

# Parish Link

The Parish Magazine for the Benefice of  
Bagendon, Baunton, Coberley, Colesbourne,  
Cowley, Elkstone, North Cerney, Rendcomb and Stratton



March 2018

70p

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## The Pastoral Letter

Symbols in churches.....



Symbols are often used in churches - as in the examples above, but to what purpose are they, if they aren't understood?

I can explain these three - the chi-rho, the alpha-omega and the first three letters of the name *Jesus* - but you really need an understanding of the Greek alphabet to decode the symbols! A friend told me that he used to think that the third one of the symbols above meant 'I hate Sundays'!

Symbols are useful for replacing words, as a sort of short-hand language - having a word-free zone, communicating without words. Symbols in church are often a way of reminding us, or re-enforcing something about God, and symbols like these can be understood if there is a way of decoding them and finding out what they mean.

But it would be good to be comfortable too with things that can't be explained, things that are beyond our grasp, things which are in the area of not-knowing.

One way of understanding God is using words, images, metaphors and picture-language to make the un-understandable, understandable. Another approach is the way of silence, which saves us saying anything too inadequate or ridiculous. Sometimes silence is the only response to things we do not, and cannot, understand.

John Pritchard, a previous Bishop of Oxford, puts it like this:

*'The problem with talking about God is that either we say too much, or we say too little.'*<sup>1</sup>

I've recently come across the phrase *Via negativa*<sup>2</sup> as a way of thinking about God in an open-ended way. Basically, it is the realisation that it is easier to say what God is not, rather than what God is: for example, 'God is not confined by time or space...'

Ultimately the best image or understanding of God comes not through words or symbols or silence, but through the living life of Jesus, and what he said and did.

A good Lent Challenge would be to read straight through one of the gospels, all at one sitting, and just get a feel for what we know about God through the 'filter' of Jesus.

I would suggest Luke as my first choice, but others may prefer Mark or Matthew. A recent translation may be more accessible than the sixteenth century language of the Authorised version. You can get single copies of each gospel for a minimal sum, in which you could scribble your own comments in the margins - and you don't need to know anything about the Greek alphabet!

Another Lent Challenge would be to find some place where you could be quiet and reflective and enjoy silence for a titchy bit of each day.

***Ruth Edy***

#### *Footnotes*

<sup>1</sup> John Pritchard: *How to explain your faith* ch.8 *The God I don't believe in* [SPCK 2006].

<sup>2</sup> An internet search of the phrase *via negativa* will introduce you to two other lovely words - *cataphatic* and *apophatic*. Enjoy!

## **Benefice news**

### **Elkstone and Rendcomb to trial Support and Share arrangement**

Starting in April the congregations in Elkstone and Rendcomb are going to try a new pattern of worship for six months. On the second Sunday of each month Elkstone will welcome the Rendcomb congregation and on the fourth Sunday the Rendcomb congregation will welcome Elkstone as follows:

#### **Elkstone:**

*1st Sunday* at 11am for Holy Communion led by the Revd Arthur.

*2nd Sunday* at 10am for Family worship led by the Church Wardens or invited clergy/readers.

3rd Sunday at 11am for Morning Prayer led by either the Revd David or the Revd Cliff.

**Rendcomb:**

4th Sunday at 11am for Holy Communion normally led by the Revd Bob .

**Current Vacancies**

As you might expect, these positions are for volunteers who have suitable gifts and time available. If you feel called to serve in any of these ways, please have a chat with one of the clergy without any pressure to proceed.

<p><b>“2Cs” Parish Church Church Warden</b></p> <p>Are you interested in old buildings? Coberley and Cowley congregations have been worshipping together since 1<sup>st</sup> January and a new PCC is being formed in May 2018. We need someone to work alongside of Michael Dykes, MBE, who can take a special interest in the care and maintenance of St Giles parish church, Coberley.</p>	<p><b>Coberley Parish Church Treasurer</b></p> <p>Do you enjoy numbers? Coberley and Cowley congregations have been worshipping together since 1<sup>st</sup> January and a new PCC is being formed in May 2018. We need someone to work alongside Adrian Montague-Smith (Cowley Treasurer) but taking responsibility for Coberley finances.</p>
<p><b>Parish Link Advertising Manager</b></p> <p>Are you good at networking? We are aiming to increase advertising income so that <i>Parish Link</i> can become free to all homes in the Churn Valley Benefice. You’d be supporting our Hon Editor, Corinna Bramley.</p>	<p><b>Churn Valley Benefice DBS Evidence Checker</b></p> <p>Are you excited by following legal procedures? We need someone to check passports and other such documents for Safeguarding purposes. Gloucester Diocese will provide full training.</p>

**Easter Day Sunrise Service**

If you would like to join this Service, please meet at 6.30am at St Peter’s Church, Stratton. The Service will be held about a quarter of a mile along a track in the fields behind St Peter’s Church. Revd David will lead a

short service of worship and singing. Those attending are invited to return to the Rectory after the Service for bacon sandwiches! To help with the catering please let Revd David know if you are hoping to attend. Thank you. (01285 655199).

## For all the saints

### Bagendon - The parish church of St Margaret of Antioch

Margaret gave her life during the Diocletian persecutions at the beginning of the fourth century. Her preaching before her death is said to have converted many to the Christian faith.

In the year 303 the Emperor Diocletian began a persecution of Christians throughout the Roman Empire. He perceived the Christian faith as a threat to the prevailing Roman religion and wanted to restore his version of public morality as well as reinforce his authority. Christianity was seen as morally and socially disruptive.



In the spring of 304 an edict was published which required everyone to offer pagan sacrifice or be punished by execution and the confiscation of property. Margaret was martyred at Antioch; an ancient city on the Orontes River in what is now modern-day Turkey - close to the border with Syria. Nothing certain is known of her life or the manner of her death although many legends have grown up surrounding her. From a very early date the Eastern Orthodox Church honoured her as "Saint Marina the Great Martyr" and in the West from the seventh century.

About a hundred years after her martyrdom, Pope Leo the Great delivered a sermon which is associated with her in the book "*Celebrating the Saints*": "As often as we die to sin, so sin dies in us. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord' is even this 'death of his saints' for a person is slain to the world, not by destruction of their mortal frame, but by the destruction of their vices."

In the twelfth century many legends grew up about Margaret; most famously about her being swallowed by a dragon and then bursting forth from its stomach. Somewhat perversely, she is the patron saint of childbirth! Much of Margaret's life is clouded in mystery as well as

incredible legends. During the Crusades a cult surrounding her legend was popular, until suppressed by papal decree. Today she serves as a reminder of the sacrifice that countless unknown Christians have made all down the centuries by standing firm in the face of severe persecution.

In the 1460s the Weavers' Guild at Cirencester had the chancel rebuilt, and it has windows with fragments of glass of that period. A leaflet available in Bagendon parish church states: "The earliest portions of the present church date from about 1100. In the North East window is a reconstruction of two ancient figures of St Margaret and St John the Baptist whilst in the East window are fragments (which the restorers missed) of St Margaret's red robe and the head of her dragon."

Saint Margaret's patronal festival is celebrated each year on 20<sup>th</sup> July although sadly she does not appear in the book "Common Worship – Festivals". In 2013 at Bagendon the patronal festival was also a service of thanksgiving for the refurbishment of the roof over the chancel and the vestry. The generosity of the local community was recognised in the Collect: "Almighty God, we thank you for making us in your image and to share in the ordering of your world. Receive the work of many hands in this place, now restored for your worship, the building up of the living, and the remembrance of the dead, to the praise and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Finally, a prayer for St Margaret of Antioch: "Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr St Margaret of Antioch triumphed over suffering and death, strengthen us with your grace that we may endure reproach and persecution, Amen".

## Reviews and Thanks

### To the Pop In at the Plough



In 2012 a plastic jar was introduced to the patrons, to collect any small change that keeps filling up pockets and bags and weighs so much. This is given to St Peter's Church, Stratton, to help with its upkeep. Michael adds it up and Chris Keen banks it. So far, we have contributed £539.48 to our church, which you may think is not much, but as a certain shop says, 'every little helps'! Thank you very much to everyone who gives so generously.

*Muriel Paine*



## Supporters of the Snowdrop Stroll

Thanks are due to everyone who supported the recent Snowdrop Walk in Perrott's Brook, which raised the magnificent sum of £300. Special thanks go to John and Lyn for their generous hospitality. All monies raised will go towards projects for the benefit of patients of Rendcomb Surgery.

*Pauline Farman (Rendcomb Patients' Support Group)*

### Forthcoming events

#### Lent at St Peter's, Stratton

##### ***Lent Soup Lunch at the Rectory***

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Between 12.30pm and 2.00pm**

A choice of soups and bread will be served between 12.30 and 2.00pm at Stratton Rectory. Donations of £5.00 welcome towards *Water Aid* and *Toilet Twinning*, our chosen charities this Lent. We aim to twin our Church WC with lavatories in areas of need. Like Stratton School we shall be supporting the provision of clean water and sanitation for some of the most deprived peoples of the world.

*We hope you can join us.*

#### Lent Course

Our Lent Course this year is entitled "Fruitfulness on the Front Line" and comes from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. In the Southern end of the Benefice, sessions will be held in the evenings of Monday 26 Feb and 5, 12 and 19 March at 5 St John's Close, Stratton starting at 7:30pm. Sessions will be repeated at lunchtime on Tuesdays (27 Feb and 6, 13 and 20 March) at Stratton Rectory; these will begin with a simple soup lunch at 12:30 with the study starting at 1:00pm. Monday and Tuesday sessions in any week will cover the same material.

A closing Agape meal will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, at 7:30pm. Please contact Mark Venn (01285 831209, or email [mark.w.venn@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.w.venn@btinternet.com)) if you are intending to come, saying to which sessions that you will be coming. Note that you can "mix and match" Monday and Tuesday sessions to fit in with other commitments.

Full details are available on the Benefice website. The same course for the Northern parishes started on 13 Feb (Shrove Tuesday) running on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 - 8.30pm (21 & 28 Feb; 7, 14, 21 and 28 March and 4 April) at Cowley Rectory. For further information please contact the Revd Arthur Champion: 01242 870402.

## **Good Friday Pilgrimage**

Our annual Good Friday Pilgrimage takes place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This year there will be a Pilgrimage in the morning around the Northern end of the Benefice, starting at 9am at Coberley, taking in Cowley and Elkstone, and finishing in Colesbourne. The intention is to then have a sandwich lunch and travel to Rendcomb in time for 1:00pm.

The walk will continue from Rendcomb, moving on to North Cerney, Bagendon, Baunton and Stratton. At each church there will be a short meditation, with readings and reflective music. Rough timings in the Southern end will be: meet at Rendcomb at 1:00pm, arriving at North Cerney at 2:00pm, Bagendon (2:30pm approx.) and Baunton (3:15pm approx.), finishing at Stratton at around 4:00pm for a final meditation and refreshments. Please join us for as much, or as little, as you wish. Further details available on the Benefice website or contact Mark Venn: 01285 831209.



### **Cowley Fete - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May - a date for your diary:**

*2pm - 5pm*

Kick start your summer at this fun-filled village fete in a beautiful setting!

*More details to follow next month.*

## **News from around the Parishes**

### **Bagendon's Easter Celebration plans**

A service of Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. Margaret's at 9.30am on Easter Day, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for adults and children, regardless of the weather, so please encourage family and friends to come along.

## **Baunton's St Christopher wall painting**

### **Six hundred years of communicating at St Mary Magdalene's**

In the C15th the Abbey fathers used large wall paintings to tell the story of the legends of the Saints and to communicate their message to the parishioners of Baunton.

The painting of St Christopher is on the north wall opposite the doorway and makes a great impression on all those who see it as they enter the small Norman church. The painting depicts the legend which describes how Reprobus, (the name of the saint before his conversion), was a giant dedicated to serving Christ. The portrayal is typical with the Christ child shown being carried across the river on the giant's shoulder. The figure clad in a red cloak and dark green and grey tunic is striding out towards the east with a long staff clasped in both his hands. The original painting was of very high quality with expensive pigments and gold leaf used in its production. The monks looked after the painting up until the Dissolution.

The painting was lost from memory and then rediscovered when the church was restored by the Victorians in 1876. It was comparatively well preserved and remained so until 1929 when for some unknown reason it started to deteriorate. Between 1930 and 1950 some crude repairs and retouching was done and a "preservative coating" applied.

By 2001 the painting was in a relatively poor condition, so a survey was commissioned. This resulted in extensive works to the rainwater disposal systems, to dry the fabric of the building, particularly the north wall, and a full-scale conservation programme to fix and stabilise the painting itself.

Now in 2018, thanks to support from the *Heritage Lottery Fund*, the conservators *Paine and Stewart* have again cleaned the painting and re-affixed any flaking paint. They will be producing a full condition report shortly. A talk about the painting is to be given by Dr Ellie Pridgeon, of Leicester University, on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Further details to follow.

In the C21<sup>st</sup> we have the internet to communicate and the PCC are happy to advise that there is now a high speed WiFi link in the church thanks to the generosity of *Gigaclear*. Research into the legend of St Christopher both in Baunton and throughout the world is now possible whilst gazing up at the C15th painting.

*John Whittaker, Church Warden*

## Coberley pays tribute to a popular resident

The funeral took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017, at St Giles' Church, Coberley, of Mr Michael Davis 1939-2017.

Although born in Westerleigh near Bristol, Coberley was home to Michael for over 60 years. He was very much a part of village life until illness prevented him from being so. He could always be found helping out at any village event.

His love of people and the interesting jobs he had throughout his life provided him with many stories that made him the life and soul of many parties. His garden and allotment were his pride and joy, and many benefited from the produce and flowers he grew.

Above all, his family were what he cherished the most. Michael will be sadly missed by all. *The Revd Cliff Pooley.*

## Colesbourne: the snowdrops are here

A reminder that the snowdrops are in full swing and Colesbourne Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays until 3-4 March with bell ringing demonstrations being given in St James' Church every weekend. Various local charities will be providing delicious teas with PCC volunteers doing the last weekend, 3-4 March.



## Elkstone update

For news of the trialling of a new 'Support and Share' approach between Elkstone and Rendcomb Churches, please see page 5.

### Services to look forward to:

4<sup>th</sup> March at 11am for Holy Communion with Revd Arthur Champion

11<sup>th</sup> March at 10am for *Mothering Sunday* with Revd Geoffrey Cox

18<sup>th</sup> March at 11am for Morning Prayer with Revd David Minns

25<sup>th</sup> March (*Palm Sunday*) at 10am at the *Village Hall* bearing palms/branches for a Songs of Praise service

29<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm *Maundy Thursday* for Holy Communion service in the Chancel.

1<sup>st</sup> April *Easter Sunday* - please join us for one or both services:

10am for a celebration in Bible readings and hymns of praise led by the Church Wardens

11.30am Holy Communion led by the Revd Arthur Champion.

## News from Rendcomb

If you live in Rendcomb, you will not need to read about one of our newest items of news! You will have heard (literally, with your ears!) that we now have bell-ringing practice on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm. Some of the local dogs don't like it apparently, but we hope they will appreciate us more as we improve - or just get used to it! Two of our ringers used to ring the Rendcomb bells when they were here as students - some decades ago. Last week three College sixth-formers joined us at our practice and really enjoyed the experience. We are very grateful to our instructors, Sarah, Judy, Peter and Pete, and we have some targets - dates in the near future when we hope to be proficient campanologists, good enough to ring for some special services!

On Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>, our local resident and British explorer, Tim Oakley, gave a fascinating lecture in the Griffin Centre on his expedition to the North-West Passage. This was part of the Sixth Form's General Studies programme, but thanks to Julia and the Head of College and the Head of Sixth Form, it was open to local people too. I particularly liked the way the huskies-team were trained to respond to the command to get started. The 'driver' would say, "Are you ready?" and then he would shout, "Let's go!"

St. Peter's PCC are poised in much the same way as the team of huskies! We are about to launch into a programme of improvement of the church heating. The heating system to be installed (including solar panels) has been decided on, and now ideas are whizzing round about how to pay for the improvements. We hope this 'journey' will be as stimulating and enjoyable as Tim's travels across the snow in the Arctic!

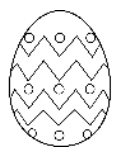
*With thanks to Ruth Edy.*

## Stratton's Latest

### Reminder: Easter egg donations sought please



*The Haven* in Gloucester, which provides Day Care for families in bed and breakfast accommodation in the city, would once again welcome Easter eggs for the children in their care. If you would like to contribute, then please bring the eggs to



**Church by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

Small packets of foil wrapped eggs would also be welcome for the Easter Egg Hunts for the children after the Easter Sunday service.

## **In need of transport or unable to leave your home?**

If you live in Stratton and would like a lift to church, or to other church events, please give Beth Hamid a ring: 01285 644895. Similarly, if you are unable to come to Church, but would like to receive Communion at home, do get in touch (Revd David: 01285 655199, or Beth: 01285 644895).

## **Schools' News**

### **Coberley C of E Primary School**

We have been blessed by stunning scenes at Coberley as the hills have been covered in snow and ice. It has certainly made our morning mile runs challenging but very rewarding.

Over the past term we have been exploring our value of Courage. The children were initially asked to create something that shows them courage and we were inundated with poems, pictures, models, historical accounts and stories. We explored bible stories and true-life accounts of people who had the courage to be themselves and stand up for their beliefs, both religious and idealistic.



As we reach the halfway point in the year we continue to have a range of theme days such as a topic day making dams, an Easter science day and a language day - all of which bring a sense of enjoyment, fulfillment and creativity to the working week.

We are in a strong position both pastorally and academically. We were very pleased to be placed top of the county for Year 6 attainment and we have a waiting list of children eager to join us on our journey.

**Andrew Milner, Headteacher**

Follow us on twitter @coberleyschool for more news.

## North Cerney C of E Primary Academy

### Dance day at North Cerney

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February the children were treated to a Dance Day in North Cerney Village Hall as a reward for all their hard work this term.

The children learned different sequences and routines to pop songs. Amber Forde said: "We really enjoyed dancing with the dance instructor. We loved the dance routine and would love for Jenny to come again."

Tyler Drew commented: "I enjoyed the dance because the dance instructor had chosen really good music and I got to be in a group with my friends." Emily Martin said: "My favourite part of the day was doing the dance solos. It was a great way to show off our skills."



The children spent the day with an experienced choreographer who works on a popular children's BBC show.

## Stratton C of E Primary School

### Values at Stratton School

Christian values form an integral part of life at Stratton school. While our five core values, Friendship, Respect, Responsibility, Forgiveness and Truthfulness, are central to the daily ethos in school, each term we focus on one value in more depth. Thankfulness has been at the forefront of our minds recently.

In assemblies stories are shared and discussed with the children to enable them to explore the value and deepen their understanding. Some of the popular stories used to help illustrate and stimulate discussion included Raymond Briggs' *Jim and the Beanstalk* and *Window* by Jeannie Baker. Bible stories that featured in assemblies included *The Man who came Back* (Luke 17) and *Jairus' Daughter* (Matthew 9.) Extracts from the latest Blue Planet series also stimulated much discussion and a deep sense of awe and wonder.

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Thankfulness was the underlying theme when Celia Page recently came and talked to members of the School Council about trees. In addition to learning some amazing facts the children were encouraged to reflect and say thank you for the vast array of everyday products that trees provide for us. This was followed by an opportunity to plant some trees with Lord Bathurst near The Plough Inn on Gloucester Road to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy a tree lined approach into town.

The PTA's recent fundraising projects, which have resulted in some exciting new play equipment for the outside area, provided the School Council with the chance to practise their thank you letter writing skills. Writing both to the PTA and Handmade Places, the company which installed the equipment, their letters included the following sentiments: *'We would like to say thank you for fundraising for and building our new play equipment. It has brightened up our playground and how we play.'*

Another recent initiative by the School Council, the research, setting up and running of a healthy school tuck shop, has also encouraged the children to reflect and say thank you for the opportunities children in the

developed world enjoy. The company who provide the snacks to sell, also pledge to support women and children in rural India by providing eLearning as a direct result of the sales in our school tuck shop.

At the end of each value focus period the children are asked to complete a short reflection journal to share their thoughts and learning. Here are a selection of comments from the children: *'I am so thankful for a home to live in because I go home to feel warm and dry. Some children go home to see a house made of cardboard.'* 'I am so thankful for my family because if I didn't have a family I would be lonely.' *'I am so thankful for the sun which is so special to me. It shines on the whole world. Without the sun I would be cold and in the dark.'* 'My three blessings are: 'I want to say thank you for our God, our world and prayers (so that I can talk to God.)'.

## Scrubditch Care Farm

Latest from *Emma Costley-White*

**Pig News** We have moved Tigger in with Sandy, as Marmalade has gone to join a friend to start breeding! We sold four of the weaner gilts, and just have the two boars left. We will send them off for pork and sausages in June I expect (unless we sell them first).

**Sheep News** We had a good scanning and are expecting 5 singles and 10 sets of twins. We have just started feeding the ewes hard food along with hay, to make sure they get enough nutrients to ensure a good lambing. We also feed an 'extra energy' multi vitamin. Lambing is due to start the second week of March.

We will also be sending off some shearlings for Easter Lamb – available to buy at the end of March. Contact me at:

[emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](mailto:emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)

**Hen News** Both the hens and ducks seem to be coming back into lay. If you would like a regular order each week ring Emma on: 07966 255 631.

The students have been busy preparing all the raised beds - covering them up with plastic to keep them warm (potato bed) and mixing them with well-rotted muck from the horses and poultry. We have a small amount of salads in the poly tunnel, and lovely broccoli outside.

## **Dementia Adventure Update**

We had two successful Open Mornings for our *Feel Good Farming* project recently. Gerry is doing a talk at a Care Home at the Lakes at the end of the month. If you, or someone you know, are living with dementia, then why not come along to an Open Morning and find out more about our *Feel Good Farming – Dementia Days in 2018*. Spending time outdoors, growing plants, woodworking, caring for animals and being part of a team can help to boost both physical and mental wellbeing. For more information contact Gerry on 07775 806995 or email [gerry@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](mailto:gerry@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)

## **SPRING QUIZ: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March , 7pm, North Cerney Village Hall**

We had the best turnout so far for our Autumn Quiz night, so are really hoping to top that for our Spring Quiz at North Cerney Village Hall. Book in now to avoid disappointment! It's a great fun evening ....bring your own picnic and drinks - only £5 per person.

## **Dates:**

*Term dates:* 3<sup>rd</sup> January - 29<sup>th</sup> March.

*Feel Good Farming Project* starts Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

*Open Day:* Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March for invited guests.

*Spring Quiz:* Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 7pm at North Cerney Village Hall.

*National Open Farm Sunday:* Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June. We will be open as usual from 10am to 1pm. Do bring the family along for a visit!

**Volunteers** We are looking for committed volunteers to help us at the Care Farm. It needn't be a whole day, but regular help is good, as the students get to know and trust you. Please ring / email Gerry: [gerryfouracres@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gerryfouracres@hotmail.co.uk) / 07775 806995.

**Talks** If you would like us to come and talk and do a presentation to your group about the Care Farm contact Gerry: [gerryfouracres@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gerryfouracres@hotmail.co.uk)

**Students** If you know anyone who you think could benefit from spending time with animals, making new friends, learning new skills, or recovering from mental health problems, please send them our way.

**Admin/PAYE** We are looking for someone to help with administration for an hour or two per week and once a month to do the payroll. You will need to be practised in the new pension regulations, NI and PAYE. This is a very part time job for now but could lead to more work within the next year. Hours negotiable. Please contact Emma: [emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](mailto:emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)

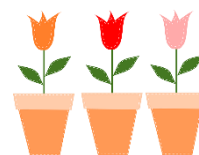
## Community news and events

### Please support the Phoenix Gardeners

The Phoenix Gardeners 'do' the tubs and raised beds in Cirencester and are holding an event to help raise funds for their work, which we all benefit from:



**COFFEE MORNING and Bring and Buy**



Wednesday, 7th March from 10:30am onwards

Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester.

*Help us raise funds to make our town a more attractive and vibrant place.*

---

### Stratton Tuesday Group

On a cold snowy evening, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, members were entertained by Peter Berry who related tales of the adventures he enjoyed in Cuba and the Republic of Ukraine. With much enthusiasm he showed us his wonderful slides from the holidays he took with 36 friends who all share a passion for steam trains. The group hired a steam train in Cuba and the Republic of Ukraine and spent two weeks during February travelling across the two countries meeting the local people and taking fantastic photos. They ate, slept and were entertained on the trains.

Peter's talk highlighted the difference between the temperatures of these two countries, their wonderful buildings and landscapes. It also gave us an insight into the harvesting of the sugar cane in Cuba and a sense of how the people in both countries deal with the weather and living conditions.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March when our speaker will be Philip Wilkinson, who will talk to us about the history and architecture of hidden treasures in our county. Everyone is welcome to join us at Stratton Village Hall for this talk 7.00 for 7.30pm start. *Judith Wood*

### A417 Missing Link public consultation

Highways England has been investigating possible route options to improve the A417 Missing Link, a three-mile stretch of single lane

carriageway between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout in Gloucestershire that causes many problems for local people and road users. They would like to hear your views on their proposals and are holding a public consultation between 15<sup>th</sup> February and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. As part of this, two drop-in public exhibitions are being held on:

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018* 11am - 6pm GL1 Leisure Centre, Bruton Way, Gloucester, GL1 1DT.

*Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018* 12pm - 8pm Henley Bank High School (formerly known as Millbrook Academy), Mill Lane, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4QF.

Consultation materials are available online at:  
[www.highways.gov.uk/A417-missing-link](http://www.highways.gov.uk/A417-missing-link)

## **Cotswold Way Challenge**

The Cotswold Way Charity Challenge will take place for a second time over the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July this year. The course will start in Bath, between 7am and 11am, where 2,000 runners and walkers will make their way along the 100km route to Cheltenham. Participants will leave Royal Victoria Park in Bath at staggered intervals of twenty minutes, helping to protect the environment and lessen the impact on the local community. All types of people can participate from ultra-runners to first time walkers who all share the one focus of raising much needed funds for over 400 different charities including:

- Alzheimer's Society
- Breast Cancer Now
- Cancer Research UK
- Clic Sargent
- Great Ormond Street Hospital
- Help for Heroes
- Macmillan Cancer support
- Mind
- NSPCC
- Parkinson's UK

For further details, or to sign up for the full 50km or half - 25km – challenge, please visit the Cotswold Way Challenge 2018 website at:  
<https://www.cotswoldwaychallenge.com/>

## News from our NHS Trust

Last month I reported on how well the trust had performed during the Christmas period and we have since continued to perform well even through the serious flu epidemic. This month I am delighted to report that the recent assessment of the care we provide to patients who have suffered a stroke, when benchmarked against other hospitals, has shown huge improvements.

Most exciting of all however has been the promotion of the trust from a Grade 4 to a Grade 2 trust without us ever being classified as Grade 3, which reflects the speed and scope of our improvement. The grading is based on consideration of quality of care, finance and use of resources, operational performance, strategic change, leadership and improvement capability. If you would like to know more about this Google *The Single Oversight Framework*.

Recently I visited the Women's Centre and was able to appreciate how lucky we are to have this amazing facility (for more about the centre visit our website). During my visit 30-week gestation twins were born and a new midwife delivered her first baby. The whole atmosphere was so positive and caring. I was however saddened on seeing three bereavement suites but the care with which they are set up to allow grieving parents to cope with their loss was palpable and totally heart-warming. On the wall of one suite is a most beautiful mural of a tranquil country meadow scene donated by a patient to say thank you for the care that they had received at such a sad time. Another reason to be so proud of our staff and the wonderful work they do.

*Anne Davies (Public Governor Cotswolds) [anne.davies11@nhs.net](mailto:anne.davies11@nhs.net)*

## Caring for our Environment

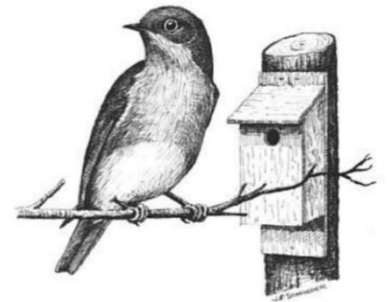
### Grant aid for parish churches to have wildlife gardens

Gloucester Diocese believes that caring for the whole of creation is core to the work of the church and, as one of the Five Marks of Mission, it needs to be taken as seriously as work which concerns the physical and spiritual wellbeing of people. We are living in times when there are significant challenges that society needs to negotiate in terms of caring for natural resources. Our LIFE Vision (2016) seeks engagement to live out Christ's love and hope by: "Being advocates for human flourishing,

through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation.” We are committed to caring for the environment and supporting the work of local and national environmental organisations and working in partnership with other organisations where our values and priorities coincide.

To this end we have established a small Environmental Fund based on staff mileage contributions with support from *Ecotricity* and *Gaia Energy*. We believe that looking after our churchyards can have many benefits:

- encouraging appreciation for natural beauty
- creating space for Christian worship to happen outdoors
- enabling the flourishing of plants, wildflowers, insects, birds and animals
- providing opportunities for local schools to exercise stewardship
- giving visitors a sense of wellbeing and improved mental health



The Environmental Fund is therefore dedicated to improving local churchyards - whether that means restoring an overgrown churchyard into an orderly and wildlife friendly habitat, installing bee hives, providing an eco-loo so the parish church can be used more often for community events, organising litter picking days... We are open to suggestions!

Our grant-making committee based at College Green in Gloucester meets regularly to review applications and award grants. We offer grants of up to £250 and concentrate on helping local parish churches to deliver new environmental projects. Parish churches may only apply once per calendar year for a grant. The Diocese is giving priority to applications that can already demonstrate having made a start towards attaining an EcoChurch Award <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk> and have a long-term plan for sustainability.

For guidance about how to apply please contact the Revd Arthur Champion and/or click here:

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2018/grant-aid-for-parish-churches-to-have-wildlife-gardens/>

The Cirencester Repair Café is up and running and hoping to attract new users and supporters. To see how their first meetings went please take a look at their Facebook page:

<http://facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe/>

The next meeting of the Café will be on **Saturday 24th March**, 10:30am - 1pm in the Bothy, 12 Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, GL7 1QX.

If you have something that might be mended rather than thrown away, do give the Café a try!

# CIRENCESTER REPAIR CAFÉ

We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes (by appointment)



25TH NOVEMBER 2017, 27TH JANUARY 2018 THEN  
4TH SATURDAY IN THE MONTH, 10AM - 1PM

12 ASHCROFT ROAD, CIRENCESTER, GL7 1QX

01285 650281 or [facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe](http://facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe)  
for further information

## The Milkman

A Poem by Pauline Farman

The humble milkman has become the hero of the age,  
Not from fighting bureaucrats, or smart wording on a page,  
But because he delivers to your door your daily pint in GLASS.  
All fresh and cold and creamy just in time for your breakfast.  
At last we've come to realise that glass bottles do make sense  
And saving our environment's more vital than some pence.  
The milkman had almost become a quaint figure from the past,  
A throwback to a by-gone age - 'So Last Century - So Not Fast.'

But news of just how plastic is damaging our World,  
Has pulled us up and made us see its deadly stranglehold.  
Glass bottles are all sterilised; used time and time again,  
But plastic ones are used just once then slung into the bin.  
And the Milkman now delivers a range of groceries too,  
Like bread and bacon, tea and juice to mention just a few.

So ring your local Dairy you'll find them on the Web,  
And each day your milk will be delivered whilst you're tucked up in bed!



# Gloucestershire Constabulary

## Local Contacts:

PC Mark Weedon [Mark.Weedon@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:Mark.Weedon@gloucestershire.police.uk)

PCSO 9194 Andrea Shutt [Andrea.Shutt@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Andrea.Shutt@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

**101** is our easy to remember 24-hour number for **non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour issues** as well as general enquiries. *Calls to 101 will cost 15p per call, irrespective of how long the call lasts and this applies to landlines and mobile phones.*

**101 email** – [101@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

## From the Benefice Registers

### Funerals:

26<sup>th</sup> Jan '18

Colin Loving

St Mary's, Cowley

26<sup>th</sup> Jan '18

Anne Francis

All Saints, N. Cerney

1<sup>st</sup> Feb '18

Amy Guilford

Cheltenham Crem. &  
St Peter's, Stratton

## Recipe

### Sunflower Seed Flapjacks

*...with thanks to Jill Hill.*

### Ingredients:

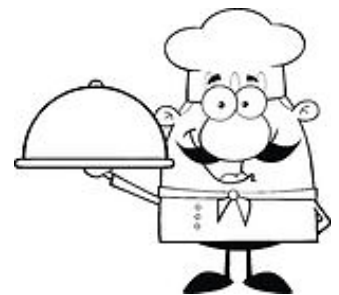
5 oz butter or margarine

4 oz demerara sugar

2 oz golden syrup

8 oz rolled oats

4 oz sunflower seeds



13 inch x 9 inch (approx) swiss roll tin lightly greased.

### Method:

Set the oven to gas 5. or 375 F/190 C. Fan 180 C.

Place the butter /margarine, sugar and golden syrup in a saucepan and heat gently until the sugar dissolves. Stir in the oats and sunflower seeds and mix well. Spoon the mixture into the tin and level it out with the back of a spoon.

Bake in the centre of the oven for 25 -30 mins until golden brown. Mark into fingers while still warm, leave to cool in tin.

## Contacting the Editor

Please forward any contributions for the April edition of *Parish Link* by 15<sup>th</sup> March to Corinna Bramley: e: [editor.parishlink@gmail.com](mailto:editor.parishlink@gmail.com) or t: 01285 641523. To enquire about advertising in the magazine please contact the Editor for further details. Many thanks.

### OB IMAGING

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07707 272499

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[hobbs-78@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hobbs-78@hotmail.co.uk)

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Email: [nthnorthleach@gmail.com](mailto:nthnorthleach@gmail.com)

# Crossword

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW38 (February)

### ACROSS

1 BALLAST      10 THUNDER      17 ALTAR      24 DIGIT  
5 TRADE      11 INEPT      19 REVISED      25 TATTERS  
8 UNTIE      12 BREATH      22 SPIN OFF  
9 VINTAGE      14 UNFAIR      23 SPLIT

### DOWN

1 BLUNT      5 TENSION      13 TURN OUT      20 VISIT  
2 LETTUCE      6 AMAZE      15 ABSOLVE      21 DATES  
3 AMEND      7 ELECTOR      16 PROFIT  
4 TAVERN      12 BRAISED      18 THING

## MARCH CROSSWORD: BW39

by *Ben Woods*

### CLUES ACROSS:

1 SEARCH (6);  
4 STORIES (5);  
8 VARIETY SHOW (5);  
9 FUNDS (7);  
10 WRAP (7);  
11 FORMERLY (4);  
12 PIXIE (3);  
14 SADLY (4);

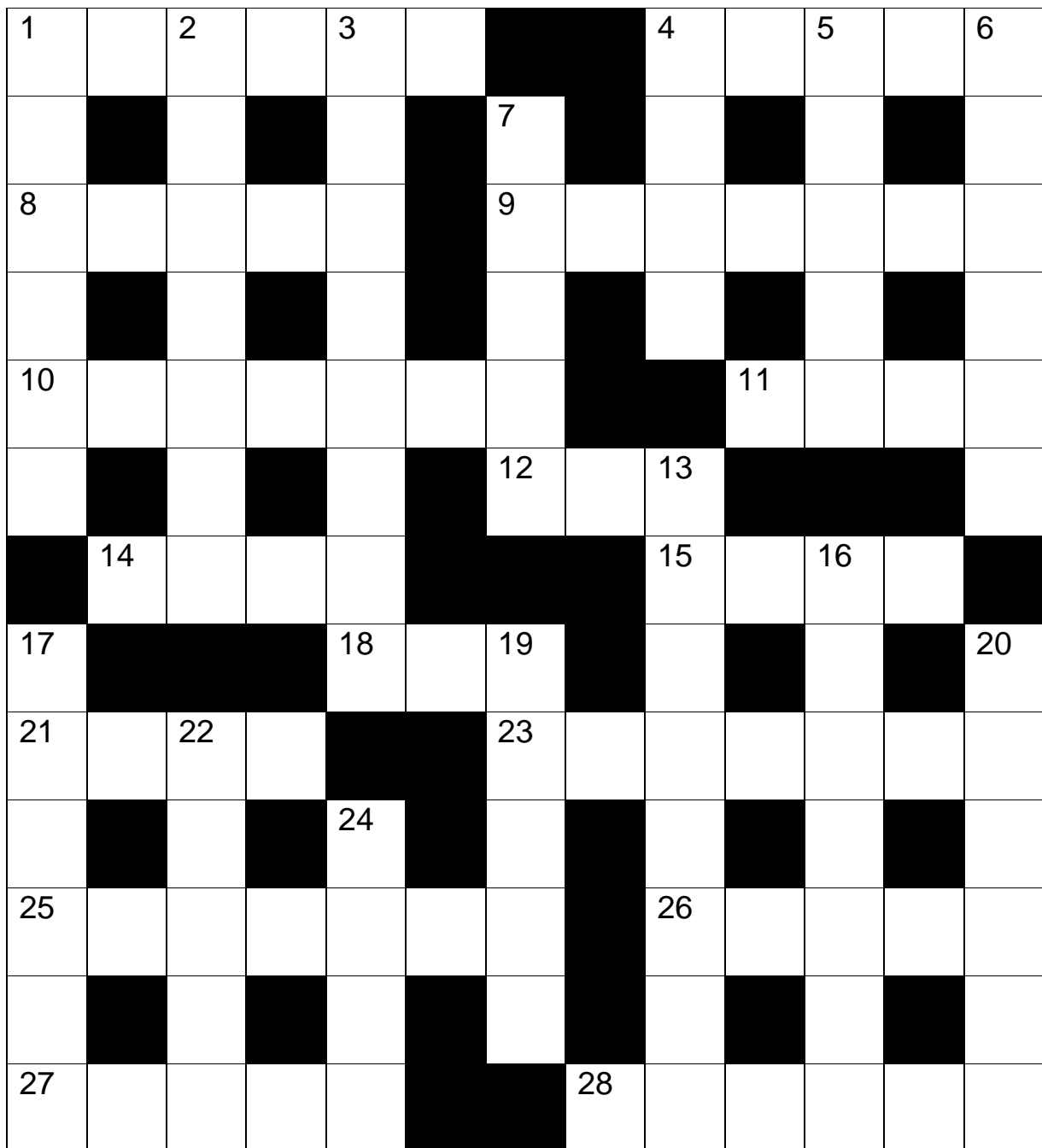
15 TOTS (4);  
18 STAR (3);  
21 UNSIGHTLY (4);  
23 THING (7);  
25 EXCUSE (7);  
26 PICTURE (5);  
27 CULTURE (5);  
28 CONCURRED (6).



### CLUES DOWN:

1 AGRICULTURALIST (6);  
2 REBIRTH (7);  
3 MONOCLE (8);  
4 SORT (4);  
5 CLASSICAL LANGUAGE (5);  
6 BROODING (6);  
7 RANGE (5);

13 OLD COIN (8);  
16 ANNOUNCE (7);  
17 LITHE (6);  
19 UNPLEASANT (5);  
20 PROTECT (6);  
22 BLOODSUCKER (5);  
24 INFORMATION (4).



## Services March 2018

### Key to Ministers and Service types:

#### **CVB Ministers:**

**DM** = Revd David Minns (Rector)

T: 01285 655199 E: [dlkminns@talktalk.net](mailto:dlkminns@talktalk.net)

**AC** = Revd Arthur Champion (Associate Priest)

T: 01242 870402 E: [championarthur@gmail.com](mailto:championarthur@gmail.com)

**CP** = Revd Cliff Pooley (Associate Priest)

T: 01242 243981 E: [cliff.pooley@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.pooley@btinternet.com)

**BE** = Revd Bob Edy (*Rendcomb only*)

T: 01285 831391 E: [bobody21@gmail.com](mailto:bobody21@gmail.com)



**MG** = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 E: [mgreen282@btinternet.com](mailto:mgreen282@btinternet.com)

**RE** = Mrs Ruth Edy (Licensed Reader, *Rendcomb only*)

T: 01285 831391

**Area Dean:**

**HG** = Fr Howard Gilbert

T: 01285 885109

**Additional Ministers:**

**CH** = Mr Christopher Hall

T: 01453 885349

**GC** = Revd Geoffrey Cox

T: 01242 251604

**JM** = Revd Jan Moore

T: 01285 640077

**JW** = Revd Dr Canon Janet Williams

T: 01452 874969

**MV** = Mr Mark Venn

T: 01285 831209

**Services:**

**HC** = Holy Communion

**AA** = All Age Service

**HC [BCP]** = Holy Communion BCP

**SP** = Songs of Praise

**Matins** = BCP Service

**FS** = Family Service

**MP** = Morning Prayer

**Service Listing for March 2018**

**Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon**

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (JHM) <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (AC)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [CW] (DM)

**Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton**

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC (AC)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service</i>

**Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley**

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>		<i>See Cowley</i>
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>		<i>See Cowley</i>
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (AC)

### Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (AC) <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (CP)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (CP)

### Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MP (tbc)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>See Coberley</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (AC) with baptism of Henry Diggle
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>See Coberley</i>

### Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (AC)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<i>Mothering Sunday Service (GC)</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Palm Sunday SoP starting at Village Hall with Home Team
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	HC

### Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (AC) – <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Matins <i>Palm Sunday (MV/ DM)</i>

### Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (BE)
--------	------------------	---------	---------

### Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC (DM)
		4.00pm	AA '20-20' Service (DM)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	MP (DM) - <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
		<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong (MV)</b>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	AA (DM) with Baptism
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service (see North Cerney)</i>

## **NB Wednesday Services at Stratton:**

10am - A Service of either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer.

**Directory** (NB For start of Directory below please see back cover).

**CVB Website:** <http://www.churnvalley.org.uk>

<b>PCC Secretaries contd</b>	North Cerney	Kate Thomas	
	Rendcomb	Sue Fawcett	01285 831157 suefawcett7@gmail.com
	Stratton	Paul Pearce	01285 654451 p.t.pearce@btinternet.com
<b>PCC Treasurers</b>	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
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	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
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	Colesbourne	Robin Blackburn	01242 870086 randm@struan.me.uk
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	Elkstone	Brian Howlett	01242 870462 brianhowlett21@gmail.com
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	Stratton	Alan Lowe	01285 657014 talanlowe@aol.com
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North Cerney		Simon Cohen	01242 821659 ekbainousi@gmail.com
Stratton		Robin Baggs	rebaggs1@gmail.com
Stratton		Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	North Cerney	Elmore Crump	01285 831275
	North Cerney	Judy Carter	01285 831425
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	Rendcomb	Alex Brealy	01285 831570 brealya@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
	Stratton	Alison Lowe	01285 657014
<b>Safeguarding/Child Protection</b>	Upper Churn	Mary Blackburn	01242 870086 upperchurnsafeguarding@gmail.com
	Benefice	Beth Hamid	01285 644895 aminul.hamid@btinternet.com
<b>Vulnerable Persons Rep</b>	North Cerney	Anne Norman	01285 831237
	Stratton	Lesley Pollock	01285 653145 lesleyalm@btinternet.com
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
<b>The Tuesday Group</b>	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com
	Parish Link	Corinna Bramley	07933 910051 editor.parishlink@gmail.com

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	The Revd Bob Edy <i>(Rendcomb only)</i>	01285 831391 bobedy21@gmail.com
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	Mrs Ruth Edy <i>(Rendcomb only)</i>	01285 831391
<b>Reader-in-Training</b>	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Bagendon Alison Saunders	01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk
	Ghislaine Venn	01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton John Whittaker	01285 656374 baunton.churchwarden@gmail.com
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	Colesbourne Sir Henry Elwes	01242 870264 hwg@globalnet.co.uk
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	Elkstone Chloe Darling	01285 821551 darlingensis@icloud.com
	Geoff Gait-Carr	07737 621120 geoffgc1@hotmail.co.uk
	North Sue Herdman	01285 831309
	Cerney Mark Tufnell	01285 831246 mark@calmsden.com
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	Alex Brealy	01285 831570 brealya@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
	Stratton Beth Hamid	01285 644895 aminul.hamid@btinternet.com
	Sarah Woods	01285 644093 woodssarah481@gmail.com
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	Colesbourne Lady Carolyn Elwes	01242 870262 snowdrop.cde@virgin.net
	Cowley Gill Clark	01242 285719 gill@hillbarnworld.co.uk
	Elkstone Carole Bury	01242 870493 carolebury@hotmail.com