

The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2023

The Parish of Dursley



Price 60p each
£6 Annually

The Ewelme Benefice

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

Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our magazine.

November is our month for remembering, not only the war dead but also our family members and friends who we see no longer. At the end of the month we have the Christmas market again, as usual, in the church, to coincide with the switch on of lights in the Town. This year we need your support more than ever.

We thank you all for your continued contributions to the 'Messenger'.

From
Valerie and Judith (editors)

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NOVEMBER

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**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2023**

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



Revd Jane writes...

Dear Friends,

I love the autumn, and watching the leaves change around us, their stunning colours changing through a whole spectrum of yellows, reds, oranges and then to brown as eventually they fall to the ground.

This time of year is the season in the Church when we turn to the season of remembering. At All Souls we remember by name and light a candle in our service for those whom we have loved and have known who are no longer with us, whether that was recent or a long time ago.

It is also a time when we mark Remembrance Sunday. I remember as a brownie with the Hove Edge group going to St Martin's, in Brighouse (West Yorkshire) and standing in my brownie uniform (no gaberdines or anoraks allowed) as we gathered with all the other uniformed organisations from around the area. I can remember feeling quite sick as we processed, I was so overcome with emotion. It was for me, even then, such an intense experience especially as we stood for the 2-minute silence and remembered the fallen. That would have been around twenty-five years after the end of the Second World War, about the age of my oldest son now - no time at all in the memories of those who were gathered.

After the silence, the Kohima Epitaph was read.

**When you go home Tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.**

This year as in previous years we will gather around the war memorials in Uley, Dursley and Nympsfield and remember the lives by individual names of those who died in our communities. Sadly, as we remember them there is war again in Europe. As I write this is the 593rd day of the war in Ukraine. Images of the conditions of the soldiers take us back to the trench warfare photographs we are more used to seeing in history books about WW1 as the war develops into hand-to-hand, infantry combat.

War is always with us and is always real. Especially as we remember this year, we continue to come face to face with the reality of war on the European Continent.

As the autumn turns to winter here and the leaves fall, we remember all who have died in combat and continue to do so.

This Remembrance Sunday, as we gather, and stand in silence and hear again the words of the Kohima Epitaph, let us keep, year by year remembering and honouring with hope in our hearts, so that the lives sacrificed for us, and our peace may not have been in vain.

May Jesus the Prince of Peace be with us at each memorial as he is with us now and always and is with all who suffer from wars present and past, in Europe and across the world.

With love

Revd Jane



PASTORAL CARE

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





Christmas Shoe Boxes for T4U

“Give Love in a Box This Year”.



Your shoebox will be given to a vulnerable child, or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. Our aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children. Please be a part of this ongoing story that is continuing to impact and change lives by donating a shoebox to this year’s appeal!

This year the shoeboxes will be heading to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

Deadline for filling your box is 12th November 2023.

There are some ready wrapped boxes if you need one; please see Caroline Marrow

WANTED

Volunteers with ‘Cans’
(not cannots)

Can help sort books on Saturday mornings at 8.00am

Can help pack books away on Saturdays at 12.00

St James Church Bookstall
074 62 542777

Clive says 'over £4,100 has been donated since the beginning of January and over £23,000 since the book stall started. MANY THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED

EWELME BENEFICE

Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving

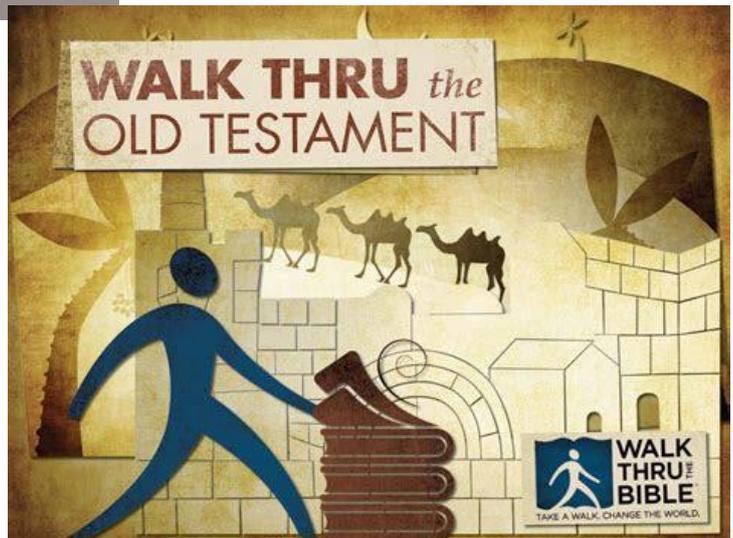
ST JAMES, DURSLEY

6.30PM 5TH NOVEMBER

We would be very pleased if you could bring with you a cut flower with a long stem to represent for you those whom you want to remember. During the service these flowers will be put together to produce a flower arrangement and brought forward at the end of the service.



All are welcome



Walk Through the Bible

Walk through the Old Testament

Saturday November 18th Dursley Tab 10am to 4.30pm

It is just £14 per person for a life changing day - everyone also receives a workbook, a devotional, free readmission for life and more.

FREE for young people aged 11-17.

To book your place contact Simon Helme

minister@dursleytab.org.uk



REMEMBERING

November Acrostic and poem

by Sally Hayward



November we remember our loved
Ones who have fought in the Wars
Various services going on in
Every Church
Many Poppies are worn; we
Believe
Each one will
Remain in our hearts wherever we maybe.

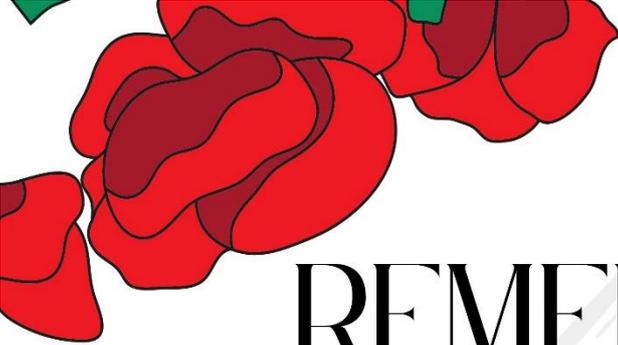
Poppies Acrostic.

Poppies are worn
On Remembrance Day all
People's that fought in the Wars, we
Pray for each one,
Individuals have
Everlasting memories of that
Special someone in their lives.

Poppies Poem

Poppies are various colours from pink, orange and red.
Said to be worn on Remembrance Sunday.
So many prayers for loved one's we have lost in the Wars.
Today we call them our Heroes and they will never be forgotten.
When the War is carrying on today.
Play board games instead.
Dread the News and we find out another one's life was taken away.
Then brought home in a box, a service is held and prayers are said.
Long may we remember the dead.





REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
ST JAMES THE GREAT.
DURSLEY

3pm November 12th 2023

Parade starts at 2.30pm from The Bus Station



Commemorating the sacrifices of members of the
armed forces and of civilians in times of war.

CHRISTMAS MARKET
 NOV 24TH
 5PM - 7PM
 NOV 25TH
 10AM - 12NOON

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TIME TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS OFF TO A GOOD START.

FIRST THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON IN THE TOWN, THEN BUY YOUR PRESENTS IN ST JAMES



DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PLACE FOR WREATH MAKING. THIS YEAR WE HAVE SOME STARS AS WELL COMPLETE WITH LIGHTS!!.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS IN ST MARK'S AGAIN THIS YEAR.

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2023

JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS
 WREATH & DECORATIONS WORKSHOPS

CREATIVE CHRISTMAS!

2-4:00PM OR 7-9PM
 AT ST MARK'S CHURCH, WOODMANCOTE, DURSLEY
 To book a place contact Clare at ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com
 or phone 01453 549280

£15/session which includes demonstration, all materials & festive refreshments

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REMEMBERING *By Clare White*



In Dursley we commemorate fifty six names on the war memorial gates at the Parish Church of St James the Great.

Thinking about all the names of the people who sacrificed their lives made me think about the surname Dursley and I looked at the memorial of this man from Canada and how he lost his life at the age of 35.

Private William Dursley of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment)

Date of Death 28th February 1915

Buried at Voormezele enclosure no.3, Belgium

On the night of 28 February 1915, 100 men of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry staged the first trench raid of the war near Ypres, Belgium. They destroyed 30 yards of German trenches and experienced casualties of 5 killed and 11 wounded, one of these being Private William Dursley.

They moved out from Shelley Farm just before dawn on 28 Feb led by the snipers. The assault group, under Lieut Crabbe took the Germans completely by surprise when they rushed the sap trench. Lt Papineau led the bombing section which ran along the top of the trench to clear any opposition with grenades. Eighty yards of trench were cleared before a barricade of sandbags was reached. The Germans put up a strong resistance here, and Corporal Ross, the leader of the snipers, was killed. The support party and parapet demolition party followed up, now exposed to fire from the fully alert enemy. This was carried out successfully under fire as dawn was breaking, involving acts of heroism by men helping the wounded. Major Gault was wounded in the wrist helping a man under heavy fire. Lt Crabbe was also wounded, and his men suffered 20 casualties. The raid had the effect of raising the morale of the Patricias who had not been engaged in 'proper' action until then.

On Remembrance weekend we commemorate all those who have died in conflict, from the Great War through to recent times. We should never forget their sacrificed lives, including those from every country who were allied to Great Britain.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By John McCrae, May 1915 (*Canadian military doctor and artillery commander*)



Picture by The Commonwealth War Graves
Voormezeele enclosure no.3, Belgium

**STOP PRESS!! A VAGUELY VICTORIAN BARN DANCE on 21st October,
held in St James with the Band Sergeant's Mess..**

Thanks go to Barbie Davies and friends for a fun evening. We danced and we had a Ploughman's supper plus lovely apple and cinnamon cake rounded off the evening. My thanks to Lynn James for the photos..



Philip dressed for the part

Barbie and
Royston in full
swing



See more pictures on page 29....

EXCELLENT
REVIEWS



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Hollies



Bellringing *by Frank Byrne*

No practice on Thursday 19 October. Instead, fourteen of us took ourselves off for our annual dinner. This year it was at the Della Casa, Dursley, our first visit for the tower dinner.

Our silent, simulator, midweek, midday practices have been reinitiated, this time on a more ad hoc basis and not completely silent. Some of the bells have thick rubber 'shoes' placed round the clapper, rather than securing the clapper in place preventing it striking the bell at all. The rubber has the effect of severely reducing the sound although not completely. The effect produces a sound outside the tower resembling a swarm of bees. It is easier to fit these rubber shoes and helps the bell to feel or handle more like the real thing, although the difference is very marginal. Hopefully the sound is deadened sufficiently so as not to annoy the neighbourhood with additional ringing.

Quarter Peals

Dursley,

On Monday, 11 September 2023

1260 Changes of Grandsire Triples

1 Ashley Pearson; 2 Carole Bucknell; 3 Anne Pope ; 4 Jonathan Adkins
5 John Cole; 6 Philip Pope; 7 John Gibson (Conductor); 8 Ian Bucknell
First on 8 bells for - 1

Dursley,

On Monday, 9 October 2023

1280 Spliced Surprise Major (in 4 methods)

(4m: Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland)

1 Anthony Bulteel; 2 Carole Bucknell; 3 Jonathan Adkins; 4 Ian Bucknell,
5 John Cole; 6 Andrew Binstead; 7 Andrew Ward;
8 Philip Pope (Conductor)

1st Spliced - 5

Rung in thanksgiving for St Mark's Church, Dursley (Woodmancote) which had its valedictory service in March 2023

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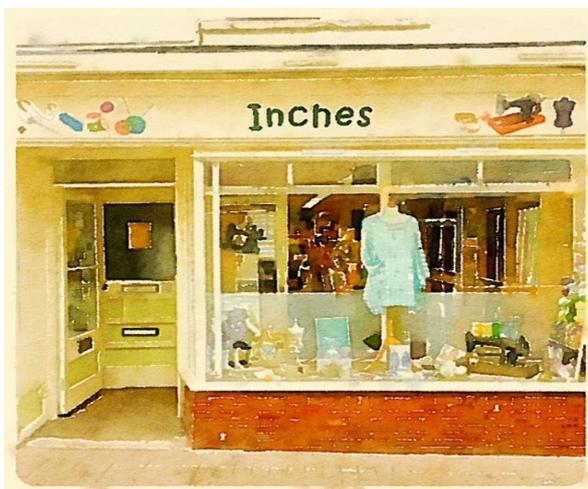
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MUSIC FOR November 2023

5th November 10am - All Saints Sunday

10.00am Parish Communion St James

Office	Mass of the creator	Sanders
Choir Motet	Wondrous Cross	Wilby
Voluntary	Scherzo (Sonata No 5)	Guilmant

6.30pm Service of Remembering

Voluntary	Elegy	Thalben Ball
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12th November 10.00am - Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Parish Communion at St James

Office	Stanford in C	
Choir Motet	Greater Love	Ireland
Voluntary	Imperial March	Elgar

3pm Remembrance Sunday Service

Voluntary	Alla Marcia	Holt
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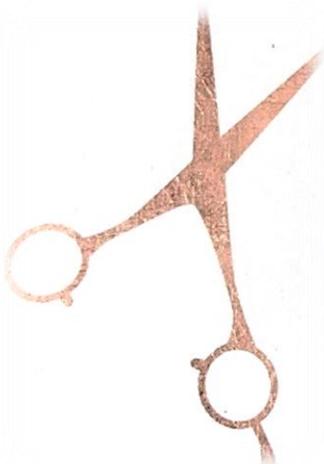


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November 2023

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Wednesday 1st November

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 2nd November

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 5th November - All Saints Sunday

10am Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm All Souls service

Tuesday 7th November

10am Staff meeting in the choir room

Wednesday 8th November

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 9th November

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 12th November - Remembrance Sunday

10am Parish Holy Communion

3pm Remembrance Service

Tuesday 14th November

2pm Communion at Holly Oak

Wednesday 15th November

9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

7.30pm Dursley PCC at St Mark's

Thursday 16th November

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11am Pastoral Prayer Group in the choir room

Saturday 18th November

- 1pm Tyndale Choir rehearsal in St James
- 7.30pm Tyndale Choir concert in St James

Sunday 19th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

- 8am Said Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 10am Service of The Word at St James, Dursley

Wednesday 22nd November

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

Thursday 23rd November

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

Friday 24th November

- 5-7pm Christmas Market at St James

Saturday 25th November

- 10-12noon Christmas Market at St James

Sunday 26th November - Christ The King

NO SERVICE AT ST JAMES

- 10am Benefice Communion Service at **St Giles, Uley**

Tuesday 28th November

- 2pm Communion at The Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 29th November

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

Thursday 30th November

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

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The Shrines at Walsingham – Restoration, Roman Catholic Shrine

by Tony King



Following the first pilgrimage to the Shrine at King's Lynn in August 1897,



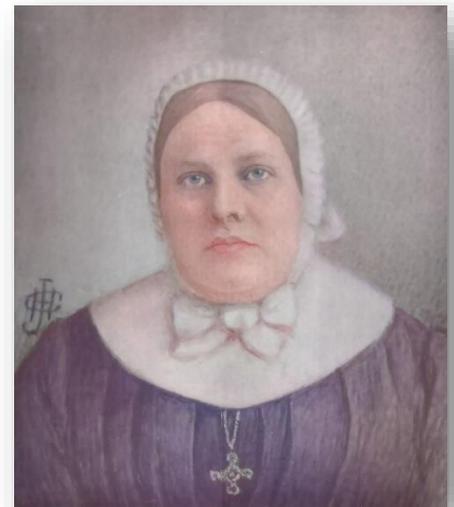
Fr Wriggleworth and Fr Fletcher gathered with about 50 other pilgrims at Walsingham Station and were led by a crucifer and acolytes to the Slipper Chapel (still at that time a cow shed) where there was an act of reparation for the sacrilege which had destroyed the ancient shrine. Afterwards they dispersed and went in small groups to pray at

the site of the ancient shrine in the priory ruins.

Among the pilgrims that day was an Anglican lady, Miss Charlotte Boyd, who owned the Slipper Chapel and the ground around it, having purchased it from Henry Lee Warner of Walsingham Abbey in about 1895.

By this time, she had been received in the Catholic Church and wanted to return it to Benedictine monks, believing that it had been originally owned by them. In fact, it had probably belonged to the Augustinians at the Priory.

She seems not to have appreciated that, unlike in the Church of England, a community could not come into a diocese unless invited by the bishop.



The response to initial approaches to Bishop Riddell of Northampton on her behalf were not encouraging. Bishop Riddell's reply has been lost. Miss Boyd wrote personally to the bishop in August 1895:

'It is old Benedictine ground and I had a great wish to restore it to them ... Would your Lordship accept the Benedictines should it be possible for them to take a Mission near Walsingham, or have you any other suggestion to make regarding the Chapel?'

The Bishop responded: 'For many years I have longed to do something for the North district of Norfolk... in answer to your question I may say that I should like to place a good missionary priest in the Slipper Chapel

who might in time establish little missions at Dereham, Fakenham and Wells’.

Miss Boyd wanted it to be more than a Mission – she wanted it to be Benedictine and she wanted it to be a shrine -and so she did, in fact, hand the chapel over to Downside Abbey in June 1897. She appointed an eminent architect, Thomas Garner, to restore the Chapel and build a cottage alongside it, work that was completed in 1900.

She wrote again to the Bishop in July 1897, telling him of her plans and actions. We do not have the bishop’s reply but he cannot have been very pleased, having only a month earlier blessed the new church and Shrine at King’s Lynn. An insight into his thinking comes from a reply to the Abbot-elect of Downside who wrote asking permission to conduct a pilgrimage to Walsingham from Beccles. The Bishop replied: ‘There is only one pilgrimage approved by me, that is to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham at Lynn. I cannot approve of any other’.

Neither Miss Boyd, nor Downside, knew what to do. Here was a disused chapel in the countryside and a house with no one to live in it.

Further correspondence revealed that the Bishop would only consider translating the Shrine from Lynn if it were to be on the ‘...exact spot of the ancient shrine and the reconstruction of the old Loretto (chapel)...’

Miss Boyd died in April 1906, her dream unfulfilled.

A caretaker was put into the house and things drifted on until in 1933 a new Bishop, Laurence Youens agreed to proceed with the creation of a Shrine Church.



A beautiful shrine was created. The earlier statue of Our Lady and Child remained at what is still the Pontifical Shrine at King’s Lynn, and a new statue, modelled from the Priory seal was designed.

On the 19th August, 1934, Cardinal Francis Bourne, with most of the bishops of England and Wales, led a pilgrimage of over 12,000 people to the Slipper Chapel where, with the permission of the Pope, he declared it to be the National Shrine of Our Lady in England.

To be continued.

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



In the middle of moving house, Danny Parker has found time to think about what he enjoys culturally.

Do you have a favourite author or book?

My favourite book is the Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas. I read this as a child and then again multiple times. It inspired my love of the value of learning.

What are you reading at present?

The Ways of mental prayer by Vitalis Lehodey a fascinating methodology of levels of prayer

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

I have never attempted War and Peace but now don't feel I have the stamina.

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

Frank Sinatra, come fly with me.

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

This is a very difficult question as there are so many but hearing Bachs chaconne played well is an incredible experience.

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

I have played the guitar since I was a child and still enjoy playing as a hobby. I would love to have learned how to play the violin.

What is your favourite film?

David Leans Great Expectations

What about a favourite television series?

Miss Marple with Joan Hickson

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

I attempted to educate myself about painting rather unsuccessfully in my early twenties by reading books on art whilst commuting to work in London. I was struck by Turner's maritime works, Fort Vimieux stands out and it reminds me of what was an enjoyable time.

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

Forty Hall in Enfield was a magical place as a child. I spent many happy hours in in the surrounding landscaped gardens.

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

I am actually rather pleased with Dursley.

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

I would love the opportunity to have dinner with past family members, my father, grandmother, grandfather, aunt and great grandfather.

Dursley Walking Festival – 5 Churches Walk

by Adrian Mather



On a lovely sunny day some twenty one people set out from St James on the five Churches Walk for Dursley Walking Festival. We had mix of those who had done the walk previously and a few new faces.

A few had taken the opportunity to browse the books and look inside St James before we set off.

After the obligatory photo call, we walked up to St Marks where Philip kindly gave a short talk on its history and explained that it was no longer being used for worship. Once through the churchyard we dropped down to Rosebery Road and admired the Halloween display on one of the houses before crossing over to Ferney and picking up the Cotswold Way past Chestal House.

We wound our way through Newlands, stopping to admire the Shetland Ponies and the Cam Parish marker post before passing Hydegate and a horse having a pedicure.

Then a fairly steep climb up to just below Uley Bury – those who wanted to go up, were encouraged and were treated to a lovely view down towards the River Severn. Although it was a little hazy in the distance. Having orientated some as to where we were and what we could see, we descended off the top to pick up the rest of the group. Then as the saying goes “what goes up must come down” we dropped down a very steep slope, which was a bit like walking on marbles, towards Uley. A short traverse and a path led us to St Giles and a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits provided by Pauline.

A slightly longer stop to let people improve their energy levels by having snacks etc. we set off, now joined by the Rev. Jane, past the pub – tempting – down towards the River Ewelme and then to Holy Cross where Jane managed to get the main lights on for us and a good look round was enabled.

A short road section, then we walked past Owlpen wood with the trees just starting to turn in the glorious sunshine, before the very steep section through Dingle Wood up to the road above Nymphsfield. A careful road crossing and then through a field of sheep and down over a very steep stile/bank we turned towards our final destination, St Bartholomew's, where we were met by Pat & Gill.

It was a lovely walk with old and now new friends and I would like to thank David Vonberg, David Wood (husband of the Revd Jane!) & Chris Tyler for their help in shepherding the group along the way. Making sure we didn't lose anyone was a bonus!



Vale Community Hospital League of Friends

"The Vale Community Hospital League of Friends are urgently looking for volunteers. We need people to help in the shop in the Hospital for a few hours each week, or people who would like to help with the day to day running of the charity and decision making. Anyone interested please contact Ava Walker on 07942 818608".

Message from Archdeacon Phil, 17 October 2023

Published: Tuesday October 17, 2023



Last week I was involved, with others, in helping our third-year curates to prepare for the process of moving on from curacy by doing some practice interviews with them. It's always a day I thoroughly enjoy – not least because Judith Knight and I get to unleash our repressed theatrical careers by acting out a 'how to' and 'how not to' scenario. It's not quite Shakespeare, but it's fun!

One of the questions we sometimes ask candidates being interviewed for clergy posts in the Diocese runs along the lines of 'What, for you, is the heart of the good news of the Gospel, and is there a Bible verse that is central to this?'. Like most good interview questions, there isn't a 'right answer' but I am always struck by the range of responses and find myself reflecting on what my answer would be. I think I might turn to a verse in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, where Paul reminds Christians in Corinth that '... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation'. The Gospel is about being reconciled and then exercising a shared ministry of reconciliation.

It seems to me that reconciliation is a complex and sometimes misunderstood word. To my mind it is about finding a way to overcome alienation and disconnection between two parties, about finding peace, but I don't think (as some suggest when they dismiss it) it's just about going back to how things were and pretending neither side was wronged. It is always costly, complicated and hard work. It requires courage and vulnerability. It is a gift that is often undeserved. It is the gift of being set free.

As I look around the world at the number of places torn apart by the fear and hatred of war – not least the unfolding horror in Israel and Gaza – it seems to me that what our world needs more than ever is people who are prepared to exercise this difficult and complex and often misunderstood ministry of reconciliation. That's true on the world stage but it's also true much closer to home, including within our own

Christian communities. If I'm honest, it's true in some of my attitudes and relationships. Perhaps if I, if we, took Jesus' command in Matthew 5 to 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' more seriously, we might find reconciliation follows and begins to spread further than we could begin to imagine.

Have your say - visit our website Gloucester.anglican.org

A TRUE STORY.

From Jennifer Kendrick.



We met on a blind date. Like Cinderella's prince, he was tall, dark and handsome, we went to a ball, we danced all night, I lost my shoe and the coach was a vintage Rolls Royce. The next night we got engaged but only shared our news weeks later when everyone celebrated with another ball.

About three months after that, as the result of an accident, he was paralyzed from the waist down. I was a trained nurse so gave up work to care for him and, through the power of prayer, patience, perseverance and positive thinking, he regained just enough mobility to enable him to hobble, painfully, out of my life as he believed he would never be able to support a wife and family.

Nearly two years went by as I tried to overcome the heartbreak by resuming the career I loved, gaining more qualifications in casualty and plastic surgery and devoting my energy to caring for, and helping to rehabilitate, the most severely injured people. Then, out of the blue, a phone call came from my father to say that Roger had been to see him to seek forgiveness and to show that he had, after all, overcome his disability. Was I still free and would I see him again?

My friends and I, all nurses, lived in a large rented house set in gracious gardens and, for a lark, decided to make it difficult for him when he arrived, that first time, so we all hid behind the curtains whilst one of them, dressed up as a little old lady. When he rang the bell on the imposing oak front door, she suddenly appeared from the shrubbery, waving her walking stick menacingly, declaring loudly that her "young ladies" were strictly forbidden from socializing with strange men and all visits were carefully chaperoned! Did he have an appointment and references?

To his eternal credit, Roger rose to the occasion admirably, not a wit abashed and was soon surrounded by a group of adoring females on that long, hot, crazy summer's day. Normal service was eventually resumed and, in due course, with plenty of fun and games as well as some inevitable hiccups on the way, our wedding was a dream come true. It just goes to show that

Fairy Tales are not always fiction,
and a father's forgiveness is beyond price!



CHRIST'S REAL PRESENCE AT HOLY COMMUNION

...by Canon Richard Morgan

Last month I wrote about the Reformation leader, Martin Bucer. That included a mention of the disputes, so central to the Reformation, about how we are united with Christ in Holy Communion.

People argued in particular about what 'This is my body' means. Some said 'is' meant 'represents.' Other argued about in what sense the bread is Jesus' body and the wine his blood. There is room for different views on this, I think. But, as far as I know, they argued about what 'is' meant. We could ask too what 'this' meant. The gospels say that Jesus, took a loaf, broke and gave it. 'This' is then not just the loaf – or the wine – but the bread and wine blessed, broken and shared. He probably didn't point at the loaf and cup and say, 'This is my body / blood,' but said it as he gave them to the disciples. Christ is present, we receive his body and blood through the action and the sharing in remembrance of Jesus and his sacrificial death for us. In that receiving, not only the bread and wine are his body, we are remade and confirmed as the body of Christ. When Paul criticises the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11.17-29, especially when he says they eat and drink condemnation on themselves when they do it without discerning the body, he is criticising their lack of consideration for each other. It is the whole action and words which is the making present of Jesus' body.

The bread and wine taken, blessed, broken and shared, remembering Jesus' Passion, are how we receive Jesus and become members of his body.

Jesus took himself and, in love for us and God the Father, dedicated himself, gave himself for us like the Passover sacrifice which was then being celebrated. He thus shared and still shares himself with us in love, making us members of himself, as he was a member of the human race, sharing his life with us, as blood for Jews means the life.

And so we take ourselves, or rather let God in Christ take us, and in thanks and self-dedication, remembering his passion, we unite ourselves with him and one another in love by eating and drinking the bread and wine together.

So the Holy Communion sums up the whole gospel, the good news of Jesus and God's saving at and purpose through him. We need to pray this and live it out.



Dear Readers

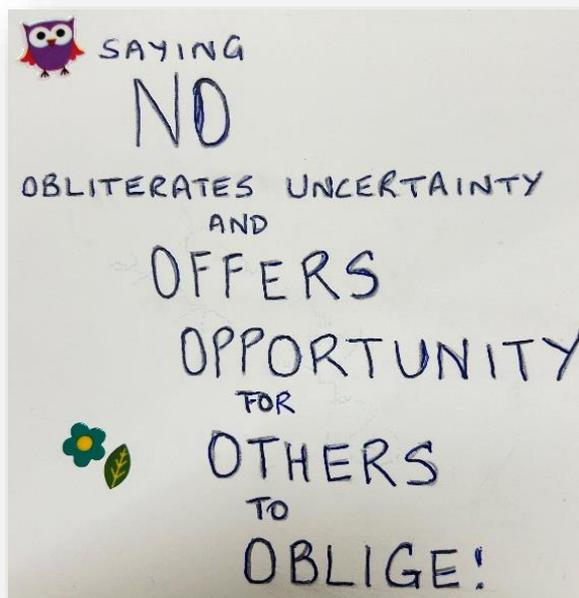
At our Harvest service at St James back on 8th October, Revd David Vonberg, in his sermon, talked about the wonder of the tiniest seed which with the right care grows, puts down roots and ultimately produces a flower or flowers and then produce a vegetable. It's a real miracle if you think about it. He then went on to say that Jesus spoke in parables using the harvest story and it's meaning for us in life.

Seeds can stay in the ground for a very long time, before they produce anything, certain events need to happen for that to take place and so it is with us and David exhorted us to look deep and see what we could do and he said we are never too old to try something new. Whatever age we are we have a lot to offer, in very different ways.



So to this end, perhaps we should all look and see what new things we can do and maybe you could have a go at writing something for the Messenger or send us some pictures, it all helps.

I'm not very good at this...



...but it's sage advice from a wonderful member of our congregation!

Clare X

Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Margaret Parfit

by Revd Jane Wood



She writes..... It was an absolute privilege to lead the Service of Celebration for the Life of Margaret Parfit on Friday 29th September. In this season of remembering, many of you will remember Ken and Margaret from the services at St James. Group Captain Kenneth John Parfit was a D Day Veteran and led an illustrious career in the RAF. It was wonderful to speak with Margaret's family and hear how she had built her own independent career alongside Ken and had lived her life to its full potential.

These words are taken from the eulogy given by her daughter Wendy and were spoken on behalf of the family:

'My mum. Our mum. Born Margaret Elcock on 2 January 1926.

If you had told 10 year old Margaret that she would live to be nearly 100, be fit and healthy all her life, that she would live through a World War, travel the world, have lunch with the Queen, own villas in Spain and be on first-name terms with a British Ambassador she would have said you were raving mad. For Margaret was a sickly child, living with her parents and younger sister Jean in a little rural town in Dorset where nothing much happened. But in 1942 at the age of 16 Margaret broke the mould; she wanted to be a nurse and she managed to get a training slot at the West Middlesex Hospital. So from quiet Wimborne to wartime London.

Imagine that! But it wasn't just nursing - there was dancing too at the Hammersmith Palais. Suddenly life was fun and busy! Immediately after the war she was travelling by train from London back to Wimborne one weekend when the man sitting opposite her asked if he could borrow her newspaper; that man was Ken Parfit. They married in 1947.

Ken's RAF service took Margaret and the family far and wide, tours in Aden, Cyprus and Turkey and to many bases in the UK. Service life was good and Margaret revelled in the Summer balls, the dining-in nights, the parties and other activities. Mum was a party animal! There were trips in RAF aircraft to Nairobi and Singapore, and getting shot at during a trip upcountry from Aden!

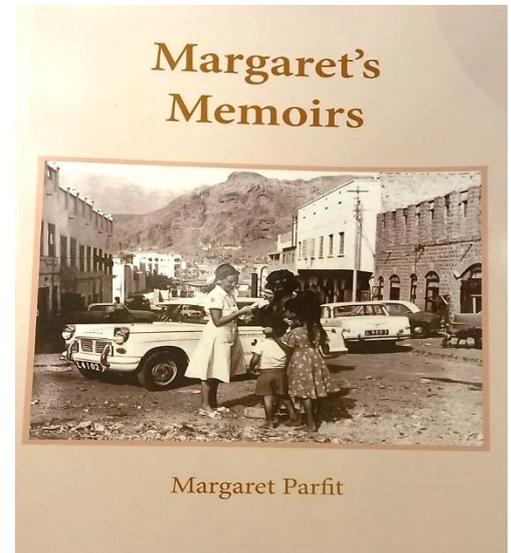
However, perhaps the most satisfying part of all this travelling around and being a Service wife was when mum was able to work in her own right. In Aden she worked as a Red Cross nurse helping local Arab families living in the most appalling conditions in the old shanty towns within the Protectorate and in Turkey she was the nurse at the British

Embassy in Ankara. But all good things must come to an end and in 1977 Ken retired from the RAF and they settled down, initially, near Malmesbury but there were further moves and eventually they moved to Dursley.

In the meantime there had been more holiday travel including regular trips to Spain. These latter years have been more peaceful, of course, but Margaret much appreciated the friendship and kindness of neighbours and those she met through local clubs and organisations.

Ken and Margaret were blessed with four absolutely fabulous children who, in turn have produced 9 amazing grandchildren and 3 great granddaughters.'

It was wonderful to raise a glass of Bailey's with ice to Margaret (Margaret's favourite tippie) after the funeral with her family and friends and to give thanks for the life of a pioneering lady lived to its full potential!



Margaret also wrote a book Margaret's Memoirs which the family would be happy to loan. Please ask me (Revd Jane) for the copy if you would like to read it.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE BARN DANCE...



Jacquelin Hill and her cousin

Eco Church

Sustainable Christmas Tips from Gill Mather



Climate change is at the forefront of many minds and making changes for a more sustainable future is important. On their website, the Soil Association suggest that Christmas is a great time to make some changes towards sustainability.



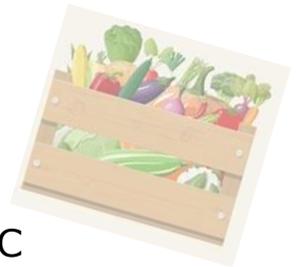
Here are some of their suggestions:

❖ Pop into your local shops to find some amazing seasonal specials and support your local economy.

❖ It's estimated that each year in Britain, we throw away enough wrapping paper to circle the world nine times! Find inventive ways to wrap gifts as well as decorate your home. Try using fixtures other than plastic tape, such as string and ribbon.



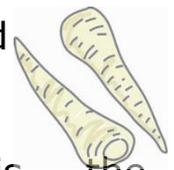
❖ Make an informed choice about your Christmas tree. Real vs. fake – the great debate continues. If choosing a real tree search for one which has been grown with care and minimal use of pesticides. Check for FSC or Grown in Britain certification.



❖ Consider signing up to an organic box scheme, or maybe give as a gift. Organic farming works with nature to help restore nature in farming as well as support local job opportunities. It can also help reduce food waste.



❖ A huge amount of food waste tends to happen at Christmas. To help create a sustainable food supply for our growing population, it is important that we take food waste into account. Making the most of our food by using leftovers is important. The Soil Association have put together a selection of delicious recipes to ensure that Christmas dinner is the gift that keeps on giving!



❖ Eat with the seasons – much loved vegetables including potatoes, sprouts, parsnips, and carrots, eaten at Christmas are in season throughout the winter. If possible, opting for organic food means supporting nature friendly farmers who promote diverse wildlife, and healthy soils.

References

<https://www.soilassociation.org/> Finding an Organic Box Scheme

<https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/buy-organic/find-an-organic-box-scheme/box-schemes-south-west-and-wales/> Soil Association

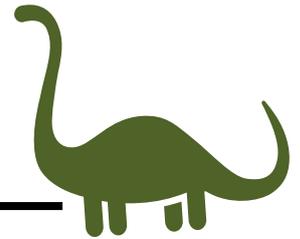
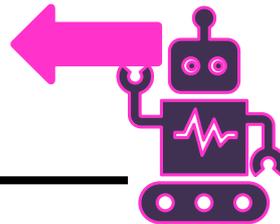
Leftovers recipes

<https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/organic-recipes/?tag=Christmas+-+Zero+Waste>

If you would like to join and support St James Eco Church group, please email. Gill.mather@btinternet.com
Everyone Welcome 😊



MOUSE DIARY



Well, what a sight, said MBFTLP, its Mr Dinosaur holding a big sign, THIS WAY. I know, I said, I told him he was holding it the wrong way up so he changed things around a bit. BUT, said MBFTLP, its pointing towards Whiteway Hill and not towards the church. Oh, I said, we will have to get him to hold it the right way up for the Christmas Fair. That will be good news for Father Christmas too. On that subject, said MBFTLP, have you written to Father Christmas.

Right on, I said, as follows: *Dear Father Christmas, do you think you can possibly manage to come and see me this year. I promise not to give the reindeer anything that might give them indigestion. Also I would not mind one of those Alexa gadgets, but don't tell Aimiee as she might get a trifle jealous. I promise not to keep Alexa in the vestry.*

That sounds alright, said MBFTLP, except that there is a possibility the reindeer have not recovered from the indigestion you gave them last time, and they may decide to scoot over rather fast on account of the church does not have a chimney. Well, I suppose Mr Dinosaur could spy them overhead and use his big sign to direct them down this way. We live in hope as always, said MBFTLP, as she whisked a few recipes for mince pies over my head in a rather tantalising way. Patience is a virtue, she said rather unnecessarily, I thought. But there it is and as you can see the preparations for the festive season are well under way, and we look forward to seeing you soon under the Christmas tree. (the fairy normally sits on the top rather than me these days).



Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



FUNERAL

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:

29th September – Margaret Parfit, funeral at St James

23rd October – (Edith) Mary Robinson, funeral at St James

25th October - Douglas West, burial of ashes at Kingshill Cemetery

The Banns of Marriage

have been read for Luke Newman & Kristy Blick at St James

FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 5th

High Altar Ann Bussey

Tanner Chapel Sarah Hodge

Lady Chapel Chris Raffle

Nov 12th 19th & 26th

High Altar Marion Paisey

Tanner Chapel Anne Shipton

Lady Chapel Margaret Lloyd

100 CLUB

100 club draw for October 2023 as follows:-

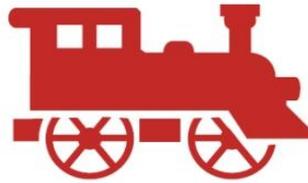
1st - 114 - Peter Kirvan

2nd - 136 - Charlotte Hodge

3rd - 147 - Paul Prodger

Many Thanks and Best wishes Sarah

**DURSLEY CofE
PRIMARY ACADEMY**



Mrs Toni Holford-Wright – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,
School Road,
Dursley,
GL11 4NZ

t: 01453 542304 e: admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk

e: www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk

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Barbara Weldon 01453 766421 or

[email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com](mailto:bandbweldon1@gmail.com)

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT
DURSLEY**

**St James Church is open each day
between 9.30am and 12 noon.**

Useful Telephone Numbers

TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

Clare White Tel: 549280
E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS

Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 543536.

100 CLUB

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155



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