

The Messenger

MARCH 2024

The Parish of Dursley



**Price 60p each
£6 Annually**

The Ewelme Benefice

The parish of Dursley and the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

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We are currently in a Vacancy.

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our March edition. Plenty to read this month. And we look forward to springtime and wish you all a Very Happy and Blessed Easter.

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the 'Messenger'. If anyone else feels they could contribute, please don't hesitate to contact us.

From

Valerie and Judith (editors)

Thanks to Valerie for her painting of Primroses on the Front Cover.

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**DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2024 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 17th MARCH 2024**

**Just a reminder please send items for the magazine to
dursley.messenger@gmail.com**



David Vonberg writes...

Dear Friends

This year, the month of March contains more than its fair share of special days, starting with St David's day, moving on to St Patrick's day, leading up to the great Christian seasons of Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter.

It is instructive that the patron saints of Wales and Ireland were both great missionaries in their ways.

St David whom we remember on 1st March, was born in the 6th century. Educated in a monastery in Wales, he began to spread the Christian faith among the ordinary people in his community, and was invited to Glastonbury – not the festival, of course! – but to dedicate the Abbey there. He travelled a lot and made his way to Jerusalem bringing back a stone which is now to be found in the cathedral in the small town of St David's. He lived out his calling to a simple life by refusing all alcohol and meat, and refusing to use oxen when he was farming the land preferring to till the soil by hand. His last words were 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'

The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' - 'Do the little things' - is still well-known in Wales. What he preached was always in tune with the way he lived his life which reminds me of the life of Christ.

In the middle of March, we come to St Patrick's Day March 17th. Patrick was born at the end of the period of Roman occupation in England, and at the age of sixteen he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland and for some six years was a slave. In his own words, those six years were crucial to his Christian faith. He then managed to escape to England where he had a vision calling him back to be a missionary in Ireland. At first, he was not welcomed there but he gradually began to convert people to a Christian faith. He was not

an easy person to live with. The story goes that he refused the common courtesies of receiving gifts from kings and princes because he wanted to be under no obligation to others.

But he was also renowned as a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God was a shining example of Christian faith. He feared nothing, not even death, so complete was his trust in God, and the recognition of the importance of his mission. He remained in Ireland preaching and teaching for 40 years.

Both saints, in their very different ways lived close to the soil and yet with a vision of the holy. They recognised the inseparability of the earthly and the spiritual. There was no dichotomy between the sacred and the secular. They both pointed away from themselves to Jesus Christ and his life of forgiving, teaching and healing. For both, it is clear that Jesus' death on a cross and his resurrection were crucial to their faith in God and every part of their lives.

As we approach the season of Holy Week and Easter, it is an opportunity to remind ourselves that although there can be a temptation to divided life into holy and secular, the whole of life is holy, in that it is of concern to God. That every part of the life of each individual and each community can find healing and flourishing through the love and actions of Jesus Christ.

Now that is what I call Good News!



PASTORAL CARE

Please let Chris Raffle - left
(01453 545684 or 07517 380772), or
Revd Jane Wood - right (07983 623525)
know of those who need to be contacted or are in
hospital and we will get in touch.



March Thoughts from The Benefice Office...

by Clare White



Dwelling on the last eight months I have thought about the challenges we've had and asked God if He has asked too much of us through this vacancy?

We're told He only gives us what He knows we can cope with... hmh...

We have all been tried and tested since Canon Michael's retirement. Would it have been any easier with our Rector at the helm? Probably not, but it has meant that so many of us have had to learn new skills and find information we did not know.

Michael asked me before he left, "Did I have everything I needed"? I said "I wouldn't know until I needed it!"

How could we know that we would be faced with vandalism, the theft of the lead, the condemning of the Church and Parish Centre's heating boilers and being down to only one Churchwarden? All unforeseen problems.

When we eventually get our new Rector we will appreciate them so much. When we lose somebody/something it makes us cherish them even more. I hope we don't all stand back and expect the new Rector to just "take over", whilst we sit back and go phew!

When I've felt challenged by God it's made me ask so many questions - Why has he put this barrier in my way?

Does he really want me to love Him unconditionally?

Shall I give up? (I tried that - it didn't work!)

Does He want to hold me back? Or does He want me to recognise that maybe the way I'm going about something isn't the right way, there might be a different path to follow.

Returning to my faith has helped me want a faith so much more. It has made me think about what we say at services, why it's said and ask myself do I want to say this?

So I think that God challenging me has made me think more and not just be accepting of my Christianity. I know that what I need is thought through and these challenges are opportunities for my own growth.

In January at Revd David Vonberg's informal service we listened to a reading of the Lord's Prayer. God asked the prayer to think about what he was praying, did he really mean what he said each week? Did he

understand what he said every time? It's powerful when you stop and think about those words. Thy will be done... (see page 25,26,27)

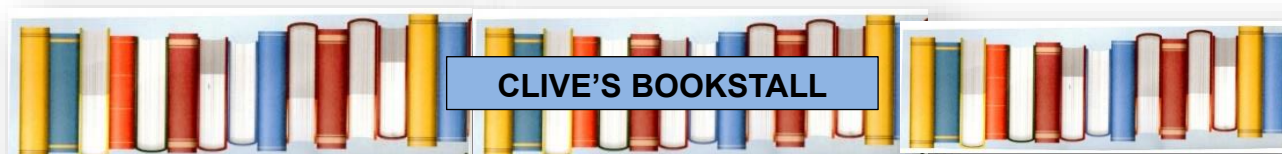
When we eventually get our new captain at the helm (aka a Benefice Rector) I am certain that we will appreciate them helping us with our ongoing challenges. As a worshipping community we will need to try very hard to support them and help them to love and serve our church, parish and local community.

Proof to our Lord that we are listening to Him, we aren't taking faith for granted or those we love around us. We can all serve one another if we listen and act when we're pushed to the limit.

Through God we will all have been saved by the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection on the third day.

Hebrews 2: 18

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.



We have taken just over £600 this year and just under £24,000 since we started.


We now have quite a following and we attract people from the surrounding area including Stroud and Quedgeley.

We are now able to accept more books and these can be left at the back of church.

With over 2,000 books to put out each week it is becoming a large task for the few volunteers we have. If anyone could help for 30 minutes on a Friday, afternoon at 4.00pm, even on an occasional basis, they would be most welcome.

People are always welcome to pop in on a Saturday morning for a coffee (and maybe stay 'til 12.00 and help pack the books away!!)




Act on poverty

Lent Course 2024

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 via Zoom**

zoom details and link on our website
www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

"Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale. This course offers valuable resources to help us make a difference by speaking out and engaging decision makers."

**TO HELP YOU
 THROUGH LENT.....**
 Via the Lent Group or
 Quiet Day


LENTEN QUIET DAY

**2nd March 2024
 10am-2pm
 Nympsfield Village Hall**

A day to rest and draw nearer to God in Stillness, Silence and Prayer
 St Bartholomew's will be open for quiet reflection.

A soup, bread and cheese lunch will be provided.
 Cost: Donations


Please sign up at the back of church or
 contact the Parish Office
ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com
 Revd Jane

All are welcome

**WE NEED YOU TO
VOLUNTEER**

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR
NEEDED**

AT

**DURSLEY C of E
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**At present Dursley Parish isn't
represented on the board of governors,
we need to recruit a volunteer.**

Do you have christian values?
Are you committed to supporting children's education?
Could you be a representative from our Christian
community?

**The role is to support the school,
teachers, children & families.**

For more information contact Clare-
ewelmebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

**At St James we need someone
who is willing to polish the
brass and silver.**



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church shine!**

Please let Clare know if you can help.
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**PLEASE
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CLARE IN THE
BENEFICE OFFICE**

A message from Bishop Rachel.....



Dear sisters and brothers

Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the Cathedral at
11am on 28 March 2024

As we journey towards Lent, I am delighted to be writing to you now to invite you to share in the Eucharist in the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday (28 March). During this service the oils will be presented and prayed over by the Bishops, and there is a re-commitment of all God's people. As part of this, the clergy also renew their ministerial vows as deacons, priests and bishops.

Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to share this invitation accordingly. Over the years this service has become a very significant celebration in the life of the diocese, attended by many. I hope you will be able to be present.

Parking - I appreciate the problems with parking in Gloucester, and I strongly encourage the sharing of cars. Westgate car park is the nearest one. There are also a very limited number of Blue Badge parking spaces at the Cathedral, which are also available on a first come, first served basis.

Lunch - After the service, there will be an opportunity for all to share a simple Lenten lunch of soup, bread and cheese in the Chapter House and Cloisters. I hope you will be able to stay, even if briefly.

A request for two more representatives from St James Church to the Wotton Deanery Synod

by David Smith.

The Wotton Deanery includes churches in the area bounded by the Severn from Chipping Sodbury to Nympsfield. The Deanery Synod meets about four times a year, usually in the Berkeley area. They discuss areas of common interest including Parish Share and how to counteract the falling numbers in most of the churches. St James is entitled to send three representatives to meetings but for the last year, due to changing circumstances, I have been the sole lay rep.

Being a Synod Rep. helps me to gain a broader picture of the work of the church in this part of the county. I report back to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and can bring the PCC's concerns to the attention of the synod. Clergy can attend the Synod by right. If you are interested in becoming a rep, please contact me and hopefully I can tell you more about what it involves.



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Hollies

An Easter message from Bishop Rachel

In January, I unintentionally sparked media interest in my criticism of major stores putting Easter eggs on the shelves during the days of Christmas. Yet as retailers lurch from mince pies to Easter eggs, I do of course want to encourage people to live and share the connection between Christmas and Easter.



As we journey towards the suffering of the cross and beyond to the joy of the empty tomb, I wonder how well we encourage people to join the dots, not simply in a story with sequential chapters but as a mystery to be entered into as we live the laughter and tears of life.

Christmas, Good Friday and Easter reveal the truth that the light of Jesus Christ cannot be overcome by the darkness, and that the love and life of God is stronger than even death itself.

Strangely, the retailers don't seem to encourage us to look beyond Easter to Ascension Day and Pentecost, yet amid the celebration and pain of life these next dates are vital landmarks as we seek to live life in all its fulness as offered us in Jesus Christ, sharing the resurrection hope of Easter through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and around us.

May our hearts be expectant and hope filled as we walk the coming days.

Bishop Robert appointed as a Deputy Lead Safeguarding Bishop

Bishop Robert's appointment as a Deputy Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England will focus on liaison with diocesan bishops on behalf of the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG).

Bishop Robert will work closely with the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Joanne Grenfell, and the National Director for Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje, to continue to develop the Church's safeguarding practices. He will also work closely with Bishop Julie Conalty, Deputy Lead Bishop who has a focus on survivor engagement.

Along with being a member of the NSSG, Bishop Robert will also sit on the National Safeguarding Panel, attend the House of Bishops and be a member of the Theology of Safeguarding Group and the Safeguarding Programme Board.

Read more: **gloucester.anglican.org/new-deputy-lead-safeguarding-bishop-appointed**

New local network for creative Christians

A social website has been created by a Gloucester-based Christian to bring together people who enjoy being creative and exploring ways that God speaks to us and reaches others through art. The Gloucestershire Christian Creative Collective (GCCC) is 'a non-denominational community for Christians who want to find new ways to spread the Gospel and celebrate the Word through creativity and collaboration'.

Read more: **gloucester.anglican.org/new-network-aims-to-bring-creative-christians-across-the-diocese-together**

Get the latest news from around the Diocese on WhatsApp

Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events, straight to your phone. Simply visit: **<https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>**

Events and training

More details for all these events at **gloucester.anglican.org/events**
Youth worship night - Trinity Cheltenham, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NW - 1 March, 7pm to 9.30pm - A collaborative youth ministry project dedicated to gathering young people from across the area of Cheltenham to worship Jesus. During the night, whether it's their first time or not, we'll help young people worship, connect with the Bible and journey into deeper faith.
gloucester.anglican.org/youth-worship-night/

A night at the opera by candlelight - Gloucester Cathedral

1 March, 7.30pm - London Concertante presents an evening at the opera with an array of opera arias and overtures, performing works from Puccini, Verdi, Rossini, and Mozart.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24

JOURNEY WITH CANCER - A personal experience *by Jennifer Kendrick*



Wishing King Charles, and all cancer sufferers, purpose and peace.

The road is one of a difficult, constantly changing landscape. From the agonies of initial diagnosis to the relief of being offered help, hope and reassurance. From galloping down a racetrack of abandoned self in perpetual turmoil to the gentle stroll through spring meadows filled with perfumed relaxation. Over hedges and ditches in a blind rush to an uncertain future and concerns regarding results of any surgery and treatment later, to say nothing of who and what will be left behind!

At worst, it is a solitary road (although you are never alone if you can pray).

At best, surrounded and supported by an army of devoted family, friends and all manner of caring people (remembering pets are comforters too!) the power of unseen resources, positive thinking and continuing prayers, sometimes from the most unexpected sources. Nothing is necessarily impossible. Set small targets. Score great goals!

At worst it is the end of life and disposal of the body shell (but everybody faces that!)

At best romance, challenge and mystery, time to spend on reflection, concentrate, and be thankful for extra time, not a sudden departure. Time to plan, share and act without waiting when the final whistle will be too late!. Time for healing and opening doors to reconciliation. The end of the journey will be an island of peace in the sea of tranquility in heaven.

Life will go on, but differently. Making memories means leaving a lasting legacy for the world to build on.

The Church of England's Prayer for Our King.

Father of mercies

grant to Charles our King

comfort and sure confidence in you,

and keep him in perpetual peace and safety,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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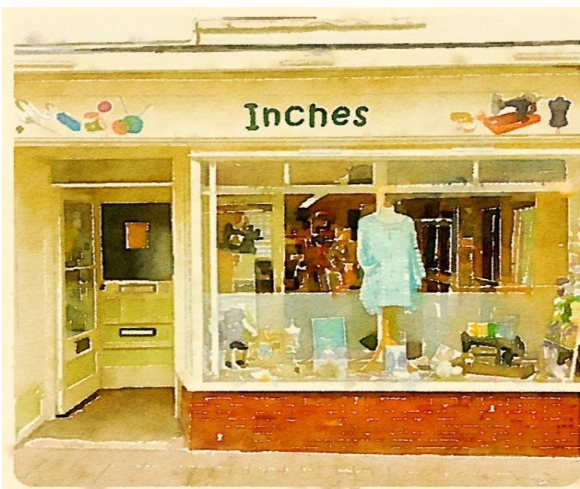
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Eco Church Update

Renewable Energy – Why is that important?

by Gill Mather



I've been thinking about renewable energy, and why this is important for helping us power the earth in a safer way.

According to the United Nations (UN), climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather patterns and temperatures. This is due to natural things including the changes in the sun's activity which can happen, as well as volcanic eruptions. However, the main driver for global warming has been down to human activity since the 1800s, and the burning of fossil fuels including coal, oil, and gas.

In 2015, all the countries the UN Climate Change Group (COP21), signed an agreement to limit their country's greenhouse emissions. The aim being to help prevent the global temperature to increase further. Countries also agreed to help one another in areas such as finance and technology. This is to help the changes needed by the whole world, be fair and equitable.

Greenhouse gases are trapped in the earth's atmosphere, where they form a blanket around the earth.



This blanket prevents heat from solar energy to escape. This is causing the earth to get warmer.

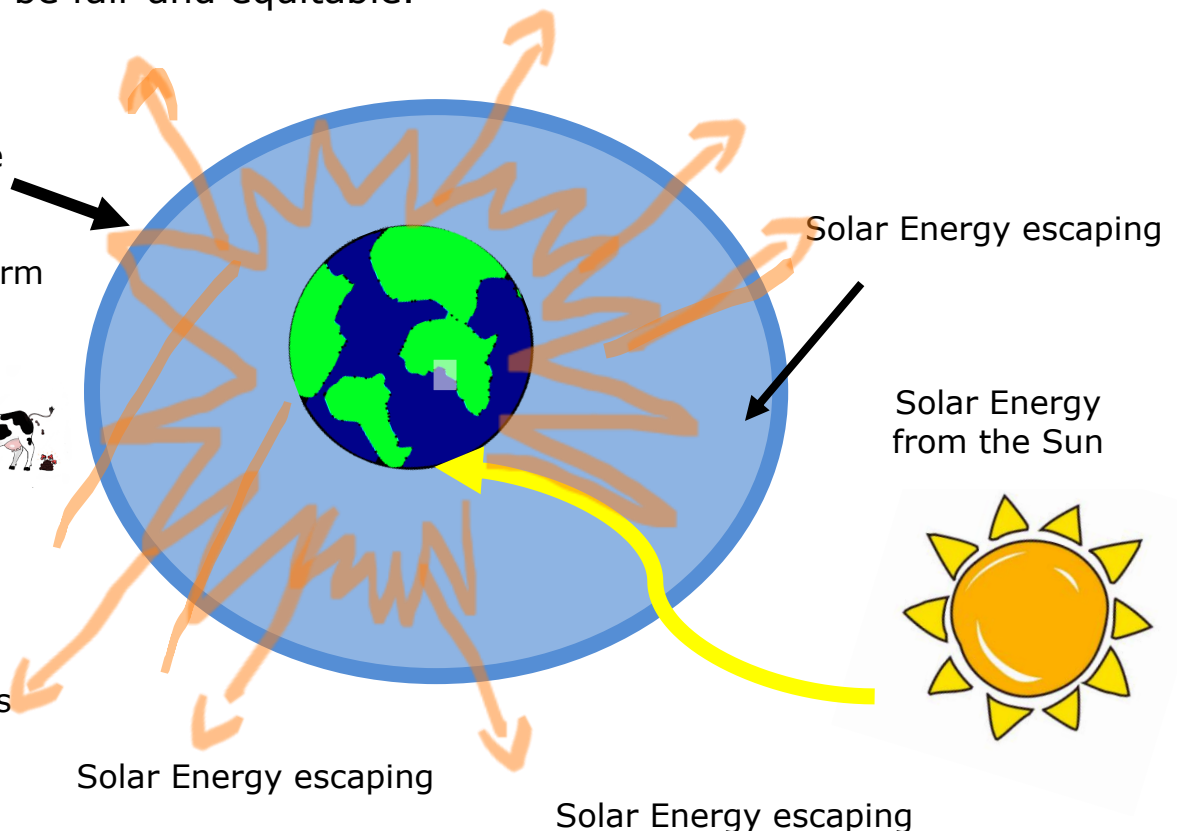


Diagram showing how greenhouse gas emissions are causing the earth to warm up

What is Net Zero?

The UN puts it simply; net zero means reducing the world's greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, and as close to zero as possible by the year 2050.

According to the National Grid website, the UK is planning to reach these goals by using electricity from renewable sources. These are ones which are natural, self-replenishing and in plentiful supply. They also have little or no harmful emissions.

Types of renewable energy include Wind Energy, Bioenergy and Solar Energy



Welsh Wind Farm



Local Cambridge Solar Farm



Gloucester Bioenergy Facility

According to YouGov.UK, in 2023, 44.5% of our energy came from renewable sources (the rest from a mixture of other types including Nuclear and Fossil fuel).

The UK does export some energy, as well as import some, depending on demand and this is an important consideration when looking at the overall picture.

Things I can consider doing which may help?

- I can check what type of energy my main energy supplier uses and use one that does come from a renewable energy source.
- Consider using solar panels or a heat source pump (A heat source pump extracts heat from the air, ground or water. This technology can be used to heat or cool a space)
- Ensure I'm living in a well-insulated home.
- Have a Smart Meter fitted to help me monitor and manage my energy usage.

With Best Wishes from Gill Mather

St James Eco Church Team member

References

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/what-are-different-types-renewable-energy>

www.YouGov.UK/media

If you would like to join and support St James Eco Church group, please email.

Gill.mather@btinternet.com

Everyone Welcome 😊

March Acrostic by Sally Hayward



March proceeds after February
Animals from Tortoises, Badgers and Hedgehogs
Reawaken from their hibernation
Clocks go forward an
Hour and our days get longer.



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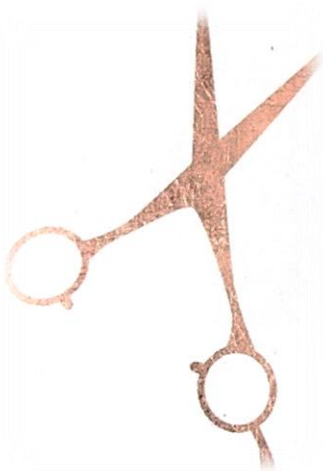


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March 2024

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Saturday 2nd March

10am-2pm Quiet day at Nympsfield Village Hall

2.15pm Music recital at St James

Sunday 3rd March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley

6pm United Lent Service at Dursley Methodist Church

Tuesday 5th March

10am Warden & Staff meeting in The Parish Centre

Wednesday 6th March

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7.30pm Lent course via Zoom

Thursday 7th March

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 9th March

9am Bring and Take event at St James

10am Mothering Sunday Posy making at St James

Sunday 10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

10am Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley

6pm United Lent Service at Dursley Methodist Church

Wednesday 13th March

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7pm Fabric and Finance meeting

7.30pm Lent course via Zoom

Thursday 14th March

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 17th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8am Said Holy Communion Service at St James, Dursley

10am Service of The Word at James

6pm United Lent Service at Dursley Methodist Church

Wednesday 20th March

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom
- 7.30pm Dursley PCC meeting
- 7.30pm Lent course via Zoom

Thursday 21st March

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

Friday 22nd March

- 9am Dursley Academy Easter Service in St James

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

- 10am Parish Holy Communion with blessing of palms at St James
- 6.30pm Passiontide Music with St James' Choir at St James.

Tuesday 26th March

- 7pm Taizé Service at Holy Cross, Owlpen

Wednesday 27th March

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 28th March

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James
- 7.30pm Agapé Communion & Watch service at St James

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

- 9am Procession to Cam Peak, meet at Sainsbury's
- 2pm Tenebrae service at St James

Saturday 30th March

- 8.30pm The Easter Vigil at St James

Sunday 31st March – Easter Day

- 8am Said Holy Communion at St James
- 10am Parish Holy Communion at St James
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James

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The Shrines at Walsingham

The Anglican Shrine – part 4

Tony King



The Shrine as originally built in 1931 consisted of the Holy House inside an outer building with the same dimensions as the Novum Opus of the original Shrine.

Increasing numbers of pilgrims were arriving. During 1935 there were 30,000 (including the first Anglican walking pilgrimage when 5 men started off from the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Hoxton, London) and it was essential to expand the facilities.

Fr Patten envisaged not only completing the Shrine Church but adding domestic buildings to accommodate a community of priests and laymen to serve the Shrine and including a substantial library, cloistered court and museum area. He planned a new pilgrims' refectory, kitchens, offices and other facilities.



Original Holy House and Surround 1931

Much of the interior painting of the Shrine Church was done by the gifted artist Enid Chadwick who came to live in Walsingham. Other artists included Lily Dagless and her brother James, who fashioned the beautiful Statue of Our Lady of Sudbury beside the Holy Well, and Sir Ninian Comper, who was commissioned to design several stained-glass windows and the altar, reredos and mandorla in the Holy House.

Outside the Shrine Church, Sir William Milner, a noted garden designer as well as an architect, created an attractive garden, which remained until a new landscaped garden was designed in 2005. Stations of the Cross were erected, with three full-size crosses on a mound and a replica of the Holy Sepulchre.

The blessing of the Shrine Church took place on the Whit Monday Bank Holiday, 6th June 1938, and was annually commemorated on that day, until in 1970 when the Bank Holiday no longer always coincided with Whit Monday.

At noon the Angelus was said in St Mary's and a procession formed, led by the Scouts, servers, and Religious men and women. Girls in white carried streamers, flowers and the banner of Our Lady of Walsingham, and these were followed by 150 Priests Associate of the Holy House and members of the Orthodox clergy. Flanking the image

of Our Lady were the Guardians and behind them Bishop O'Rourke, the architect, the wives of the Guardians and about 3,500 pilgrims led by Fr Patten.

The Bishop blessed the Shrine Church with holy water and then presided at the throne while Fr Patten sang the Mass. For the crowds outside, Fr Raybould, of St Julian's Norwich, sang the Mass simultaneously.



Completed Shrine Church 1938, showing the original Holy House roofline

Those familiar with the Shrine Church know that it is a building designed to be conducive to devotion and personal prayer, with quiet corners and small spaces. Fifteen altars dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary, and to different saints, are around it, where priests can, as they did in those days, celebrate their private Masses with perhaps a few pilgrims. A campanile was built for the carillon on which was rung the Angelus every evening as in medieval England. Its sweet sound is still heard all around the village today, playing hymns.

Friends warned Fr Patten that the Shrine Church, although it was the same size as the parish church, was too small, but funds were limited and Fr Patten was in a hurry. Events in Europe were to prove him right, for in just over a year after the Shrine Church was consecrated the country was at war, activities at Walsingham came almost to a halt, and no building could be done.

Situated just five miles from the coast, and with many military bases in Norfolk, Walsingham village became a restricted zone and pilgrimages were not permitted. Those with business were allowed to enter. So the Guardians met occasionally and the Priests Associate who came to offer the Holy Sacrifice, or to do the Chaplain's duty, could also come, but without laity.

One permitted visitor gave Fr Patten especial joy. The new Bishop of Norwich, Percy Herbert, visited the Shrine and the sisters, and attended Mass in St Mary's next morning, 'the first time since the sixteenth century that the Chief Pastor of the Diocese has visited the Shrine' as Fr Patten put it.

To be continued

I am indebted to the book 'Walsingham - Pilgrims and Pilgrimage' written by Fr. Michael Rear, for much of this information.

CULTURE AND ME *by David Vonberg.....*



Jennie Leighton, a regular member of the choir, has been busy thinking about what inspires her. Thank you Jennie

Favourite author or book. Persuasion by Jane Austen. A sharp wit, a good story and a gentle happy ending.

Reading at present. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. This is one of the books I always think I have read but probably haven't.

Book I should have read. The Hobbit, by J R R Tolkien. But I really enjoyed the excellent BBC Radio dramatisation.

Music to cheer me up. I love jazz and swing so anything sung by Clare Teal makes me smile.

Favourite piece of music. Handel's The Messiah (all of it!). I have taken part in many performances, from small chamber groups to large concert halls. It is always inspiring, thought-provoking and exciting to sing.

Favourite film. I enjoy many films but a special one for me is "The Snowman". It is the perfect blend of pictures and music, and I have many happy memories of watching it with my children and now with my grandchildren.

Favourite TV series. The original series of The Darling Buds of May, with David Jason as Pop Larkin. Amazing to realise that it was first broadcast thirty years ago.

Painting. Monet's pictures of his garden. You can almost feel the warmth of the sun and hear the soft sounds of water and bees.

Special place. This could be any Cathedral, but Gloucester is the latest one I have got to know. In a busy city there is a stillness there, with so much history and space to stop and think.

Fantasy dinner party. I would like to see friends that I have known at various significant points in my life so that we could talk and laugh together again.



Bellringingby Frank Byrne

We are to hold our AGM on Thursday 7 March 2024. This will be presided over by Rev Ian Gardner and held in the ringing room, instead of a practice. It usually takes between one and one-and-a-half hours. Outings are discussed, elections of officers done, and anything else such as finance and any maintenance required. Purchase of new bell ropes will be on the agenda. At approximately £250 each we will have to shake out the piggy bank.

We still attract visitors to our practices who are wanting to try out things they can't ring at their own towers, and experience our fine sounding ring of 8 bells, an octave, not to mention the socialising afterwards. These practices are managed by John Cole or Andy Binstead or, as a last resort, Liz Byrne. Both of our learners, Joy and Karen, are making progress and now ring on Sundays.

We don't ring as many quarter peals as we once did, lack of Evensongs means lack of opportunity. Details of one rung on Monday 12 February:

On Monday, 12 February 2024, In 50 minutes

1344 Yorkshire S Major

1 Tony Natt; 2 Catherine White-Horne; 3 Carole Bucknell; 4 Jane Spencer, 5 John Taylor; 6 Ian Bucknell; 7 Andrew Binstead; 8 Andrew Ward (Conductor)

**There will be a Quiz in the Parish centre
on Saturday 13th April from 7 pm
in aid of Julius & Dora Children's Centre.
Teams of up to 6 people, £10 per person
to include a Ploughman's supper.**

**If you would like to join a team, please let us
know.**

Bookings to chrismorgan194@btinternet.com.



MUSIC LIST FOR MARCH

3rd	am	Let all Mortal Flesh keep Silence – Bairstow Bairstow in Eb
10th	am	All Things Bright and Beautiful - Rutter Series Three Communion Service - Rutter (With the singers from Dursley Academy)
17th	am	Service of the Word
24th	am	Though I Speak with the Tongues of Men – Bairstow St Stephen Mass – Ireland
	pm	Passiontide Music with St James' Choir
31st	am	All that hath Life and Breath ("Lobgesang") – Mendelssohn Schubert in G
	pm	Now the Green Blade Riseth (Trad) Sumsion Responses Sumsion in G Te Deum in Bb – Stanford

The Lord's Prayer - *in dialogue – by author unknown.*
(David Vonberg and Chris Tyler presented this at the
January service of the Word). I remember doing this at an informal
service at St Mark's when John Hunnisett was Rector. It's worth
studying because we repeat the Lord's Prayer so regularly, and do we
ever stop and think about what it says.
I think this puts it quite powerfully...Judith

Our father who art in heaven	Yes?
Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.	But – you called me!!
Called you? No, I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our father who art in Heaven.	There - you did it again.
Did what?	Called me. You said, "our Father who art in heaven." well, here I am. What's on your mind?
But, I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.	Well, all right. Go on.
Okay, hallowed be thy name.	Hold it right there. What do you mean by that?
By what?	By "hallowed be thy name?"

It means. it means... Good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean? **It means honoured, holy, wonderful.**

Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thanks. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. **Do you really mean that?**

Sure, why not? **What are you doing about it?**

Doing? Why, nothing, I suppose. I just think it would be great if you got control of everything down here like you have up there. We're in an awful mess down here, you know. **Yes, I know... But, have I got control of you?**

Well, I go to church. **That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money - all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?**

Now hold on just a minute! Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at church! **Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.**

Oh, all right. I suppose I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others. **So could I.**

I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free. **Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together - you and me, I'm proud of you.**

Look, lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread.

I am glad you said that; I notice you are tending to eat all the wrong kinds of food.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups. **Praying is a dangerous thing. You just might get what you ask for. Remember, you called me - and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying.**

Pause

Well, go on. I'm scared too **Scared? Of what?**

I know what you'll say. **Try me.**

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What about Carol?

See?! knew it!! knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories. She never paid back the money she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

But - your prayer – what about your prayer?

I didn't – mean it. **Well, at least you're honest. But, it's quite a load carrying around all that bitterness and resentment isn't it?**

Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born. **No, you won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. You know how unhappy you are - well, I can change that.**

You can? How? **Forgive Carol. Then, I'll forgive you; and the hate and sin will be Carol's problem – not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.**

Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge, I want to be right with you... (sigh). All right... All right... I forgive her. **There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?**

Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! in fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know. **Yes, I know. But, you're not through with your prayer are you? Go on.**

Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Good! Good ! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

What do you mean by that? **You know what I mean.**

OK. I know. **Then go ahead. Finish your prayer.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Do you know what would bring me glory - what would really make me happy?

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I've really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me... How do I make you happy?

You just did!

Amen



Some thoughts for March....*by Canon Richard Morgan*

This month sees us all the way through Passiontide to Easter Day. Easter is God's verdict on Jesus' ministry and suffering, so it points back to Jesus' cross – the risen Jesus appears with the marks of the nails and the sword wound in his side. Here's a hymn that gives a metrical version of the Easter story in John's gospel that describes this:

On Easter day, in fear and gloom,
There met, locked in an upper room,
Ten friends of Jesus, in their grief,
Imprisoned by their unbelief.

Jesus appeared and gave them peace,
From guilt and terror brought release,
He showed his hands and wounded side,
And, 'Peace to you,' again he cried.

He gave to them the Father's call,
He breathed God's Spirit on them all,
So they could do as he had done,
- Offer God's peace to everyone.

But one friend, Thomas, was away,
And when he heard the others say,
With joy, 'We've seen our risen Lord!'
He said, 'I can't believe a word!'

'I'd need to see and touch and feel
His wounds to think that he was real,
To touch his hands and side,' he said,
'To trust he's risen from the dead.'

Jesus said, 'Thomas, see my hands,
Now put your finger in their wounds,
And place your hand within my side.'
'My Lord and God!' glad Thomas cried.

'Those who don't see and touch like you,
And yet whose faith in me is true:
They shall be blessed,' said Christ, 'by me,
And share my life eternally.'

The resurrection story deals with doubts, doubts about Jesus. But it and the passion tackle too our doubts about God.

Some think that not believing in God is a cheerful option. But if there is no God, then the ultimate reality for us is death. God in Jesus takes on and displays to us the sufferings of life, and the challenge death poses to all meaning. If love is our meaning, then there must be a happy ending not just for those who live comfortably to a good old age, but for those who died young, those whose whole life was marked by suffering. God in Christ takes on the suffering to bring us through it to eternal life and love.

We may sometimes feel that evil challenges any belief in God, in a truly good and loving source and goal of creation. But the very fact that we think evil and suffering are a problem, not just to us but in themselves, only makes sense if we realise that ultimately life and love should be the base and ultimate reality of all things. And that is what is meant by God. If God just watches life's evils, then God would not be fully love. But God takes the evils on, taking responsibility for them and showing this by bearing them, sharing in them. That shows the true goodness, wisdom and greatness of God. So here's another hymn, based on 1 Corinthians 1, in which we can sing and celebrate the cross as God's love and wisdom which leads to resurrection and the true triumph of life.

God's wisdom shines out from Christ's cross,
where Jesus shared creation's loss,
and, bearing our mortality,
shared with us God's eternity.

This foolishness of God is wise,
and overcomes pride's crafty lies,
this weakness of our God is strong,
and overcomes the power of wrong.

The cross was made God's chosen place,
to pour infinite streams of grace
to wash away the vanity
which rends our world with enmity.

God's flow of freely given love
brings freedom, holiness and truth,
and, washing out pride's deadly strife,
brings peace and everlasting life.

To you, Most Holy Trinity,
all praise and thanks for ever be,
for by the cross of Christ you won
our union with you through the Son.

LIFE GOES ON THE SAME BUT DIFFERENTLY.

.....Jennifer Kendrick



I have never kept a detailed diary, but have always made mental notes and there are umpteen scribbled pages lurking in tatty boxes with no recognisable sequence awaiting a fate!!. Too precious to dispose of and too demanding to organise in to any sort of system, they stay!

Of one thing I am certain with only my memory to jog, is every Christmas in my 87 years on earth have been different. The early ones, of course I rely on other's recollections, but I know the war made uncertainty real and preparations last minute! I vividly remember being about 4 years old, with my grandma in her garden shed, learning to pluck and prepare one of her chickens for the feast! Words like gizzard and crop were fascinating as was the parson's nose, and the fact that attention to detail about "drawing the bird" had nothing to do with pencil and paper had my whole attention. I happily followed her instructions without any qualms, but great joy. Dinner was yummy.

One year, my beloved father, on embarkation leave before being shipped off to foreign parts, was laid low with an acute attack of Shingles and spent the precious time isolated in bed, whilst I was inconsolable with grief. Even my grandma's untethered bosom and elastic arms were not a huge comfort, as she sang to me and we made pretty things from her bag of odds and ends!

Much later, as a student nurse, in the 1950s I recall the hospital slowing down for the festive few days. Visitors were strictly limited as usual, so we performed a pantomime and sang carols round the wards and the senior consultant carved the turkey as if he were operating! Great fun.

Like most families, when our children were teenagers, communication was often limited to a grunt, or a request or maybe the odd hug for us parents clumsily navigating our way through the chaos of changing scenes as the world chased on! There was no social media and mobile phones did not exist in the 1970s, so a lot was left unsaid or assumed to be absolutely routine and relatively reliable according to parents' predictions. I presumed we would all be at home for Christmas and prepared accordingly, so was astonished to discover that they all had different plans! That was hard but we survived and they were equally shocked in February to discover their father and I would be spending the following Christmas across the sea in Southern Ireland!

The last thirty years have seen huge changes in my life and challenges no greater than how to cope with Christmas. I have no problems as a solo survivor for the rest of the year so made up my mind to find solutions that suited me and have, on the whole happily succeeded. Everything, from experiencing tropical Africa, Australia adventures with my daughter, remote retreat in Devon, and at home with my very dear friend when we enjoyed being Hinge and Bracket! France where my brother lived, in Provence when the language, steeped in local dialect was impossible for me to understand! A Christmas Day cycling round Birmingham city streets, sitting in the park, walking along the canal, joining in an impromptu football game with wonderfully engaging teenage lads was special until I went home to an empty, but warm and welcoming house as darkness fell! An arresting reminder that has since stood me in good stead about my blessings. The following Christmas I spent staying in a motel, on a busy motorway roundabout, within walking distance of a pub that did yummy grub and was not far from Lichfield Cathedral and the National Arboretum! All needs and eventualities catered for!!

I approached 2023 Christmas with positive thinking and gently but firmly declared all my efforts would be aimed at a different form of gifting! No stressing about cards or presents, but a list of phone calls to genuinely catch up for happy talk worked well. I chose to donate to charities where I could be sure my money went directly to the need! My reluctance to tackle new nobs and buttons and systems on line was abated a little bit so I managed to talk on line to my offspring around the world. Churches Together, as promised, delivered my dinner which was delicious and opening the accompanying goody bag, I felt like a little child with a stocking. All good!

So why, in the New Year did I have a wobble? Warm house, good health, food, friends, future plans for exciting little escapades away as well as arranging a long overdue Spring clean in my beloved home!! I have it all.

Careful thought and prayer have been helpful in clearing the cluttered attic of my muddled mind!

I have lost count of how many of my contemporaries, relatives and close friends have died in the last 18 months, leaving gaps that are impossible to fill. One in particular, exactly the same age, I had known for ever: though geographically distant since leaving home, our lives followed almost identical paths. Mid-life both divorced, we were next door neighbours for 5 years before family commitments caused her to move, but not too far. We kept in touch and often holidayed together and I was with her when the Pandemic landed so for four months without fear or favour, we lived together. We always had fun,

and our last outing together (her daughter pushing her in a wheel chair and me bringing up the rear with my trusty four wheel walker!) was a shopping spree when we both bought outrageous fleeces which made us giggle like school girls! A few days later she died! A good death without suffering at the end of a long life. No problem.

Life goes on but differently and we must go on too, constantly adjusting, making allowances, finding solutions, giving thanks, and most importantly being prepared to accept change and sharing how we feel and who we are. My faith tells me that God will be there too!

Photo shows my special Father Christmases 2023 in their very special rescue outfits bought with my donation to Severn Area Rescue Association based at Sharpness Docks and Chepstow.





MOUSE DIARY

Mr Dinosaur was grumbling a bit as he was rather feeling the cold in his extremities living as he does just outside the church porch door. Its a Deepening Depression Descending over Dursley if you ask me, he said, looking discouragingly in the direction of the Great North Wind Winding its Way over the Stinchcombe Tops. Then there was a deafening silence. And another one. It's because, said Mr Dinosaur, MBFTLP has gone on a sabbatical, and so we have to look after ourselves for the time being. I popped my head around the church door at this point. Yes, it's a bit nippy if you ask me, and by the way, where is MBFTLP? Just a chance, said Mr Dinosaur, that she has run off with that dishy professor on the TV. The one who goes on about stars, the milky way, and galaxies, and light years. All very picturesque. More than enough to turn a girl's head I would have thought. Or maybe she has gone to visit the Easter Bunny so that they can make arrangements for the visitation by him and all His Friends and Relations. Oh what a business, I said, I have more than enough trouble with Freddie as it is. Especially when we went to Sainsbury's before Christmas. Well, I suppose, said Mr Dinosaur, you could take him to Lidl instead. Also when it comes to harvest time we could drop a few hints and say could he possibly manage to catch the number 65 bus out towards Berkeley and find a nice field for the purposes of permanent habitation. Perhaps MBFTLP will be back by then and can sort things out for us. Ummm, said Mr Dinosaur. I think I made a mistake in not asking Father Christmas for some mittens. My extremities are a trifle troubled in the temperature department. Well I said, when MBFTLP is back from her intergalactic adventures, she must be feeling warmer and more disposed to dealing with the Deepening Depressions Descending over Dursley in good spirit. Aimiee popped up too: "oh la la, cest la vie".

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley
(somewhere warmer in intergalactic space)



Holy Week Worship 2024

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

St James

10am Holy Communion, Parish Centre for blessing of palms

St Giles

9.30am Blessing of Palms

10.00am Parish Holy Communion

Monday 26th March

St James

7pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 26th March

Holy Cross

7.00pm Taizé Worship

Thursday 28th March

St James

7.30pm Benefice Agapé and Watch Service

Friday 29th March

St James

2pm Tenebrae Service

St Bartholomew's

3.00pm Good Friday Service

Saturday 30th March

St James

8.30pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st March - Easter Day

St James

8am Said Holy Communion

10am Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

St Giles

10.00am Parish Holy Communion



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Years mind in March

Gladys Gabb 1988, Frank Newman 1996, Dorothy Bidwell 2005, Harry Phillips 1996, Charles Pearson, Donald Hollins 2013, Bernard Brown 2009, Sybil Cook 2011, Audrey Durn 2018, Lester Newman 2018, Dorothy Edwards 2005, Phyllis Wilce 2006, Joan Haines 2017, John Swann 2020, Rowan Burton, Stella Cocke 2002, Dorothy Workman (Chick) 2002, Leslie Haynes 2012, Albert Wareham 1980, Terry Bloodworth 2019, Kenneth Savage 2020, Paul Kent 2008, Harry Stanley 2016, John Goodison 2016, John Iwanczuk 2015, Bob Clegg 2009, Glenys Jeans 2016, Susanne Thompson 2018, Sylvia Wilson 2016, Hubert Cuff 1965, Sidney Bloodworth 2002, Rose Sharp 2021, Hilda Mack 2006, Bernard Snow 2004, Rachel Wheeler 2015, Kevin Pagett 2021, Betty Large, Sarah Hill 2001, Beryl Burton 2019, John Sirett 2015, Vera Mills 2013, Joan Goulding, Sarah Lloyd, William Boyles 2006, Brian Burton 2020, Victor Moon, Ken Griffiths 2017, Clifford Hopkins 1971.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



FUNERAL.

We share our thoughts and prayers with the families of those who mourn the loss of those they love. From the registers...

9th February Romala Vaisey's Funeral at St James.

Banns of marriage read at St James

Thomas Lee & Beatrice Debney

FLOWER ROTA FOR EASTER

March 31st & April 7th

High Altar	Cynthia Martin
Tanner Chapel	Margaret Lloyd
Lady Chapel	Clare White
Pulpit	Anthea Fittall
Font	Anne Shipton
Nave Pillar	Chris Raffle
Hymnbook chest	Kate Sant
Porch	Sheila Gardner



100 CLUB

100 club draws for January & February 2024.

January

- 1st - 183 - John Ewer
- 2nd - 191 - Rachel Tyler
- 3rd - 197 - Isabella Rea

February

- 1st - 110 - Kathy Rebbeck
- 2nd - 189 - Jean Baldwin
- 3rd - 101- Shelia Gardner

Sarah says many thanks to all members old and new.

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email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com

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TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

Clare White Tel: 549280

E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS

Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 543536.

100 CLUB

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155



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