

Parish Link

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



November 2024

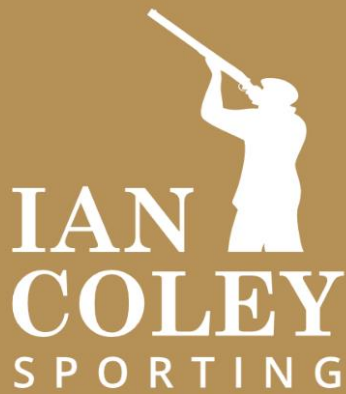
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Facebook site: 'Churn Valley Benefice'

£1

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Pastoral Letter – *Revd David Minns*

Autumn is often considered a melancholy time as evenings draw in and the weather changes, but I rather enjoy it!

I'm grateful to the dog walker who questioned my cheery greeting this week! 'Lovely Autumn morning' I said as we passed on the path; and instead of the usual nod of passing agreement he actually stopped and said 'lovely? – really?' 'Well yes', I replied, and looking around at the grey mistiness realised I would have to explain; 'well – at least it's not raining – or too cold!' That seemed to satisfy my interrogator and he continued on his way. But that set me thinking; what is it about Autumn that I like, after all? I love the musty smell of the damp earth, the water drips from the trees and the carpet of fallen leaves. I love that the sun, when it has the strength to shine at all, is generous with its last rays and we are all the more grateful for its gentle warmth. But most of all I think I just like the reflectiveness of the season – the end of the year approaches.

The Church has a rather odd way of measuring the year and its seasons. In the church the New Year begins at the end of November with the start of the season of Advent – all the optimism of looking forward to Christmas and celebrating birth and hope. So Autumn really is the end of the old year for Christians.

At the end of October we have the festivals of All Saints and All Souls, when we remember those who have gone before us – both the remembered saints of old and those we have known and loved. And then Remembrance, that solemn time of gratitude for those who have protected our freedom in war.

In Saint Peter's church in Stratton we have an annual All Souls' service where we remember loved ones who have died. This year it is November 3rd and all are welcome to come to this reflective service. It reminds us of our Father in heaven who calls us to a new home at the end of our lives and it is both full of the sadness of loss and gratitude to have shared our life with someone we now miss. We light candles and, importantly, we read out names of those we have loved and still love, and occasionally shed a tear, but that's okay.

And then there is Remembrance Sunday; most of the churches I look after in the Churn Valley Benefice will have a service to mark Remembrance Sunday.

In Stratton we meet at the war memorial near the cemetery at the edge of the village. There is thanksgiving for the bravery – and sadness, both at the sacrifices made by those whose names we read and at the fact that war has not ceased. It seems that the world learns very few lessons from war – except how to be more effective next time.

As we gather at War memorials up and down the benefice, along with others around the country and wider world, we maybe sing a traditional hymn and once again read out names; names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Unlike at All Souls', these are not names of people we have known personally – we are not the grieving wives and parents, though some of us may be the children and grandchildren. But as the names are read we are somehow able to picture the people, usually young men, who marched off to unknown horrors and to give their lives for our freedom. We may see the war memorial often during the year, but that poignant act of naming them out loud on Remembrance Sunday makes them more real in our minds and their sacrifice more profound.

Whenever I take a Christening service for a baby in church I like to remind the congregation that a Christening is a naming ceremony. Not that we are giving the child a name – they have already got one of those, but that we are naming them out loud before God and one another. In doing that we emphasise the importance of that individual life, what it means to us and what it means to God. God knows each one of us by name. In Isaiah 43 God says: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine". And throughout the Bible we see God calling people to serve him using their name.

Each person is precious to God, whether we celebrate their birth at Baptism, or their death at All Souls' and Remembrance. Each one is a precious life, important to God and to us. That is why we remember and that is why we name them out loud.

Whether you find us in church or meet together at the War memorial this year we would love you to join us as we gather to remember precious lives, and name them before God and each other.

Every blessing

David

Thank you

From Bagendon....

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bagendon Ride & Stride Picnic on Saturday 14th September. We welcomed twelve guests and raised £130.



If you were unable to be there on the day but would like to support the [Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust](#), I shall be delighted to receive donations for its work, which provides grants for the upkeep of our beautiful churches.

Thank you.

Pauline Farman. paolinefarman19@btinternet.com

From the Editor....

Since this will be the last edition of *Parish Link* I edit, I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone I have liaised with over the magazine during my time as Editor. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed content, particularly those of you who have sent in regular entries, to

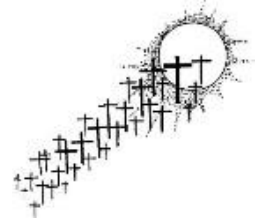
our wonderful Advertisers and Subscribers, and to those of you who have faithfully helped with the distribution of the magazine each month, venturing out all weathers! It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with *Parish Link* and to work with you all. Thank you.

Benefice News

Benefice All Souls' Service



Remembering our loved ones...
You are warmly invited to the
All Souls' Service
in St Peter's Church, Stratton
on Sunday 3rd November at 3.30pm



A chance to take a moment to remember a loved one who you have lost communally in church. A simple, quiet and peaceful occasion.

The names of those to be remembered will be read out and you will be invited to light a candle in their memory.

If there is someone you would like to have remembered during the service, please contact Revd David:

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

Benefice Advent course

We will again be holding an Advent Course in the Benefice. There will be four sessions, starting at 7:00pm, on November 11th, 18th and 25th, and December 2nd. The course is entitled "*Watch and pray*". Full details with venues and course materials will be available shortly on the [Benefice website](#). Alternatively, please contact [Mark Venn](#); T: 01285 831209.

Remembrance Services in the Benefice - 10th November



9.30 am - *Remembrance Service at Baunton*

10.15 am - *Remembrance Service at Bagendon*

10.40 am - *Remembrance Service at Stratton War Memorial*

10.45 am - *Remembrance Service at Elkstone*

10.45 am - *Remembrance Service at Rendcomb, with Rendcomb College*

10.45 am - *Remembrance Service at North Cerney*

10.45 am - *Remembrance Service at Coberley*



News from around the Benefice

Colesbourne – *Sir Henry Elwes*

The Harvest Supper at Colesbourne, organised by Amelia Elwes and Lois Bond, raised £290 for Church funds. More than 50 people attended including several new residents in the village.

North Cerney's November *Super Sunday Supper Service*



SUPER SUNDAY SUPPER SERVICE



NORTH CERNEY VILLAGE HALL 4-6PM

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER - ESTHER



CRAFT, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FROM 4 PM
STORIES, SONGS AND PRAYERS FROM 4.45 PM
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Remembrance occasion in Rendcomb



SEQUENCE OF MUSIC FOR REMEMBRANCE
Monday 11th November – 7.00pm – St Peter's Rendcomb



The Rendcomb College Music Department is pleased to advertise the annual meditative and thought-provoking *Sequence of Music and Readings for Remembrance*, held in the atmospheric flickering candlelight of St Peter's Church, Rendcomb. There will be choral and instrumental music,

interspersed with readings to mark the season of Remembrance. Free admission, and all are welcome.

Latest from Stratton

It's time to sign up for this year's Advent Journey!

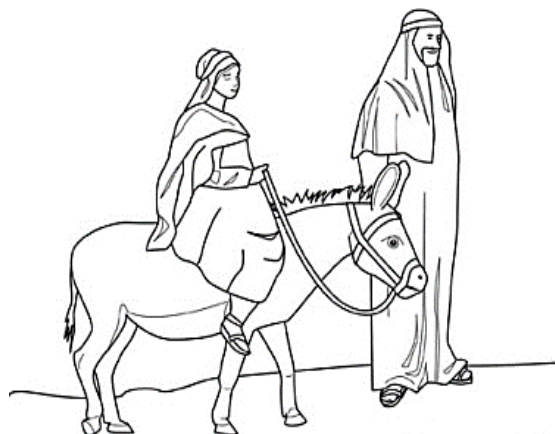
Mary and Joseph will once again set out with their donkey on their Advent Journey around Stratton, beginning at St Peter's, Stratton, on Advent Sunday, 1st December, after the 9.30am Service. The family will be welcomed into homes as well as Stratton School and other venues. As a host you will provide space in your home, overnight, for these figures, beautifully made by Chris and Ron Rodgers. You may, perhaps, light a candle (safely) and place the figures in a window to welcome the next hosts who will then take them onto a new place to rest for the night.



Following their journey throughout Advent, the Holy Family will be brought, by their final hosts, back to St Peter's for the Christmas Eve Nativity Service.

If you would like to host the Family, please email or call/message Jane Trotter: janeyt.ciren@hotmail.com; 07941 313569 or 01285 655156.

Please make contact with Jane *by Monday 18th November* if you would like to be a part of this, so that she has enough time to plan the figures' journey around Stratton! Thank you.



Schools' News

North Cerney Primary Academy

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all the children, parents and teachers who joined us for our Harvest Festival Service, which was led by the Revd David Minns at the Church. The children shared a harvest poem, sang songs and showed their harvest collage and paintings to the congregation.



Reception 2025/In-year Admissions

We have been overwhelmed with interest for our Reception September 2025 intake. However, if you would like to have a tour of our school, in relation to a child starting in September or any other year groups, please do get in touch with the school office:

T: 01285 831310

Or email: admin@northcerney.dgat.org.uk



Stratton C of E Primary School

Class 5 have had a great start to the new academic year! They are using all the Learning Gems to ensure that they are getting the most out of all their learning.

On Friday 4th October, they were delighted to be able to help with the wildflower project at St Peter's Church, Stratton. We enjoyed some beautiful weather and were supported in sowing wildflower seeds, creating bug homes and collecting materials to make nature feel welcome. Thank you so much for the help given and we are looking forward to coming back in the summer to see the growth. (Thank you also for the juice and biscuits – they were very much appreciated).



We are now looking forward to what the rest of this school year brings.....

*Many thanks to Mrs Suzanne Boston,
Deputy Headteacher and Class 5 Teacher, for this report.*

Community News and Events



Tuesday Group – Judith Wood...



Welcome to Stratton Tuesday Group!

What a fascinating talk we had on *Tuesday 1st October* by Peter Grace about the 'lost Cirencester', together with some wonderful photos.

On **5th November John Parker** will be talking to us about the history and importance of urban trees. It should be interesting to hear not only about their history but also about the part such trees have played in Mythology and Folklore. We do hope you will be able to join us on this date.

Tuesday 3rd December will be our Christmas party with mince pies, sausages rolls and mulled wine together with some mystery guests to entertain us.

Remember, everyone is welcome so do try and join us on one of these friendly community evenings.

We look forward to meeting everyone on
Tuesday 5th November
at Stratton Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Entrance is £3.00 pp

For further information, please contact:

Judith Wood: 01285 652713 or
Gill Keen: 01285 652069.

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Stratton Flaggery: Fluttering through Stratton's History

Stratton Flaggery is a community-led project which aims to celebrate Stratton's history. Everyone is welcome to join in and there are lots of ways to take part.

Download your copy of the Stratton History Trail from www.makingplace.co.uk for a self-guided walk of historic Stratton.

Saturday 2nd November: Stratton Flaggery Day

Fly a flag for Stratton outside your home or business on Flaggery Day. Enjoy a walk around our lovely place to see Stratton fluttering. We will reveal specially made flags by local makers that you can visit on Flaggery Day. Pick up a Flaggery Map from the Village Hall on 2nd November or download one from: www.makingplace.co.uk

Saturday 2nd November, 12 noon - 4pm: Flaggery Day History Display

Pop down to the Village Hall to find out more about Stratton's history & pick up a History Trail and Flaggery Map. Add your memories to our knowledge bank. Bring your photos, artifacts & tales to share with your neighbours. There will be cake! FREE, donations welcome.



To find out more: www.makingplace.co.uk/stratton-flaggery.html

A reminder also that the brand new *Cirencester History Festival* runs until 3rd November. For full details of the talks taking place in November, and to purchase tickets, go to: www.cirencesterhistoryfestival.org

Autumn



The patchwork quilt of sunlight on the lawn is paler now.
The shadows of the trees are softer too.
The golden leaves drift down, carpeting the grass.
The evenings are shorter, the mornings darker.
The days cooler, clothes warmer.



Tony Hyett

Date for the diary: Care Farm's Christmas Fair



Sign up for the Santa Fun Run in aid of *The Churn Project!*

Sunday 1st December, Abbey Grounds, Cirencester

Join us on Sunday 1st December at 10.30am and help raise money to support those most isolated, lonely or in need at Christmas.

The Churn Project is looking for people to put on their best Santa or festive costumes plus running shoes for a 5K fun run through the Abbey Grounds. Whether a seasoned runner, or just looking for some holiday



**Having fun at the
2023 Santa Fun Run!**

cheer, the event is perfect for all ages and fitness levels. There will be a 1K route around the park for younger families to take part, so no-one is left behind.

Sarah Bourne CEO of *The Churn Project* said: *"After the success of our inaugural Santa Fun Run last year we are very excited to see if we can get more people to spread some festive joy and raise funds for us. There'll be lots going on to enjoy, so we would love you to make the Santa Run your first outing of the Christmas Season."*

Entry is £6 per person running the 5K course or £6 per family for the 1K run (up to two adults plus any children). Both the 1K and 5K runs will start at 10.30am with a fun warm up session beforehand. To register go to: <https://thechurnprojectsantafunrun.eventbrite.co.uk> or email events@thechurn.org.uk

If you are a local business and would like to support the event with sponsorship and promote your business, please do get in touch with *The Churn Project* at events@thechurn.org.uk.



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"Do it Once, Do it Right"

Monthly produce market and pop-up café



Set up to provide an opportunity for local, artisan producers to sell their produce direct to the public, **Chedworth Produce Market** gives residents from Chedworth, surrounding villages, and further afield, access to a range of quality local produce, all under one roof. The market has become a regular fixture in the village calendar since it was launched in December 2022. Run from Chedworth Village hall, **every third Saturday of the month from 9am - 1pm**, it has gone from strength to strength attracting a growing number of regular producers and shoppers alike. Another popular part of the market is **The Chedworth Pop Up Café** based in the newly decorated Village Hall social room. If you would like any further information please contact: chedworthproducemarket@gmail.com

Remaining Dates for 2024 markets:

November 16th

December 21st

O R I G I N

— HEALTH —



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Local Events in Cirencester this November

*Saturday, 2 November, 10am – 3pm: **Church Tower Open Day*** – the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Market Place, Cirencester. No booking required. Donations welcome.

*Friday, 8 November, 5.30pm – 8pm: **Fireworks display at Stratton CofE Primary School***, Thessaly Road, Stratton. Gates open at 5.30pm, display starts at 6.15pm. Tickets - Adults £6 Children £4 - will be available from Stratton School, the Spar shop on the Cheltenham Road, or from *Moore Allen & Innocent*.

*Saturday, 9 November, 7.30pm – 10.15pm: **Bach and Rutter Magnificats***. In the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Market Place, Cirencester. The evening will feature the Regency Sinfonia Orchestra and Cheltenham Bach Choir with David Crown as conductor. Tickets: Adults - £20.00, students/children under 16 - £5 - available from:
<https://www.cheltenhambachchoir.com/concerts.html#november24> ;
or email: tickets@cheltenhambachchoir.com

*Saturday, 16 November: **Christmas Craft Workshops*** at the New Brewery Arts, Brewery Court, Cirencester.

*10am – 12 noon: **Make your own Chunky 10" Knitted Christmas Pudding!*** - For more details and to book your place, visit:
www.newbreweryarts.org.uk/chunky-christmas-puddings

*2pm – 4pm: **Make your own Chunky Knitted Festive Wreath*** – For further details or to reserve your place, see:
<https://www.newbreweryarts.org.uk/chunky-knitted-festive-wreath>

*Saturday, 30 November, 10am – 6pm: **Cirencester's Advent Market and Light Switch-on*** – Market Place, Cirencester. This year, rather than taking place on a stage, the Light switch-on ceremony, 3.55pm – 4.35pm, will be broadcast on three big screens located on the Market Place and West Market Place. The switch-on will be followed by a short firework display. On *Sunday 1st December* there will be a supersized Advent Market in the town, from 10am – 4pm.

Articles of the month...

Catherine Wheels and Saint Catherine of Alexandria

If you've ever had a small firework display in your garden you have probably nailed a Catherine wheel to a post in the hope that once lit it will rotate and emit starry sparks from a wonderful spiral of light. But they can be a bit temperamental!

The firework is named after St. Catherine of Alexandria from the 4th century, whose feast day is celebrated by most churches on 25th November and who was condemned to death on a wheel.

She was of noble birth and was well educated.

Around the age of 14 she converted to Christianity after a vision of the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, describing her decision as "becoming the bride of Christ". (This term is still used by Christian nuns to denote their status and by the wearing of a wedding ring; as well as the Biblical term for the whole church in the book of Revelation).

Persecutions of Christians began under the emperor Maxentius and Catherine went to him and rebuked him for his cruelty. He summoned 50 of his cleverest philosophers to argue with her but in the end it was the philosophers who converted. (They were immediately executed). He ordered her to be thrown into prison and tortured. However, many people came to visit her and were converted to Christianity.

Maxentius then tried to win her over by proposing marriage, which she refused, declaring her spouse was Jesus Christ. He was furious and condemned her to an agonising death on a spiked breaking wheel, but



Saint Catherine of Alexandria (Caravaggio)
Image from Wikipedia
'Catherine of Alexandria'

before the torture could begin the wheel shattered when she touched it. This was generally interpreted as God's intervention. Maxentius finally ordered for her to be beheaded.

Her relics were supposedly found at the foot of Mount Sinai in the year 800 and it became the site of St Catherine's monastery, a popular medieval pilgrimage site. She was deemed the most important of the virgin martyrs. Much of the story is legendary as the earliest surviving account of Catherine's life comes 600 years after her martyrdom, her symbol being the spiked wheel.

Catherine is considered to be the patron saint of students, unmarried girls and apologists, amongst others. Many places have been named after her, including Colleges in Oxford and Cambridge (the latter was founded on St Catherine's Day for a small community of scholars who would exclusively study theology and philosophy). In England 62 churches have been dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. She features in many works of art as well as being remembered during November by the firework named after her.

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Stir up Sunday!

Stir-up Sunday is the informal term in Catholic and Anglican churches for the last Sunday before the season of Advent, and falls on 24th November this year. The day does not actually get its name from 'stirring the pudding', it gets its name from the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The Collect for the day which begins with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen". It was supposed to reinforce the significance of this day as forming part of the preparation for the season of Advent. However, since Victorian times it has become associated with the lovely custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding. Most recipes for Christmas pudding require it to be cooked well in advance of Christmas and then re-heated on Christmas Day, so the Collect of the day served as a useful reminder.

The Christmas pudding is said to have been introduced to Britain by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. However, it is thought that a version of the pudding was actually introduced from Germany by George I in 1714.

Traditionally, families gather together in the kitchen to mix and steam Christmas pudding on Stir-up Sunday. Everyone takes a turn to stir the pudding mix, which is hard work.

However, nowadays most British children have never experienced stirring the Christmas pudding mix, reflecting consumers' preference for ready-made puddings, widely available in the shops.

In recent years, most provinces of the Anglican Communion now observe this Sunday as Christ the King.

*With thanks to Sally Churchus and the 'Association of Church Editors'
for these two 'Articles of the Month'.*

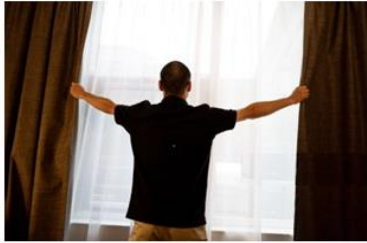


Image from Wikipedia
'Stir up Sunday'

Caring for our Environment – Tip of the month

Tip of the Month

Energy: some easy wins this winter



Draw curtains (lined) and blinds at sundown.

For more ideas, see:

www.greeningtetbury.org

Use a heated airer rather than a tumble dryer.



 **Greening Tetbury**



Use an air fryer, microwave or slow cooker.



Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service



HOME ENERGY ADVICE

If you're worried about paying your energy bills, want to know how to make your home warmer or need advice on accessing financial support, Better Housing Better Health are here to help. We're a charity working locally to improve residents' domestic warmth and wellbeing and improve the energy efficiency of your property.

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Crossword

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW105 (October 2024)

ACROSS:

1	SHAM	10	COLT	17	TWIG	23	YARD
5	PAIN	12	AFAR	18	JEER	24	HEAL
7	ARCHIVE	14	TORNADOS	19	QUIBBLED		
8	MISSILES	16	BACCARAT	22	EVIDENT		

DOWN:

1	SLIM	5	PENCHANT	13	RECURRED	20	BOTH
2	MASS	6	NEXT	15	RATLINES	21	DULL
3	SCULPTOR	9	INFLAME	18	JURY		
4	KISS	11	LEONINE	19	QUIZ		

NOVEMBER 2024 CROSSWORD: BW106 - *by Ben Woods*

CLUES ACROSS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 KITCHEN APPLIANCE (6); | 17 SCUPPER (6); |
| 4 RABBIT WARREN (6); | 19 CHILDHOOD (5); |
| 7 REMEDIES (9); | 20 PART OF THE EYE (4); |
| 9 GARDENER'S BASKET (4); | 22 FORMER INDIAN |
| 10 SECURE (4); | CURRENCY UNIT (4); |
| 11 PRECIOUS STONE (5); | 23 NINETEENTH HOLE (4, 5); |
| 13 FATED (6); | 24 GO WITHOUT FOOD (6); |
| 14 DEVICE FOR STEERING (6); | 25 ENLARGE (6). |
| 15 CRYSTALLINE MINERAL (6); | |



CLUES DOWN:

- 1 COVERED (6);
- 2 MONARCH (4);
- 3 DESTROYED (6);
- 4 AGENT (6);
- 5 RIDGE OF ROCK (4);
- 6 SEASON (6);
- 7 WORKING BY ITSELF (9);
- 8 SEDIMENTARY ROCK (9);
- 11 QUAY (5);
- 12 STAGGER (5);
- 15 DUVETS (6);
- 16 MYTHICAL UNDEAD CREATURE (6);
- 17 CARESS (6);
- 18 CURED (6);
- 21 AFFRONT (4);
- 22 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (1, 1, 1, 1)

1			2		3		4		5			6
		7								8		
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Scrubditch Care Farm - Emma Costley-White

Monthly Community Coffee

Mornings - We have made the difficult decision to stop our coffee mornings until next Spring. Hopefully once the weather improves we will get a better attendance....we have such a beautiful setting here, and love to show people what we do.

Wreath Making workshop –
*Tuesday 26th November - **Sold out!***

Christmas Fair - Saturday 7th December 10am - 1pm – Father Christmas is hoping to make an appearance again! We are making produce and gifts to sell at the Fair, alongside other locals' stalls. Do come along - it's FREE ENTRY! To all those budding local craft / food producers...if you would like a stall at our Christmas Fair we have a few spaces left. Do get in touch with us via:

info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Stalls are free, but we ask for a donation at the end of the day. We have a really good footfall, and try not to have stalls selling similar produce.

Tuesdays – For those living with / looking after someone with Alzheimer's, dementia or any

other life limiting conditions. Do come along and spend a few hours at the



Care Farm – 10am to midday. This is a gentle morning, feeding the animals, a short walk and then a cuppa. We will also be doing some craft work when the weather worsens, making things for our Christmas Fair. Do get in touch.

T: 01285 895790 or email:

info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Transition Event at National Star College – We will be taking some animals to this event on *Friday 25th October*. It's a great way to show students who are leaving the College, what we do and how we can provide activities for them on a weekly basis.

Pig news - We are on the lookout for another sow – sticking with the Oxford Sandy & Black breed – to replace Mabel. Dee Dee has been with Jack, and should be having a litter by the New Year!

Sheep news - The ewes have gone onto our lovely pasture above the Care Farm in readiness for Roger

the Ram, who will go in with them during half term.

Duckling & Hen news - Sadly, neither are laying very well any more. We are blaming the weather patterns.

Vegetables and Flowers - We are busy planting up pots with 'surprise bulbs' to sell at our Christmas Fair. They make lovely Christmas presents.

DATES FOR THE DIARY....

Half term: 28th October - 4th November

Wreath making workshop – Tuesday 26th November

Christmas Fair – Saturday 7th December, 10am – 1pm

End of Term – Friday 20th December
New Term starts – Monday 6th January 2025.

Bookings for student sessions - being taken now. Email us at: manager@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Don't forget to follow us on...

Facebook:
scrubditchcarefarm

Website:
www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Instagram: @scrubditchcarefarm



Services in November

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:

MH = Marie Hobbs: hobbsm@rendcombcollege.org.uk

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	10 th	10.15am	Remembrance (MV)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	HC [CW] (Minister tbc)

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	3 rd		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	Remembrance (DM)

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	3 rd		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	10 th	10.45	Remembrance (CP)
Sunday	17 th		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)

Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	3 rd	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	10 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	Matins (MV)
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	Matins (MV)

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	HC (JA-M)
Sunday	10 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer (MV)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	10 th	10.45am	Remembrance (JA-M)
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Service at Rendcomb</i>

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	Holy Communion (DM)
		4.00pm	<i>Super Sunday Supper Service</i> in North Cerney Village Hall (JA-M)
Sunday	10 th	10.45am	Remembrance (DM)
Sunday	17 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	Matins (MG)

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	10 th	10.45am	Remembrance with the College (MH)
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	HC (DM)

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	HC (DM)
		3.30pm	All Souls' Service (DM)
Sunday	10 th	10.40am	Remembrance at Stratton War Memorial (JM)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	<i>Big Breakfast Bash</i> – All Age – in Stratton School Hall (DM and JA-M)
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	HC (Minister tbc)

News from the Diocese

How to support your community this winter

Make a difference by donating essential items and thoughtful gifts to those in need over the coming months.

Here are some local charities that are supporting vulnerable individuals and families this winter, and they need your help through donations.

[Gloucester City Mission](#) are launching a 'Winter Warming campaign', and they are looking for the following items:

1. Refreshments (long-life milk, jars of hot chocolate and coffee, bags of sugar, cuppa soup, biscuits)
2. Male and female clothing items (specifically jogging bottoms and hoodies)

These items can be donated, in-person or via post, to either:

- Gloucester City Mission, 72 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1QN, from Monday to Thursday, 10am to 3.30pm.
- Revive Coffee House, Gloucester, GL1 1PA, from Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Cheltenham-based charity [Caring for Communities and People](#) have launched their Hamper Scamper 2024 Christmas campaign, asking for donations to provide food for families and gifts for children in need, as well as volunteers to wrap gifts and make hampers.

Visit <https://ccp-hamper-scamper.raisely.com>.

[Allsorts](#) charity, which supports disabled children and their families, have asked for donations of Christmas-themed crafts with their Craft-15 Challenge this year. They ask for handmade items made in any way you like, from knitting to woodcraft to model clay. They would like your gifts by 15 November, donated to Third Floor, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud, GL5 2BP. Visit <https://allsortsglos.org.uk/join-the-allsorts-craft-15-challenge>.

With thanks to the November 2024 edition of [The Messenger](#) from the Diocese of Gloucester.

Thank you to a loyal Subscriber

Thank you to Margaret Suggs, who recently phoned in response to Revd David's article in the October edition of *Parish Link* announcing the suspension of the magazine at the end of this year. Mrs Suggs recognised the reasons for this decision and also shared with us the striking fact that her family in Stratton have been in receipt of a Church magazine since 1939! After recently moving away from Stratton, Mrs Suggs continued to subscribe to *Parish Link*. So, thank you Mrs Suggs for the loyalty you and your family have shown towards *Parish Link*, and the Church publications which came before it!

Winstone and District WI - Elizabeth Asher

The speaker for our October meeting unfortunately had to cancel due to family circumstances and we were very lucky that Di Whitacker was able to step in at the last minute and give an amusing and witty insight into her life as a journalist and cleaner.

"Pen and Polisher".

She told how an accidental meeting in a pub led to her working for *Cotswold Life*, a family published local paper. She received £5.00 per week and had to provide all her own photos. Her first article was "Stroud against the Ring Road" and this led to many more articles covering local towns, their businesses, shops and events. This job paved the way to working for other publishers where she visited many different areas covering towns, villages etc. but now with a photographer in tow - a big jump up the ladder! She wrote longer reports - up to 5000 words - and so life progressed until the late 80s when the recession hit and work dried up. So, no job.



A neighbour, a photographer, was publishing a book about a year on the Thames and asked DI to write captions for him. This eventually evolved into writing for *Today Magazine* where she found herself at one point being whisked away in a helicopter to cover a story about crop circles, and being very air sick. So life continued in this way - doing a number mad things all in the name of journalism.

Later, whilst looking for a job, not writing, she was approached and asked if she was interested in working 2 or 3 days a week as a roving feature writer. This was in the days when computers were just coming into use and copy was still taken to the publishers in white vans, and photos were black and white. It was poorly paid but great fun.

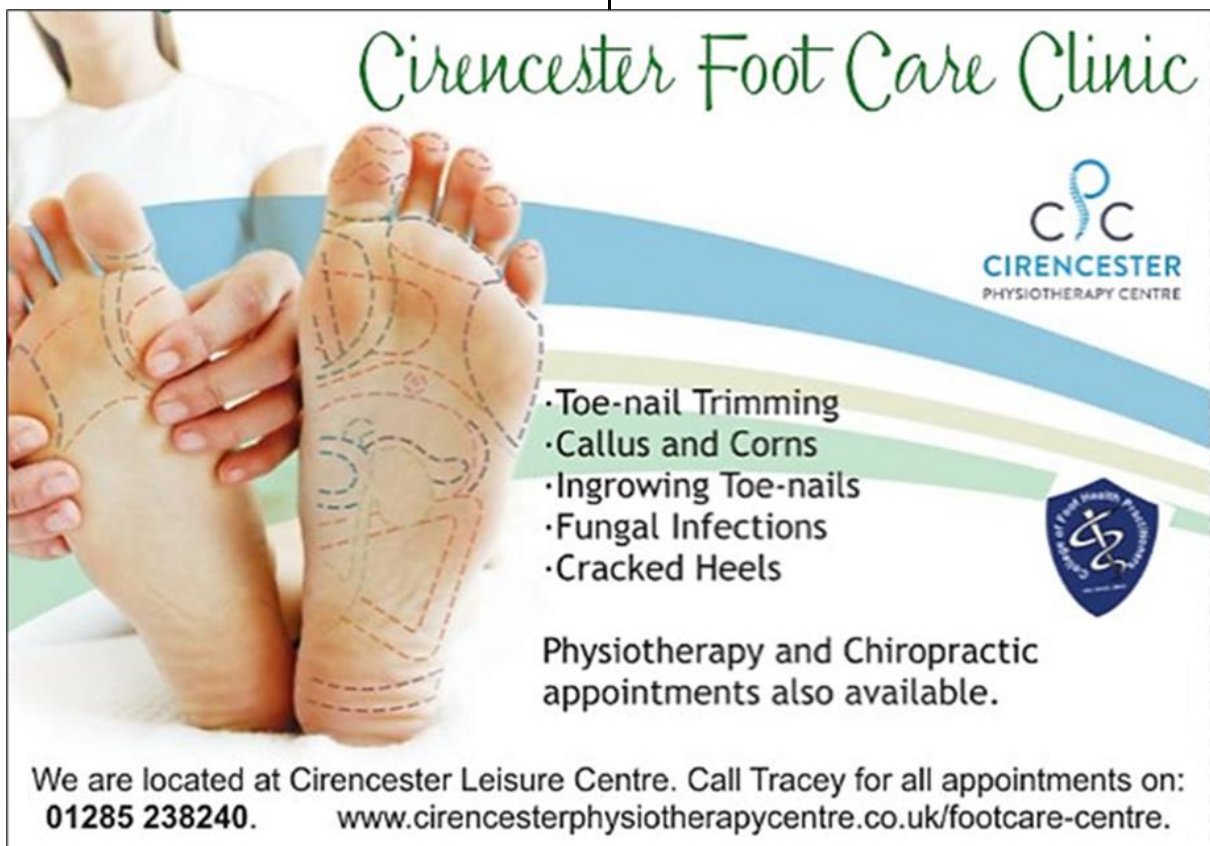
When her publisher was cutting back she was given her marching

orders and decided to write a book *"The Other Mitford Sister"*, which was based on her experiences in a cleaning job she once had. Di then explained that when her children were small she couldn't work but once helped an elderly neighbour to clean up her home after building work and stayed on as a cleaner for 12 years. The lady in question was Pamela Jackson one of the well-known Mitford sisters - the quiet one. She told us some very funny and interesting stories about her employment with Pamela, many of which are included in her book. And so the evening ended. We all thoroughly enjoyed the talk and sat with smiles on our faces

throughout. Many thanks to Di for a very entertaining evening.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm and always welcome new members. Our next meeting is the Annual Meeting and photo competition. For more information please call Chris on: 01285 821261.

Don't forget our **CHRISTMAS FAIR** on *Saturday 23rd November* between 11.00am and 3.00pm in Winstone Village Hall! There will be cake, craft and tombola stalls, a raffle and other attractions, as well as light lunches, tea, coffee and cakes.



Cirencester Foot Care Clinic

CPC
CIRENCESTER
PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE

- Toe-nail Trimming
- Callus and Corns
- Ingrowing Toe-nails
- Fungal Infections
- Cracked Heels

Physiotherapy and Chiropractic appointments also available.

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

Poem

Trees

By Sergeant Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

[*Copyright:* Joyce Kilmer, "Trees" from Poetry 2, no. 5 (August 1915): 153.]

Sergeant Joyce Kilmer was an American poet and writer, born in 1886. He wrote 'Trees' in 1913, which was later included in his 1914 collection of poems: '*Trees and other poems*'. Kilmer was killed in action at the Second Battle of the Marne in 1918, aged 31.



With thanks to Gill Clark for sending in this poem.

Photo by [Quaritsch Photography](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Directory

The Rector	The Revd David Minns	01285 655199 dlkminns@gmail.com
Associate Priests	The Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie	07821 474711 janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk
	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
	The Revd Cliff Pooley	01242 243981 cliff.pooley@btinternet.com
Readers	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
Chaplain, Rendcomb College	Marie Hobbs	hobbsm@rendcombcollege.org.uk
Benefice Administrator	Contact Revd David Minns	dlkminns@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Bagendon Alison Saunders	01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk
	Ghislaine Venn	01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton Deborah Clarke	dasabin@icloud.com
	Mark Doell	mt.doell@gmail.com
	Coberley & Cowley Beverley Ayling-Smith	baylingsmith@gmail.com
	Colesbourne Sir Henry Elwes	01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
	Elkstone Geoff Gait-Carr	07737 621120 jeffcarr53.jc@gmail.com
	North Barry Koch	01285 831017 barry.koch2022@outlook.com
	Cerney Mark Tufnell	01285 831246 mark@calmsden.com
	Rendcomb Carol Bailey	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Chris Wise	LordWise@outlook.com
	Stratton Beth Hamid	01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com
	Patrick Coleman	01285 644557 patrick.coleman@live.co.uk
PCC Secretaries	Bagendon Caryl Barefoot	carylbarefoot@icloud.com
	Baunton John Milner	01285 643731 john.milner@btinternet.com
	Coberley & Cowley Gill Clark	01242 285719 gill@hillbarnworld.co.uk
	Colesbourne <i>vacancy</i>	
	Elkstone Carole Bury	01242 870493 carolebury@hotmail.com
	Rendcomb Carol Bailey (temporary)	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Stratton Jill Ashton	jillashton13@gmail.com

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PCC Treasurers	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
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	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
	Coberley	Steve Bunker	
	Colesbourne	Sir Henry Elwes (temporary)	01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
	Cowley	Steve Bunker	
	Elkstone Rendcomb	(vacancy) Annabel Purcell	01285 831686 annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk
Organists	Stratton	Steve Bunker	
	Bagendon	Tony Hymas	01285 831728
	Stratton	Robin Baggs	07796 812945 rebaggs1@gmail.com
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	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com

PARISH LINK ENTRIES?

Do you have any news items you would like included in *Parish Link*?

Please forward any items for inclusion in the Dec 2024/Jan 2025 edition

by 15th November 2024 to: janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk

Thank you.