

Parish Link

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



Photo by Sarah Hongerlout on Unsplash

March 2024

<http://www.churnvalley.org.uk>

Facebook site: 'Churn Valley Benefice'

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Pastoral Letter – *The Revd Jan Moore*

Dear Readers,

146 countries and islands around the world will be uniting in prayer on Friday 1st March by using the same beautiful service written by The Christian Women of Palestine and translated into many native languages. The theme of the service is *"I beg you, bear with one another in love"*. There is a 7-year plan listing which countries will write the annual service, meaning that Palestine's name would have been added to that list back in 2017. We must believe and hope that The Christian Women of Palestine who chose their theme 7 years ago had no idea what their lands would look like today. Why? Because living 7 years in the shadow of waiting for such devastation as we now see, does not bear thinking about. Instead, their theme of 'Bearing with one another in love' has most clearly been trashed before the world's eyes. Following years, if not centuries, of conflict in the lands of Jesus' birth and the recent Hamas attack on Israel, triggering today's destruction in Gaza, the eyes of those who live there must surely question the very existence of a God of love.

Yet here we are in the early weeks of our 2024 Lenten journey considering, yet again, the meaning of the cross of Jesus. In AD33 Jesus volunteered to show us how to 'bear with one another in love' by giving himself as the once-and-for-all sacrificial lamb, to reveal God's pain resulting from the mess we have made of our world and to show us how God eternally wins over evil in the end. You may be sure that God's own pain is screaming out in every corner of Gaza today. Nothing can make any of it right. It is all tragedy.

Of course, it will not go on for ever, even if the end of it is annihilation. But for those caught in its evil, it is very far from the good news of Easter Resurrection. It will be a rare person living in Gaza who can say to themselves: "This is my destiny. Somehow in the big scheme of things my life has mattered and still does and has meaning." Yet it seems to me that this approach is the only way to make sense of our existence.

I was recently on a wonderful day of reflection with fellow retired clergy who were led by retired Bishop Bob Evens. Bob quoted Mark Twain as saying: "The 2 most important days in each life are the day you were born and the day you found out why."

Perhaps The Christian Women of Palestine found out 'Why' when they were asked to give us this year's Worship. They have chosen one of my favourite hymns to end their service - *"The Day Thou gavest Lord is Ended"*. It is the last verse which sustains me through Lent and gives true voice to my faith all the year round.

"So be it Lord, thy throne shall never
Like earths proud empires pass away.
Thy kingdom stands and grows for ever,
Til all thy creatures own thy sway"

This year at 10.30am on Friday 1st March St Peter's Stratton is the chosen venue for all Churches in Cirencester to be united under one roof for an annual global uniting in a World Day of Prayer: this year under the guidance of The Christian Women of Palestine. Gathered together under St Peter's roof we will be Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Hope and Upper Room, Quakers, Salvation Army, Baptist etc. Personally, I would be delighted to see Jews and Muslims amongst us too.

And my fervent prayer through all the mayhem and weeping and suffering for Israeli families and across Gaza, is that moments of 'God' can pierce through the darkness, such that some will know that sharing their own tiny actions or words or faith in God's bigger plan,



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"Do it Once, Do it Right"

will be the reason why they were born.

And so each of us is called to shed light into dark corners. Until God's Kingdom Comes.

God Bless each one of you reading these words today as I wish you a Holy Lenten Journey.

Rev'd Jan

Thank you....

To everyone who came to the Pancake Lunch

Thank you to those people who came along to Stratton Rectory at lunchtime on Shrove Tuesday, 13th February. We hope you all enjoyed David's pancakes! We are very pleased to report that approximately £100 worth of donations were given on the day, which will be passed to Stratton C of E Primary School, to help with the provision of Religious Studies resources.



Benefice News

Benefice Lent Course dates

A reminder that the dates in March for the Benefice Lent Course are the Mondays of 4th, 11th and 18th. All sessions are in Stratton Rectory from 2:30 to 4:00pm. We are studying the Gospel of John chapters 13 - 16, and will be using chapter 17 as

the basis for meditations on the Good Friday Pilgrimage.

Everyone is welcome. If you have any further questions about the course, please contact Mark Venn:

mark.w.venn@btinternet.com.

Benefice Good Friday walk

We will be holding our Good Friday walk (on 29th March) again this year. The plan is for the keen walkers to cover all nine churches, or a subset of them for those with more modest ambitions. We shall stop for a short meditation at each church. Full details about the day will be published on the Benefice website:

<https://www.churnvalley.org.uk/> or can be obtained by contacting Mark Venn: mark.w.venn@btinternet.com



Date for your diary...Sustainable Flower Festival

It is hoped that some of the flower arrangers in our Benefice will, in due course, put their creative skills to work and be a part of this Summer Festival in Cirencester, which others can look forward to viewing.



Easter week in the Churn Valley Benefice – a roundup

A number of special services are planned around the benefice during Easter week!
We hope there is something here for everyone...



Sunday 24th March

A special *PALM SUNDAY UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE* in All Saints, North Cerney. Please meet in the centre of the village from 10.30am, from where we will gently make our way to the Church for the Service at 11am.

Thursday 28th March

An evening *MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE*
in St John's, Elkstone, starting at 6.30pm, with David and Janet.

Friday 29th March

The annual *GOOD FRIDAY BENEFICE WALK* is taking place once again. The plan for the keen walkers amongst us is to cover all nine churches, and for those with more modest ambitions - a subset of the churches! We shall pause for a short meditation at each church, finishing with a
4.30pm Good Friday Service in St Peter's, Stratton.

Full details about the walk will be published on the [Benefice website](#), or can be obtained from Mark Venn: mark.w.venn@btinternet.com

Sunday 31st March – *EASTER DAY!*

There will be services taking place all around the benefice, starting with a *6.45AM SUNRISE SERVICE* in Stratton Fields with Revd David. Meet at 6.30am in Stratton Cemetery Car Park, opposite St Peter's Church, ready for the short walk to Stratton Fields to welcome in the day. Everyone is welcome at Stratton Rectory afterwards for a bacon or vegetarian breakfast roll.

For details of all the other Easter day services taking place around the benefice please see the *Services* section of this magazine (from page 32).



News from around the Benefice

Rendcomb remembers - *Marie Hobbs*

Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Saturday 27th January was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Following an impactful School assembly by a pupil at Rendcomb College, School Chaplain Marie Hobbs responded by setting up a display of candles in St Peter's Church, Rendcomb. The candles were lit in remembrance of those who lost their lives in Concentration camps, and to honour all the families who went through hardship.



Come and enjoy Easter Sunday in Bagendon

DO COME ALONG TO....

**EASTER SUNDAY at
ST MARGARET'S, BAGENDON**

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
WILL BE HELD AT 9.30AM
ON 31ST MARCH

TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN
EASTER EGG HUNT
FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE!

The bottom of the poster features several colorful Easter eggs with various patterns like stars, flowers, and stripes. Below the eggs is a row of green grass blades. The entire poster has a light pink background.



SUPER SUNDAY SUPPER SERVICE

NORTH CERNEY VILLAGE HALL 4-6PM

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH
FOUR FRIENDS WITH FAITH– THROUGH THE ROOF

CRAFT, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FROM 4 PM
STORIES, SONGS AND PRAYERS FROM 4.45 PM
JACKET POTATO SUPPER FROM 5.15 PM
FREE - ALL WELCOME - COME WHEN YOU CAN
-CHILDREN MUST BRING AN ADULT

PART OF THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
email janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk
07821474711



Latest from Stratton



Big **BREAKFAST** *Bash*

Stratton CofE Primary School
Cooked breakfast served from 9.30 am
FREE- ALL WELCOME - Come when you can

Sunday 17th March
Four Friends with Faith
(through the roof)

Bible stories, Songs,
Crafts and Games
and the 3Bs puppet crew

Part of the ministry
of the
Church of England
by Stratton
Parish Church

More details?
Call/text
07821 474711
beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com



Reminder... *World Day of Prayer Service* in St Peter's

**10.30am, Friday 1st March
St Peter's Church, Stratton, GL7 2LR**

The Christian women of Palestine applied for and were chosen and accepted in 2017 to write for the 2024 service. They had wanted their voices to be heard as they wished for a peaceful solution to the tensions and difficulties of living in the West Bank and Gaza. As we watch with dismay the war and bloodshed happening in the Holy Land, we realise they need our prayers more than ever.

This Lent we pause and reflect on the meaning and life of Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem and was prophesied by Isaiah as bringing peace. His teaching brought hope and healing to many. Indeed, his words in his "Sermon on the Mount" say "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God".

So do come along with Christians from around Cirencester and throughout the world and join together in prayer for the Holy Land and the many other countries currently experiencing war and violence. May we live out the words of St Paul chosen as the theme for this day of prayer:

"I beg you, bear with one another in love"



Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer after the Service.

Call for children's books telling the Easter Story

Following a very successful collection of children's books telling the Christmas story, which were given by members of St Peter's, Stratton's, congregation for families in Stratton School to borrow, we are repeating this with a request for children's books telling the Easter story. The books will be part of a special display in the entrance to the school and available for anyone to borrow. If you have any such books, which you would be happy to donate to this initiative, please contact the Stratton Church Warden –



Beth: e: bethhamid@googlemail.com or T: 01285 644895. Thank you!

Schools' News

North Cerney Primary Academy

STEAM – MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY– TRIP

Our Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 children recently enjoyed a trip to STEAM in Swindon, as part of their transport topic this term.





Part-time School Admin - 12hrs -

We are looking to appoint an experienced administrator to support the school management team and act as a first point of call for parents and visitors

Monday and Tuesdays
8:30am to 2.45pm during the term

If you are interested and would like more information please contact us:

T: 01285 831310 or e: admin@northcerney.gloucs.sch.uk

Caring for our Environment

Tip of the month....

Reduce microplastics from your washing machine

Problem:



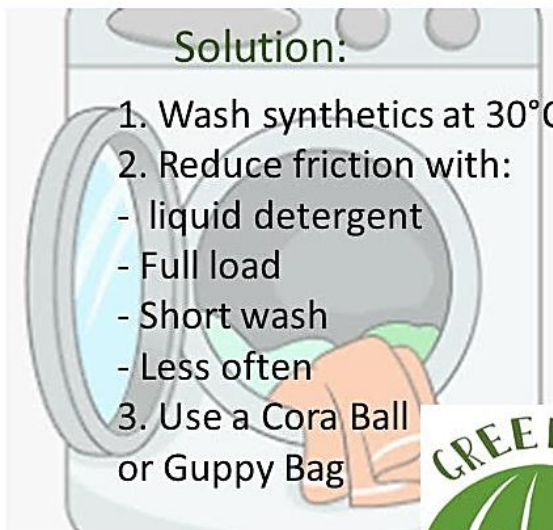
35% of microplastic are shed from washing textiles such as Polyester, Acrylic and Polyamide.

All synthetics shed plastic in the wash.

Cotton, wool and bamboo are natural fabrics and have no microplastics.

Solution:

1. Wash synthetics at 30°C
2. Reduce friction with:
 - liquid detergent
 - Full load
 - Short wash
 - Less often
3. Use a Cora Ball or Guppy Bag



For more ideas, see:

www.greeningtetbury.org



Greening Tetbury

CIRENCESTER REPAIR CAFÉ

We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes



13TH JAN 2024, 10TH FEB, 9TH MARCH,
13TH APRIL, 11TH MAY, 10AM – 1:30PM

**CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH,
CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER,
GL7 1YE**

0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe
for further information



Cirencester Clothes Swap event is coming....

Date for your diary...



Proudly presents the 7th

Cirencester Clothes Swap

14th April 2024
Parish Hall Watermoor
Drop off 1.30 - 3.30pm
Swap 4.00 - 6.00pm

Drop off 10 good quality items.
Clothes, Shoes, Accessories welcome.
Receive Tokens to 'spend'.
Discover creative mending techniques
at the Creation Station.

Tickets: £5 adults, U16 free
Booking essential
<https://cirencesterclotheswap.org>



Community News and Events

Citizens' Advice - Treasurer/Finance Trustee sought



Do you want to help the community where you live, work or study and gain valuable skills, while at the same time making sure your family and neighbours get the advice they need now and in the future?

We are looking for someone with appropriate financial expertise to join the Board and the Finance Sub Committee with a view to taking on the role of Treasurer. They will ideally have an appropriate accountancy qualification. Equally important, however, are relevant financial management skills and experience (not necessarily from within the Not For Profit sector) to enable them to work alongside our CEO to oversee the financial aspects of the Charity.

We would particularly welcome applications from those with lived experience of poverty and living on a low income, black and ethnic minority candidates, disabled candidates and those from under-represented groups and marginalised groups.

We are also keen to encourage

applications from younger members of the community and from those who have accessed Citizens' Advice services. Previous Board experience is not required as induction and training will be provided, and support given by the Trustees and staff team.

Time commitment

Overall, the total time commitment for a Finance Trustee is approximately one day per month. This will be made up of a couple of hours per week. Responsibilities will include chairing the monthly Finance Committee and attending the bi-monthly Trustee Board meeting, which typically lasts a couple of hours and may be online via Teams, or in person, in either Cirencester or Stroud.

Trustees can also participate in other projects which would involve some additional time on occasions. For more information, or to register your interest and request an Information Pack and Application Form, please email: info@ca-scd.org.uk

Closing date: 29th March 2024

Willow Weaving courses in Winstone

WANT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL THIS SPRING?

Then why not come along to a fun and friendly
Willow Weaving Taster session!

When? Morning or afternoon, *Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March*

Where? Winstone Village Hall

Cost: £45 (includes all materials)

There will also be a full two day Basket weaving course next month on:
13th and 14th April in Winstone.

Make and take home your very own basket!

Cost: £150 (includes all materials)

If you are interested in either of the above sessions,
please contact Pippa Tee on: pippasplants@gmail.com to find out more.





Tuesday Group – Judith Wood...



We were entertained on Tuesday 6th February by Chris O'Grady who gave a talk on his pilgrim walk from Pershore to Rome. He explained how he managed along the way with his accommodation and talked about all the wonderful people he met during the course of his long walk. It took him four months and he walked a total of 1,200 miles with just one pair of walking boots!

On **5th March** Tim Bird will be showing us how to 'Stay stronger for life'. We would all like to discover the secret to this.... so do come along and find out!

Next, on **2nd April** we will be taken down Memory Lane by Mr Boskett - by Steam, Train and Horse.....

We hope you will be able to join us at the Tuesday Group on these evenings where you will be made most welcome, and can meet friends old and new.

In July we usually go on a summer outing. If you have any ideas where we might go this year please do not hesitate to have a word with Judith Wood.

We also have a small sales table at the meetings. So if you wish to donate an item please bring it along on the evening. All sales go towards the church restoration fund.

Everyone is most welcome at the Tuesday Group meetings – men and women, young and old – so do come along and bring a friend!

We look forward to meeting everyone on *Tuesday 5th March* at Stratton Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm (entrance £3.00 pp).

For further information please contact Judith Wood on: 01285 652713 or Gill Keen on: 01285 652069.



O R I G I N

— HEALTH —

WELCOME

Situated in the heart of the Cotswolds within an historic converted barn, **Origin Health** is a health and wellness centre, run by skilled, dedicated osteopaths and healthcare professionals.

We are a professional, multi-disciplinary healthcare team, focused on offering all our clients expert treatments and advice, supported by cutting-edge technology.

We aim to support our clients to optimise their recovery and performance at all levels - from members of the public and weekend warriors to elite athletes.

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we offer physical therapies, nutrition advice, and sports rehabilitation plans.

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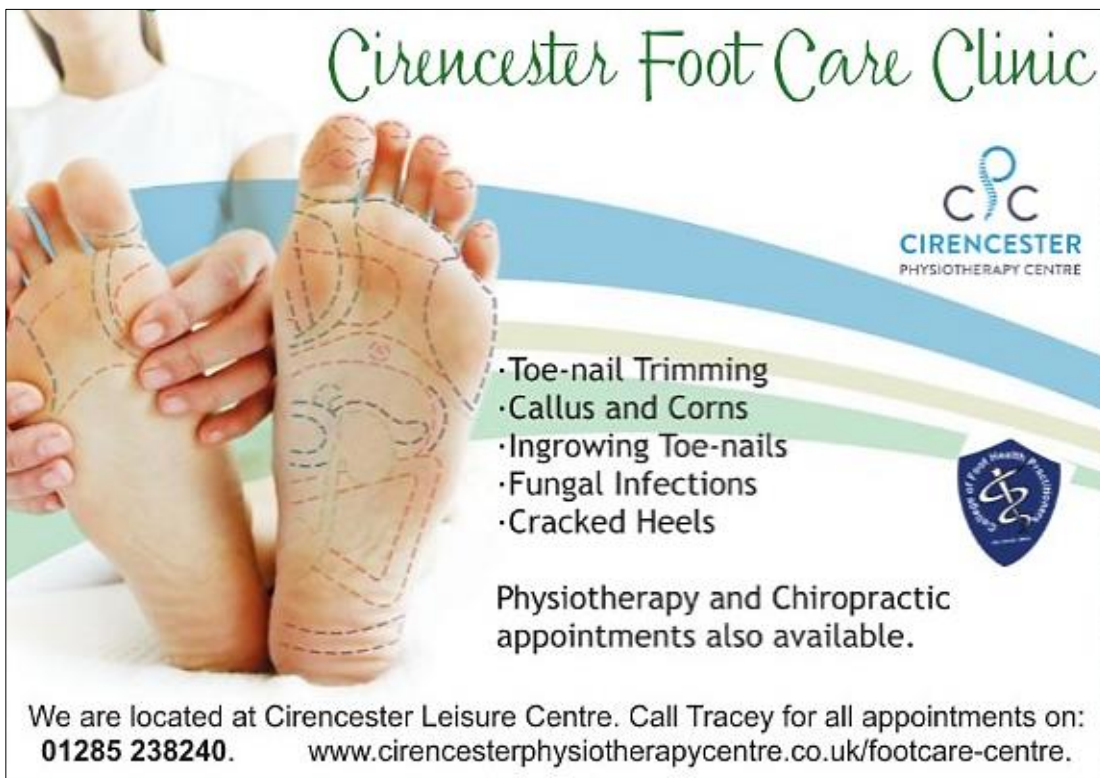


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We are located at Cirencester Leisure Centre. Call Tracey for all appointments on:
01285 238240. www.cirencesterphysiotherapycentre.co.uk/footcare-centre.

Elkstone Studios' Easter Fair

Join us for our Easter Fair at Elkstone Studios on 1st April, from 10am to 4 pm. Lots of exciting activities await, including a petting zoo, silly Olympics, whack-a-rat, hook-a-duck, craft activities, a lunchtime show, a dog show, and an Easter egg hunt sponsored by Knead Bakery!



Indulge in delicious food options, available for purchase from Marvellous Pizza, Tonbo, and Knead Bakery, and participate in our raffle, with all proceeds going to support Elkstone Church. Tickets for the day can be booked via the QR code on the poster above, or online. Please go to: www.elkstone-studios.com (see 'Book Now Bar' at the top of the screen).

Gloucestershire's Volunteer Awards – nominations invited



NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Gloucestershire's Volunteer Awards celebrates and recognises the outstanding contribution of volunteers within our county. Our Awards shine a light on volunteers from a range of backgrounds and life experiences who are making a difference within our communities.

This years categories:

- ★ Rising Star Award
- ★ Young Volunteer Award
- ★ Good Neighbour Award
- ★ Community Involvement Award
- ★ Trustee of the Year Award
- ★ Volunteering Experience Award
- ★ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ★ Volunteer of the Year Award

To find out more and nominate, please visit:

www.govolunteerglos.org/gloucestershire-volunteer-awards

Nominations close at **5 pm on Friday 8 March 2024.**

Please note: The ceremony will be on Thursday 6 June 2024, from 6 pm - 10 pm at The Growth Hub in Gloucester

Gloucestershire's Volunteer Awards is organised by:



If you have any questions about the awards, please contact:

e: support@govolunteerglos.org or T: 07549 225515

Winstone and District WI- *Moirra Cima*

The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust want *"everyone in Gloucestershire to value, enjoy and share wildlife in the county and believe strongly that nature matters, not only in its own right, but for the huge benefits it brings to the people of Gloucestershire"*.

At our February meeting Fergus Dignan gave us a stimulating illustrated talk on the work of the Trust, and his enthusiasm for getting involved in nature conservation was infectious. Of particular interest was the Trust's work in creating wildlife "corridors", linking existing habitats to give vulnerable species secure habitats that are critical to their expansion and future survival.

On a smaller scale we were left with numerous suggestions for encouraging wildlife in our own gardens.



On 12th March we continue the outdoor theme with a visit from Imogen de Lavis, who will be telling us about her time as a vet in South Africa. If you'd like to join us for this, or are curious about the WI, visitors are very welcome (£4.50), and you can get more information from our Secretary, Chris, on: 01285 821261.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month in Winstone village hall at 7.30pm.

Scrubditch Care Farm - *Emma Costley-White*

Our next Coffee Morning will be at our 'Open Farm' event on *Saturday 6 April!*

Open Farm – this is our Spring event. We will have lots of animals for all the family to come along and see, as well as woodland

walks on offer and delicious refreshments in the barn! Free entry and plenty of parking.

Pig News - Dee dee's piglets are all spoken for and will be weaned the last week of February. Jimmy has moved in with Mabel for the

time being. We are hoping to have some piglets in May. All Mabel's litter have gone off to a new home.

Sheep News - We sold 16 of last year's lambs at market recently, and have another 13 going off in March, before we start lambing again. The ewes have gone down to Goosehams for some fresh grass, and hopefully the other two fields will come on, once we have some sun after all this rain.

Hens & Ducks - We have put some eggs in the incubator to hatch, and have a broody hen sitting on a clutch. As this goes to print, we're hoping to have some chicks to take to the National Star College for a workshop.

Upcoming Events - We are running a workshop at the National Star College in late February – taking hens, ducks and chicks to show the students. We've been doing workshops there for the last year every three months or so; it's a great way for the students to interact with the farm animals.

Open Farm – Saturday 6th April, 10am to 1pm – come along and

see what we do at the Care Farm. Free entry.

Plant Sale – Saturday 4th May –

We are busy potting-up and growing plants for our sale in May. If anyone has any cuttings/ seedlings they would like to donate please get in touch on: 01285 895790 or email:

info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Bookings for student sessions are being taken now.

Email us at:

info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter and look at our website:
www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dates for the diary:

Term dates: 7th Jan – 22nd March

Next coffee morning: Saturday 6th April

Open Farm Saturday: 6th April

Plant Sale: Saturday 4th May

National Open Farm Sunday: 9th June

Big Health Check Day at Oxtalls Centre Gloucester:

Friday 14th June



Free
admission!
Donations welcome



10am-1pm



Open Farm



Saturday 6th April 2024



Meet the
animals



Homemade cakes,
hot and cold drinks
for sale



Follow the
woodland trail!



Scrubditch Care Farm

North Cerney

GL7 7FE

www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Registered charity number 1153460



News from the Diocese

Events in Gloucester Cathedral this March....

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT – *Friday 1st March, 7.30pm* in the Cathedral. London Concertante presents an evening at the opera with an array of wonderful arias and overtures to enjoy, including works from Puccini, Verdi, Rossini, and Mozart. To see ticket price options, and to book yours, go to: <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24>

MAKE A POTTED PLANT FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY – *Saturday 9th March from 10.30am* at the Cathedral's Learning Hub, 2 St Mary's Street, GL1 2QR. Come along to the Cathedral for a fun, family activity day! Enjoy decorating and planting up a pot, then make a card for someone special for Mothering Sunday. Tickets (£5 per adult) can be booked in advance via: <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-planted-pot-and-card-for-mothers-day>

EASTER WREATH MAKING – *Tuesday 19th March at 10.30pm and 1pm* in Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral, GL1 2LX. Learn how to make your own Easter wreath in the magnificent surroundings of the Medieval Chapter House. You will learn how to use a mix of fresh foliage and sundry supplies to create a show stopping wreath to take home! Tickets cost £15, to include a hot drink and a treat, and can be booked in advance via: <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-wreath-making>

*With thanks to the March 2024 edition of [The Messenger](#),
from the Diocese of Gloucester, for the event details above*

From the Benefice Registers

Funeral:

3rd February '24

John Ainslie Barnett
Prosser

St Mary's, Cowley,
Ashes Burial.

'All along the watchtower'. A thought for the month...

By the Revd Philip Morse

Methodist Minister (now retired and a Stratton resident)

"You'll find you spend half your second year shaking off the undesirable friends you made in your first..." So Cousin Jasper advised Charles Ryder in the novel, "Brideshead Revisited", when he thought that Ryder was being drawn too closely into the company represented by Sebastian Flyte and the aesthete set.

I did not feel that I had made undesirable friends in my first year, but as the Long Vac at the end of it approached they extended an invitation that I subsequently regretted declining: "Do you fancy coming with us to the Isle of Wight Festival?" This was 1969. Among those appearing at the Festival were The Who, Free, Joe Cocker, the Bonzo Dog Band and the Moody Blues, but the greatest draw was to be the first concert appearance in three years of Bob Dylan. The idea of sleeping under canvas in a muddy field with dubious if not non-existent toilet arrangements did not appeal. It did not have the

potential charm of Sebastian Flyte taking Charles Ryder off to Venice to live in a palace by the Grand Canal for the duration, all expenses found.

Thirty-three years later, after our marriage and the birth of our three children, our youngest daughter, then an undergraduate in Cardiff, obtained three tickets for herself, my wife, and me, to hear Bob Dylan at the Cardiff International Arena. Dylan was then in his early sixties. He and his band played the whole of the concert, without a support act, and he concluded the evening with my favourite of all his many songs...

*There must be some way out of here,
said the joker to the thief*

*There's too much confusion, I can't
get no relief*

*Businessmen, they drink my wine,
ploughmen dig my earth*

*None of them along the line know
what any of it is worth.*

Most people remember Jimi Hendrix's version of "All along the watchtower", but Dylan's is the best – he wrote it, and I saw and heard him sing it. I was not ankle-deep in mud and the CIA's toilets were accessible and relatively clean.

Why has that song so haunted me down the years? In his inimitable way Dylan gets to the very heart of the human condition as we observe and experience it...

No reason to get excited, the thief he kindly spoke

There are many here among us who feel that life is but a joke

"But with the woes of sin and strife / The world has suffered long..." So wrote Edmund Hamilton Sears in the nineteenth century ("It came upon the midnight clear..."). This is the existential angst that featured in the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre and his friends who reflected upon the discovery of the absolute depths of savagery and cruelty that human beings could sink to in the Second World War. Now in the twenty-first century, with wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, with

fear and despotism engulfing so many parts of the world, we may be tempted to join the *many here among us who feel that life is but a joke*.

Is there a solution? I do not know, but I do know that there is a direction in which to look for an answer. It begins, strangely, with an essay question that my tutor in Systematic Theology used to set his students: "Was Jesus a Christian?" The answer to that, of course, is: "No – he was Jewish. Only those who *follow* him can be called Christians." Jesus grew up in a Jewish family, a Jewish culture, and with Jewish religious beliefs, including a longing for the coming of God's Messiah.

Bob Dylan's poetry, lyrics, and imagery assume a greater significance when you remember that he too grew up in a Jewish family, a Jewish culture, and with Jewish religious beliefs. He was born Robert Zimmerman.

Consciously or unconsciously so much of Dylan's poetic imagery comes from our Old Testament which was Jesus' own bible and sacred texts.

I had always seen the story of Palm Sunday from the perspective of the palm branch-waving crowd. This is quite natural; Christians have decided that this was indeed the Messiah of long Jewish hope. Dylan taught me to see it from the perspective of somebody viewing the scene from the walls of the city of Jerusalem, who may not yet have reached that conclusion and who may still be wondering who exactly is coming along that dusty road...

*All along the watchtower, princes
kept the view*

*While all the women came and went,
barefoot servants, too*

As we look down from the city walls upon the bustling, cheering crowd and the story of Holy Week unfolds we are left with the questions: What kind of Messiah is

coming? What kind of salvation is he going to bring to set against "the woes of sin and strife"? Good Friday and Easter Day will give you the answer.

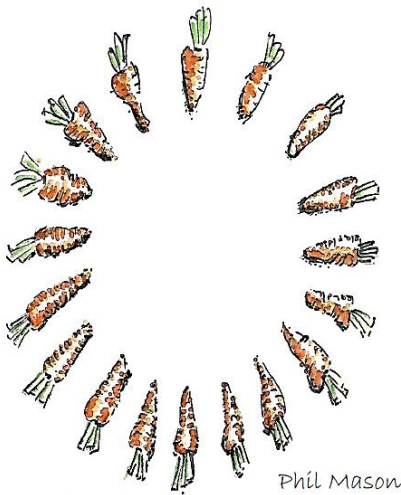
No reason to get excited, the thief he kindly spoke... Why does Dylan use the character of a thief to acknowledge a widespread existential angst? Of the two thieves who were crucified on either side of Jesus, one hurled insults at him, but the other said the very thing that we would want to say when we tread the verge of Jordan. *The thief he kindly spoke*, "Jesus, remember me," and he received the answer that we too would long to hear: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Yes, he was and is that sort of Messiah too. Perhaps that thought gives you a *reason to get excited* after all.

REMINDER!

The Clocks go Forward one hour at
1.00am on Sunday 31st March,
when British Summer Time begins!



Cartoon capers....



18 carrot ring



black bored paint



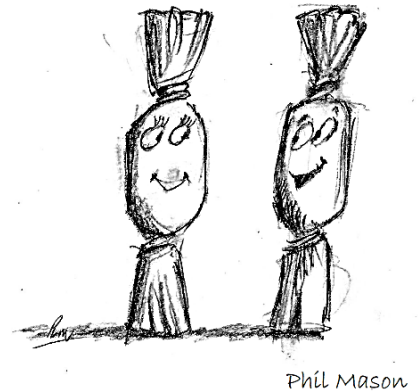
A storm in a tea cup



fish paced



Royal Hare Force



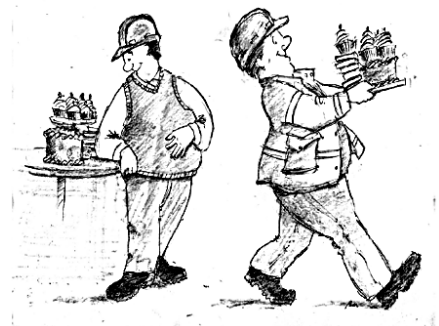
Sweet talking



Stock taking



Seashore



Surveyor

With grateful thanks to *Phil Mason*, for his polysemantic cartoons above.

Crossword

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW98 (February 2024)

ACROSS:

1	INJURE	10	KERB	15	SQUINT	22	KNOW
4	NOTION	11	FIELD	17	HERMIT	23	SENTIMENT
7	AGREEMENT	13	PERIOD	19	DICED	24	LASTED
9	TYPE	14	EASTER	20	OMEN	25	TWEAKS

DOWN:

1	INSTEP	5	TANK	11	FOUND	17	HELMET
2	URGE	6	NUMBER	12	DAZED	18	TOWELS
3	EYELID	7	APERTURES	15	SHOVEL	21	NEXT
4	NIMBLE	8	TESTAMENT	16	TILTED	22	KNEE

MARCH CROSSWORD: BW99 - *by Ben Woods*

CLUES ACROSS:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 TAIL BACK (5); | 16 BONUS (4); |
| 4 HEAVY (7); | 18 ASSIST (4); |
| 8 BY NOW (7); | 19 SHED (3); |
| 9 HUMPED ANIMAL (5); | 20 GO FAST (4); |
| 10 LAZY (4); | 24 CENTRAL (5); |
| 11 PROTRUDE (3); | 25 ACCEPT AS TRUE (7); |
| 12 SYMBOL (4); | 26 RECOUNT (7); |
| 15 CUT (4); | 27 APPOINTMENTS (5). |

CLUES DOWN:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 ELIGIBILITY (13); | 13 LUMP OF WOOD (3); |
| 2 REGISTER (5); | 14 HONEY PRODUCING INSECT (3); |
| 3 TEST (4); | 15 NOT SO DIRTY (7); |
| 4 EXIT (3, 3); | 17 EFFERVESCE (6); |
| 5 PART OF A FOOT (4); | 21 OPEN (5); |
| 6 HANGING BED (7); | 22 REGION (4); |
| 7 BIRDS IN THE BUNTING FAMILY (13); | 23 DRESSED (4). |

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10					11				12			
				13				14				
		15					16					
						17						
18					19				20	21		
				22				23				
24												
26								27				



Services in March

KEY TO MINISTERS:

CVB Licensed Ministers:

DM = Revd David Minns (Rector) (*Day off: Friday*)

T: 01285 655199; e: dlkminns@gmail.com

JA-M = Revd Dr Janet Anderson-Mackenzie (Associate Priest) (*Part-time - 3 days a week. Working days = Sunday, Monday and Tuesday*).

T: 07821 474711; e: janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk

MG = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 e: mgreen282@btinternet.com

MV = Mr Mark Venn (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831209 e: mark.w.venn@btinternet.com

Additional Ministers:

JM = Revd Jan Moore T: 01285 640077; therevjan@gmail.com

CP = Revd Cliff Pooley T: 01242 243981; cliff.pooley@btinternet.com

Chaplain, Rendcomb College: Marie Hobbs: Chaplain@rendcombcollege.org.uk



March Services

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday HC [CW] (Revd Helen Caine)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st	9.30am	Easter HC [CW] (DM)

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	HC or MP (MV)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st	9.30am	Easter HC (JA-M)

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	3 rd		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	10 th	11.00am	Mothering Sunday MP (JA-M)
Sunday	17 th		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st		<i>Service at Cowley</i>

Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	3 rd	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	Matins (MV)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st	9.30am	Easter HC (CP)

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	10 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	HC (MV – by ext'n)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st	11.00am	Easter HC (JA-M)

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	MW (MV)
Sunday	10 th	11.00am	Mothering Sunday (GG-C)
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Thursday	28 th	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service (DM / JA-M)
Sunday	31 st	11.00am	Easter HC (Minister tbc)

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	3 rd	4.00pm	Super Sunday Supper Service in Village Hall! (DM & JA-M)
Sunday	10 th	11.00am	All Age Mothering Sunday (DM)
Sunday	17 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	24 th	10.30am for 11am	BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY SERVICE. Meet in village at 10.30am for walk to Church (DM)
Sunday	31 st	11.00am	Easter HC (DM)

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	10 th		<i>Service at Elkstone</i>
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Sunday	31 st	11.00am	Easter Service (Minister/s tbc)

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Friday	1 st	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Service for <i>Churches Together in Cirencester</i> HC (DM)
Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service (JA-M)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	<i>Big Breakfast Bash – All Age – in Stratton School Hall (DM/JA-M)</i>
Sunday	24 th		<i>Benefice Palm Sunday Service at North Cerney</i>
Friday	29 th	4.30pm	<i>Good Friday</i> Service following Benefice Good Friday walk
Sunday	31 st	6.30am for 6.45 11.00am	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (DM) Easter Holy Communion (JM)



*Happy
Easter!*

Directory

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	Elkstone <i>vacancy</i>	
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Please forward any items for inclusion in the April 2024 edition by
15th March 2024 to the Editor - Corinna: editor.parishlink@gmail.com