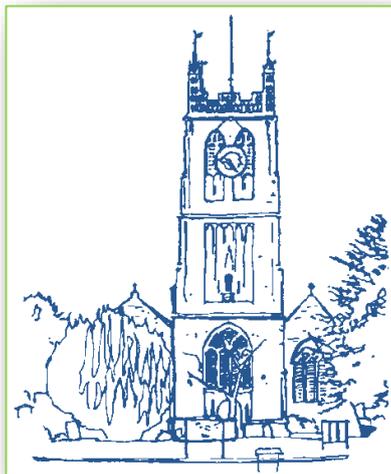


St. James's, Dursley & St. Mark's, Woodmancote



The Messenger

FEBRUARY

2022

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The parish of Dursley and the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nymphsfield
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FEBRUARY



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Message from the editors:

Thank you for articles and photos sent in. It is much appreciated.
Any opinions expressed in the magazine are personal views only.

Judith and Valerie

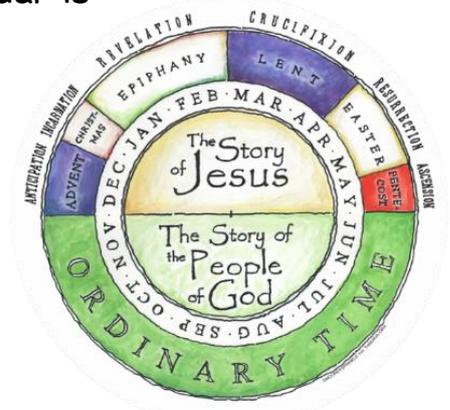
**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2022 ISSUE IS
SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2022**



Dear Friends

I remember when I was going through the discernment process for ordination, the Vocations Officer asked me whether my church celebrated the Church Seasons? I remember feeling embarrassed by my lack of knowledge but over the years I have grown to embrace the changing Church Seasons.

For those who are also unsure, the church calendar is comprised of seasons that follow the life of Jesus. Some Christian churches use the 'liturgical colours' for these seasons, purple, green, gold (or white) and red are used for the altar, clergy robes and hangings. Each colour reflects a season, The Church year begins with Advent, a time of preparation for Jesus' birth and purple, the colour of royalty is used, as we prepare to welcome the coming King. Purple is also used in Lent, symbolising suffering and pain.



At Christmas and Easter, the bright optimistic colours of white or gold signify these joyful celebrations. Red, the colour of fire, represents Pentecost and saints' days.

Between the festivals, green symbolises all living things, the renewal and promise of new life, known as 'Ordinary Time.'

Over the years I have found the Seasons, anchor and ground me in something bigger than my life events or those of the unpredictable world around me. Somehow, holding me reassuringly within God's overarching story.

This year on February 2nd, we celebrate the festival of Candlemas, when Christ is presented at the Temple. It is a pivotal point in the Church year, looking back with joy of Christ's coming among us at Christmas and looking ahead to Lent and the coming of his passion and death. It is in their old age; the Gospel of Luke tells us. that Simeon and Anna recognise the baby Jesus as the long waited for Messiah.

After this celebration, we return to ordinary time.

Ordinary time is never just that! It struck me that as we begin ordinary time this year, we will celebrate, on the 6th of February, the accession to the throne, 70 years ago of Queen Elizabeth. I find it hard to imagine how the sense of duty imposed on the Queen at 21 must have felt to her and her young husband, so early in their marriage.

Speaking from South Africa the Queen famously said

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.'

Luke tells us how Anna, is a widow of advancing years waited faithfully for a lifetime with Simeon in the Temple, for the coming Messiah, the salvation of God and the fulfilment of God's promises, revealed in a fragile baby.

Anna the patient, committed servant and faithful witness of the Lord.

On the 70th anniversary of The Queen's accession, her promise to commitment to and service have certainly also been wonderfully fulfilled.

In 2012, The Queen visited Archbishop Rowan Williams at Lambeth Palace and met the representatives of nine living faith communities, she spoke of the importance of service, and reminded her hearers that 'religious groups remind us of the responsibilities we have beyond ourselves.'

Over time, attitudes have changed and diversified towards religion but still the will to serve remains and Queen Elizabeth II models a life of service and faithfulness, in a life lived out for others.

As we remember her accession seventy years ago, let's give thanks to God for the Queen's long service, her dedication, steadfast faith, and faithful Christian witness among us, through every season, ordinary and extraordinary.

With love

Revd Jane

Our Benefice Administrator

would like to draw your attention to our new Instagram Account and updated Twitter account, details of which you will find on the back cover....



Services in February across the Ewelme Benefice

Sunday 6th February - 4th Sunday before Lent

St James 10am Parish Communion
St Bartholomew's 10am Parish Communion

Sunday 13th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

St James 10am Parish Communion
St Giles 10am Parish Communion
St James 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 20th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

St James 8am Holy Communion
St Giles 10am Parish Communion
St Mark's 10.30am Service of the Word

Sunday 27th February - Sunday before Lent

St James 10am Parish Communion
Holy Cross 10am BCP Holy Communion

Wednesday 2nd March - ASH WEDNESDAY

St Giles 1200 Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
St James 7.30pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

Drawing nearer to God - March 5th

A quiet day for the whole benefice and beyond.

Over the past weeks there has been concern over the wisdom of holding this day at St James, Dursley due to Covid-19 restrictions, but in consultation with Canon Michael, the preparation group feels that with numbers of those infected reducing all the time, we can go ahead on that day, rather than delay it which would have brought many other attendant issues.

We assure you that we will do everything we can to make the day as safe as possible. The leaflet about the day will be in our churches by 1st February.

We hope that it will be a day of and insight for us all as we begin the Lenten period.

But please be in touch if you have any queries.

Chris Morgan, or David Vonberg.



Lent begins on 2nd March

As Easter falls later in April this year, we start Lent a little later at the beginning of March. We will publish more details about the different ways in which we can keep Lent, including study groups, Lent reading and Lent services. The Churches Together evening Lent services will take place at 6pm on the five Sundays of Lent starting on 6th March.

Welcome to Toni Holford-Wright

Following the retirement at Christmas of Paul Daniels, in January we welcomed Mrs Toni Holford-Wright to her new post as Principal of Dursley C of E Primary Academy. Toni has come from a school in Marlborough and looks forward to building on the strong links that already exist between the local Church and the Academy. There was an opportunity to say an emotional farewell to Paul in St James on the 17th December when the whole Academy gathered for the Christmas Service. Thanks were given to Paul on behalf of the PCC and church family in appreciation of the outstanding work he had done during his time as Principal.



Prayer Group...

The Prayer Group in the Omega Rooms at
St Mark's
at 2.30pm
on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next one will be 2nd February 2022.

A Warm Welcome awaits.....



Canon Richard says.....

Ordinary Time

Easter is late this year – 17th April. So Lent begins late too – 2nd March. So after Candlemass – 2nd February - the rest of February these days is called 'Ordinary Time,' a time that belongs to no special season.

After nearly two years of the sad oddities of Covid, we may appreciate and long for ordinary time! It would be a great lesson to learn to appreciate the ordinary, the usual: family, friendship, decent food and drink, a job of work – or retirement –, nature's beautiful surroundings – for us the woods and Cotswold slopes and tops, the vale and Severn in it, and the Forest of Dean and Welsh Mountains in the distance.

Surely, in the light of the incarnation of the Son of God, and his dying, rising, ascension and sending of the Holy Spirit, in a way no time is ordinary in the sense of insignificant, unimportant. God is with us. God cares for us and the creation.

So here's a hymn [based on one by Diane Davis Andrew with her chorus] that gives thanks to God for the ordinary, the basic things of life

1. Thank you, Lord, for this fine day,
for time to work and time to play,
time to give thanks and time to pray,
right where we are.

Chorus:

*Alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, praise the Lord,
right where we are.*

2. Thank you, Lord for families,
fields, meadows, streams, and flowers and trees,
for animals and birds and bees,
right where we are.

Chorus:

3. Thank you, Lord, for food and drink,
the cooker and the kitchen sink,
eyes, ears, nose, mouth, touch, minds to think,
right where we are.

Chorus:

4. Thank you, Lord, for home and friends,
thanks for your love which never ends,
that made us, cares, guides, helps and mends,
right where we are.

Chorus:

Greetings from St Mark's

Dear Friends

We kicked off 2022 with our now traditional Epiphany Carol Service on the 9th January at 4pm.



Some of you may wonder why we have an Epiphany Carol service and not a Christmas version. Well back in the late 1980's when the Revd John Hunnisett was Rector of Dursley he didn't want Christmas Carol services all through December because to fit them in we would be singing all through Advent and so when the Mothers' Union requested their usual service (in St Mark's in December) he wouldn't allow it but instead he thought it a good idea to have an Epiphany Carol service on a Sunday afternoon in Epiphany season. I have to say there are some lovely Epiphany Carols and the choir always sing them beautifully. This year, due to the blessed virus, we couldn't offer our usual refreshments, which, although it is somewhat hectic (for us), I know people do enjoy a cuppa and a chat. Nevertheless, there was a warm atmosphere which carried over to the following Sunday when we welcomed Paula Rix our Reader to take the service of the Word. I say warm as it was so nearly cold when the boiler played up, yet again, during the week! But D A Cook's man appeared on Saturday morning and all was well again.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Rita Hill and Marion Padgett.

Our next service will be Sunday 20th February which is the 2nd Sunday before Lent at 10.30am and again is a Service of the Word.

Please do join us and there will be a warm welcome from the congregation if not from the boiler.

With all Best wishes

From Judith



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

The Queen celebrates her Platinum Anniversary.....



On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

In addition, initiatives including The Queen's Green Canopy and the Platinum Pudding competition will create a lasting reminder of The Queen's Jubilee, while The Queen's private estates will also join in with special Jubilee themed events offering more opportunities for members of the public to celebrate the historic milestone.

Thursday 2nd June

The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour): Over 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional Parade to mark The Queen's official birthday, usually held on the second Saturday in June.

Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Tickets for this incredible spectacular are available to the public and applications for the ballot are open until the end of February. Please visit qbp.army.mod.uk from the week commencing 17 January 2022 to apply.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

For the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Principal beacon will be lit in a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Friday 3rd June

Service of Thanksgiving: A Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign will be held at St Paul's Cathedral. Further events will be announced in due course.

Saturday 4th June

The Derby at Epsom Downs: Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

Platinum Party at the Palace: The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace that will bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment stars to celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from The Queen's seven decade reign. Members of the public will be invited to apply to attend this special event and details of the ballot for UK residents to secure audience tickets will be released in February.

Sunday 5th June

The Big Jubilee Lunch: Every year since the idea began in 2009 The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.

People are invited to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small - street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbeque. The Big Lunch provides tips and ideas for hosting an event. Over 1400 people have registered to host Big Jubilee Lunches so far, with events being planned across the length and breadth of the country.

The Platinum Jubilee Pageant: Artistic performers, dancers, musicians, military personnel, key workers and volunteers will unite to tell the story of The Queen's 70 year reign in an awe-inspiring festival of creativity. The London based Pageant will combine pomp and ceremony, street arts, theatre, music, circus, costumes as well as cutting-edge visual technology, drawing on talent from every part of the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth.

Forming an important part of the Platinum Pageant, the 'River of Hope' section will comprise of two hundred silk flags which will

process down The Mall, appearing like a moving river. Primary and secondary school children are invited to create a picture of their hopes and aspirations for the planet over the next 70 years. A selection of these creations will be transferred on to silk flags, which will be carried by secondary school pupils in the Pageant.

Editor's note: at the time of going to press the PCC are considering how we can celebrate the Jubilee locally.

Bellringing

Christmas and New Year ringing was almost back to pre-pandemic times. We rang for Christmas Eve Midnight Service and on Christmas morning, but with only 5 ringers. Then on 26 December for Benefice Communion service at 10am, we only had 3 ringers, ringing Three Blind Mice. We then rang the Old Year out and the New Year in when we had 8 ringers. As is our custom the old year was rung out by a diminishing number of bells ringing until just the tenor (deepest note) is left to ring 12 blows finishing at exactly midnight; or that is the intent, immediately after which all 8 bells ring out to welcome in the New Year.



On Sunday, 6 February beginning at 3:00 pm a full peal will be attempted in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee marking a 70-year reign. If successful it will finish around 6:30 pm. Many peals will be attempted in celebration throughout this country and in other former colonies and present Commonwealth countries as well.

We read that there is a huge contrast in ringing at the moment. Some bands are ringing 'normally' while others are still affected by restrictions and some are only just ringing for the first time since March 2020. We are still being affected in numbers by some ringers not wishing to ring in masks or still very hesitant at mixing in small spaces. One of our regular visitors has a CO2 monitor which we use to check the levels during practices and for Service ringing. As of yet, CO2 levels have not gone into the 'red' zone.

Frank Byrne

DOT AND CARRION by Jennifer Kendrick.

An open letter of assurance that there is life after 80 years have passed into unrecorded history.

Dear All,

Just a note to say that Dot and I are enjoying life, suitably equipped and quite settled, learning new skills for daily living, since we have relocated! We each have a quiet space to retire to, to chew the cud if needs be, and our favourite armchairs in the sitting room are havens of rest for nana naps when we are exhausted for whatever reason! Cooking is a joint effort as are the most essential domestic chores, and we are very particular about keeping our pharmaceutical supplies completely separate as our needs are contrary! Uppers and downers do such different things!

Port is dispensed in tumblers just for ease of handling and strictly limited to late afternoon when the sun is well over the yard arm! Other drinks are available! Water is quite palatable I find!

It was my turn to get a lift to the surgery yesterday, cost £1.00 with a very kind gentleman who could actually drive, which was a relief. A journey with Daisy Wheels fills me with such anxiety, I think I might die en route which seems such a performance and a woeful waste of a precious appointment!

Mercifully the Doctor is sure gangrene is no longer a suspect so the mega pills must be working, although my toe still looks very poorly. I really can't let Dot have all the attention so I look forward to another consultation sometime soon! The nurse was very pretty!

Our daily routine is gentle though riotous when the going gets tough, and occasionally shouting is essential to get one's message across! It's just as well our unit is detached otherwise the neighbours could be concerned enough to complain, or anxious to see us installed in the nearby funny farm and contained for our own safety and their peace of mind.

Oops, Dot is singing to her porridge so I'd best check to make sure she puts it in her mouth, and not under the cushion for later!

I will call again later in the week to see how you are and hear all your news.

Best wishes and love from us both

Carrion.



MUSIC NOTES

February 2022

It seems a long time ago since Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, but I would like to thank the members of the choir for their singing at our three Carol Services. As always, everyone gave of their best and the results were most pleasing. Indeed, it must be said that after a near eighteen month break from singing, our choir is in remarkably good voice.

Talking to various organist friends, it seems that the "traditional" church choir is becoming something of a rarity. Many churches no longer have choirs which rehearse during the week and sing each Sunday. Instead they pull together a group of singers for a few rehearsals for "special occasions" like Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

I was always brought up to understand that all worship in church is "special", no matter what the occasion, or however many people are in attendance. While it's relatively easy to bring in "extras" (or, as one member of our choir famously called such people, "consultants"!), the whole point of a church choir is to build a repertoire and enjoy singing together for the best of reasons. Of course membership of a church choir is demanding in all sorts of ways, especially in a society which treats Sunday as a second Saturday! However, the rewards of being part of such an organisation far outweigh the demands.

Unlike a choral society, or a stand-alone secular group like a Community Choir, we charge no subscription; sing for over 50 services each year; and have the benefit of frequent performance in a repertoire which stretches from the polyphony of Palestrina and Byrd right up to the present day including, in St James' church, music especially written for our choir.

At St James' church the robed choir can trace its roots back to the nineteenth century Oxford Movement when the organ moved from the west gallery to the newly built chancel in 1867. In 1888 the new organ was installed when the Organist and Choirmaster was Mr Talboys, the Headmaster of the church school (now the Parish Centre). He made sure that there was no shortage of boys for the church choir and the all-male choral tradition, enhanced by Cecil Adams, lasted nearly 100 years until it became difficult to recruit boys to sing the treble line.

Today St James' choir is a mixed, all-age, all-ability (music, that is!) group of amazing people from all sorts of different backgrounds who are

bound together by a common purpose; to enhance our corporate worship with the best possible music. **But if we are to sustain and develop our present position, we need more singers!**

Why not give choir membership a try for 2022; or if you know someone who might be interested please pass on their details to David Wood (01453 545079) or me (01454 416867). Enthusiasm, a good sense of humour and the ability to "hold a tune" are the only requirements. Traditional church choirs are rapidly disappearing, and St James' is one of few left in this area. It's worth preserving!

Our congratulations to Léonie Northcott (alto) on her engagement to the Rev'd David Sutcliffe (a Baptist Minister in Coventry) with the wedding planned later in the year in her native Dorset.

It was good to have Peter Kirvan singing with us again at the Epiphany Carol Service.
Nigel Davies

Music for February

6th	am	Vox Christi – Wilby	
		Mass of the Creator – Sanders	
13th	am	Lead us Heavenly Father – Quilter	Stanford in Bb
	pm	O Sing Joyfully – Batten	Smith Responses
		Evening Hymn – Balfour Gardiner	Lloyd in A
20th	am	Service of the Word at St Mark's	
27th	am	Glorious and Powerful God – Wood	Ireland in C

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February Acrostic.

February is the shortest month
Every four years is a Leap Year.
Bringing
Romance on Valentine's Day
Understanding different
Animals
Reaching out for them to wake up from their hibernation
Yearning for the Spring-time to come



By Sally Hayward



February Morning.

It's a damp, muggy February morning; not a day I fancy going out.
About to turn over and I look at my alarm clock,
Shock horror it's 10 o' clock and I have got an appointment at the
Hairdressers in the next half an hour.
Shower very quickly and just have time for a piece of toast.
Almost there and Claire is waiting for me.
Agree to have my hair highlighted and go blonde.
Fond memories we talk about from school days and holidays.

Sally Hayward

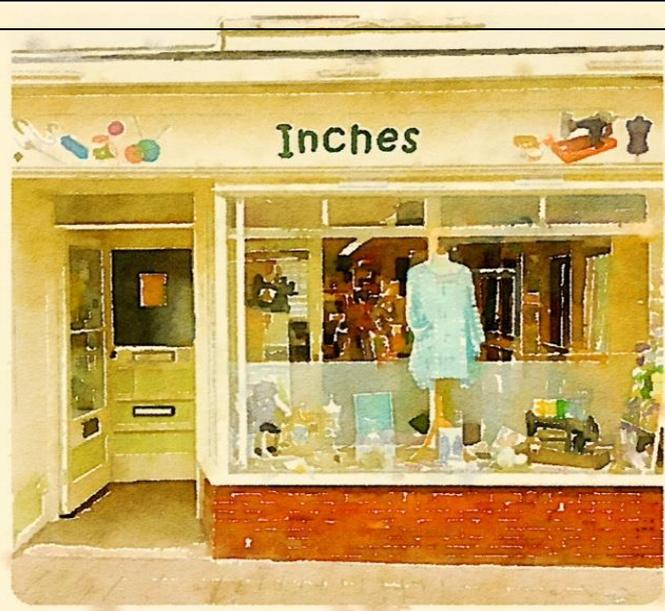
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The Monument repairs taking place in St James during January to make them safe.....



Jig saw pieces
and a very large hole!



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Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 (21 February - 6 March) will this year be a show of solidarity with communities overseas on the frontline of the climate crisis. November's COP26 summit didn't deliver the change needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, nor did it secure finance to directly support farmers and workers on the frontline, but the Fairtrade Foundation believes there is hope if we all act together.

Fairtrade Fortnight is an opportunity for individuals, communities, and businesses around the country to stand with farmers in low-income countries such as Honduras and Uganda who are affected daily by climate change. Together, by keeping the pressure on government and businesses, we can all play a role in ensuring farmers can benefit from fairer prices, fairer trading practices and the resources needed for tackling the climate emergency.

The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, they are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses. This represents a vicious cycle of poverty in which steps towards environmental protection and decarbonisation are likely to be beyond reach for those who aren't even able to earn a living income because the price they receive for their produce is far too low.

Nilufar Verjee, Director of Public Engagement at the Fairtrade Foundation, said: 'We are all facing an existential planetary threat and politicians are still not moving fast enough to stand a chance of keeping warming to 1.5 degrees. Current levels of global heating are already disastrous for the farmers and workers who grow our food – they need the cash to adapt to new ways of farming. The life support is that we have another chance with COP27 in 2022 for world leaders to tackle the climate crisis and secure finance, fast.'

'Poverty and environmental damage in our food supply chains will not end until exploited farmers are paid fairly, have the power to make their own choices and to plan for the future. Only then will they be able to

effectively fight the impacts of the climate crisis. Climate change, and the ability of farmers to grow their produce, is also threatening the survival and sustainability of supply chains behind some of the UK's best-loved imports, such as coffee, cocoa and bananas.'

Mr Kouamé N'dri Benjamin-Francklin, a cocoa farmer from Côte D'Ivoire and Fairtrade Africa vice-chair board member, says financial support is a vital element of ensuring that farmers in low-income nations have the tools they need to tackle the increasingly destructive impacts of the climate crisis: 'If we carry on planting when we have always done before, when there is no rain and it is so hot, whatever we try to grow is destroyed. Then there is nothing to harvest. That has been happening now for years and production has massively decreased. Because of that, our incomes have massively decreased.'

Mr Kouamé, who attended COP26 as part of Fairtrade's farmer delegation, added: 'What is more, the little that we can sell isn't paid at the price it should be paid. For example, take cocoa. Cocoa farmers only earn 3% of the price of a chocolate bar. As a person responsible for farmers, it is really sad [...] Being a farmer shouldn't be a route to poverty.'



Source: The Fairtrade Foundation

Once the threat posed by Covid 19 has receded, we hope to have a Traidcraft stall in St James - please watch this space! In the meantime, if you wish to buy fairly traded goods, look for items bearing the Fairtrade logo in shops, order direct from traidcraftshop.co.uk, or contact Jan Vonberg, (janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk, 01453 519506), who can place an order for you with our local Traidcraft rep.

To access a variety of online events during Fairtrade Fortnight, go to fairtrade.co.uk/festival and sign up for the Choose the World You Want festival. I did this last year and found it informative (interviews with farmers in African countries) and fun (Caribbean cookery class!), so I'm looking forward to doing it again.

Jan Vonberg



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One Diocese blog: Will Mansell shares his ‘why’



Will Mansell, Pioneer Minister and Founder of the GRACE Network Social Enterprise shares his passion for creating social change through faith and action.

“As I grew into adulthood, I realised that my sense of being was motivated by a feeling of discontent between what the world could be, compared to what it currently is.

“Every manifesto that was written seemed to be a nod to the problem that quickly returned to the safe ground of compromise. Yet those who feel lost, lonely, hopeless or poor don’t want compromise, they want power and agency to change.

“I began to help lead a small local church and as time went on I would pray, go to church on a Sunday and then try to encourage people to be better citizens individually and collectively. The problem was although some people grew, the wider community kept on existing in its broken state and the world just rolled on, seemingly crushing people into despair and trouble.

“I began to be convinced that to create the conditions for change in the world, we needed to change our economy as that was the seat for so much power. If people have a job with a social purpose, it can give them meaning. A good workplace can give you community. A good employer invests in its staff to see them grow in skills, confidence, and leadership. I started to dabble in social enterprise, founding a couple myself, and rapidly ended up with a network of social enterprises based in a local warehouse.

My day job now is leading The Grace Network and co-leading a new monastic community called Wayfarers Monastery. The Grace Network aspires to create a network of place-based enterprise hubs that can spawn 100s of social enterprises over the next 50 years. Whilst Grace

Network itself is not a religious organisation, we are pioneering a model of all-encompassing community building centred around monastic models of living.

My sense of purpose in life, my **why**, has always been to help people have the space and time to grow in emotional, physical, relational, spiritual, and intellectual capital and ultimately to be able to become leaders themselves.

In running Grace Network for 7 years, I have discerned some basic principles for this work:

1. Change needs to be done in community. No one can do it on their own.
2. Change can't be controlled from the top down. It needs to be a shared endeavour.
3. Change needs to include all aspects of life. It is not just a "work thing".
4. Change needs to happen little by little. It is not a quick fix.

"I don't know where my journey for meaning and hope will end up but working with the Diocese and 100s of people now involved in our site in Brimscombe, I am excited to share with others and meander forward to a more hopeful reality through the power of social enterprise and the ancient rhythms of monasticism.

Will is working with the diocese to develop local social enterprises in our communities. For more info contact Lucy Taylor, ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk

I thought this was worth sharing and raise a smile. Taken from the Gloucester Diocese website. It accompanied the Bishops' New Year's message. Judith



Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert social distancing two mitres apart!

Diocesan Events and training

Eco Church Zoom Seminar: Getting Started

Thursday 3 February, 7 to 8 pm

Pledge one hour a week to Eco Church and you will find yourselves moving forward rapidly to a first award. Take the leap in 2022 and show your commitment to our planet.

Vocation to ministry day

4 College Green, Saturday 5 February, 10 am to 4 pm

If you feel the Holy Spirit is nudging you to explore new ways of serving God in the Church, this day is for you. Reflect on your personal journey and find space to engage, question, struggle and pray for discernment. You'll have the chance to meet guest speakers from different ministries, read scripture together and ask questions. Book at gloucester.anglican.org/event/vocation-to-ministry-day-3-2/

Meeting young people where they are

Tuesday 15 February, 7pm to 9pm, St Lawrence, 32 Church Lane, Barnwood, Gloucester

Most of our churches don't have young people (11-18) turning up on a Sunday morning. This workshop will help you explore how you can engage with young people in the spaces they already inhabit – schools, parks, sports fields, etc. We'll also explore the key issues for young people today – like race, environment and gender and sexuality, and how we can encourage them to be enablers of change in society. Led by Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector. Book at

gloucester.anglican.org/event/meeting-young-people-where-they-are/

'Plenty!' – Joy in enough Lent course

Wednesdays in Lent starting 9 March, 7.30pm to 8.45pm

Do you want to have a better understanding of the economic drivers of the climate and environmental emergency? Are you seeking to make connections between Christian faith and environmental concerns? Are you wondering what actions you could take to make a difference?

'Plenty!' is a six-week online course exploring Christian responses to sustainability, consumerism and the environmental crisis. Spaces limited to 12 people.

gloucester.anglican.org/event/plenty-joy-in-enough-lent-course

Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at **kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk**, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website

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Praying together for LIFE Together



'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'.

Philippians 4:6-7

Worshipping communities and individuals in and around Gloucestershire are invited

to join in monthly prayers on Zoom for the work of the church in this area.

Prayer needs to be at the heart of all we are and do, so as we continue to live our LIFE Together vision, there will be a monthly online prayer gathering over Zoom. This is an exciting opportunity for us to gather across our many different local contexts and to discover new depths to prayer together.

Bishop Rachel writes, "The intention is that this is a time of prayer for anyone and everyone, regardless of age, story, church tradition or familiarity with prayer. All that is needed is a willingness to join in with what God is doing, as we bring our thanks and desires to God. No expertise or previous experience is required, and no one will be asked to speak unless they wish to do so."

The prayer gathering will last no more than 30 minutes and will be scheduled for a different time each month so as to be accessible to different people during the course of the year. Bishop Rachel or Bishop Robert will be present to welcome people, and each gathering will be led by someone different.

- Monday, 7 February 5:30 pm, led by Bishop Robert, from St Barnabas Church, Gloucester
- Monday, 28 March 10:30 am, led by Bishop Rachel

Email THastieSmith@glosdioc.org.uk for Zoom details.

Message from

THANK YOU SO MUCH

811.05 kg of food and toiletries have been collected from Dursley Churches Together in 2021

We fed and supported over 6000 people with crisis food and holiday hampers. 2/3 of this food goes to children.

We couldn't do it without your support.



Culture and Me. This month we are indebted to Brendan Skelton for putting his thoughts on paper for us.

Do you have a favourite author or book?

Being predictably whimsical my favourite authors are many and for many reasons. I like authors that take me out of myself on adventures of excitement intrigue, fun, and particularly set in open spaces. 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens is a book hard to put down until the end. Other authors have provided me with a lifetime of intrigue, puzzlement, learning, experience and profound spiritual growth; often in unexpected ways, for example, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, a book that took me a long time to understand and caused a great deal of searching side issues. Others include 'one hit wonders like 'The Mouse and His Child' by Russell Hoban, a fairly prolific author until his, for me, and masses of children who listened to me read it to them, his one 'masterpiece'

What are you reading at present?

It's normal for me to have several books on the 'go' at the same time. So, 'One Breath at a Time' by Kevin Griffin. 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. 'The Universal Christ' by Richard Rohr. 'Oneness With all Life' by Eckhart Tolle. Books tend to find me these days, it's astonishing how they seem to all link with one another too; no matter how diverse the subject matter.

Is there a book which you feel you should have read?

There are 'tons' of books that would inform my reading and serve me well, quite simply I am not an academic, and as one who did not read anything of substance until the age of 27 for fear of others' thoughts and ideas occupying head space, before my own were formed, there is now a lot of catching up to do!

Equally I am a sucker for being drawn into the mood it conjures. Cheery ones tend to be of the pop/rock genre, sometimes bluegrass, hillbilly, rockabilly, just as life constantly changes so does music. Just as our old friends come along with us so does music. A smile emerges as I think of loads of 1950's Bessie Smith titles. Ramping beats from Eddie Cochran 'Summertime Blues' and 'Come on Everybody' Sorry, I have a log jam in my music files endlessly long. I miss those 'Music Session' times with my son Charles where we would alternately play each others music at each other all evening. I learned so much.

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

So many it's impossible to know where to begin. Music has the capacity to change our mood and how we feel; so much so that my music favourite changes with mood and mood with music.

Do you play a musical instrument? If not what you like to have learnt?

I play a few instruments exactly as they ought not be played. I have made a few and to my surprise they worked in spite of my participation in their manufacture.

What is your favourite film?

Yet another impossible question! I love film and was a regular viewer of little known and often low budget films, a favourite in the 'cult & low budget' category would be 'Amélie'. Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Its quirky, funny, quite searching morally and deeply human.

Do you have a favourite play?

Without any doubt or hesitation the original staging and cast of Les Misérables. Two other favourite plays, possibly because of my involvement in the sets, production and lighting which was great fun. The Magic Flute and James and the Giant Peach.

What about a favourite television series?

Having spent a lot of time in Cornwall, Poldark and Doc Martin resonated with me. Both series brought to life the individuality, character and geography of place.

If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it?

A painting should transport us, our very being, if not moved in the presence of a great work it isn't great, it's something else, competent perhaps, agreeable, and so on. For me, favourite paintings both transport and move me. Some painters, even on an 'off day' produce work that reminds me of the presence of God. Such a painter was Fra Angelico, and one of his dozens of paintings is *The Mocking of Christ* (detail shown), with the Virgin and Saint Dominic, 1439-1443, fresco, Cell 7, Convent of San Marco, Florence.

Although the painter long gave up his mortal life he left us a great legacy attesting to God's enduring presence. I believe, before he painted he would pray. In a sense he asked God to enter his heart and intent so that his hand may be guided. He so trusted in God hearing his prayer, once he began a painting, he never stopped. His 'cell' paintings in the convent were completed in one sitting. He never went over his work or 'touched up' his thinking was to leave what is the Lord's to be, as we alone are imperfect. When I look at Fra Angelico's painting I feel the presence of God, I am awestruck and know he is always present.

Do you have special building which means a lot to you and if so why?

Castle Drogo, was the last castle to be built in England. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The simple design, uncluttered interior and superb joinery and fittings appeal to me greatly. The setting and walks in and around the Teign Valley are exceptional. The lawn is not bad for a game of croquet either.

Is there a place where you have felt happiest?

Richmond, Yorkshire. An old and very familiar stomping ground full of memories, nature, adventure and dear to my heart.

You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite?

Jesus, Fra Angelico, Barak Obama, Michelle Obama, Colin Norman, (a friend and former editor of the New Scientist.)



Mouse Diary.....



There were hopeful signs of special activity when MBFTLP came into the church on a cold and breezy February morning.. ONE, TWO, THREE, and One, Two, Three.. Very good, said MBFTLP. We will have you slim and trim in no time. What about Aimiee? I said. Well, it's all automatic with her, said MBFTLP, it's all to do with the microchips resetting themselves. A bit like the millennium really. Anyway and by the way, what were you thinking doing for pancake day? As Aimiee bought me a new cookbook, I said, I thought I would start soon. The only trouble is Mr Dinosaur wants to help. MBFTLP was pretty much up on geological time I could tell. He is meant to be Extinct you know. Yes, I said, but he keeps popping his head around the church door and saying is it time for tea? When I said he was several million years too late, he came over all philosophical and waved his front paw about in that endearing kind of way.. Well you know how it is. Time flies when you are having a good time...And the Mesolithic period was not so long ago...There's Nothing New Under The Sun. And its Footprints in the Sand if you think about it... And that film Ground Hog Day was quite good wasn't it?.. MBFTLP did her best to conciliate. Well perhaps you could let Mr Dinosaur hold the frying pan for you just this once. That might save all the sticky business on the church ceiling we were left with last year after your technique proved not to be up to the job. Bye the way again, there is Some One Else outside the church who wants to come in. There was a nice picture of her in the magazine last month. Its Pussy Cat With Attitude (PCWA for short for your Special Key at the Bottom). Hhhmm, I said, I think we are on the verge of another population problem, what with Dinosaurs and Pussy Cats and it won't be too long before The Easter Bunny pops up again and he normally brings all his friends and relations. I guess so, said MBFTLP. So as we are still socially distancing perhaps we can let Mr

Dinosaur come in for tea and for pancakes and I will explain to PCWA that she will have to hold her horses until March. Horses, I exploded, no room for them here. We might have to borrow Sainsbury's car park again.

See you next month and hope you enjoy the pancakes.

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



Well I hate to say this but the St Mark's Easter Bunny (he normally lives in the Easter Garden) popped up before Christmas in a bunch of lovely cream roses given to me by Anne-Louise.

So watch out and let's hope he can't find his way to St James.

Special Key At The End

PCWA - Pussy cat with attitude

SMEB - St Mark's Easter Bunny



Lines (*version 3*)

Here's a painting half complete.
There's neat points of perspective
And spot the dot.
I suppose I could fill them in
To the horizon.
But over the hills,
What fills
Where space goes up and up?

Now - I agree,
The perspective has run out -

And I don't paint whatever
Eternity is about.

*Elizabeth Oakley
A Dursley Poet*

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THE PARISH REGISTERS HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER THIS MONTH!

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February 6th

- High Altar** – Ann Orchard
- Tanner Chapel** – Kim Pugh
- Lady Chapel** – Anne Shipton

February 13,20,27th

- High Altar** – Cynthia Martin
- Tanner Chapel** – Kate Sant
- Lady Chapel** – Sarah Hodge



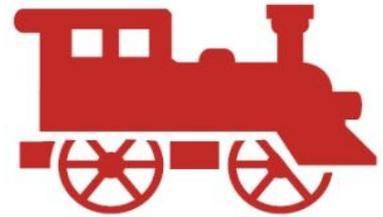
100 CLUB

I wish to remind you that subs are now overdue and I cannot do the draws before all subs are collected, hopefully I will do January and February together. Watch this space.

Please pay to Phillip Staddon, David Wood, myself or direct by BACS.

Sarah

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