

The Messenger

July 2026

The Parish Of Dursley



St Mark's Church, Woodmancote

70p each or £7 annually

The Ewelme Benefice

**The parish of Dursley
and**

the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our July edition, of the Messenger.

Here we have some holiday reading material for you, and do enjoy the sunshine

Please note views and opinions expressed within these pages are the writers own personal observations.

From Valerie and Judith (editors)

Front Cover: theme for 2026

'In and around Dursley Parish'

Photo this month is of St Mark's Church, Woodmancote.

*A View of Dursley from
by ©Steve White*



JULY 2026

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**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2026 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 19th JULY 2026**



Revd Ian writes...

Dear Friends,

Is July the month that you might be considering relaxing and enjoying some well earned rest and recuperation? It is half way through the year, the children finally get their summer holiday break and holiday season is here.

If that is the case for you, then have a great break.

The evident paradox in our world however, is that whilst we may consider this a season to take a break, away from it all, many in the world have no such luxury. Theirs is a life solely committed to survival.

I find it somewhat depressing that if we consider recent history, the story that dominates is one of conflict and war. Where is peace to be found in the world? Where are the peacemakers? The voices of reason and compassion? They of course are many and they are loud, but it seems that the voices and wielders of power, at present, speak louder!

In my opinion war and conflict is soul destroying and I think it is literally so. It strips away human decency. Casualties, broken and displaced people are the reality all too often of war and this whilst the justification for war appears to me to be just more empty words.

I say again, these are my thoughts and opinions, but I know that I am not alone in longing for peace.

The Christian faith has at its heart a figure that conflicted many. Jesus' love and care for all, created tensions and even doubts, particularly among the power brokers of the time. Surely no-one can be this good. Yet his message and his deeds brought healing and hope to so many.

Towards the end of his earthly life he reiterated the essence of who he was and what he came to tell. To his disciples and I believe to all humanity, he said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

"John 13. 34-35

To share such love we surely have to engage with the world and with one another. Jesus after his resurrection appeared to the disciples and said,

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you." *John 20.21* and "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation". *Mark 16.15*

The commitment to share the Christian faith is clear in Jesus' teaching, as therefore is our need to be people who love, rather than hate. People who seek to reconcile, rather than divide.

30 years ago to this very month, I went to Taizé to stay for a week. *Taizé is an ecumenical community in Burgundy, France, welcoming young people and visitors of all ages from around the world for prayer, song,* (words taken from their website). There I found a new way of living out faith and it was not just in the serenity and peace of a religious community, but also in the enthusiasm and life of the many people there.

Over a year there are upwards of 100,000 visitors to Taizé, many of them young people from all over the world. It was this that I found exhilarating. Language was no barrier. A desire to live as community, explore the Christian message together and to do so by conversation and openness, was to say the least, refreshing and life changing.

Am I being too naive to believe that the reality of Taizé and its impact on the lives of the many who visit there, might be the way to change the world? In that wonderful space in remote Burgundy people meet and talk. Language and national boundaries are of no concern. Simply being together and learning from one another is enough.

When Brother Roger began the community in 1940 it was in the midst of a world war. He always believed that Taizé would be a place of safety, peace and reconciliation. These are some of his thoughts,

"Reconciliation always brings a springtime to the soul."

"When we seek tirelessly to forgive and to be reconciled, a future opens up beyond all our expectations."

"The peace of your heart makes life beautiful for those around you."

The world turns and we often feel our part in it is so tiny, what can we do to influence it to make it a better place? May I be bold enough to suggest, we be ourselves! God has given us life and a life uniquely ours to live.

"Live in joyfulness. Encourage one another. Be of one mind and live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you".

2. Corinthians 13, 11-13. (verse for daily prayer and reflection – Taizé, May 31st 2026.)

Yours in Christ,

Ian

July Thoughts from The Benefice Office.. by Clare White



Planning July's reflective worship service at St James with Revd David, Caroline and Anne we read the passage from Matthew 13 - The parable about sowing good seed and someone else sowing weeds amongst it.

Jesus used his stories/parables to help people understand his message and share the "Good News". The parables help to gain a greater understanding, meeting us in language that we use in our everyday life, with examples and experiences of ordinary people.

I have always enjoyed Jesus's parables and particularly remember sitting on the carpet at Cam Hopton School listening to Mrs Warburton reading from a yellow paperback book. I must have been 5 years old.

When my own daughters were young, we used to read to them the Stories Jesus Told by Nick Butterworth. Fabulous illustrations and understandable script.

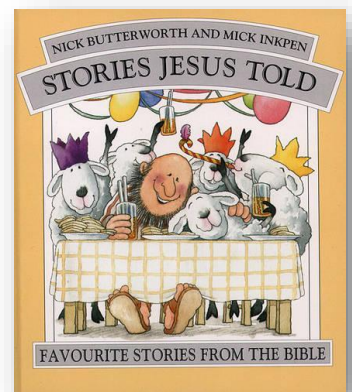
A parable is a short, metaphorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth. Rooted in the Greek word *parabolē* (meaning "to place side by side" or "comparison").

Understandable language is most important in our Christian lives, it means that all can find the help, support, know how to celebrate our Lord, share the kind Christian messages of hope in the resurrection, gifted to all of us through the Grace of God if we follow Jesus.

Parables are not just stories for entertainment; they are explicitly intended to teach, challenge perspective, or impart wisdom. Parables have a human focus, unlike fables - which often use animals or inanimate objects as main characters - parables almost exclusively feature people. We're then able to apply this in our own lives.

A favourite parable is from Matthew (13:45-46) The pearl of great price where the merchant searches for one special pearl and then gives up all that he has to own it. Achieving salvation is our pearl of great price.

A prayer *Heavenly Father, You are the Creator of all treasures. Just as the merchant sold all that he had to acquire the pearl of great price, I surrender my heart, my desires, and my life to You. Give me the grace to recognize the immeasurable value of Your Kingdom, and help me to seek You above all worldly distractions. In Jesus' name,
Amen.*



Quiz Night

18th July, 7pm

In aid of



Julius & Dora
Children's Centre

**Providing a loving home for abandoned
babies in Maseno, Kenya**

St James Parish Centre, Dursley

Teams of up to 6

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**Includes Ploughman's
supper, please bring your
own drinks.**

The Cotswold Singers

Summer Concert

Adult - £10
Child - free

FEATURING:

Jane Williams
Musical Director

Luc Bailey
Pianist

DETAILS:

*Refreshments
available*

*Raffle prizes to be
won*

*Proceeds to the
The Cotswold
Singers fund and
St Giles Church*

Sunday 5th July
2026
2pm

St Giles Church
Uley, Dursley, GL11 5SN

THE COTSWOLD SINGERS

St James the Great, Dursley

Coffee, Cake and Music 2026



10.30am coffee,
tea and cake
11-11.40am
Recital

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

July 25th
Piers Maxim (Malvern Priory)

August 29th William Reynolds
(Minster Church of St Mary, Swansea)

September 26th Andrew Millington
(Former DoM at Exeter Cathedral)

October 31st Bernard West
(Oxford)



**“Food from around the World
A Churches Together event
11th July. 4.30-7.30**

Dursley Community Centre, behind Rednock School

Tickets cost £5.00 and are available from Jan Vonberg,
Gill or Adrian Mather

***You need to buy a ticket in advance
to be sure we provide enough food.***

Get your ticket today!

As you will know, during my year as Convenor of Churches Together I chose as my charity to support GARAS, (Gloucester Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). It is an organisation supported by Gloucester Diocese to work with those who come here from other countries, some of which are very violent, to help them to find their place in society.

The programme we have planned will celebrate and rejoice in the contribution which people who have come to this country in the years since the Second World War can make to our communities. This late afternoon event will give us the chance to taste different foods from the countries represented in our neighbourhood. The food will be varied, and something for everyone– we hope. (All the ingredients will be listed next to each item of food.)

There will also be music and the telling of stories from around the world.

I do hope you will come and enjoy the evening, as it will be the last event during my year as Convenor of Churches Together.

David Vonberg

SINGERS WANTED.....

The church of St James the Great has been in the centre of Dursley for hundreds of years, and its robed choir has an unbroken record of service since its formation during the 'Oxford Movement' of the nineteenth century.

Today the choir numbers some twenty-seven adults who meet together each Friday to prepare music for the Sunday services. Recent media reports say that singing is good for well-being and that Choral Evensong is one of the 'jewels in the crown of English choral music' and St James choir is one of the few choirs in this area to sing a fully choral evensong.

Led by professional musicians, our repertoire is extremely comprehensive from the plainsong of the mediaeval church right up to present day composers (including commissioned works). We rehearse from 7.30pm-8.45pm most Fridays and sing for three Sunday mornings and two Sunday evening services a month. The choir does not rehearse or sing at services during August. Unlike a choral society or chamber choir, there is no subscription and there are social activities too!

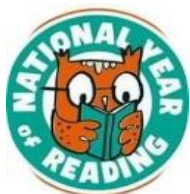
We are actively looking for more singers to join this unique choral activity.

Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are all welcome to join us. There is no audition; the only stipulation is that you can sing 'in tune'. Why not come to a Friday rehearsal (7.30pm in the Parish Centre) and see and hear what we do.





ST JAMES FREE BOOK STALL



It is lovely to see, in this National Year of Reading, so many children and families coming along to St James Church, Dursley on a Saturday morning to browse, read and take away the free books. It started to become a bit overcrowded so we extended the available area by restoring the children's area back nearer to the plan when it was created.

We are even finding cards of appreciation being left in the church.



The June charity week marked the end of the first year of supporting local charities and £2,110 was raised in the year. Thanks to your generosity, £150 was given to 'Tiny Toads' playgroup to help towards a folding bookcase and beanbags to enhance their reading area



Next month, on July 11th, all donations will go to the Chantry Centre who are raising money to replace the hall floor. The Chantry Centre has helped the church so much in the past with our dramatic productions and Arts Week displays that it is good to be able to support them in a very small way.





Award
winning care
homes

Join us for our next events

The Hollies care home, Dursley

Summer fete

Saturday 8th August, 2pm - 4pm

Join us for our very own food festival, as we come together to celebrate the flavours and traditions that make dining so special in our care home.

Holly Oak care home, Dursley

Dementia café

The last Wednesday of each month, 2pm - 4pm

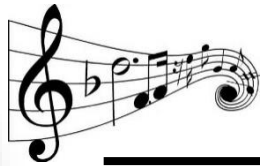
Aimed at those living with dementia and their loved ones, you'll have the opportunity to meet and share experiences with like-minded people in the local community.

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MUSIC NOTES FOR JULY

This year's "Come and Sing" will be an evensong devoted to the music of Charles Wood (1866-1926) as it's the centenary of his death – actually on 12th July, but that wasn't planned!

We sing a number of pieces by Wood, and they are all characterised by being eminently singable and well crafted. Wood was born into a musical family in Ireland and was initially taught by the organists of Armagh Cathedral, and later in 1883 became one of the first pupils at the newly formed Royal College of Music, London where he had the good fortune to be taught for four years by Stanford and Parry. He continued his studies at Selwyn College Cambridge,

In 1889 he accepted a teaching position at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, first as organ scholar and later as a Fellow, becoming the college's first director of music and organist. After Stanford died in 1924, Wood assumed his mentor's vacant position as Professor of Music at the University of Cambridge, but sadly ill-health meant that his tenure of that prestigious post was just two years before his death at the age of sixty. He was much respected as a teacher, but even the best of teachers sometimes get things wrong. In Wood's case it was his despairing remark that "he would never amount to anything" about none other than Ralph Vaughan Williams!

Today, Charles Wood is best known for his two hundred and fifty church music compositions, but he also wrote eight string quartets, a piano concerto, secular songs, sets of orchestral variations and three unfinished symphonies!

Do "come and sing" or at least come to hear evensong on Sunday 12th July!

Coffee Cake and Music on July 25th will be given by Piers Maxim, currently Director of Music at Malvern Priory. This will be Piers' first visit to St James, and we look forward to hearing this multi-talented musician.

Beginning as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a choral scholarship to Clare College Cambridge, Piers then studied conducting at the Guildhall College of Music before working in European opera including Staatsoper Berlin, Le Théâtre des Champs Elysées Paris, Netherlands Nationale Reisopera, and Bayreuther Festspiele. From 2002 to 2004 he was Chorus Master at Scottish Opera and later he

was Chorus Master at Le Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie in Brussels.
I wonder if we will get a selection from Verdi's *Aida*!

Music for July

5th am Lobet Gott in Seinen Reichen – J S Bach
Little Organ Mass – Haydn

12th am I will sing with the spirit - Rutter Mass of St James –
Davies

(Come and Sing)

pm O Most Merciful – Wood Ayleward Responses
Expectans expectavi – Wood Wood in D
O Thou the Central Orb - Wood

19th am Informal Service

26th am Praise Ye the Lord – Rutter Ireland in C.

Shoes (special organ shoes).....

An organist's shoes are extremely important, as it takes years for them to shape so that there's a sporting chance of hitting the correct notes on the pedal board. My own most recent organ shoes, carefully preserved, after about twenty years' use started to disintegrate earlier this year, and finding a replacement pair has been a long and depressing process. It reminded me of my first visit to St James' church in 1992 when, there in the organ loft, was a pair of organ shoes; small and well-worn.

It seemed the abandoned organ shoes belonged to someone called Jo Edginton, but it was some while before I met Miss Edginton in person. One evening when I was practising, Margaret Rutherford's double appeared in the loft and introduced herself as Jo Edginton. She had come to collect her organ shoes as she was off to play somewhere else, and she told me that she had permission to practise the organ at St James' and would be returning with the shoes.

I thought no more of it, until we met again and she waxed lyrical about the wonders of playing the organ. It seemed that when she was a pupil at Ashford School, she and a couple of other girls would "bunk off" games and head to the nearest church. "One of the girls would pump the organ for me, whilst the other acted as cove," said Miss Edginton. I don't think I've ever heard the word "cove" used in conversation before or since! (*now there's a Word of the Month – Judith*)

Turn on the clock some 30+ years, and recently I was handed a collection of short piano pieces published by Hinrichsen and composed by one Joyce Edginton. They were (are!) beautifully written and sound rather good. So bearing in mind our previous brief encounter I set about finding out more about the composer.

Born in 1908 at New Milton, Hampshire, Mary Joyce Edginton was educated at Ashford School, Kent (founded in 1898, and still going today) and the Royal Academy of Music and she gained the diplomas of LRAM, LTCL and ARCO. She taught in "various private schools" (it says in "Who's Who in Music" of 1969) until being appointed to Felixstowe College in 1937, and then moved to St Audries School at West Quantoxhead; then to St Katherine's School, Taunton before becoming "Music Mistress and Organist" at the Royal Masonic School for Girls at Rickmansworth in 1947 from where she retired. She published at least six works for piano, and the book I was given is called "Cats' Delight" which is a compendium of descriptive pieces each of which is dedicated to a particular pupil.

Miss Edginton's "specialities" are given as Organ, Piano and GCE Music. Her hobbies are listed as cats; canasta; reading; walking and travel. Her address ("School Hols") was 6, Dursley Court telephone 2262. On her death, her estate was bequeathed to the Royal College of Organists.

Funny the things which can be found out because of an ageing pair of organ shoes.

COME AND SING

CHORAL EVENSONG

at

ST JAMES-THE-GREAT

DURSLEY

on

Sunday 12th JULY 2026

**Featuring the music of
Charles Wood (1866 - 1926)**

Directed by

Lynn James

with

Nigel Davies (Organ)

Rehearsal 4.30pm

Tea (provided) 5.40pm

Service 6.30pm

All voices welcome!



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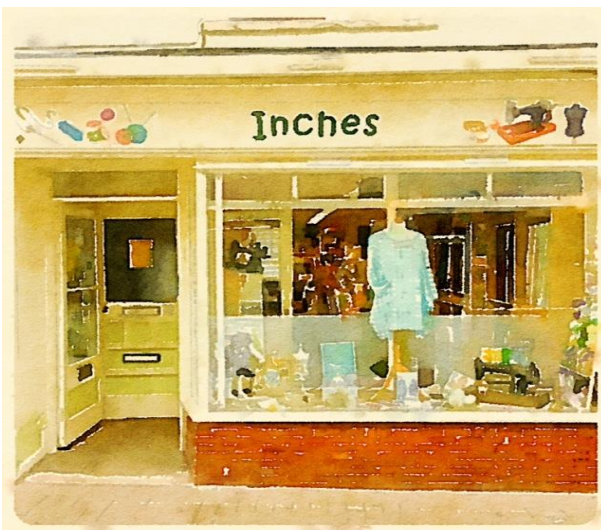
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Counting on Nature

The charity Caring for God's Acre runs a Count on Nature week in June, during which people are encouraged to record all the wildlife species they can find in their local churchyards and cemeteries and send photos, videos, or sound recordings to their Beautiful Burial Grounds project, part of an international online wildlife database administered by iNaturalist. The data collected can then be used by scientists worldwide, mainly for conservation purposes.



So, on Monday 15th June, Gill Mather, Richard Morgan and I, together with Gill's friends Jenny and Chris from Slimbridge, carried out a 'bio blitz' in St James's churchyard. The weather was fine and warm, thankfully, but a little breezy, which made photographing some of the plants and the insects feeding on them rather challenging, and, of course, the bees, butterflies and hover flies were far too busy to sit still and have their picture taken!

Jenny and Chris recording plants.

Nevertheless, we succeeded in recording a good number of species: one bird (a male blackbird), at least nine different insects (including bees, hover flies, beetles and a moth), one mollusc (a slug), two lichens, one mushroom and several dozen different types of plant (including common spotted orchid and many other wild flowers). We plan to compile a booklet of this year's findings, which will be available to view at the back of church. In the meantime, here are a few photos:



Common spotted orchid



Scarlet tiger moth



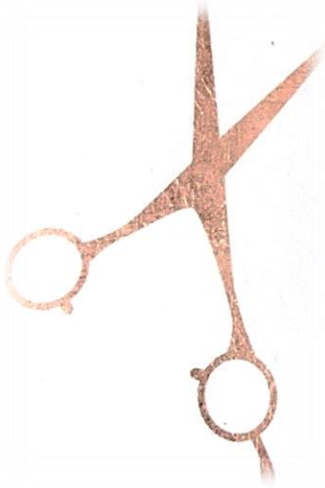
Asian lady beetle



Mottlegills (mower's mushroom)

If you think recording wildlife sightings sounds like fun, why not join in with the Big Butterfly Count between 17 July and 9 August (see <https://campaigns.butterfly-conservation.org>)?

PS There is an Eco Church group meeting on 20 July - if you're interested in joining us, please contact Jan Vonberg by email for details (janet.vonberg53@gmail.com)



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July 2026

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Wednesday 1st July

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 2nd July

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 5th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Holy Communion Service at St James

OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 20th July

Wednesday 8th July

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 9th July

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

Saturday 11th July

4.30pm Churches Together GARAS fund raiser - Food from around the World at Dursley Community Centre

7pm Dursley rock and Pop choir concert at St James

Sunday 12th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm Come and Sing Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14th July

2pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

Wednesday 15th July

9am End of year assembly for Dursley CofE Academy School at St James

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 16th July

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 18th July

9-12 Bring and Take event at St James

7pm Julius and Dora charity quiz in the Parish Centre

Sunday 19th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

8am Said Holy Communion at St James

10am Reflective Worship at St James with baptism

10am Shine! Informal worship at Dursley Academy CofE School

Monday 20th July

OFFICE OPEN

Tuesday 21st July

OFFICE OPEN

Wednesday 22nd July

OFFICE OPEN

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 23rd July

OFFICE CLOSED

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James with prayers for healing

Friday 24th July

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday 25th July

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music. Recitalist – Piers Maxim

Sunday 26th July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley

Monday 27th July

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 28th July

2pm Holy Communion at The Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 29th July

OFFICE CLOSED

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 30th July

OFFICE CLOSED

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

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CASTLEGATE WI



**Meetings on the
3rd Wednesday of the month
9.45am to midday
at The Community Centre,
Rednock School.**

COME AND JOIN US

We have interesting speakers and time to socialise.

Most months we organise to go out
to lunch after the meeting.

We have Coffee Mornings most months (not one in June).

You will in fact find many contacts in
St James on a Sunday.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON

Wednesday 15th July

Speaker: PCSO Abigail Barker, Fraudulent Scams.

Contacts:

President:

Glenys Muir 01453 543391

Secretaries:

Val Sheen 07842 427452

Judith Staddon 01453 544312

TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

PHOTOGRAPHY **EXHIBITION**

FRI 3 JULY SAT 4 JULY

7PM - 9PM

10AM - 4PM

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REST....*by Canon Richard Morgan*

July sees the beginning of school summer holidays. Many people take a holiday, a change or rest, at this time of year.

Rest is important to us. My wife would tell you I'm not very good at it, but it is important, and baulks large in the Bible, centrally with the institution of the sabbath. The command to rest on the sabbath day is one of the Ten Commandments. The word sabbath just means seventh. The Law of Moses called people to rest every seventh day. The Ten Commandments are given in the books of Exodus and of Deuteronomy. They give the same ten commands, but the motive for the sabbath law is different. In Exodus 20.2-17, the better-known version, the sabbath is derived from God's completion of creation in six days and resting on the seventh. In Deuteronomy 5.6-21, the sabbath is derived from the Exodus from Egypt, God's liberation of Israel from slavery. In both versions, the insistence on having rest includes servants or slaves and indeed the sabbath is for animals too. And the sabbath principle is extended to plants and the fields. The Law of Moses enacts a sabbath year. Every seventh year the land must have rest.

So, rest is obviously vital to life. Exhaustion is bad for people, plants and animals! There are still many parts of the world where people are oppressed, including having to overwork to survive. And we are more aware than ever of the dangers of over-driving our environment, leading to the threat of ecological disaster. Perhaps it is not so much a matter of having fallow years as needing to leave areas forested and not cultivated to enable the planet to breathe and cool itself.

Jesus was famously opposed to a legalistic attempt to enforce the sabbath regardless of people's good. He understood the sabbath more from the Deuteronomic view than that of the Book of Exodus – the sabbath is part of God's will and work to release people and other creatures from slavery and oppression. Rest on the sabbath, for Jesus, includes giving rest from suffering by healing people. Sabbath rest as enforced total inactivity is not what matters. Indeed, no one ever took it so far – Jesus pointed out that animals were led to water on the sabbath, and rescued if they fell into a ditch. Doctors need to deal with emergencies, the infirm need to receive care on the sabbath. Necessary services need to be provided.

But the sabbath as a pause in economic work has great value. It contradicts the idea that what matters about humans is getting material wealth. It puts a question mark against greed. It emphasises

the need for respect for the rights and the good of the poor and animals and the environment. We live in an insanely over-individualist culture. We can recognise that each person needs a regular rest day, but we do not see the value of a communal day of leaving the pursuit of wealth. That would be difficult to introduce now, as which day would we choose? The seventh day of the week is actually Saturday – and the Jewish sabbath runs from Friday evening to Saturday evening. Christians worship together chiefly on Sundays, the first day of the week, when Jesus rose. Muslims' chief day of worship is Friday, but I don't think that is a day of rest for them like the Jewish sabbath. But automation and AI suggest we won't need so much human work, so perhaps the weekend of Saturday and Sunday could be further developed – though two days with most shops shut would be hard for many!

The sabbath says work is not everything. It can point us to the understanding that our basis of life, our relationship with God, is based on a response to God's love of faith, trust, not on our achievements or rule keeping. And release from work can open space and time for us to love others, to appreciate and care for them, not just our own achievements.

So, if you are taking a holiday at this time, may it give you space to enjoy and appreciate God, creation, other folk, and even your true self.



July Acrostic Poem....by Sally Hayward



Journeying on into July,
Usually all school's break up for their summer hols
Longing to get away
You'll have to look through some brochures and
make your choice.



A SHORT BUT VERY SPECIAL LIFE.. *by Jennifer Kendrick*

A few weeks ago, in March, I ordered a special mail delivery which duly arrived as promised. Just a modest brown box with a sealed see-through plastic pot containing what looked like five tiny scraps of wriggling black thread. There was also an unappetising layer of dark grey mush, which was, apparently, their food!



Within days these miniscule mites had munched almost constantly without ceasing and were recognisable as fat caterpillars, active and interesting, but just dull brown!

About a week later, they pupated overnight so I missed seeing them chrysalise, and attach themselves to the pot lid. I carefully transferred that to a special habitat where they hung motionless for about ten days.

Then the first adult butterfly emerged, beautiful, bossy, powerful and ready to conquer the world. Buffalo Bill bullied the others as they stuttered into new identities! Mumsie was clearly the peacemaker, quietly protective but allowing the slightly smaller ones, absolute freedom in their secure environment. Mungo and Maisie were twins and always active together, tumbling and turning like acrobats in the circus, without fear or favour.

Number Five was the runt of the litter, ready and willing but not able, so colourful, perfectly formed but lacking vital brain power! The others happily sipped the sugar solution I supplied in a tiny lid with shiny rim for safety, dodged round the nettles and rested happily on the flowers. However, Itsy Bitsy, so named to avoid any mistake of sexual identity, preferred to lie IN the tiny pool of moisture and get soggy, impatient of all my efforts to offer tasty morsels of fresh fruit and strengthening exercises. aided by the gentle bristles on an old sink brush with a long handle.

As soon as the habitat was left open, Buffalo Bill took off and immediately disappeared in my garden. Mumsie stayed another night seeming to make sure her domestic duty was done. Later in the day twin one, Mungo ventured forth as a scout before returning, after a few hours to report to his close sibling and, next day, they left together well prepared to battle the wind and rain but leaving me anxious about their future.

Sadly Itsy Bitsy, this perfectly formed and beautiful creature, had no strength or ambition in the unequal battle for survival. That left me feeling helpless. Then I realised what a privilege I had being in close contact with such a precious being,



observing the extremes of an individual life in detail, from birth to death. The natural order of our wonderful world needs us to share and care, listen and learn, prepared to accept our limits before we let go and let God work His purpose out. Then all will be well.

Incidentally, as Itsy's body lay in state, in my sitting room, an identical butterfly fluttered by outside, briefly tapped on the window and confidently flew on. I feel truly blessed.

HEART FELT PLEA.....

I am a graduate of the old-fashioned school of basic hygiene and common sense. I grew up knowing Coughs and Sneezes spread diseases which was the mantra for all ages and it was considered essential to always have a clean hanky readily available! Disposable tissues did not exist. Coughing in public was considered rude and spitting was absolutely indefensible. Chapped hands eventually healed with no fancy creams!

As a six year old, in 1943, I carefully cut up and sewed old cotton sheets in suitable squares which I posted to The British Forces Post Office in Germany to make sure my Daddy, serving in the RAF, never had a runny nose! I was so proud of my war effort!

Working as a 16 year old Clinic Assistant, my friends and I were tasked with making sure everything was scrubbed, sterilised, dried and spotless without any antibacterial dips or magic solutions! Simply meticulous attention to detail, methylated surgical spirit and a sense of collective responsibility. So it continued throughout nurse training and beyond.

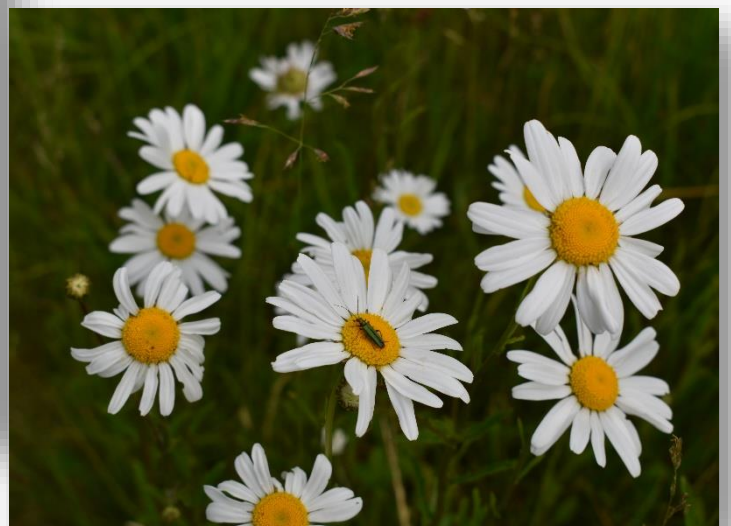
Any contagious condition in the community was swiftly identified and those affected, isolated, if possible at home, otherwise in fever hospitals for barrier nursing. Equipped only with masks and aprons, we relied on hot water and medicated soap, dedicated care to each patient and colleagues and perpetual proper hand hygiene. A quick lick in passing the hand basin is worse than useless, giving a false sense of security and probably spreading more bugs!

Of course, progress has changed attitudes, policies and time management, but going quicker does not equate to achieving best results faster or any noticeable benefits!

I have recently been hit hard by a most painful, debilitating and distressing bacterial infection which, mercifully, seems to be an isolated case. I have managed with home help and implemented GP advice, but 10 days of my life evaporated without trace.

Now, think the current Africa epidemic, and understand we are not immune to catastrophe on an epic scale that we are powerless to overcome! Consider other people, at all times, is all I ask. I can do no more.

**Pictures by Elizabeth Oakley taken at the Open Garden
at 52 Woodmancote on 31st May**



THANKS...from 52 Woodmancote, Open Garden.

Plus the answers to **PHILIP'S DASTARDLY QUIZ.**

Philip and Judith would like to thank everyone who came along to our Open Garden on 31st May, enjoyed the plants, the view the cream teas, entering the quiz and giving so generously, which made £612.00 for St James. Our thanks to Clare, Steve and Moya without whose help manning the kitchen, this would not happen.

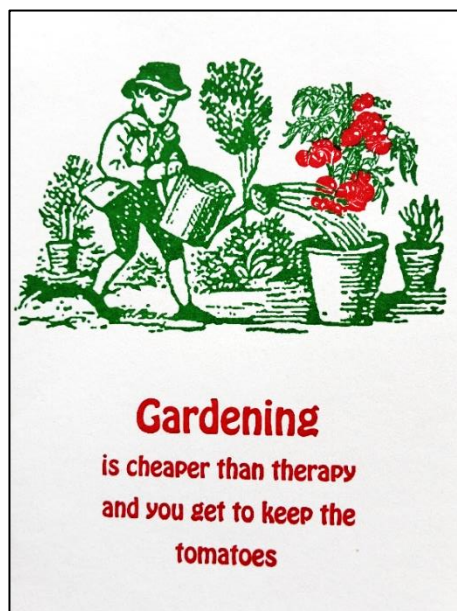
Around the garden Philip had arranged 20 things, marked as QUIZ which made 10 pairs, for instance if you found an acorn and somewhere else a book on antiques they would make a pair ACORN ANTIQUES, easy isn't it!! (It's OK if you are a certain age!!)

ANSWERS:

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| Buddy | Holly |
| Sink | Hole |
| Robin | Hood |
| Windmill | Theatre |
| Rhubarb | Custard |
| Banana | Split |
| King | Coal |
| Belt | Braces |
| Wallace | Grommet |



Love in a Mist and Campanula



This is from a birthday card I received, I might need therapy for the aching joints but the tomatoes are well worth it!!
Judith

WORD OF THE MONTH ENTRIES FOR JUNE - Mollify

You see,
I need to be
Quite
Polite,
Patient too,
It is true,
Humble
As I mumble
To apologise,
As is wise
To try
To mollify
Those who cry,
That I annoy.
Can Richard

I'm angry when I read the news
I despise the summer heat
I'm angry when a pizza box gets thrown across the street
I'm angry when a pothole needs filling with tar
and mortified when I see a dog in a hot and stifling car
But one thing always makes me smile
when I hear my wife's deep sigh and her words,
Your just like your father, calm down and Mollify.
Roland Swift

When we all rowed at home my Mum would mollify us and peace
would reign once again - not for Long!
Paul Prodger

And the Winner is..... *Jean Gardner*

As a first time Mum, I was justly proud of my beautiful daughter and booked a session with a professional photographer to capture her image.

With hair well brushed and dressed in her best we arrived at the studio. But, in spite of his best efforts the photographer was unable to persuade my darling daughter to pose or smile for him.

We left without success, I was disappointed and annoyed.

When we got outside, with the cutest of smiles she looked up at me and said - "I can do it now Mummy" of course she was completely unaware that that alone was enough to mollify me!!



WORD OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

Each Month there will be a new word which we need you to fit into a sentence. The sentence, which best conveys the meaning of the word and will be judged by the editors and Benefice Administrator, will be the winner.

The word for July is Meritorious

Send entries to the Office, Valerie or Judith
by 20th

St Mark's is on the market.....

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What are ordinations?

At the end of June, Gloucester Cathedral once again became the setting for two joyful and significant services as the Diocese of Gloucester marked the ordination of 18 new candidates.

For many people, the word 'ordination' may not be familiar word. Ordination is a church service that marks someone becoming a priest.

For those being ordained, it comes after years of thinking, training and prayer about where God is calling them.

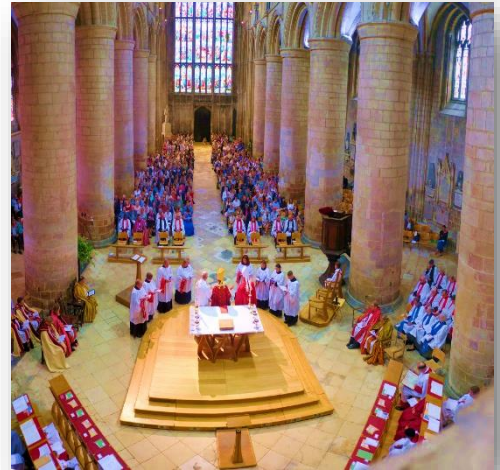
Over the last weekend in June, eleven people were ordained as priests and seven as what are called 'deacons'.

Deacons are called to a ministry of service, both within the Church and in the wider community. They often focus on outreach, pastoral care, and helping the Church engage with the needs of the world.

Many deacons are later ordained priest, but they will still be a deacon, keeping that element of service to others at the core of their ministry.

One of those ordained as deacon this year was Andy Everett, whose journey to ministry has unfolded over many years. He first came to faith more than 35 years ago after being invited to church by his future wife, Kathryn, and went on to be baptised and grow in Christian faith alongside a long career in primary education, including 23 years as a headteacher in church schools.

After moving to Mickleton in 2022, Andy and Kathryn began attending local churches and sensed again a growing call to ordained ministry, which had first been raised nearly a decade earlier. A further prompt from within the church community helped confirm that sense of calling, leading Andy to begin training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon in 2023. He said: "I feel that God is already at work in these communities. I'm just being asked to join in."



You can read Andy's full faith journey at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/andys-journey-from-headteacher-to-ordinand/>

Priests build on that foundation of service and take on additional responsibilities. They can lead Holy Communion, offer forgiveness, and blessings, and play a central role in the pastoral and spiritual life of a parish. Ordination as a priest usually comes after time spent serving as a deacon.

Family, friends, clergy and congregations from across the diocese all gathered at the ordinations to support and pray for the ordinands. We give thanks for the gifts, dedication and vocation they bring to their parishes and communities.

People can be called to many things, from ordained ministry, to nursing, to art. If you'd like to think about where God is calling you, speak to your priest.

RECOGNISE: Children, Youth and Family Ministry reflections

Working in Children, Young People and Families Ministry (CYFM) can involve everything from storytelling and craft activities to pastoral support, school partnerships and helping families feel at home in church. Yet much of this work often happens quietly, behind the scenes.

That is why RECOGNISE, a national week celebrating everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and families, matters so much. Taking place from 6 to 12 July, the initiative aims to shine a light on the people who dedicate their time and care to nurturing faith in younger generations. Churches across the country will be joining in a shared moment of gratitude for the people who help children and families grow in faith.

This year, Rachel Laughton, Children and Families Worker at Hempstead, has been nominated to represent the diocese at a special RECOGNISE celebration at Lambeth Palace. She has worked in her role for five and a half years.

"When I work with children and young people, I try and make anything I do as child led as possible and make sure they feel listened to. It's important they have an outlet, and for them to know and feel that what they do is valued.

"We can learn so much from younger people. It's a very two-way thing. It's not just us providing and giving information and teaching and nurturing. It's definitely a partnership in spiritual growth."

Find out more at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/children-and-young-people/doubling-number-children-and-young-people/30k-project/recognise>

Years Mind in July

2nd Sadie Coldrick

3rd Valerie Banham 2025

4th Jonathan Littleford 2020, Keith Midgley 2022

5th Connie Cuff 2002, Richard Robertson 2015

8th Kenneth Grimes

7th John Simmonds 2022

9th Davis Brown 2016, Timothy Frankau 2020

10th Dorothy Poole 2016

13th Pearl Thompson 2020, Marie Tomlins 2021

14th Christopher Osgood 2023

16th Ruby Easthope 2002, Gerald Bannister 2020

17th Stephen Hall 2001, Violet Powell 2001, Catherine Riddick 2002
Eric Sainty 2008

18th Hilda Swann 2002

19th Gillian Kirvan 2014

20th Alice Clift, Julia Carter 2015

21st Stephen Hill 1989, Baby Amelia Ind-Smith, Frederick Bailey 2006,
David Muir 2017

22nd Phyllis Hurcombe 2002, John Yorath 2015

24th Frank Roper 1993

25th Vera Story 1997

26th Doug Phillips 1998

28th Dorothy Brown 2016, Michael Holigan 2023

29th Daryl Matthews 2008, Kathleen Wiggins 2014

30th Irene Rutter 2009, Robina Bailey 2012, Wendy Rose 2022

31st Constance Workman 2001



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Heather Arnold is the
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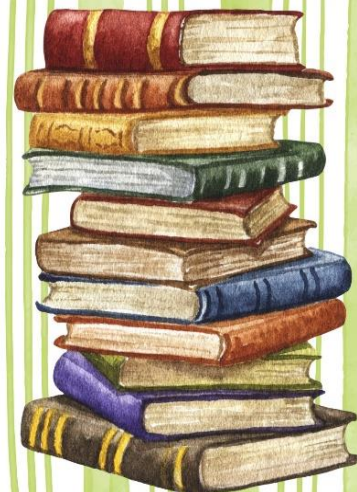
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



BAPTISM.

We welcome in the church family by baptism.

21st June - Baptism of Dottie Dolbear at St James

FLOWER ROTA

July 5th & 12th

High Altar Sarah Hodge

Tanner Chapel Ann Orchard

Lady Chapel Glenys Muir

July 26th & August 2nd

High Altar Cynthia Martin

Tanner Chapel tba

Lady Chapel tba

Patronal Festival (Dedication)

Pulpit Marian Paisey

Nave Pillar Kim Pugh

Font Anthea Fittall

Hymn Book Chest Kate Sant

Porch Sheila Gardner



PASTORAL CARE

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BELLRINGERS

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CHOIR

Anne Shipton Tel: 07557 784858

David Wood Tel: 01453 545073



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