more accurate methods of indicating time were developed. Proper sundials gradually came into use, and eventually (from the end of the 15th century) tower clocks began to appear on churches and important public buildings. Joe Fryer (reprinted from February 2005 3in1)



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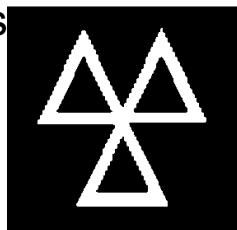
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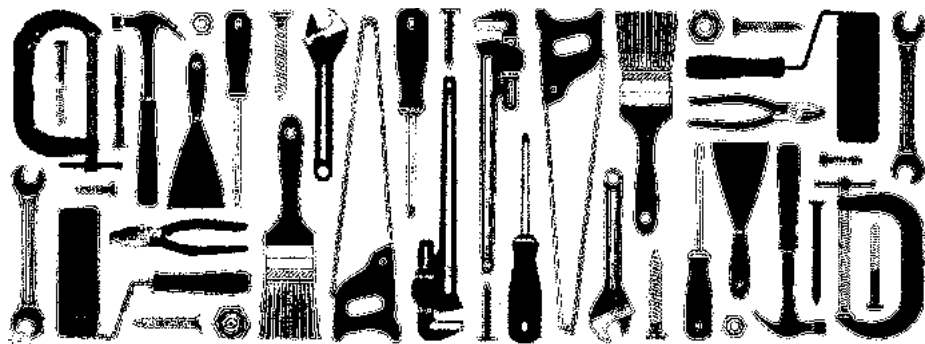
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