

Parish Link

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



May 2021

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Please forward any items for inclusion in the June 2021 edition of
Parish Link to the Editor, Corinna, by 15th May:
editor.parishlink@gmail.com Thank you.



The Bathurst Arms stunning beer garden with sheltered, outdoor seating reopens April 12

New fully organic menu and a great selection of real ales and wine

To book a table for drinks, lunch or dinner please call: 01285 832150 or email: info@bathurstarms.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you back



The Bathurst Arms has converted a 24ft tipi into a circus themed dining space! Several model zebras, a toy panther and other items inspired by local show, *Giffords Circus*, adorn the tipi. Jordan Pelly, the pub's landlord, said: *"We didn't want to just put up a marquee or some covering, we wanted to have some fun and Fran (a loyal customer) had this great (circus) idea. I guess this makes me the ring master!"*

The tipi adds 40 covers to our large garden so that we can now accommodate 120 safely. Like so many in hospitality we cannot wait...to show off our new spring menu and get back to what we do best."



For more information, or to book a table for lunch or dinner, call: 01285 832150 or email: info@bathurstarms.co.uk

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Final Pastoral Letter from the *Revd Arthur*

Dear friends and neighbours,

It's been a privilege and a responsibility to be living and working here in the Churn Valley these past six-and-a-half years but now the time has come to say goodbye.

Margaret and I have come to know and love some of you very well, others less so and some only by sight. We are grateful to those who welcomed our arrival in December 2014, especially Sylvie Pierce who helped with the unpacking and has remained a good friend throughout. A few weeks later I remember feeling a special sense of purpose during the licensing service in Colesbourne parish church.

As much as I love leading worship, I've also made lots of mistakes although thankfully not all at the same time! I recall a family service early on at Elkstone when the sermon involved creating a model of the Solar System. It was an ambitious project with balls of various sizes strung out along the length of the building. At the end of the service, I was waiting in the Porch ready to say goodbye as people left the building and spontaneously exclaimed something like "*Thank you God, I've survived!*" This was immediately followed by laughter from inside the building... my microphone was still switched on! Then there was the Christmas Eve service where the order of service omitted the Eucharistic Prayer and I had to say the words entirely from memory... although no one seemed to notice! Whilst seeking to honour God in worship, we are only human after all and must not take ourselves too seriously. God is love as revealed by Jesus Christ and I firmly believe He has a great sense of humour.

One of the best things about living and working in the Churn Valley has been the opportunity to have short walks in such a beautiful landscape. I wrote a series of articles for *Parish Link* magazine which were compiled into a booklet and then became virtual walks on *YouTube*. It was a way of recognising the historical significance of each parish church and celebrating the vibrancy of life still evident today.

Our annual village fetes are important fund-raising events, but they have even greater social value by bringing neighbours together to have some fun. I have great admiration for those who organise the fetes as well as everyone who pitches in by doing the hard work of setting up and dismantling as well as sharing their various gifts. In recent years

Colesbourne has innovated by having a barn dance and at Christmas our first ever Drive-In Carol Service! I was surprised to learn that the CofE's first live wedding on the internet took place in 1999 at Colesbourne parish church!

These rural parishes are kept going by a small number of committed and talented individuals who find inspiration and direction from the life of Jesus Christ. The physical state of the church buildings and churchyards is much better now than seven years ago but what really matters is the life of the community. One of the worst aspects of the current C-19 pandemic has been disruption of natural contact. Thanks to Zoom and *YouTube* most of our relationships are still intact but some rebuilding is going to be needed over the summer months.

And now to conclude... the CofE expects clergy to retire at 70 which in my case will be next month. Therefore, Margaret and I have spent the past year trying to discern where God is leading us next. Eventually we realised that what matters most is just "abiding in Christ" (John 15:4). After 33 years of living and working in the Cotswolds we were expecting to stay around here but we have gradually realised the benefits of being closer to our family in the Derbyshire Dales.



Margaret and I came here hardly knowing anyone but now seven years later we've been blessed with so many lovely friends and parishioners that it's hard to accept our last Sunday will be on 30th May at North Cerney. The Diocese has granted us until the end of June to move out of Cowley Rectory and away to a village near Ashbourne. We are hoping to stay in touch and will keep the CVB in our prayers.

God has sustained and inspired these churches since the Norman conquest of 1066, and we trust He will bless you until that great day when Jesus returns in glory to fully establish His kingdom here on Earth.

Easter blessings

Revd Arthur.



On the Revd Arthur's retirement - *David Minns*

This month sees the retirement of the Revd Arthur Champion after serving the Churn Valley benefice for six-and-a-half years as House for Duty Priest based at the New Rectory in Cowley. I will certainly miss him! We have all benefitted from Arthur's ministry as he has led worship services in all of our churches at one time or another, but equally importantly he has been at the heart of the Benefice in many other ways.

Arthur and Margaret came to the Churn Valley in December 2014 right at the formation of our 9 church Benefice. He was licensed to the whole Benefice but with special pastoral responsibility for the northern parishes of Elkstone, Colesbourne, Cowley and Coberley. On the retirement of then Rector Warwick Heathcote, Arthur took on the mantle of leading the whole benefice through the vacancy. With the support of clergy and Lay Reader colleagues and Administrator Corinna, Arthur made the most of the resources he had available and brought the Benefice through the vacancy in good shape and more united than before. All this while he also held an important role as Diocesan Environment Advisor.

Arthur's presence was part of what brought me to the Churn Valley as Rector. Having read the parish profile and decided that 9 churches was probably too tough a job I was nonetheless led to apply and came to interview still sceptical about the task. It was meeting Arthur and Cliff, Jan Moore and others from the churches that led me to see that with such a team it would be possible to share in a truly meaningful ministry. Arthur's friendly, upbeat appraisal of the situation gave me the confidence of a strong, supportive team to share the task.

And that is how it has proved. Arthur has been a truly supportive colleague and friend over the past 4 years. I have relied on his honest evaluation of situations and I seek his advice frequently. Any number of my emails to Arthur begin with words like - '*Hi Arthur, just running this by you to see what you think....*' His advice is always generous, helpful and greatly valued. And we have had fun too. Laughter has been very much part of our work together and we always enjoy our planning conversations.

Arthur has more than fulfilled the basic commitments of a House for Duty priest and has been willing and generous with his time way beyond the expectation. As well as the usual duties of Sunday services, weddings funerals and baptisms Arthur's pastoral care for the northern

congregations has been second to none; with Margaret's loyal support it is clear that they are both hugely valued there and across the benefice.

In this past year of Covid lockdown Arthur has taken the lion's share of technical duties. His understanding of the website has grown, and it is largely thanks to his quick learning of new skills that we have developed our online presence so well. He still sets up most Zoom calls and uploads to the website regularly.

Arthur and Margaret now head off to a new adventure and home in Derbyshire and we certainly wish them well in all that comes their way. Here in the Churn Valley we are working hard to make sure that Arthur's work in ministry is continued. But he will be a hard act to follow, and we shall all miss him and Margaret.

We wish you both every blessing in your new adventure and thank you for all you have given to us.

David

Special Services to mark the Retirement of the Revd Arthur

Due to the current Covid restrictions unfortunately it has not been possible to organise a social occasion to mark the retirement of the Revd Arthur. Instead, two special church services have been arranged which will give everyone an opportunity to thank and say goodbye to Arthur.

The first Service, for the congregations of the Northern four churches in the benefice - Cowley, Coberley, Elkstone and Colesbourne – is to be held at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd May in St Giles, Coberley and will be led by the Revd Arthur. Unfortunately, seating is limited to 40, and 10 tickets have been allocated to each parish. Those attending will be able to enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits outside the church after the service.

Then, on the fifth Sunday of the month, at **11am on Sunday 30th May**, an all-benefice service will be held in All Saints Church, North Cerney, at which the Revds Arthur and David will both preach. This is a larger church and everyone in the benefice is invited to come along to this service to mark the Revd Arthur's retirement. For Covid reasons, unfortunately there will be no reception after the service at North Cerney.

Thank you...

To the Revd Arthur and Margaret Champion

I would like to thank the Revd Arthur for the unflinching support he has given to the *Parish Link* magazine during his time working in the CVB. His ideas for articles, regular input, enthusiastic promotion and practical support of our magazine will be hugely missed. Thank you also to Margaret who has quietly and generously helped on a regular basis in the background by proof-reading the magazine each month. Many thanks to you both for all that you have contributed and given. Your support will be greatly missed.



The Editor - Corinna

For helping *The Stroud Women's Refuge* this Lent

The Churn Valley Benefice responded to the invitation to *Love more this Lent* by generously supporting the work of the *Stroud Women's Refuge* (the only one in the whole of Gloucestershire). It is difficult to imagine a more frightening and distressing situation than having to escape from the very place where everyone should feel safe - home. The intention in the CVB had been for each Church to 'sponsor' a bag of the laundry and household items given to families for their own personal use on arrival at the Refuge, along with a quantity of household linen which they take with them when they move on to their new forever homes. Unfortunately, however, due to the pandemic this proved unworkable.

The phrase 'money talks' has ugly connotations but, in this instance, it spoke with hope and love and the CVB not only raised a wonderful **£1,315** for the Refuge but also donated a quantity of new linen (which will be delivered as soon as current restrictions allow) to support families at this difficult time in their lives. The CVB continues to uphold the work of the *Stroud Women's Refuge* through prayer, and I hope to re-invigorate the practical support in the run-up to Christmas. In the meantime, any donations will be very gratefully received. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this appeal during the last few months.

Pauline Farman paulinefarman19@btinternet.com

For your support of Cirencester Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has put donations in the Foodbank boxes in our Benefice churches, particularly over this last difficult year. Your generosity has been outstanding and greatly appreciated by all involved. I will be putting a copy of *Cirencester Foodbank News* on church notice boards going forward; do read the client feedback - it made me realise again how vital this charity is. Please keep donating!



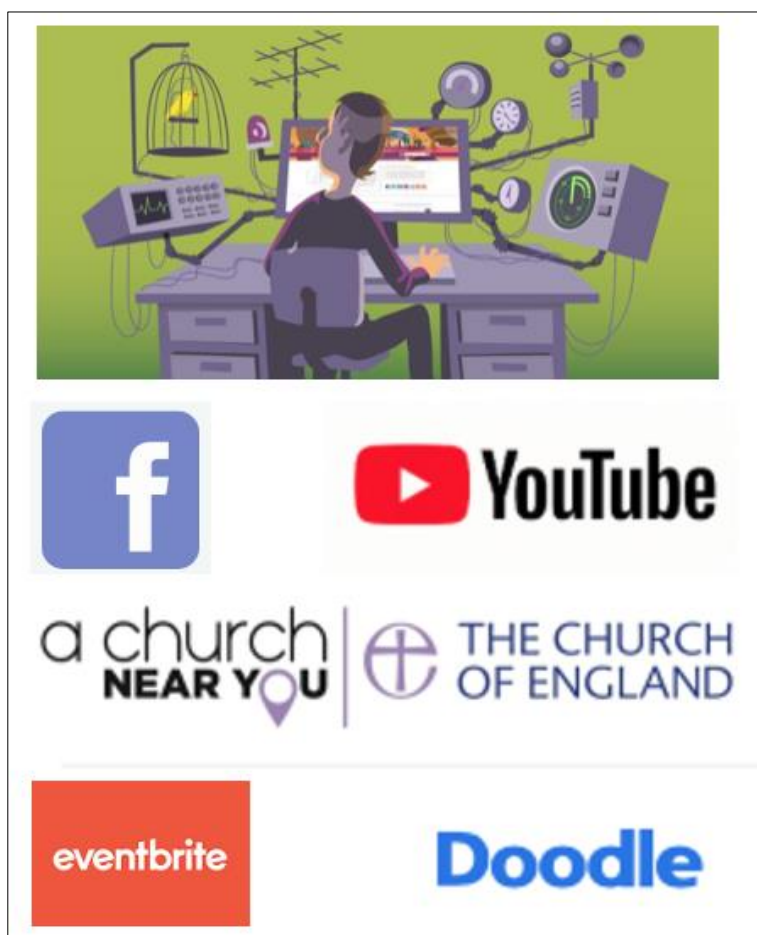
Ghislaine Venn

Benefice News and events

Webmaster urgently sought for CVB

If you love working with computers, then the role of Webmaster for the Churn Valley Benefice could be the ideal way for you to serve God; as well as all those who benefit from our online presence! For the past few years, the CVB website, Facebook Group, CofE website for each parish church (known as "A Church Near You") and our new YouTube Channel have been managed by the Revd Arthur. However, with his retirement looming at the end of May we must find a successor soon. This role would be ideal for someone who enjoys administration and has a flare for creativity. Once up to speed, it is estimated it will involve about half a day's work each week. Perhaps there's a parent out there who has an IT savvy teenager who can help them with some of the more technical aspects?

The plan is that during May the Revd Arthur will provide training in the various tasks involved in overseeing the CVB presence



on the platforms below which, by the way, could be valuable skills for use elsewhere:

- **CVB website**
- **CVB Facebook Group**
- **CofE pages (A Church Near You)**
- **YouTube Channel**
- **Other IT systems**

If some, or all, of the above appeals to you then please contact the Revd Arthur for a (non-committal) discussion:

01242 870402 or championarthur@gmail.com

Safeguarding Training for all

We would like to encourage **all** members of our church congregations to complete the *Basic Level Safeguarding training* which is currently being offered, and promoted, by the Church of England. This online training can be accessed via the CofE's National Safeguarding Team's online learning portal (<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>) and is quite straightforward to complete. Beth Hamid, Churchwarden at St Peter's, Stratton, is challenging us to achieve the accolade of being the benefice with the highest number of people to have completed the online training, and she is happy to keep a record of those who have done so! As we go to print, Beth reports that 14 people have gone through the training. So please do add to this number and send Beth an email to let her know if you also complete it: bethhamid@googlemail.com. You even receive a certificate for your troubles! Many thanks.

Churn Valley Benefice Hardship Fund - an update

Following the launch of the Churn Valley Benefice Hardship Fund in February 2021, we have been delighted by the response. Your generosity has been so heart-warming and to date we have received around £2,500 from friends near and far.

We have asked our Church Wardens to let us know when there are issues so that we can respond and alleviate any immediate financial strain in a prompt manner. However, if you would like to contact the

Benefice team directly, please be assured that we will treat all requests in the strictest confidence.

Here is a brief reminder of how you can support this very worthwhile cause:

By cheque payable to *Cowley Church PCC*, c/o Amanda Morgans, Bittum Field House, Colesbourne, Cheltenham, GL53 9NS.

By bank transfer to: *Cowley Church PCC*

Account name: *Cowley Church PCC*

Sort code: 30 91 87

Account number: 00479079

By text: To donate £1, text COWLE2 to 70201
To donate £3, text COWLE2 to 70331
To donate £5, text COWLE2 to 70970
To donate £10, text COWLE2 to 70191

Online: <http://easydonate.org/COWLE2>


QR Code:



Please note that all monies into Cowley's Bank account will be immediately transferred to the Benefice Hardship Account.



* Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see www.easydonate.org



ELKSTONE VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY

Our 28th year!

Sunday 6th June 2021
2.00pm - 6.00pm

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News from around the Benefice

News from Colesbourne - *Sir Henry Elwes*

Former licensee of the Colesbourne Inn, Eric Bird's ashes were interred in wife Mary's grave on 12th April and son Steve is hoping to have a thanksgiving party in his memory at the Inn as soon as lockdown has ended.

Arthur Champion retires as House-for-Duty Priest on 30th May after nearly seven years of service, mostly for the Upper Churn villages, and will be sadly missed. Parishioners are lobbying the Archdeacon to make another appointment to support Revd David Minns' service to the nine parishes in the Churn Valley.

Latest from Elkstone

St John's Parish Church, Elkstone: The Wildflower Meadow Story to Date

2015: Following Revd Arthur Champion's initiative to enhance the green credentials of the church building and churchyard the PCC undertook a project, amongst others, to create a wildflower meadow and a composting WC in its grounds. We much appreciated the financial and practical help from the local community in this venture together with funding from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust, the Diocesan Mission Fund and the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, who were all extremely helpful and generous.



With funding commitments in place, we undertook much research on how to set up the meadow. Lectures, visits to established wildlife meadows and literature from *Plant Life* www.plantlife.org.uk were invaluable.

2016: We mapped out the area in the churchyard that was to become the meadow in early spring. Then during the late spring and summer we proceeded to prepare the ground by removing as many pernicious weeds e.g. dandelions, as we could, scarifying and regularly scalping the grass to the soil so as to accept the seeds that we were to sow later. In August we were donated a bale of hay from Clattinger the second meadow of sixty initiated in 2013 by HRH Prince Charles to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's coronation.



Together with the children of the village we strewed the hay across the area and created bug hotels.

2017: Wildflowers from seed take time to establish so during this winter we boosted the area with plug plants of many native species' seeds that were in the hay. It was especially important to ensure that we had ample seed of yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, as this plant parasitizes the roots of grass thus reducing competition for the flowering plants for food, air and water. Its presence is essential in establishing a wildflower meadow. By the time the meadow and composting WC were blessed and inaugurated by the Bishop of Tewkesbury on 8th June we were pleased by how many species had already taken hold, especially the marsh orchids, *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*, which were flowering prettily.

2018 - 2020: To maintain the meadow we cut to the ground in late autumn and during the winter so that we could plant more bulbs such as Camassia, meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale*, pheasant eye narcissus *Narcissus poeticus*, and wild native tulip *Tulipa sylvestris*. If necessary, we do another cut in late winter/early spring just before the flowers start emerging from their dormancy. You can find more pictures of the meadow in this period at:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14302/page/49509/view/>

In autumn 2019 we invited the children from Coberley Primary School to sow more seeds and jump and trample them into the soil. Much fun was had by all.

2021: As I write this in mid-April, the meadow is full of spring flowers: masses of cowslips, primrose, camassias and narcissus as well as some

red tulips and the yellow wild one which is mentioned above. Do come and look and enjoy the spectacle.

With grateful thanks to Brian Howlett for this update

Change of Treasurer for Elkstone PCC

For the past three-and-a-half years Brian Howlett has been serving as Treasurer but this month he's stepped aside and Amanda Morgans has taken over. Elkstone PCC are very grateful to Brian for using his professional skills in this way. He started by tying up some loose ends from the composting toilet project and finished off overseeing financial aspects of the bells' restoration project. Brian was the first to introduce cashless giving using DONATE and several other parish churches have since followed. He kindly stayed on a few extra months to ensure the 2020 accounts could be audited and presented to the APCM. Brian knows a lot about gardening and is continuing to oversee arrangements for Elkstone's wildflower meadow. We wish him and Jennie a long and happy retirement whilst being very grateful to Amanda for "picking up the baton."

Stratton - supporting *Christian Aid Week 2021*



PAST AND PRESENT



Many parallels have been drawn between our current situation during these months of the Covid pandemic and the difficulties experienced 75 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War. Then there were great numbers of refugees all around the world who had been displaced by the conflict. Despite the rationing and hardships at home, churches across Britain were moved by their plight and worked together to send out aid and thus created the charity, *Christian Aid*, which has continued to this day.

Now that so many in our own nation have been fortunate to have had, or will soon be receiving, their vaccinations we must not forget those in so many other countries who are not so privileged. Indeed, for many even "Hands, Face and Space", is difficult. So let us like the World War generation rise to the challenge and reach out to the vulnerable communities across the world through supporting ***Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May 2021***. Your donations will help to continue their work in

providing access to soap, food, shelter, and health information to prevent the spread of this deadly virus and also to assist those in areas badly affected by climate change.

House to house collections are again not possible this year, but envelopes will be available at St Peter's Church, Stratton and also at Stratton Post Office and can be returned to church services or the Post Office. Donations can also be made online at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Stratton has been involved with this cause for many years and I do hope that, as previously, there will be a generous response.

Gill Keen

A Tribute to Stratton resident - Elizabeth Taylor

8th January 1939 - 8th March 2021

Elizabeth Taylor, who sadly died on 8th March, was one of an early group of new Stratton residents who did so much towards creating an active community in the area.

She was married to Brian and they had two sons, Ian and Michael, both of whom went to Stratton School and became involved in Stratton activities. They both sang in the choir and Michael was a server.

In the early days Elizabeth was a founder member of the Stratton playgroup and of the *Stratton Association* along with Archie Ketchin, Mike Wells etc.

She took a great interest in Stratton School and was a governor in the days of headmaster Cliff Gould.

Elizabeth was a member of the Brewery Arts where she became well known as an oriental rug and carpet restorer. She was also an accomplished potter with a unique style of her own.

Elizabeth is greatly missed by all her family leaving a void which cannot be filled.

*With grateful thanks to Brian Taylor, Elizabeth's husband,
for sharing this Tribute with us.*

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Update from Rendcomb - *Ruth Edy*

The day that Sue Fawcett and Ruth Edy inspected the church roof.....!



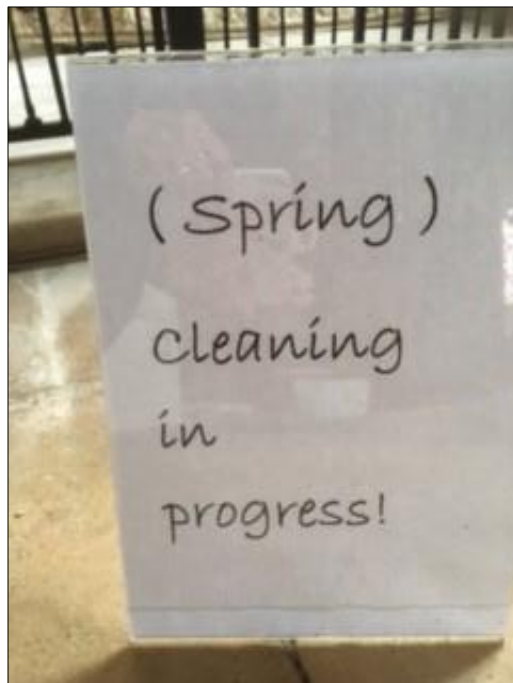
At the end of March, the work on repairing the church roof was complete and on April 13th Bob Edy 'signed off' the contract which we had with the builders and architect. All those involved with the project have been very impressed by the care and attention to detail shown by *Q & M Builders*,

and we are greatly indebted to Adam Klups, the Advisor from the diocese, for his support and guidance throughout the project. The Church Roof sub-committee, driven by Sue Fawcett - the Queen of the Roof - have achieved great things, from applying for grants, and keeping an eye on the finances, to moving ladders around the church for the asbestos survey!



And now it's time to get down to earth again - literally! Adam Klups also helpfully and gently pointed out that the carpet in the Lady Chapel was doing no good to the stones underneath. When we inspected the stone flooring we saw what he meant so have been cleaning up the stones and discussing what to do next. There is also some work needed inside the church where the leaks dislodged the plastering...

We were able to let the Rendcomb residents know about the church roof repairs by a leaflet-drop and are planning to invite them to a celebration on the day when we have our first service in church this year - **Sunday, May 23rd 2021**.



Photos of the floor of the Lady Chapel (above and right)

Schools' News

North Cerney C of E Primary Academy

This term the NCSA (North Cerney School Association) kindly funded the delivery of 'Living Eggs' to school. KS1 have particularly enjoyed watching the eggs incubate and hatch and we have 10 healthy chicks that will go to live on a farm in Berkshire at the end of term.

The children have taken great pleasure in giving the chicks names, which include - Fluffball, Chickidy, Strawberry and Rose!



Community News and Events

Phoenix Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale reminder



Cirencester's Phoenix Gardeners will have a Fundraising stall in the Farmers' Market on the morning of *Saturday, 22nd May*. Any donations of plants - trays of annuals or vegetable plants - will be most welcome. We are always extremely well supported, and this is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. If you don't sow seeds or have spare plants, you may know someone who does. For further details please contact Pauline on: paulinefarman19@btinternet.com



Applications invited to the *Stratton Educational Foundation*



Applications are invited by the Trustees for grants in aid of persons under the age of 25 years who, or whose parents, are resident in the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Stratton with Baunton, and who require financial help towards the cost of preparing for a profession or trade or in furthering their education, or in providing group facilities for recreation and social and physical training. Individual applicants might wish to apply for a grant to help with the cost of textbooks or equipment, for example, which they need for a college course.

For further details and an application form please contact:
Mrs C Bramley, 10 Vale Road, Stratton, Cirencester, GL7 2JJ.
E: corinna.bramley2@gmail.com .

Completed applications should be returned by 1st June 2021.

Could you help discover more Stone Stiles in Gloucestershire?

By Maggie Booth

Stone stiles are found in many areas of the country. There are examples throughout Gloucestershire including the area in and around Bagendon, Coberley and Cowley, Colesbourne, Elkstone, North Cerney, Rendcomb and Stratton. For centuries they have provided access to local people walking along pathways as they went about their business, whilst also preventing sheep and cattle from straying further afield. Despite the historic value of these stone stiles, scores of them have been abandoned and some have now been lost.

In 2020 Peter Wilson launched '*The Stile Project*'. Working in association with CPRE, English Heritage and the *Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club* - <http://cotsnats.org.uk/> - Peter's aim is to produce a record of every remaining stone



Example of a step stile with steps protruding at right angles.
[photograph courtesy of *Malcolm Christie*]

stile in Gloucestershire before they are lost forever. Through support from members of these groups and other keen walkers, over 500 stiles have been recorded but it's known there are at least 100 more stiles yet to be mapped.

So, when you are out walking, if you spot a stone stile, or if you know of an existing stile, please photograph it, if possible from both sides. Then download a Stile Recording Form by going to the CPRE website:

<https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>

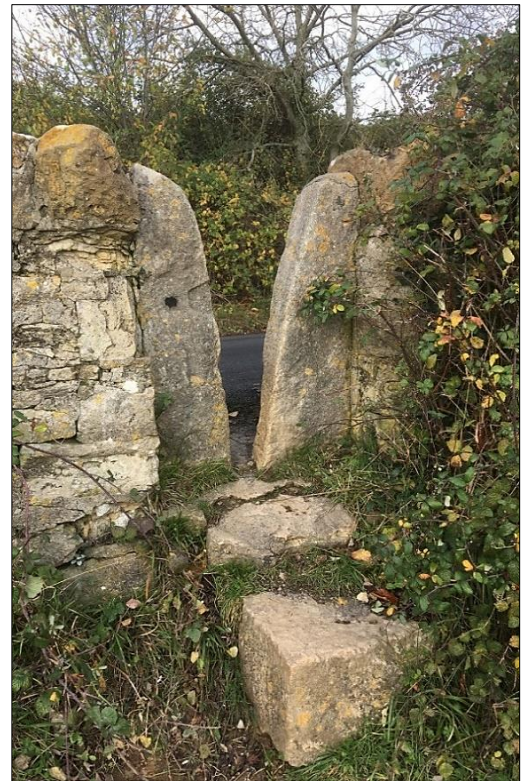
Please give as much information as possible before emailing the form to:

peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk

Any 'duplicate' stiles recorded are welcome as you may take a better picture than the one already on file. Peter is also looking for background notes; history, geology and the landscape setting of each stone stile as well as its precise OS location. Don't worry if you're not able to give all that information but he would like to know exactly where you came across the stile.

The information received will then be available to develop an interactive App. There is no doubt the App will encourage more people to explore our wonderful county adding to their enjoyment of country walks. It will also help wheelchair and scooter users and families with children in buggies to plan their walks.

There are many stiles out there just waiting to be discovered but please do remember the Countryside Code: Respect other people, Protect the natural environment, Follow advice and local signs and Obey social distancing regulations.



Above: example of a squeeze stile [photograph courtesy of Maggie Booth]



Example of a slab stile [photograph courtesy of Dame Fiona Reynolds]

Winstone and District WI - *Moira Cima*

In April we had a long-awaited talk about Scrubditch Care Farm in North Cerney

(www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk).

Gerry Fouracres was scheduled to visit us a year ago and we'd hoped to be able to invite her to talk to us in person this year but we had to make do with Zoom again. However, Gerry was still able to share wonderful photographs of the farm with us so that we really got a flavour of the valuable work done by the staff and volunteers. The farm provides therapeutic activities for vulnerable adults and children in a farm setting, increasing their confidence and helping them to be more independent. Anyone who knows of someone who could benefit from this is welcome to email the farm for more information.

Our varied programme continues in May when we will be invited to discuss "*What is Public Art?*"

Wikipedia has a very good entry on the subject if it's not a question you

could easily answer yourself, but Alison Hewitt will be telling us more about it on *Tuesday 11th May at 7.30pm*. If you would like to join us in this Zoom talk then please contact Sue Collins.

T: 01242 870373 or

e: sueocollins7@gmail.com.

Although all our meetings remain on Zoom for the time being, we are now getting together for walks and outdoor coffee mornings. Our WI is such a vibrant community and has kept many of us sane over the past year. If you're interested in joining us, please do contact our secretary, Chris.

T: 01285 821261 or

e: chrisrwhitaker7@gmail.com.

You're welcome to try us out with no commitment, and a warm welcome awaits!



Quick quote

Ben Woods has shared the following *Quote of the Week*, which appeared in '*The Church Times*' on Friday 9th April 2021:

'Adult to group of children: "What do you think Jesus was doing while he was in hell for three days?" Child, after long pause: "I think he was looking everywhere for his friend Judas."

John Inge, Bishop of Worcester - 3 April'

Summer Mixed-doubles Tennis Tournament



THE COLN VALLEY MIXED DOUBLES OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY, 26th JUNE 2021
Chedworth, GL54 4NE

Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club invites you to enter the 39th Coln Valley Mixed Doubles Open Tennis Tournament on Saturday, June 26th.

This long-established event raises funds for the club and the churches of Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers and Chedworth. A unique day of social and competitive tennis played on delightful private courts kindly loaned for the day by residents in surrounding villages.

Coffee, lunch and tea is included in the entry ticket price of £30. Early booking is advised as entries will be restricted this year so we can provide the correct safety measures; registration, briefings, lunch and tea will be held outside and the bar will be open.

For full details and to enter
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events>

Enquiries: colnvalleytournament@gmail.com

Caroline Baker 07733 322176

Cotswold Farm Gardens

Open Weekend: 12th - 13th June 2021



Supporting *National Garden Scheme (NGS) & A Rocha*
Saturday & Sunday - 12th & 13th - June from 2pm - 5pm
Also open by appointment through the year

A beautiful Arts & Crafts Cotswold garden in a stunning location, overlooking a quiet valley on descending levels with terraces designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. Enclosed by Cotswold stone walls and yew hedges the garden has all-year-round interest.

£7.50 Entrance (pre-booking available via the NGS website for the weekend: <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/5574> or on-site contactless payment)

Children FREE

Tea, Coffee & Cakes

Plants for Sale

Directions: 5 Miles NW of Cirencester on the A417

Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS

Telephone: 01285 821837

Website: www.cotswoldfarmgardens.org.uk

Scrubditch Care Farm - Emma Costley White

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter holiday. We had lots of lovely lambs during the break!



Sheep News - We have just two ewes left to lamb as I write, and are pleased to report we've had 34 lambs so far! They are now happily grazing Gooseham's. You may have spotted them if you drive up to Woodmancote.



Pig News - We have moved Mabel into the nursery closer to the main buildings ready for farrowing. She is sulking at present, and not eating up her food, but it's better for her to farrow there rather than up in the wood with a smaller ark. We have the heat lamp ready to go. So, fingers crossed we will see some piglets imminently.

Vegetables - We have lots of vegetables coming along and will be starting our veg boxes shortly. Do get in touch via the website if you are interested.

Eggs for sale! - The hens and bantams are all laying again, and we took delivery of some 're-home' hens recently to add to the tally. One of them

decided to fly out of their run to lay her egg in a cardboard box from 'Hello Fresh'...outside the front door of the Ark! (you may have seen her on our Instagram?) She now lays her egg there every day! Ring/text Emma on 07966 255 631 if you would like a regular order each week/fortnightly.

Ping! - Ping is our feral (wild) Care Farm cat. He is small, black with white paws and white on his front and can be seen around and about Woodmancote, Perrotts Brook, and down near the church at North Cerney! If you see him please don't feed him, as we feed him at the Farm.

Plant sales from the gate - Bank holiday weekend 29th May - We will be selling vegetable and flower seedlings again from the entrance gate. Watch out for updates on social media.

Dementia and Feel-Good Farming Sessions - Our dementia sessions run every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm and are followed by our Feel-good farming sessions on Tuesday afternoons. Both sessions are very informal and an opportunity to get out in the fresh air with likeminded people in small groups. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk Or have a look at our website: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Big Health Check Online Event - 21st - 27th June

'This is a celebratory event of information sharing and improving access to health and wellbeing support, for people with learning disabilities and other disabilities.' We will be taking part again in this wonderful event albeit online. In the past we have taken sheep and poultry along to show. So, this time we will be busy making lots of videos and interviewing students & staff, to show people what we get up to on the Farm.

Open Farm Sunday - 27th June - As the restrictions should all be lifted by then we will be opening our farm to the public. This is a National Event, aimed at encouraging families to explore farming and what it involves. Check the website for further details nearer the time.

Talks - via Zoom - If you know a group that would like to hear one of our talks - they last about 40 minutes, and we give a fun, informative overview of the Care Farm - do get in touch: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dates for the diary:

New term from: *Monday 12th April*

Half Term: *31st May - 7th June*

Big Health Check online event: *21st - 27th June*

Open Days at SCF: *Monday 21st, Wednesday 23rd June*

Open Farm Sunday: *27th June*

Children's holiday activities: *August* (dates to be confirmed)



[Follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter and look at our website](#)
www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

News from our NHS Trust - *Anne Davies*

Exciting news from the trust this month, as COVID figures fall, is that after several years of planning and public consultations, the planned reconfiguration of the hospitals, under the title '*Fit for The Future*,' has been signed off by NHS authorities. Interestingly there was more public response and engagement during the pandemic, possibly due to people being at home with internet access. This programme will see specialist services centred at one or the other hospital and providing Centres of Excellence. These arrangements should provide better care for patients and also encourage specialist consultants to want to work for the trust.

Centred at Gloucester (GRH) will be acute medical care. This involves: admissions of patients to hospital to be assessed by a consultant leading to further investigation and treatment; Emergency General Surgery; vascular surgery, and trauma surgery. Inpatient Orthopaedics and Gastroenterology inpatients' services will be centralised at Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH) following a successful trial period. CGH is already the centre for cancer care and the plans include multimillion pound investment in theatres etc to ensure that the trust can deliver world leading cancer surgery. A major, and significant, planned development is the establishment of an Image Guided Interventional Surgery (IGIS) at GRH with a spoke at CGH. This will facilitate e.g., emergency access to stop internal bleeding, centring cancer probes to deliver treatment and other treatments which are currently only available at large centres. Further consultation is taking place about planned general surgery. A&E at CRH will function at pre COVID levels and GRH will be expanded. With these services established many patients who are currently sent to Bristol, Birmingham or Oxford will be able to be treated locally, and for

patients for whom travel to local hospitals is difficult funded transport will be available.

This is the start of incredibly significant times for the trust, for the staff and for patients and I am looking forward to being involved. My first role is on the Accessibility Advisory Group set up to ensure that our new buildings work for all. So, if you have any ideas that you feel may be helpful to patients with disabilities, visible or hidden, please contact me.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor Cotswolds)
anne.davies11@nhs.net

Crossword

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW70 (April 2021)

ACROSS:

1	WRITERS	10	EASTERN	17	ALIKE	24	DATED
5	REIGN	11	RURAL	19	FLANNEL	25	STRANGE
8	RIVER	12	RESIGN	22	THISTLE		
9	REVENGE	14	NEEDED	23	GUEST		

DOWN:

1	WORSE	6	INNER	16	OFFERS
2	INVESTS	7	NEEDED	18	IDIOT
3	EYRIE	12	ROASTED	20	ANGER
4	SERENE	13	GREETED	21	LITHE
5	REVERSE	15	DUNGEON		

MAY CROSSWORD: BW71 - by Ben Woods

CLUES ACROSS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 ICE UP (6); | 15 JOG (4); |
| 4 STONE FRUIT (5); | 18 ZERO (3); |
| 8 SLINK (5); | 21 NEED (4); |
| 9 FIT OF TEMPER (7); | 23 MAKE CLEAR (7); |
| 10 CONSUME TOO MUCH (7); | 25 CLIMATE (7); |
| 11 RIM (4); | 26 THEN (5); |
| 12 SHEEP (3); | 27 MATURE (5); |
| 14 NEEDLE CASE (4); | 28 THWART (6). |



CLUES DOWN:

1 FEATURE (6);

2 CONSTITUENT (7);

3 AIRSHIP (8);

4 BOAT (4);

5 VENTILATED (5);

6 IMPEDE (6);

7 NATION (5);

13 LARGE ANIMAL (8);

16 GHOST (7);

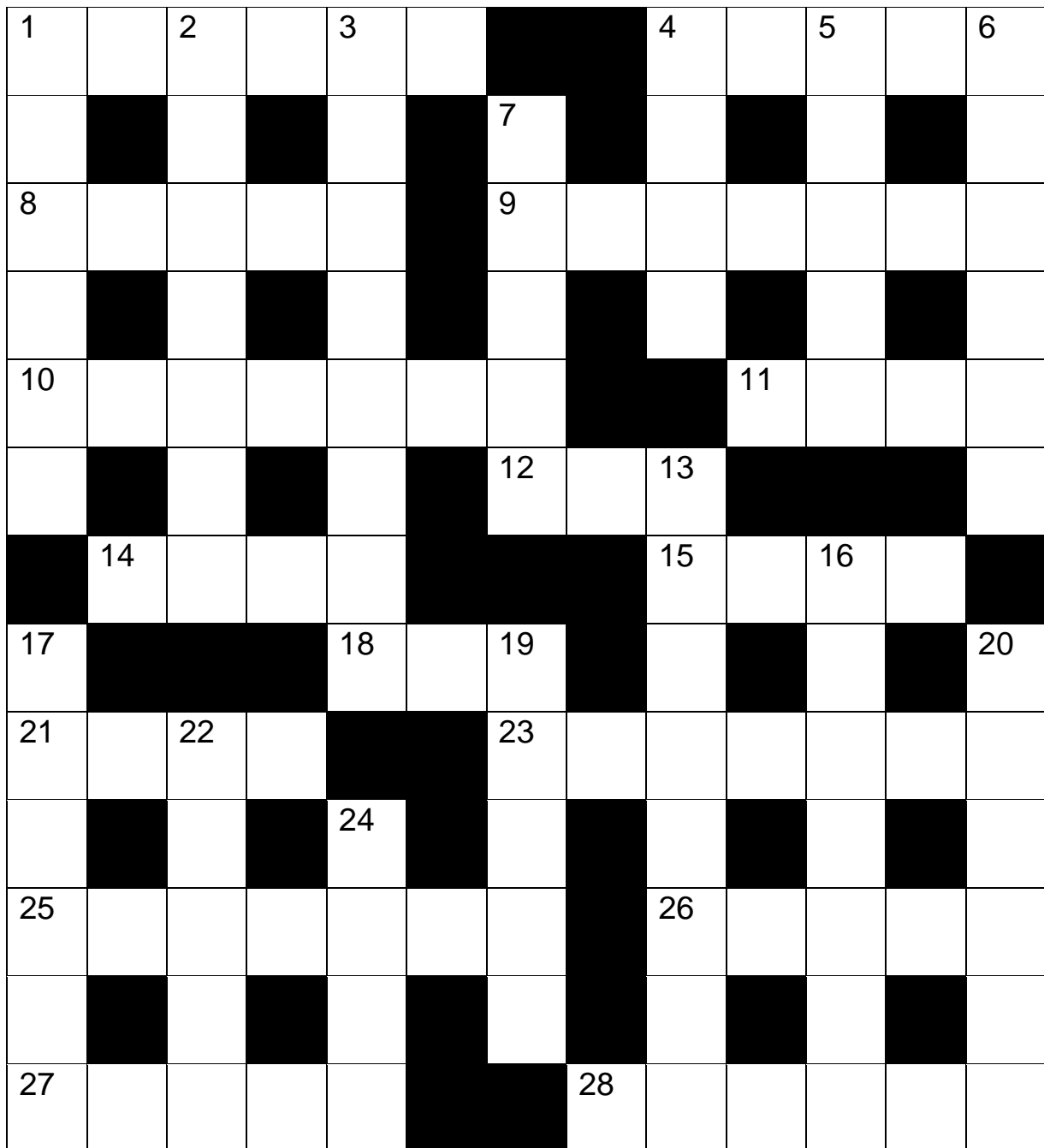
17 BLOSSOM (6);

19 DISCOVER (5);

20 FALSE (6);

22 HOLD TIGHTLY (5);

24 SLENDER (4).



From the Benefice Registers

Funerals:

20 th March '21	Carleton George Walter Tufnell	All Saints, North Cerney <i>Service then burial</i>
22 nd March '21	Olive Kathleen Teal	St Peter's, Stratton then Stratton cemetery
26 th March '21	Elizabeth Wellesley Taylor	Cheltenham Crematorium
31 st March '21	Ruth Butcher	North Wilts Crematorium St Peter's, Stratton then Stratton cemetery
9 th April '21	Pamela Joyce Wenban	St Peter's, Stratton then Stratton cemetery
13 th April '21	Eric Bird	St James, Colesbourne <i>Burial of ashes.</i>

Services in May

The Revd Arthur Champion will be retiring at the end of May. To celebrate his time in the benefice, and to thank Arthur and his wife Margaret for all they have given, two special services are planned to mark his retirement at the end of the month on:

*Sunday 23rd May at Coberley,
and on Sunday 30th May at North Cerney.*

On a more routine note - a reminder that there will usually be a Service of either *Holy Communion or Morning Prayer* at St Peter's, Stratton, at 10am each Wednesday morning.

Finally, please be advised that no Online Services are currently planned during May.

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	Matins [BCP] (MG)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	16 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	23 rd	9.30am	HC [CW] (Revd Warwick Heathcote)
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	HC (DM)
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	2 nd		See Cowley
Sunday	9 th	11.00am	MP (AC)
Sunday	16 th		See Cowley
Sunday	23 rd	10.30am	HC [CW] Final Service for the Revd Arthur Champion (AC) (for more details see page 8)
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	2 nd	10.00am	Matins (Christopher Hall)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	16 th	9.30am	Matins (AC)
Sunday	23 rd		Service at Coberley for AC
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	2 nd	11.00am	MP (AC)
Sunday	9 th		See Coberley
Sunday	16 th	11.00am	HC (JM)
Sunday	23 rd		Service at Coberley for AC
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	2 nd	11.00am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	9 th	10.00am	MP (AC)
Sunday	16 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	23 rd		Service at Coberley for AC
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	2 nd	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	9 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	16 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE and farewell to Revd Arthur Champion (DM & AC) (for more details see page 8)

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	HC (BE)
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	HC (AC)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	16 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	30 th		Benefice Service North Cerney

Biblical Puzzles

Where was the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A: 'When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court'.

Why couldn't Cain please his parents?

A: He wasn't Abel

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A: Samson. He brought the house down.

Don't forget that if the lockdown gives you a headache the Lord told Moses to keep taking the tablets!



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



Facebook site: 'Churn Valley Benefice'

CVB YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8tFvSwMNjxmX1IK5sb59UA>

PCC Secretaries contd	North Cerney	Kate Thomas	
	Rendcomb	Carol Bailey (temporary)	01285 831836 wrensorchtwo@gmail.com
PCC Treasurers	Stratton	Linda Wilkes	wilks1960hlv@gmail.com
	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
	Baunton	David Shaw	01242 702898 drs2307@yahoo.co.uk
	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
	Coberley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Colesbourne	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Cowley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Elkstone	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Rendcomb	Annabel Purcell	01285 831686 annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk
	Stratton	Alan Lowe	01285 657014 talanlowe@aol.com
Organists	Bagendon	Tony Hymas	01285 831728
	Stratton	Robin Baggs	07796 812945 rebaggs1@gmail.com
Pastoral Emergency in	Stratton	Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	North Cerney	Elmore Crump	01285 831275
Bell Ringers	North Cerney	Judy Carter	01285 831425
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Rendcomb	Alex Brealy	01285 831213 brealya@rendcombcollge.org.uk
	Stratton	Alison Lowe	01285 657014
Safeguarding/Child Protection	Upper Churn	Vacancy	
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Benefice	Beth Hamid	01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com
Flower Arranging	North Cerney	Anne Norman	01285 831237
	Stratton	Lesley Pollock	01285 653145 lesleyalm@btinternet.com
The Tuesday Group	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
Magazine Editors	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com
	Parish Link	Corinna Bramley	01285 641523 editor.parishlink@gmail.com

Directory

The Rector	The Revd David Minns	01285 655199 dlkminns@gmail.com
Associate Priests	The Revd Arthur Champion	01242 870402 championarthur@gmail.com
	The Revd Bob Edy	01285 831391 bobedy21@gmail.com
	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
Additional Minister	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
Readers	Mrs Ruth Edy	01285 831391 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com
	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
Benefice Administrator	Corinna Bramley	beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Bagendon Alison Saunders Ghislaine Venn	01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk 01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton Coberley & Cowley Colesbourne	<i>Vacancy</i> Michael Dykes 01452 559951 michaeldykesis@hotmail.com
	Elkstone	Sir Henry Elwes 01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net 07737 621120 jeffcarr53.jc@gmail.com
	North Cerney	Geoff Gait-Carr 01285 831017 barry.koch@strath.ac.uk 01285 831246 mark@calmsden.com
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	Stratton	Alex Breal 01285 644895 bethhamid@gmail.com
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	Coberley & Cowley Colesbourne	Gill Clark 01242 285719 gill@hillbarnworld.co.uk 01242 870262 snowdrop.cde@outlook.com
	Elkstone	<i>Vacancy</i>