

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



**The  
Messenger  
OCTOBER  
2021**

**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](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk)

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## CONTENTS

Letter from Revd Jane.....	2,3,4
Ewelme Benefice Services for October & dates for your diary..	5,6,7,8
Bells.....	9
Music Notes.....	10,11
Acrostic for October and T4U Shoeboxes.....	12
St Mark's.....	14
Pictures from Jane's placement in Gloucester.....	16,17
Culture and Me with David Vonberg.....	19,20
Sleepy Sheep Knitting Pattern.....	24,25
Diocesan Messenger.....	26,27
Mouse diary.....	28,30
From the Parish Register, Flower rota and 100 Club.....	32

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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 NOVEMBER ISSUE IS  
 SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER 2021**



Hello October!

At the time of writing this, I am a few days into my return from my placement and summer holidays. Combined they took me away from the Ewelme Benefice for several weeks. My placement was spent in another St James;

St James and Christ Church Barton and Tredworth in inner-city Gloucester.

Curates do placements in their final year for two main reasons; to experience the kind of ministry they might want to move on to after curacy if they are to move, and to experience something different from their current context.

My placement with St James and Christ Church offered something different in spades!

Some of you who spoke to me before the placement know that I left with some trepidation about the very different, style of worship and context that I was about to encounter in Barton and Tredworth.

I needn't have worried!

The congregation are certainly diverse in age, ethnicity and worship tradition and I was in awe of the special leadership of their vicar and team who blend all this difference to create, what seemed to be a genuinely unified, worshipping community, and Church.

It was wonderful to worship with people from Jamaica, Nigeria, Poland, and China, from tiny babies to those who have been in the Church for many years. It certainly left me reflecting on the richness of this diversity, and how it is instrumental in helping churches, through their encounter with difference to learn new truths about who we are. Knowing them helped me to become more fully me and I will always treasure them in my heart for this.

One of the happy accidents of fate was that I never received a set of keys to the Church building. It meant I was able to spend much of my time out and about in the community and because I was on placement, I was freed to a large degree from my usual responsibilities and could fully embrace this freedom.

I spent time, in the Friendship Café; an inter-faith organisation, headed up mainly by the Muslim Community who support youth and community activities in

the inner city. I enjoyed a coffee or lunch, whilst hearing about some of their projects. (I can definitely recommend the food and cappuccinos if you are ever passing).

There was time to visit the St James City Farm and Riding School to meet the volunteers and animals, including rabbits Peter and Lola who had spent a busy lockdown producing baby bunnies!

It was also a joy to meet Rachel, the Community Development Allotment Project Worker, at the next-door Fair Shares community time banks. Rachel works hard to promote projects with the community and together they have helped the allotment in the middle of the city to become a fruitful, garden of fruits, flowers, butterflies, and bees.

There was the Great Western Pub and Lynne the wonderful landlady who let me eat my Sainsburys sandwiches and spend time in her secret garden which has many rooms. If I bought a drink, of course. I also attended the weekly English Club in St James, which helps those whose first language is not English.

Then all the chance encounters and hearing the stories of the congregation, their lives, and their ministry, including learning about Godly Play.

There was of course a flip side to all of this; transient housing, sharps in the gutters, stabbings in Barton Street and the break-in and theft of their only chalice, paten and all the money from St James. I can only say that this was dealt with grace and prayers for those imprisoned by the addictions that drive this.

If I was looking for a vision of the Church of England's simpler, humbler, bolder church then I believed I witnessed this among the community of St James and Christ Church.

It was hard not to see God's abundance in the scarcity and God's provision borne out in the Church and the wider community. It always seemed that there was something to be given away; plants, vegetables from Fair Shares, a bag of potatoes, for our evening meal from the Friendship Café. Knitted teddies full of prayers, Biker's Bibles. Kindness, hospitality, compassion.

Theologians Sam Wells and Walter Brueggemann talk of Finding Abundance in Scarcity. Blessing and God's presence in the most difficult situations.

In the Gospels, and the feeding of the 5000+, there seems to be a ridiculously small amount to feed an enormous crowd with, just five loaves and two fishes. But so often where we see emptiness, depression, and difficulties. God can create profound fulfilment and boundless joy. He is the bread of life. And in Christ, that life is abundant.

My prayer as I return to our community of faith is that

Jesus would take us, bless us, and use our brokenness as compassion, that we might be given for Him, and in a world of scarcity, when we never seem to have enough - that we may we be His Bread for each other, our community and the World.

With love and blessings

Jane x



Great Western Pub – I came here often!



### **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 6th October 2021.



## **Ewelme Benefice services for October 2021**

### **Sunday 3rd October - 18th after Trinity/St Bart's Harvest**

St Bartholomew's 10.00am Harvest Festival (Service of the Word)  
St James 10.00am Parish Communion

### **Sunday 10th October - 19th after Trinity/Dursley Harvest**

St James 10.00am Informal Harvest service of the Word with baptism  
St Giles 10.00am Parish Communion  
St James 6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Sunday 17th October - 20th after Trinity**

St James 8.00am Holy Communion  
St Giles 10.00am Parish Communion  
St Mark's 10.30am Service of the Word

### **Sunday 24th October - Last after Trinity**

St James 10.00am Parish Communion  
St Giles 10.00am Parish Communion

### **Sunday 31st October - All Saints Sunday**

Holy Cross 10.00am BCP Matins  
St James 10.00am Parish Communion  
St Giles 4.00pm All Souls service

## **Church News from Canon Michael**

### **Harvest Festival**



We will celebrate harvest with an informal Harvest Festival Service of the Word in St James on Sunday 10th October at 10am. During the service Amelia Anne Merrifield will be baptised and welcomed into the family of the Church. Due to ongoing Covid precautions we will not be holding a harvest lunch but will be taking donations to support the work of the Foodbank. More details of the items they are hoping for appear on their harvest poster.

Harvest Festival will also be celebrated during the first service of Choral Evensong since early 2020.

This will take place in St James on Sunday 10th October at 6.30pm.

**Harvest in St Bartholomew's, Nympsfield on Sunday 3rd October at 10am.** All are welcome!

## **Services of Remembering & Thanksgiving**

The season of All Saints and All Souls is traditionally the time when we hold this service. This year it will be held on **Sunday 31st October at 4pm in St Giles Church and on Sunday 7th November at 4.00pm** in St James Church.

As we were unable to hold the service last year, we will particularly remember all those who have died during the past two years but there will also be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to remember someone who has died and to light a candle for them. This is a very peaceful, reflective and moving service to which everyone is very welcome. It will also allow us time to remember those who have died during the Covid pandemic and all who have been bereaved.

## **Other Church News across the Benefice**

### **St Giles' 'Access for All' project moving forward**

Last month myself and the Churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC, signed a Letter of Intent formally placing a contract for the project with Chappell and Dix, a local firm based in Charfield near Wotton. After a very long journey to reach this point, we are very excited to think that the work could start this month. There will inevitably be a number of months of disruption as the work continues into next year, but services should be able to continue in St Giles. Please continue to check the website [www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk) for up to date details about service times and venues.

The project is costing in the region of £200,000 and we will need to continue to fund-raise to replenish our financial reserves. If you would like to know more about this project and feel able to make a donation, please follow the link on the Ewelme Benefice website [www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk](http://www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk)

### **St Bartholomew's heating**

The bad news is that an electrical inspection earlier in the year resulted in the electric heating system in St Bartholomew's in Nympsfield being disconnected; effectively condemned! The good news is that work is now under way to replace the electric pew heaters with new panel heaters that should be ready for the colder weather.

### **Recycling**

This is a good point to mention that there are collection points in St Giles for used pill packs and printer ink cartridges.

# HARVEST COLLECTION 2021



## COLLECTION POINT HERE

### SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Jar of Cooking Sauce  
Tinned Rice Pudding  
Hot Chocolate  
Tinned Potatoes  
Savoury Snacks  
Tinned Tomatoes  
Cereal Bars  
Tinned Fruit  
Small Bag of Sugar  
Toiletries always welcome

#donated with love  
#handled with care  
#given with compassion

### DONATE NOW!

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list so we can provide emergency food to people in crisis.



Stroud District Foodbank  
[Strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://Strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1176306)

**The Food Bank are particularly looking for:**

Jars of cooking sauce  
Tinned rice pudding  
Hot chocolate  
Tinned potatoes  
Savoury snacks  
Tinned tomatoes  
Cereal bars  
Tinned fruit  
Small bags of sugar  
Toiletries

## **ST JAMES-THE-GREAT, DURSLEY 2021 COFFEE, CAKE AND MUSIC Saturday October 2nd Andrew Millington**

(formerly Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral)  
with music by Verdi, Bach, Mendelssohn, Dupré etc

**Coffee and home-made cake  
will be served from 10.30am**

**The music begins at 11.00am  
and lasts for about 30 – 40 minutes**

A new series of recitals  
is being planned for 2022

There is no charge, but a retiring collection  
will be taken, the proceeds of which  
will go to the work of St James' church.





## Message from Clive on Monday 27th September.....

**He says** ` Thank you for all your donations and all your support but no more books are required until further notice.

Book stalls will be held every Saturday, outside if fine, inside the church if wet.

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshops are back again.



The Workshops will be in St Mark's Church, for two sessions, **Tuesday 7th December at 2pm and 6.30pm**

All the materials will be provided, also tea/coffee and mince pies will be on offer all for £15.

**Demonstrations and help will be provided.**

**Please Contact Judith Tel: 544312 or email: [judith.staddon@gmail.com](mailto:judith.staddon@gmail.com)**

**Proceeds to the work of St James and St Mark's churches.**



## 'Save the Date' notice.....

the Christmas Market in St James will be held on

**Friday 26th November**

5pm – 7pm

and

**Saturday 27th November**

10am to 12 noon.

# Bellringing

On Saturday 28 August 2021 we rang the first Quarter Peal to be rung at St James' since 26 February 2020. The occasion was, sadly, to mark the life of a very well-respected bellringer and friend, John Ridley from Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. John had rung 17 full peals at St James, he died very suddenly on 9 August 2021 while out cycling with friends. RIP.



A brand-new ring of 8 bells has been installed in St Mary the Virgin, Hawkesbury. This church is part of the Wotton-under-Edge Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers, the same Branch that Dursley belongs to. They were blessed on 22 May and dedicated on 10 September. The tenor (largest bell) weighs 11 cwt; 3 quarters and 23 lbs. (in old measurements) in G. They can be seen and heard on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n12UKZqGxuM>.

## Quarter Peal Details:

On Saturday, 28 August 2021, in 45 minutes

### **1274 Plain Bob Triples**

1 John Taylor; 2 Jane Bull; 3 Anne Pope; 4 Andrew Bull  
5 Philip Pope; 6 Jonathan Adkins; 7 Frank Byrne (conductor);  
8 Andrew Ward

In celebration of the life of John R Ridley by friends who have all rung peals with him, collective total 913.

*Frank Byrne*

\*\*\*\*\*



### **A message From Sally Arnold.....**

Sally wishes to thank everyone who has collected their loose change and saved it in the Children's Society Boxes over the years. She says she took it on with the late Mary Pollard and used to have so many to collect that they had two lists, eventually when Mary gave up Sally took over Mary's list as well and has been doing this job for the last

twenty four years. Now it's time for Sally to rest too.

Her final collection for this year was £362.

Thank you for all the support given over the years.



## MUSIC NOTES

October 2021

Writing about hymn tunes named after places in the *August Messenger* and saying that the nearest tune to Dursley was Thornbury was, of course, tempting fate! Dr Geoff Whiley informs me that there is a tune named "Dursley", and it's nothing to do with Harry Potter.

CHARLES WESLEY      DURSLEY 8.8.8.8      ANON

1 Thou Shep - herd of Is - rael, and mine, The joy  
2 The pas - ture I lan - guish to find, Where all  
3 Ah! show me that hap - pi - est place, That place  
4 Thy love for a sin - ner de - clare, Thy pas -  
5-6 (As for Tune above)

The tune was found in *The Botley Tune Book* which was "selected and revised in 1928" by C.W. Bowles. It is written by "Anon" (probably Mr Bowles himself) and, like

many, many hymn tunes is completely derivative with a pick and mix of musical clichés. I was unable to discover much about the *Botley Tune Book*, except that it's available on eBay and Abe Books from Germany and America for extortionate sums of money. So a web search for Botley (near Southampton) proved interesting as within the benefice is the 13<sup>th</sup> century church of the Holy Cross, DURLEY. Could it be that the hymn tune is actually misnamed in the publication, and that the nearest "place-name" hymn tune to Dursley is still Thornbury? We'll probably never know!

The news seems full of ever more depressing stories from across the world, so it made a change to hear the good news that "Abba" are to get together after several decades and record a new album. Given the paucity of present day so-called popular music, this has got to be a good thing as Abba's music is always uplifting and has memorable tunes. Let's hope the new album continues this tradition.

Recently I was asked to accompany the Induction service for the new Vicar of Wotton-under-Edge and some of our choristers augmented the Wotton choir to sing Parry's magnificent anthem "I was Glad" which made a fine start to the service. However, I was somewhat dismayed at the choice of hymns. Apart from "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" there was "Amazing Grace", "Lord of the Dance" and words (which just about

fitted) to the middle section of the "Dambusters March". All very commendable tunes and words in their place (e.g. school assembly), but I couldn't understand why the obvious "big" Anglican hymns with appropriate words and tunes were missing. What happened to "O Jesus I have Promised", "Thy Hand O God has guided", "Now Thank we all our God", "How shall I sing the Majesty" etc. A special and important occasion in the life of a church community deserves the very best, and "it's hard to dance with the devil on my back" just didn't work for me. Perhaps I'm getting old!

On Tuesday 7th September members of the choir sung at John White's funeral. John, Lynn James' father, had been unwell for some time, but that didn't prevent Lynn from pushing him in his wheelchair to attend all sorts of services and events at St James and St Mark's. Before his final illness we were always delighted to welcome him to sing with the choir as he was an extremely accomplished singer and knew almost all our repertoire! But that was hardly surprising as he had been a member of the choirs at Christchurch Priory and St Peter's Bournemouth. The spoken tributes were most interesting in giving us a glimpse of a full and happy life, and it was good that Lynn's brother Stephen was able to be present from America.



However, the musical tribute from John's grandson Guy was, for many of us, the most poignant. *Erbame Dich* from J S Bach's "St Matthew Passion" is an extremely taxing sing, and Guy, who is making his name internationally as a counter tenor with an amazing vocal range, made it sound remarkably beautiful with his sensitive interpretation. Having Emily White to provide the violin obbligato was a lovely addition to a very fitting performance. I am sure John would have loved it!

*Nigel Davies*

### **Music for October**

Sunday 3rd	am	Jubilate in F – Ireland	Stanford in C
Sunday 10th	am	Look at the World – Rutter	Woodard Service – Shephard
Sunday 17th	am	Informal Service	
Sunday 24th	am	How Lovely are the Messengers – Mendelssohn	Wadeley in G
Sunday 31st	am	O How Glorious is the Kingdom – Harwood	Darke in E
	pm (All Souls Service)	Nunc Dimittis (Brewer in D)	



**5" (12cm) and 6" (15cm) and 7" (18cm)  
Flower pots needed once again for charity Fundraisers.**

Brendan Skelton and Kathie  
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Brendan.skelton@yahoo.co.uk



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## Greetings from St Mark's



Dear Friends



Our service here at St Mark's in September was well attended and we welcomed for the first Chris Tyler to play our organ. Having only just moved to Dursley he kindly offered to step into the breach.

Our friend Kath Brooker will probably never speak to us again as we helped her daughter Shirley and her son Andrew to spring a surprise on her with a party at the Chantry Centre to celebrate her 80th Birthday! She had no idea. Many Happy returns Kath.

In last month's magazine I was looking forward to Chelsea Flower Show held for the first time in September. I went with Clare, and Eliza joined us too. It certainly lived up to expectations. The colour palate was richer and a different range of plants were on show. My favourite delphiniums were there again and we were blessed with such lovely weather. Also an added bonus I actually saw Monty Don, in the flesh, for the first time!!

The next service at St Mark's is on 17th October at 10.30am - hope to see you there.

With all Best wishes

Judith



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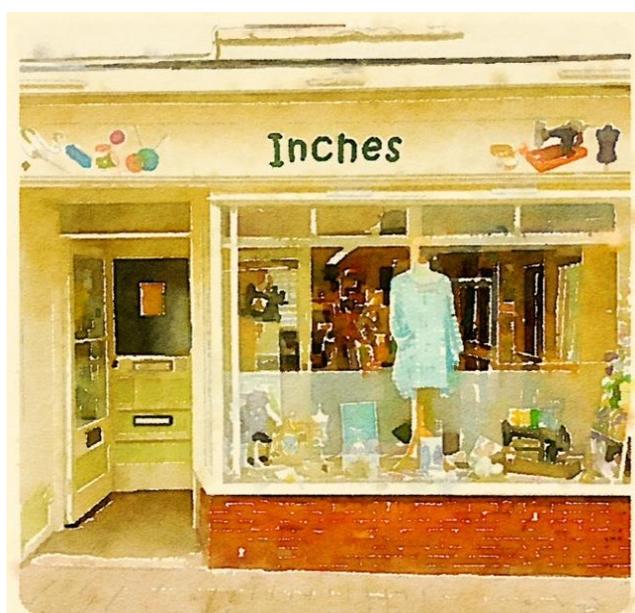
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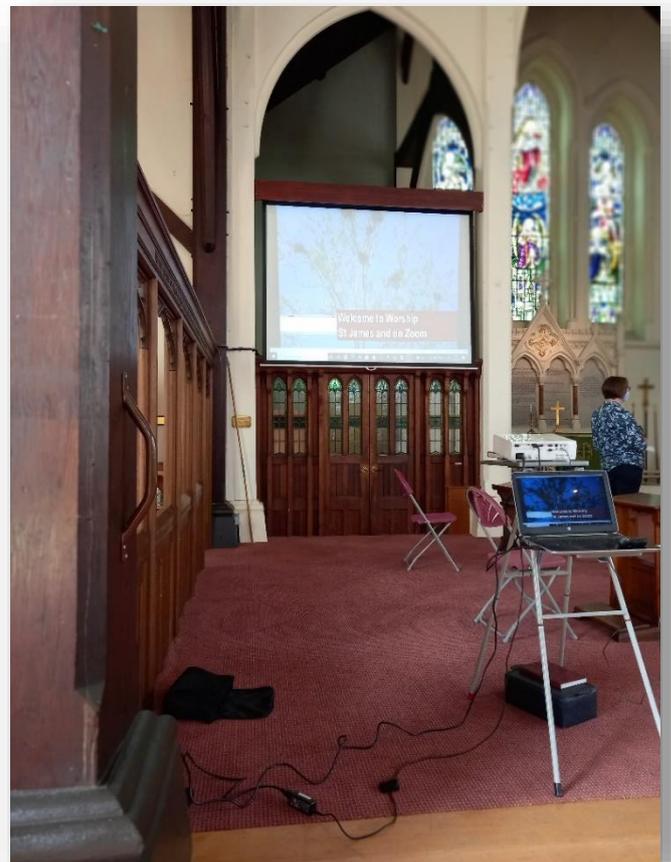
# St James Barton and Tredworth Rev Jane's placement Church



Inside St James



Live Zooming of the service



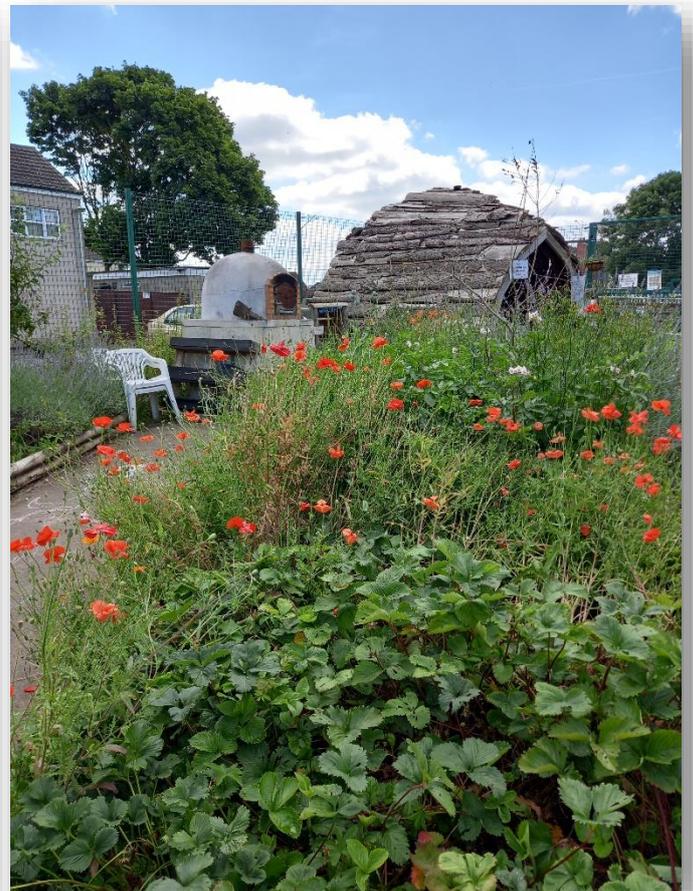
Getting ready for worship with the big screen



St James and the City Farm



Peter and Lola (the rabbits) at the city farm



Fair Shares Community Allotment Project @CityFarmAllotment

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**Culture and me.....**Since I am always asking others to put down their thoughts, I thought I ought share my own thinking this time. David Vonberg.

**Do you have a favourite author or book?**

I don't think I have a favourite author. But I enjoy biographies of those who have had interesting lives and have changed the thinking around the world from Nelson Mandela to St Paul.

**What are you reading at present?**

I have to admit to having several books on the go at the same time! I am reading 'Vaxxers' by Sarah Gilbert and Catherine Green. It is about the development of the AstraZeneca Oxford Virus last year. Fascinating. Another book I have just completed is 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Kimmerer, which is about learning to work with nature and reflecting on some of the American Indian myths about the natural world.

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

So many! I always mean to read 'Time Remembered' by Marcel Proust – perhaps eventually?

**Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?**

If I need cheering up, I listen to 'Swinging Safari' by Bert Kampfert, which takes me back to childhood.

**Do you have a favourite piece of music?**

One of the choral works I go back to is Bach's B minor Mass, which I first heard at school and has stayed with me ever since. I remember hearing it in the great Hall of Durham Castle, just a few years ago. It was a moment of pure joy.

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

I used to play the clarinet but gave it up. I would love to make music again and one day soon I would like to try to learn to play the tenor recorder.

**What is your favourite film?**

I was introduced to the Shawshank Redemption when I was in prison – as a chaplain, I hasten to add – a powerful film about the realities of prison life, which I saw a little of in my work. There is a line which has remained with me. 'You either get busy dying or you get busy living.' It's good to remind myself of it at times.

**Do you have a favourite play?**

Amadeus – the story of the battle between the infantile and rude Mozart and Salieri – the pillar of the musical establishment – who feels God has let him down by not giving him the same musical genius as Mozart. It raises so many questions in my mind. The play, I think, was much better than the film version.

### **What about a favourite television series?**

Morse, Lewis, Endeavour, and Vera. All brilliant series which do not major in the violence of the crime but in the search for a solution.

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

It would have to be Rembrandt: 'The Return of the Prodigal Son'. A powerful picture of hope, reconciliation and the joy of reunion. When Henri Nouwen saw it in Russia he spent three days just staring at the work. The book he wrote out of that experience is remarkable. There is so much in the picture to look at and reflect on.

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

It is Durham cathedral. That great Norman building on the banks of the river Wear. On Prebends Bridge there are words carved into it which I remember to this day: '**Grey towers of Durham** Yet well I love thy mixed and massive piles. Half church of God, half castle 'gainst the Scot, And long to roam these venerable aisles with records stored of deeds long since forgot' I was lucky enough to spend three years in the precincts of Palace Green just in front of the cathedral. Listening to evensong on a darkening winter's eve with the lit choir stalls, and the music pouring from the choir was as close to perfection as I can imagine

### **Is there a place (town, village, a county?) where you have felt happiest?**

In my calling as a Methodist minister I have moved much in my life, with many interesting place and hosts of incredible people, but I have to go back to Durham. Being at university there, when at 25 I was older than most of the students, was a seminal experience. I discovered the joy and excitement of learning, and studying theology. It turned my life around. Happy memories

### **You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite? (This could be anybody from any century and from any country)**

William Gladstone, the great liberal Prime Minister, who was the epitome of public service, both in life and after his death (Gladstone's Library is still a place I love to visit). There would be my parents too. Having written my father's biography I would love to spend time with them both. Charles Wesley, (his brother John would be far too exhausting!) whose hymns continue to move me. He was a deeply spiritual person. To lighten the occasion it would invite Victoria Wood. She would not be put off by the other august people and her amazing way of looking at life would be a tonic.



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## **What is a rebel?....** asks Jennifer Kendrick

Someone who dissents/differs. Is difficult, defiant and obstinate!

To these I would add someone who questions, probes, rebuts and, after careful consideration may reluctantly accept the situation at least for the time being!

As a child, I guess I fitted all these criteria to some extent, but was never as brave as my brother who, as a teenager spent time in Hungary in the 1956 revolution and smuggled a desperate refugee into UK to safety in our house!

My mother was model parent in extraordinary circumstances with failing health, World War II in full swing, my father serving abroad in the RAF, much uncertainty in day to day living and the constant concern to maintain life as the world smouldered like an erupting volcano. Nothing new in that!

There were sensible guidelines that, like any child, I chose to ignore, so running risks and exploring dangerous places was compulsory, especially where barbed wire was a barrier!

An unexplored bomb tantalisingly lay outside our front gate and the only thing stopping me adopting it was the weight! The walk to and from, school took more than 30 minutes and I remember the air raid siren warning as my brother and I were half way home one day. We sat out in the open air waiting to see what happened!

Looking back, I was happy being naughty which, I guess, amounted to wanting to be noticed, whilst, at the same time, wisely mindful of my safe, secure family background, liberally sprinkled with tough love!

When my exasperated mother assured me I would end up on court for keeping bad company, that sounded exciting! I never went out of my way to get into serious bother, but riding my bike without lights, roller skating on the sea front, getting off the bus before the conductor had taken my fare or the driver had

started to brake and eating on the street all came under the umbrella of totally unacceptable behaviour!

I was always sussed because I found it quite impossible not to share everything with my beloved father, once the war was over and he was home safe and a willing and understanding listener. A look of disappointment on his face was enough to make me want to make amends.



It must be said, my really rebellious nature was reserved until I was in my late teens, living away from home as a student in the confines of the Nurses' Home under such strict rules that needed constant challenging! Yet again, I did not escape without sanctions and retribution, but no lasting harm was done and I wouldn't change a thing! Looking back over more than eighty years, I have been truly blessed, not only with faith and trust, but with advocates whose guidance has been invaluable. I like to think I have been a good example in my adult life, but find it hard to recognise the plaudits my grandchild piles on me! Thank you Lord, for everything!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **From Canon Richard.....**

Last month we had a hymn on the Five Marks of Mission. Mission means sending, and here's a hymn based on Jesus' sending out his disciples. Three gospels describe him sending out the twelve; Luke also has a sending of seventy. These verses apply Jesus' sending his friends on missions of healing and proclaiming God's reign to our own situation in the world today. May we pray it and seek to live it out.

O God, who, in your Christ,  
reached out to heal our pain,  
look on our anguished, troubled world,  
and act to heal again.  
In places racked by war,  
let violent conflict cease,  
let victims' blood no longer flow:  
Give lands and peoples peace.  
Our greed exhausts the earth,  
it crushes down the poor,  
dehumanising those with wealth:  
let it do so no more.  
Bring healing to the sick,  
relief to the oppressed,  
free us from evil by your word,  
and let the earth be blessed.  
As Christ sent out his friends  
to show your kingdom's power,  
so send us now, and through us meet  
the challenge of this hour.  
Empower us by your love  
to bring your peace for strife,  
dispel the darkness with your light,  
and out of death give life.

**Message from Caroline.....** Can you help our advent project by knitting a sleepy sheep or two?

## **SLEEPY SHEEP**

12cms x 15cms

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED**

A. Cream (can be textured) DK

B. Beige DK

Safety toy stuffing

Black thread

3.75mm needles (UK size 9)

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

Make loop: k into next st keeping st on left hand needle, bring yarn to the front of work between needles, wrap yarn around top of your thumb, take yarn back through needles and k into same st again, drop both sets off LH needle, return these two sets from RH to LH needle and k2tog tbl.

### **BODY**

using 3.75 needles and yarn A, cast on 25 sts.

Row 1. P

Row 2. K1, make loop in each st to last st, k1 (25sts)

Rep both rows until work measures 7cms ending on row 1. Cast off.

### **HEAD**

Using 3.75 needles and yarn B cast on 11 sts.

Row 1. P

Row 2. kfb into each st to end (22 sts)

Row 3. P

Row 4. K5, kfb, k10, kfb, k5 (24 sts)

Rows 5-17 cont in st st.

Row 18. (K2tog, k1) to end (16 sts)

Row 19. P

Row 20. (K2tog) to end (8 sts)

Cut yarn with a long tail thread through sts and pull up tight and fasten off.

### **EARS (make 2)**

Using 3.75 needles and yarn B cast on 6sts.

Rows 1-5 starting with a p row work st st.

Row 6. (K2tog) to end (3 sts)

Cut yarn leaving tail, thread through stitches, pull tight and fasten off.

### **LEGS (make 4)**

Using 3.75 needles and yarn B cast on 12 sts.

Rows 1-7 beginning with p row work in st st.

Row 8 (K2tog) to end (6 sts)

Cut yarn leaving a tail and thread through stitches, pull tight and fasten off.

## **TO MAKE UP**

Fold body in half, sew around all edges stuffing as you go. Fluff out loops to cover seams. Sew side edges of head with seam down centre back. Stuff and close gap. Embroider eyes using black thread. Attach head to top left hand corner of body. Sew side edges of ears. Sew cast on edge to the top of the head. Sew sides of legs and attach to the body.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **St James-the-Great**

In various guide books it is said that "the earliest reference to a church building on the site of the present St James is 1221. So this year we should be celebrating at least 800 years of continuous worship in the centre of Dursley.

Of course, like all buildings private and public our church has expanded and developed into the fine place of worship it is today.

The present trend for "Church Plants" exhorted recently by the Archbishop of York makes the rather obvious point that you don't need a special building to participate in worship. But having such a building capable of bringing us all together in an atmosphere which can only be created by 800+ years of worship is surely something worth sustaining.

According to the 2019 pre pandemic C of E statistics, there are around 16,000 churches in England divided into 12,500 parishes and the "usual Sunday attendance" was 690,000 with a staggering 2,300,000 attending over the Christmas period, begging the question where are 1,610,00 people the rest of the year!

With a county population of 678,000 the Diocese of Gloucester has 381 churches, 91 benefices and 297 parishes. Across the country the pandemic has hastened the demise of many of our church buildings as older members move away or die and the majority of our young people seem to have little interest in nurturing our tradition. I just hope that a suitable use will be found for the hundreds of churches nationwide which will no longer open their doors to welcome worshippers.

*Nigel Davies*

## The Diocesan Messenger, October 2021

### Prisons Week edition, 10 to 16 October

What does the Church do to help prisoners and those released from prison?



Prisons Week is when Christians join in prayer for all prisons and prisoners. As Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons in England and Wales and a member of the All-Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System, Bishop Rachel supports chaplains in prisons, as well as developing relationships and being involved with people and issues across the breadth of the Criminal Justice System.

She heads up a Prison Team including Bishop Libby Lane (Derby), who supports work with young offenders, and Bishop Michael Igrave (Lichfield) who supports men in prison. They also work closely with Helen Dearnley, HMPPS Anglican Chaplaincy Advisor.

Bishop Rachel is a Patron of both the Prison Fellowship, and The Welcome Directory and the President of the Nelson Trust and an Ambassador for the Christian charity Restored. Bishop Rachel heads up a campaign called Fighting for Women's Justice and believes the women's justice system needs to change. It costs approximately £47k per year to keep a woman in prison, but Women's Centres can provide a holistic trauma-informed approach of rehabilitation for about 4k a year, with much research showing this is the most effective way to stop reoffending. On release from prison, many women find it difficult to secure suitable accommodation for themselves with their children and so the whole family suffers.

Bishop Rachel uses her voice in the House of Lords to speak out for the transfer of more funds to holistic rehabilitation schemes like Women's Centres, rather than keeping women in prison.

### **The Welcome Directory**

Bishop Rachel is a patron of the Welcome Directory, which lists faith communities who are willing to be a place of welcome and support for people leaving prison. When people are well supported in their new community they are less likely to reoffend.

If your community feels able to support people at this vulnerable time in their lives, you would need to make sure;

- Some of your worshipping community have done basic training on the needs of people who have been in prison.
- You have robust safeguarding policies in place
- You have given some thought to local resources that might be helpful to someone making the transition to life in the wider community.

If you believe people leaving prison need support and your faith community can give that support, you can register at [www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Register-Now.php](http://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/Register-Now.php)

Contact [admin@welcomedirectory.org.uk](mailto:admin@welcomedirectory.org.uk) for more information and help in meeting the criteria.

### **Rachel's story**

#### **Rachel served a sentence at Eastwood Park**

**Prison** and told her story in the House of Commons at an event to highlight the importance of finding



suitable accommodation for women released from prison.

She said, "I tried to escape [from my abusive partner, who was dealing drugs] many times but had never been able to get away. I found that if I did as I was told, the beatings happened less often."

Rachel was drawn into her partner's drug dealing. "I got arrested and ended up on a conspiracy to supply class A drugs charge. I got sentenced to four years in custody and was going to be away from everything I knew for two years. I was scared, I was terrified. My daughter had to go and live with my parents – I know I'm very lucky to have had them.

"In Eastwood Park, I met Jo from The Nelson Trust Women's Centre and built a relationship with her. She would come and see me every week and I felt I had someone to talk to and share my experiences with.

"I got on with my sentence and counted down the days till I could be with my daughter again. Throughout my whole time away, I was concerned about my release – how was I going to get a home for me and my daughter? I wanted my life to be back to normal again."

Rachel was able to get a home, which the Diocese of Gloucester provided through The Nelson Trust Project *Reunite Gloucestershire*, to rebuild her relationship with her daughter and finally be a mum. She now has a job, a strong relationship with her daughter and a foster daughter. See her full story at <https://youtu.be/qy8WS3KF0Uc>

## Mouse Diary...



The situation having improved somewhat from the general situation pertaining previously, MBFTLP decided it was an opportune moment to visit Aimiee and myself in situ in person at chez nous. So when she occasioned to walk through the church door there were three of us altogether in theory. Except in practice there only seemed to be one. (MBFTLP herself). I don't know, said MBFTLP, you two are quieter than one church mice in here. I roused myself from the Vestry where I was taking an after dinner dose. No, I said, I'm not here. I'm on holiday. Oh, said MBFTLP, if you had been here, I would have had something to ask you. Namely, where is Wally? As in fact Wally had been absent for some time, I have to say I did perk up at this point. Well, the story is, I said, we heard via pigeon post an Albatross called Alison had intercepted him and tried to steer him in the right direction for the Arctic Circle. There was an intermediate problem though in that she was herself off-course completely and in the wrong hemisphere as that nice lady on the TV had pointed out. So what with the two of them being in the wrong hemisphere things got rather complicated. In the end Alison hitched a lift on a transatlantic liner going via the Suez Canal. Fortunately things had unblocked by then and the garden gnomes were on their way. (reference the previous instalment of this story earlier in the year). She managed to throw a rope down to Wally and he tagged along until he got within range of the Arctic Circle having encountered a few familiar ice bergs along the way. Now that, said MBFTLP, is what I call a shaggy dog story. In that it wasn't a shaggy mouse story meant I was rather disappointed. Now then, said MBFTLP whilst trying to get the story line back on track. I had really come to visit you to tell you about someone else. Her name is Penelope the Pufflet (a baby puffin to you and me). She normally lives on a rock in the Outer Hebrides but someone had told her it was more interesting down here in the south and she thought she would come and visit. You can guess what happened at this point. My blood pressure went sky high and Aimiee jumped up and down and squeaked a lot more than usual. MBFTLP was not impressed. So you are both here in the church after all. I thought so. Not to be deterred I proffered my usual question. Is she- Penelope- any good at theology? Oh yes, said MBFTLP, she is excellent at it because she spends all her time perched on top of the highest rock in the whole of the Outer Hebrides

*contd on page 30.....*

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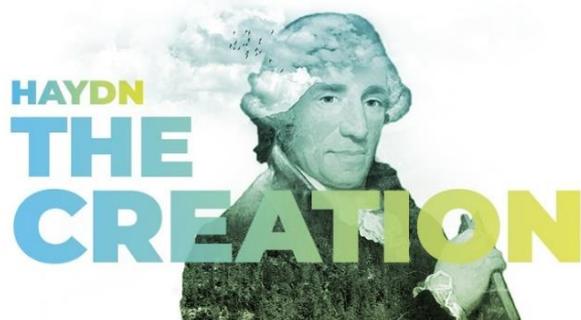
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contd from page 28..... So she knows about everything you see. Aimiee and I still felt a bit doubtful. What with the church already being rather full of species coming and going. So, I said, I guess you could tell Penelope she can come and see us so long as she does not look down her long nose at us very small persons down here occupying the lower parameters. What with her Being Up There and us Down Here, it is rather a difference in perspective if you see what I mean. MBFTLP promised to sort things out in that regard. So see you next month. With or without Penelope, Wally, The Easter Bunny (in season) and the Easter Bunny's friends and relations etc etc. Next thing you know Father Christmas is promising to visit.

I expect you have lost track. I definitely have. See you soon.

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



### **BAPTISMS: We welcome into our church family, by Holy Baptism:**

1st August Lilli-May Williams at St James  
12th September Grace Remi Begg at St James  
Ariella Elizabeth Begg at St James  
19th September Clara Elizabeth Andrews at St James

### **FUNERALS: We share our thoughts and prayers with the families of those who mourn the loss of those they love. We remember those who have died:**

31st August Ronald Jackson at Gloucester Crematorium  
7th September John Reginald White at St James

#### **Burial of ashes**

10th September Terence Hodge at St James  
14th September Marie & Thomas Tomlins at St James  
20th September Ronald Jackson at St James

## **FLOWER ARRANGERS ROTA FOR ST JAMES.**

**October 3rd: High Altar** – Ann Orchard

**Tanner Chapel** – Anne Bussey

**Lady Chapel** – Sarah Hodge

**October 10th and 17th**

**High Altar** – Kate Sant

**Tanner Chapel** – Anthea Fittall

**Lady Chapel** – Anne Shipton

**October 24th and 31st**

**High Altar** – Cynthia Martin

**Tanner Chapel** – Kim Pugh

**Lady Chapel** – Chris Raffle

**Harvest: 10th October**

**Pulpit** – Margaret Lloyd, **Font:** Ann Orchard,

**Porch** – Sheila Gardner, **Extra by the table:** Joyce Theaker,

**Hymnbook Chest:** - Marion Paisey.



## **100 CLUB**

Club draw for September as follows:-

1st 145 - Ian Brown  
2nd 156 - Paul Noble  
3rd 173 - Keith Hinder

Sarah

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### **100 CLUB**

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155

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Diane Ansell Tel: 546169



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