

The Messenger

September 2026

The Parish Of Dursley



Cam Peak, Cam and Dursley from Smallpox

70p each or £7 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 September edition, of the Messenger. Well at last a drop of rain but what a summer it has been and now with Autumn rapidly approaching we hope you find something of interest within our pages.

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
Cam Peak from Smallpox Hill.*

*A View of Dursley from
by ©Steve White*



SEPTEMBER 2026

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**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE
IS SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026**

Revd David Vonberg writes...



Dear Friends,

I write this just as the month of August is beginning – a month of rest and relaxation and recuperation for many. If that has been true for you, I hope and trust that you have found what you needed! The life of the church has also been different with no choir or zoom evening prayer.

But we turn now to September, which is a month of new starts and new beginnings. The choir and the evening prayers on zoom are beginning again. Lots of young people will be starting in a new school or at least in a new class, others will be preparing to go into the world of work or university with the excitement and touch of fear that may accompany that.

New beginnings come in many guises. For some the new beginning will come through the wonderful confirmation service at the end of the month on 27th, led by the Bishop of Gloucester. For those who are being confirmed it is a crucial point on their journey of faith: the end of preparation and the beginning of a new stage on a journey which we hope will last them a lifetime of exploration and discovery of the riches and joys of Christ's life.

New beginnings are part of the pattern of Christian living. In some ways, every day and perhaps particularly Sunday can be a new beginning as we worship and perhaps experience the love and forgiveness of Christ in a new way. For Christ is much more willing to come into our lives than we are prepared to let him. We can put the past behind us and discover something new which can change the way we are.

For some, however, the idea of a new beginning is not where we are. The pressures of life just seem to continue, relentlessly; the pattern of routine caring or just existing never seem to bring any new opportunities. That can sometimes extend to our Christian journey. It is so easy to get into a routine and we grow weary of church life, with its endless round of the Christian year – harvest leading on to remembrance to Advent and Christmas and so on. I can quite understand that feeling.

During this month I am beginning to read a book which has been recommended to me, called "What grows in weary lands: Christian resilience." One person who has read the book writes: "This is a hugely encouraging book which came at the right time for me. Tish Harrison Warren explores the topic of weariness and burnout, sharing her own experience as well as drawing on the experiences and writings of early Christian monks."

I don't know what September brings for you in terms of new beginnings or just same old, same old. However it is good remember that the same God, "eternal and yet ever new" is there for us where we are, always offering new ways forward into deeper communion with Christ.

David Vonberg

PASTORAL CARE

If people are in need, unwell,
at home or in hospital
Please contact the
Revd Dr Juliet Jensen.

Tel: 01453 350810 or 07776 910890



SAFEGUARDING

Heather Arnold is the
Safeguarding Officer for the
Parish of Dursley

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September Thoughts from the office...by Clare White



I'm now back at my desk having recovered from my operation. Thank you to everyone who sent messages and said prayers, you are all so thoughtful and caring.

I came back to work on the day of Joyce Lombarde's memorial service at St James. There were so many people in church to celebrate this lovely lady. A service very fitting of her faith, love of life and the great friendships she enjoyed.

Seeing so many people at Joyce's service reminds me that church is such a great place to make friends and join a community. We don't all have the same beliefs but we do all have the same common denominator – our love of God and sharing that love with each other, crying through the sad times but more importantly laughing and smiling even when life gets tough.

Kindness – is a word that we all need to imprint on our hearts, a word I would give to Joyce.

Asking how someone is feeling or just offering them a cup of coffee, gives people a feeling of belonging and worth.

In Colossians 3:12-13 we read - As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

As Christians we SHOULD always show kindness to one another but inevitably we fail and end up being impatient or short tempered with those we share our lives with. This scripture says that Christians should patiently tolerate each other's faults and let go of resentment, using Christ's complete and gracious forgiveness toward them as the exact model for how they must treat others.

Joyce was a true friend to all she met. May we all be more Joyce offering kindness, friendship, laughter, humility and patience to one another.

A prayer for friendship

Dear Lord, I ask for your guidance to find good friends.

Lead me to people who show kindness and respect.

Help me to share love and joy with those I meet.

Heal past hurts and open my heart to new trust. Amen

The background of the poster is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall, golden-brown grain. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned slightly to the left of the center, partially obscured by the grain stalks. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue at the top. The overall mood is warm and harvest-themed.

ST JAMES THE GREAT, DURSLEY

HARVEST FESTIVAL

10AM

11TH OCTOBER 2026

**A COLLECTION OF FOOD ITEMS
WILL BE MADE FOR THE FOOD
BANK**

Citizens Advice Column:

Q: I hired a company to install concrete fencing and a gate in my back garden. The quality of the work is poor and the gate doesn't shut properly. What can I do?



When you put your trust in a trader and the work doesn't meet your expectations it can be frustrating. If a trader hasn't done a good job with 'reasonable care and skill', the **Consumer Rights Act 2015** entitles you to ask for the problem to be fixed or receive a refund.

Evidence is important. Take photos and make notes about what happened and when, including times and dates, and keep receipts or other proof of payment.

People can experience **different types of problems with traders**, and there is [specific advice available on the Citizens Advice website depending on the issue](#).

When you contact the trader, **explain the problem clearly and provide your evidence**. They should fix it within a reasonable amount of time and without causing you too much inconvenience. The law doesn't define exactly what is reasonable, so **you'll need to agree this with them**.

If they can't or won't fix the problem, you can ask for a **partial or full refund**, depending on how bad the issue is. It's a good idea to suggest an amount and explain why you think it's reasonable. Once a refund has been agreed, it should be paid within 14 days.

If you **can't reach an agreement**, there are other **options**. If you paid by card, you may be able to complain to your card provider. If the trader is a member of a trade association or quality scheme, this might help to take your complaint further, or you may be able to use an [alternative dispute resolution \(ADR\) scheme](#). If you've tried various things and the complaint remains unresolved, you may be able to complain to the [Financial Ombudsman Service](#).

Anyone experiencing problems with building work, decorating or home improvements can contact the national [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on **0808 223 1133** for advice and support from a trained adviser.



Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit citizensadvice.org.uk. To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.

 **Jill Crossland
Piano Recital**

works by J. S. Bach, Mozart
Beethoven "Moonlight" Sonata

**St James the Great
Dursley**

Sunday 13th September 4 p.m

'magnetic, delightful'
American Record Guide

Admission free
Retiring collection




A MUSICAL FEAST COMING YOUR WAY.



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

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

31st Oct 10.30am	Coffee, Cake and Music- Bernard West
14th Nov 7.30pm	Tyndale Choral Society Concert
29th Nov 6.30pm	Advent Carols
5th Dec 5.30pm	Kim Wards' Pupils piano concert
16th Dec 7pm	Tyndale Choral Society Christmas Concert
19th Dec 10.30am	Shoppers' Carols



MUSIC NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Some years ago, St James' choir along with some members of the congregation boarded an extremely large coach which literally squeezed its way down tiny narrow lanes to arrive at Gosen Chapel, Cynghordy. We sang Evensong (no doubt a "first" for the 1844 Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel) and afterwards repaired to the chapel vestry (built above the caretaker's flat in 1922) where we enjoyed a meal organised by Barbie.

Little did I think that that same vestry floor would be used for four nights' sleep while the forest fire behind Rhandirmwyn was ablaze. We were told to evacuate on Thursday 13th August and were allowed to return on Monday 17th. The fire crews worked tirelessly as did the local farmers who turned their slurry wagons into water canons. As might be expected, the whole of the very scattered community really came together, and the "Royal Oak" (our neighbour) was the centre of operations for the fire-fighters who came from as far afield as Manchester and London to assist those from all parts of Wales. Full marks to whoever coordinated the operation which was assisted by drones showing the drift of the blaze. There were periods of real anxiety as around sixteen properties were at serious risk, until a completely unexpected change in wind direction meant that our houses were safe, but further pine plantations were not. In retrospect I really wonder about the pine forests which seem to be taking over vast swathes of Welsh countryside, as they seem to have been planted with no regard for access. Sadly, arson cannot be ruled out and at one time, rather suspiciously, there were twelve fires in South Wales, all timed to start around the same time..... Thankfully no-one was injured, and (with blackened mountainsides) the village is intact. We were fortunate in having alternative accommodation at the chapel, but I think I'm getting too old for sleep-overs.....

Actually, our Summer project has been to completely repaint the chapel as it is 10 years (October 1st) since the restored building was made available for community use. Since 2016 our events have raised many thousands of pounds for local and national charities and we were even featured on BBC Wales' "Weatherman Walking". The extremely hot weather has been quite helpful for painting (if the direct heat of the sun is avoided!) and we are grateful to friends (including Ian and Sheila Gardner) and family who have helped in any way as we move to completion.

I suppose it could be regarded as a "busman's holiday" as on Sunday 16h August, I slipped away from the scenes of devastation and drove to Monmouth to play for the 10.00am Eucharist at St Mary's Priory to cover for Stephen Power. The retired Bishop of Monmouth, The Rt Rev'd Dominic Walker preached and took the service, helping to reverse my long-held belief that bishops preach the longest and most tedious sermons; good to find the exception! The choir was on holiday and the congregational singing was passable but not quite up to the standard of St James'. However, best of all was the aromatic incense; sensitively used without billowing clouds of smoke. Perhaps one day for special occasions like Ascension or Midnight Mass we might try a little incense.....It was good to see the Rev'd Janet Bromley who was in the congregation on one of her few Sundays "off". She really hasn't changed and it was lovely to have a chat with her over coffee after the service.

Like almost all musicians, I am particularly grateful to my instrumental teachers, and in mid August the last of my three "mentors" died at the age of 91. John Askew, a graduate of the Royal Manchester College of Music and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, was appointed to Blackpool Grammar School as Head of Music, and Organist and Choirmaster of St Stephen-on-the Cliffs parish church back in the mid 1960's. A proud Yorkshireman, he did not suffer fools gladly, or in any other way! He was a first-class musician and at school made sure that everyone had the opportunity to be involved in some sort of musical activity. Hymn practice would see him, clad in his gown (like staff did in those days) walk along the chairs behind the boys encouraging each to sing or "make a noise" whilst one of us played the school organ. It was an interesting spectacle, but he managed to get 700 boys to make a convincing, if not always "musical" sound!

I began organ lessons with him after several years of teaching myself by watching other organists play. Those were the days when piano teachers (mine in particular!) were of the firm opinion that playing the organ "ruined your touch for playing the piano". So organ playing was kind of done in secret! Having completed the grade examinations on piano under the rather strict Florence Jessie Turnbull (irreverently nicknamed Flo by my brother and me!) I began organ lessons. "Here you are, Davies" he said, handing me a copy of *First Year at the Organ* by Percy Buck, "if you can complete this book in ten weeks, I'll take you on as a pupil". A tall order, but the challenge was accepted, completed, all sorts of points of technique were sorted and we were off!

Sometime in 1967, an advertisement appeared in the local evening paper (remember those?!) for an Assistant Organist at St Stephen's with a salary of £25 per annum and free organ tuition. I applied along with three others, was interviewed by JA and the vicar (who was also

the Archdeacon) and got the job. The choir was extremely well supported with some twenty boys and fourteen men with a group of "probationers" trained by the Assistant Organist on a Saturday at 9.30am, before the organ lesson at 10.15am. It was an excellent training and one for which I am eternally grateful. (Just to put it into context, petrol for my motorbike was the equivalent of 20p a gallon so less than 5p a litre making £25 go a very long way!).

JA stayed at the school after it was forced to become comprehensive and when the Sixth Form became a stand alone unit he looked after the music in the rather swish new buildings until his retirement to France. His son posted details of his death on the Old Boys' Facebook page and within a day there were 160 responses. He was a real "one-off" and there are many stories surrounding him, best told over a glass of beer..... What an influence he was for so many, and I am grateful to have been one of his pupils at school and church. May he Rest in Peace.

Music for September

6th am O Sing Joyfully – Batten Woodard Service – Shephard

13th am Cantique de Jean Racine – Fauré Wadeley in G

pm O Most Merciful – Wood Smith

Responses Expectans Expectavi – Wood Brewer in D

20th am Service of the Word

27th at Uley

am Be Still for the Presence of the Lord – arr How

Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

pm O Come Ye Servants – Tye

Ayleward

Responses

O for a Closer Walk with God – Stanford +Stanford in Bb

Coffee, Cake and Music.

This month's recital will be given by our old friend Andrew Millington who will be making a welcome return making another return, but this time in the company of a group of organists from the Devon Organists' Association. After Dursley they are off to Gloucester Cathedral, where Andrew was Assistant Organist to John Sanders, and will spend time sampling the new cathedral organ which, from all accounts, is absolutely first class.

After many years of being the Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral, Andrew is still very active on the music circuit in Devon. Some "regulars" may remember that on his last visit he had forgotten to pack his trousers, and gave a brilliant recital bedecked in shorts and a tee shirt! Come and see what he will be wearing on 26th September.....



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John, care home resident

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM REVD DAVID VONBERG...

20th September – Reflective worship: Songs of Praise

The worship group who plan some of these services is offering you the opportunity to choose, for this service, a favourite hymn or piece of prose or prayer – perhaps one which is important to you on your Christian journey or something which strengthened you at a particular time in your life. Hymns do not have to simply come from our normal hymn book, so there is a wide choice!

Please take your choices into the Benefice office by 10th September or send them directly to me at: revdavid.vonberg@gmail.com. If you would like to speak in the service about your choice, please mention that.

I look forward to receiving your suggestions.

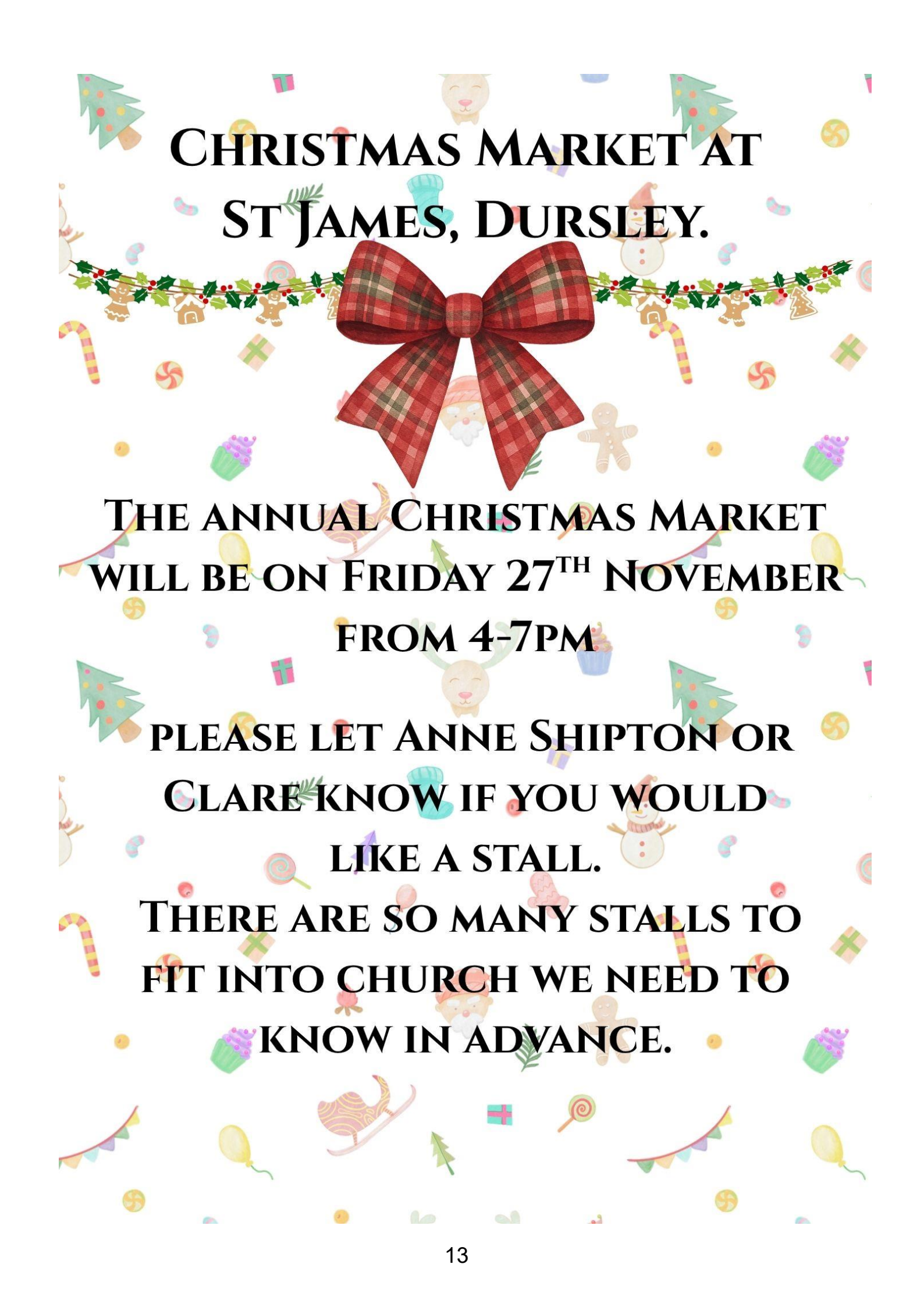
A book Review.....from David

"A Hymn to Life, by Gisele Pelicot

This is not an easy book to read. Gisele was headline news in France at the beginning of this year at the trial of her husband for multiple rapes on her, carried out on his invitation, by others when she was basically unconscious and had no awareness of what was going on. She does not hold back as she describes the months between discovery of what had happened to her and the conclusion of the trial. Bravely she refused anonymity because she wanted to empower others to come forward about how they had been treated. Even though that led to a vicious campaign against her through the media. Although she writes honestly about her journey through those dark months, there is strangely a note of hope throughout the book. There is a sense that even though her life had been turned upside down by men, she has not become cynical about the human race. She has surprisingly been able to put things in proportion and continue to believe and trust some. It is why the title, "A hymn to Life" means a great deal.

She claims she is not a Christian and yet she finds solace in empty churches. What comes across to me is that she explores what forgiveness is for her. She cannot forgive her husband for what he and others did to her, but she has learned not to become embittered by that. She has, if you like, set what has happened to her aside and can move on. That is not easy to do, but there are times in the lives of many when there has to be a choice between moving on from a difficult and unresolvable situation and finding good in life, or being trapped in the bitterness of what has happened.

Gisele's writing has made me think further and perhaps a bit deeper about forgiveness and what it means.



CHRISTMAS MARKET AT ST JAMES, DURSLEY.



**THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET
WILL BE ON FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
FROM 4-7PM**

**PLEASE LET ANNE SHIPTON OR
CLARE KNOW IF YOU WOULD
LIKE A STALL.**

**THERE ARE SO MANY STALLS TO
FIT INTO CHURCH WE NEED TO
KNOW IN ADVANCE.**



Clive says... The fine, (or was it hot?) weather certainly meant that we could be outside on the grass. We have had some really wonderful days meeting and talking with many people and receiving lovely comments from the town. We now have a new portable card reading machine and it was in action for the first time in August when donations were in aid of the Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper. On that day The Klarinets entertained us throughout the morning. We are so lucky to have their continued support. As a result, we were able to give a further £230 to CVTN making a total of £430 in twelve months. That is the positive news now for the not so positive.

In September there will probably be some Saturdays when we can't hold the stall. We are somewhat stretched to get all the books out on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and very few offers of help have come forward. Holiday commitments mean we don't have enough people. Hopefully we'll be back to normal in October when most holidays will be over.

September Acrostic Poem....

by Sally Hayward



Slowly, our summer.
Ends and autumn begins.
Plenty to do from the setting the garden up
Together; Hedgehogs, tortoises begin their hibernation.
Evenings seem that much longer.
Make sure you put your clocks
Back an hour next month, an
Extra hour of sleep and let's
Remember the heatwaves we have had this year.



Chris Pengelly Gardening Services

Tel: 07917 440925

Email:

cwrpengelly@hotmail.com

chrispengellygardeningsservices.webador.co.uk

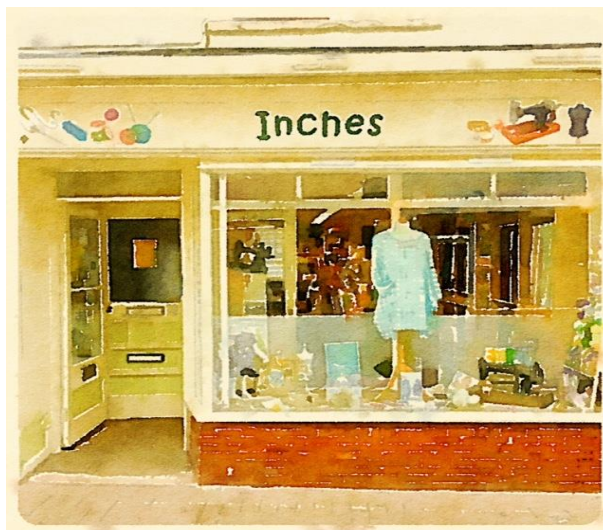
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A celebration of the life of...

Joyce Lombarde

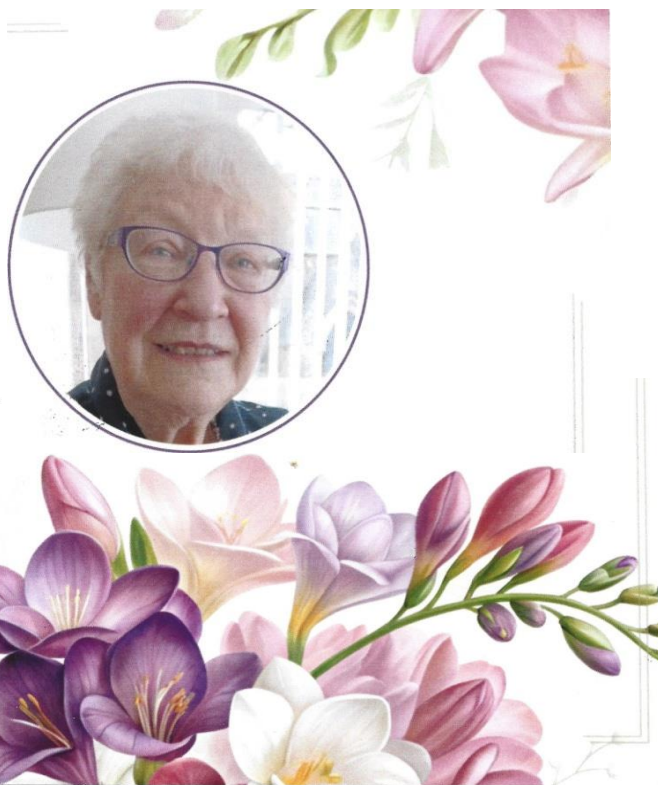
21st April 1942 - 10th July 2026

St James the Great Church, Dursley
Monday 10th August 2026 at
2:00pm

And what a celebration it was too!! The choir filled the choir stalls and the music was wonderful. Poems read by Barbie, Bob and Alan, her friend Ian Ross (Rossi) spoke about their friendship and the fun they had. Rev Bob said that she was much

loved and much loving, and I think we all can attest to that. Joyce you will be missed but you have left a large legacy of writing, musings and poetry and if we need cheering up we will know just how to do it.

Judith



"From this day forward" - written by Joyce Lombarde
Read by Barbie Davies

From this day forward I'll try to be
A much better person, just wait and see
My intentions are good, that's all very well
But aren't they also the pathway to Hell?

It's hard to be virtuous in this wicked world
Where temptation from all sides right at you hurled
There's choc'late and shopping and unhealthy thoughts
Of things to be doing that you didn't aught.

They trouble your conscience and fill you with guilt
So my good intentions are starting to wilt.

I think i need help - Your advice I'll take

So if You're list'ning Lord, please give us a break

I know temptation I must resist

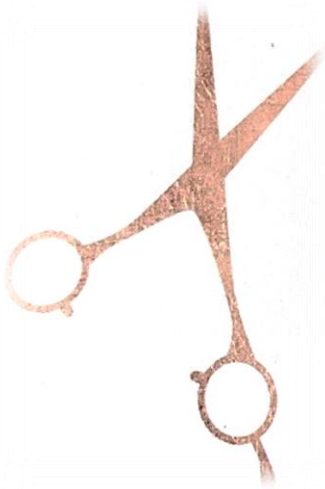
So send down the pow'r of Your mighty fist

And banish cream cakes, eclairs and the like

And tell all that choc'late 'Get thou on thy bike!'

I'll polish my halo and virtuous will be.....

If ONE last long Snickers bar Thou'll grantest me!



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DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

September 2026

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Wednesday 2nd

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 3rd

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 6th – 14th Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Holy Communion

Tuesday 8th

2.30pm Communion at Holly Oak Care Home

Wednesday 9th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 10th

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

11.15am Communion at Henlow Court Care Home

Sunday 13th – 15th Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Holy Communion

4pm Piano recital by Jill Crossland

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 16th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 17th

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 20th – 16th Sunday after Trinity

8am Said Holy Communion at St James

10am Reflective Worship Service at St James

10am Shine! at Dursley Academy School

Tuesday 22nd

2.30pm Holy Communion at The Hollies Care Home

Wednesday 23rd

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 24th

9am Morning Prayer in St James

10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 26th

10.30am Coffee, Cake and Music at St James

Sunday 27th – 17th Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Confirmation Service at St Giles, Uley
+Bishop Rachel presiding

Wednesday 30th

6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

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

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON
Wednesday 16th September
Speaker: Bingo abd Bites (Wiltshire Farm Foods)
with samples.**

Contacts:

President:

Glenys Muir 01453 543391

Secretaries:

Val Sheen 07842 427452

Judith Staddon 01453 544312

The Sweet Taste of Fair Trade

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 21st September to 4th



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

October this year, and St James Eco Church group is marking it by running a Fairtrade information stand and cake stall alongside the regular books on

Saturday 3rd October, 9am to 12 noon.

There will be craft activities, fairtrade goods to sample, and homemade cakes (baked with fairtrade ingredients, of course!).

We will be happy to receive donations to be shared between the Fairtrade Foundation and Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange). Do come along and bring your friends!

We will also be collecting signatures, on behalf of the Fairtrade Foundation, for a petition asking the UK government to hold businesses accountable for human rights abuses and climate damage behind their products. This will be taken along to an event in London on Wednesday 21 October, when people from across the UK will come together in Westminster for the Good Business Matters mass lobby of Parliament, organised by the Corporate Justice Coalition (and backed by more than 40 organisations, including Fairtrade Foundation, Transform Trade, Friends of the Earth, CAFOD, Anti-Slavery and Action Aid). They will call for a new law to hold UK companies to account for the harm many of them are causing to people and the planet - here in the UK and around the world. They plan to show the strength of public support for legislation to protect communities, workers and nature from irresponsible businesses. Already, 86 MPs and Peers from eight parties have pledged to support such legislation, which is also backed by 167 businesses and investors (including all the major supermarkets, Unilever, Nestle and Primark to name but a few).

Partly coinciding with Fairtrade Fortnight, and sharing many of its themes, is Good Money Week (28th September - 4th October). The Christian charity Just Money is encouraging us all to use this week to reflect on how we bank, save and invest our money, and offers resources to support those who wish to do so more ethically. For more information, visit their website at justmoney.org.uk. St James PCC has

recently decided to switch to the Co-operative Bank - it is not only a more ethical option, but will also save us money on bank fees.



Jan Vonberg (if you're interested in joining St James Eco Church group, please email me: janet.vonberg53@gmail.com)

A prayer for Good Money Week and Fairtrade Fortnight

Generous God, everything is a gift from you,
and yet we confess how often we forget.

In times when life is good, how easy it is to carry on our way,
to neglect to offer thanks.

We confess that we have not always used your resources with care.

We have spent without asking who pays the price and saved or
invested without considering who is harmed or left behind.

We have benefitted from systems that are unjust – and have often
remained silent.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to seek the wellbeing of our
neighbours, and when we have sought only our own security.

Make us thankful and faithful stewards, and teach us how to live well
in community, with each other and with all creation.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

FLOWER ROTA



Sept 6 & 13th

High Altar Marian Paisey

Tanner Chapel Sarah Hodge

Lady Chapel Steph Say

Sept 20 & 27th & Oct 4th

High Altar Kate Sant

Tanner Chapel Glenys Muir

Lady Chapel Anthea Fittall



HARVEST RHYMES OF THANKSGIVING

....by Canon Richard Morgan

September is a great harvest month, so here are some light hearted verses celebrating the many good things we harvest through the year.

Wheat gives us our basic feeds,
flour for bread to serve our needs.
From wheat flour we also make
biscuits, scones, buns, pastry, cake.
Pastas come from wheat flour too,
there is so much wheat can do.
And we know that, in these days,
lots of things are made from maize.

**These and other good things too,
God, give cause of thanks to you.**

Indian food is good with rice;
Rice with Chinese food is nice.
But - and all our farmers know it -
Britain is too cold to grow it.
In the times of winter coats,
days start well with porridge oats.
Barley's used to brew the beer:
when folk meet, it gives good cheer.
Summer days, when warm and merry,
ripen up the plum and cherry.
We enjoy our orchards' fare,
peach and apple, fig and pear.
Eaten raw, it makes you wince,
cooked, you can enjoy the quince.
Gooseberries, red and blackcurrant
make fine puddings too, I warrant.
Strawberry and Raspberry
both seem tasty fruits to me.

Summer weather also sees
Ripening the beans and peas.
Salads also may impress us,
red tomatoes, onions, lettuce.
There are roots for us to eat,
radish, carrot, parsnip, beet;
and, we won't forget, some feed
on the turnip and the swede;
but the roots we eat the most
are potatoes, boiled, chipped,
roast.

Cabbage in its many forms,
in the winter feeds and warms:
autumn cabbage, rather pale,
green Savoy and curly kale.
Cauliflowers, shining white
make some people's day seem
bright.
You can have, if so you please,
broccoli and calabrese.

Dairy foods can often please -
milk and butter, cream and
cheese.
Linseed, rape and sunflower make
oil to fry in, roast or bake.
There's no end of kinds of food
you can eat to do you good.

**These and other good things
too,
God, give cause of thanks to
you.**

St James the Great, Dursley

Pet Service

5.30pm on
Saturday 3rd October 2026

All pets welcome, dogs must be on a
lead and other animals in pet
carriers.

Please bring your owner too!



Thank you from Chris Morgan.....

She says 'thank you everyone for supporting the quiz on 19th July. It has now made £585 profit. And by popular request we have the next one in October'.



Quiz Night

24th October, 7pm



Providing a loving home for abandoned babies in Maseno, Kenya

St James Parish Centre, Dursley

Teams of up to 6

Tickets- £10

To book or join a team contact
chrismorgan194@btinternet.com

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

WORD OF THE MONTH – August Perambulate.

W H Davies tells us in his poem

We have no time to stop and stare,
but since retiring I've come to appreciate even more the beauty and uniqueness of where we live.

I often perambulate the special places that I took for granted in my youth ie Stinchcombe Hill, Cam peak and the wonderful woodlands that surround our town.

And so Mr Davies, I now make time to stop and stare

Roland Swift

Do you think it would be fun
Perambulating Dursley town?
You stroll the Kingshill Road along,
And in your heart will be a song,
Passing the rec and garage here
May make you want to give a cheer.
You walk beside the Golden Wall,
Past the Old Rectory, Tab. and all.
Then you are passing Parsonage Street,
Of shops and businesses the seat.
You come to Dursley Market Hall
With statue of Queen Anne and all.
Then tread along down Silver Street
- More shops and businesses you meet.
Then mosey round the old Broadwell,
Where you can loiter for a spell.
Then Water Street you wander down,
An ancient part of Dursley town,
In recent years not very polished,
And parts of it have been demolished.
Then up old Long Street you can climb,
Where several buildings are so fine,
And when you reach its top, you lurch
Into ancient parish church.
And I possess a strong suspicion
You might end up at the Hoptician.
To walk around is really great,
And that's how you perambulate.
Can Richard Morgan

Henry had been coming to the same hotel for many years, always booking the same room overlooking the sea.

Now in advanced years his ambulation was limited but he enjoyed sitting in the window "People Watching" as all sorts of folks were passing along the prom.

Young families, children armed with buckets and spades, skipping, dancing and jumping all over the place, runners, in high viz vests and pants, overtaking the many dogs being briskly walked by their owners, but those he envied most were couples, hand in hand, who would gently perambulate up and down the promenade admiring the view and breathing in the fresh, salty sea air!

Jean Gardiner

When my brother and I left school every day we dawdled home. We have always loved to perambulate through our lives and still love to dawdle about. All the best things in life are free.

Paul Prodger

And the Winner is (by a small margin).....Roland Swift.

It is, as usual difficult to choose as each one is excellent in their own way. We think you are all winners and thank you so much for entering each month.



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 September is impecunious.

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



The clothes moths have been busy again this month, nibbling away at my comfort blanket.

A very dear friend and contemporary was gathered up to new heavenly life, thankfully spared any more earthly pain. It has left yet another huge gaping hole in my life, making sharing the complexities of positive gentle aging in a world of turmoil and uncertainty even more challenging.

She lived on the family farm and we first met more than 50 years ago when our daughters became best friends at primary school. All our free time was spent, whatever the weather, being active, helping with the harvest, feeding the animals, collecting eggs or riding on various trailers pulled by tractors. Sundays were dedicated to worship at the beloved village church. Endless fun which we thought would never end.

Then when my husband's job meant our family moved to London, she and her daughter often came to stay and we spent special time enjoying city life: leisurely hours in museums and art galleries, riding on charismatic red Routemaster 'buses, sight-seeing, long walks by the Thames and even had afternoon tea at Harrod's, just once!

Much later, in our fifties, our daughters having long since launched on different independent lives, we both sadly became solo survivors and, though living miles apart, managed to meet regularly to support each other in negotiating horrendous emotional upheaval and angst! We made our time together special, life affirming and free from unnecessary stress. Bath Abbey was a favourite rendez-vous and her tiny stone cottage in a Cotswold village became a safe haven of crazy events! Chocolates, champagne and strawberries for one ordinary birthday breakfast when funds were low, remains a treasured memory!

As Ellen Goodman wrote so evocatively:

"There's a trick to the graceful exit. It begins with a vision to recognise when a job, a life stage or relationship is over, and let it go. It means leaving what is over without denying the validity or its importance in our lives. It involves a sense of future, a belief that every exit line is an entry, that we are moving up, not out."

I am comforted that death is not the end, just a transition, but am increasingly aware of the physical and mental effort of daily living. The spirit is willing but the body understandably needs constant

Contd page 30...



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Contd from page 28...encouragement and care that is time consuming and not easy to maintain effectively.

It is my firm belief that the Lord in His wisdom will lead the way providing we trust in Him, allowing for trials and tribulations, some of which have no lasting earthly relief.

I pray for strength to make each day have a purpose, albeit unremarkable in my view! My "holy" blanket means everything.

ST. MARK'S GRAVEYARD - 2026

After 179 years St. Mark's Church, Woodmancote, closed as a place for worship in 2023 and the building is now up for sale!

The grounds, no longer of primary interest to the Church of England, house some 179 graves which are of great historical and social significance, both local and worldwide, not to mention the abundant flora, fauna and wildlife, all now the responsibility of Dursley Town Council.

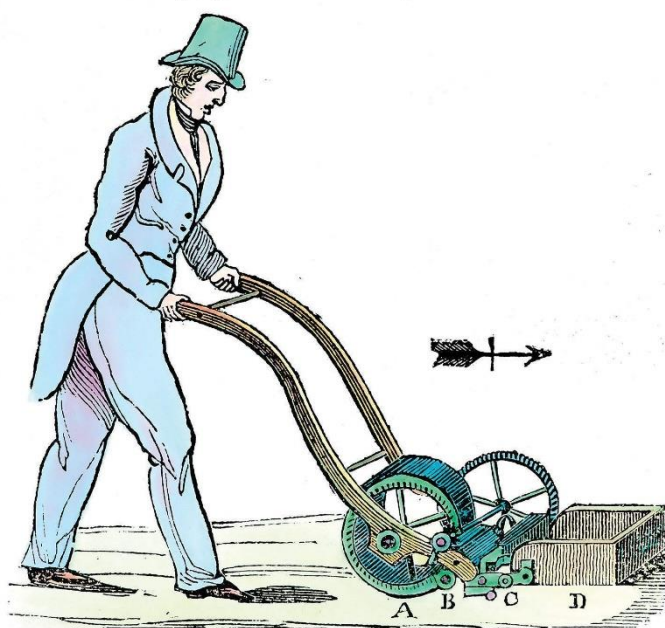
With their guidance and support, a very small group of volunteers are hoping to restore the memorial of one notable local resident as well as sensitively discussing ways of making the whole area more attractive to visitors.

Edwin Beard Budding 1795-1846 invented the first lawn mower nearly 200 years ago and his headstone, currently squashed awkwardly between a feral tree and wooden fence deserves some daylight! Discussions are ongoing about how this could be done.

Records of burials and family plots are kept at the Town Council Office and relatives can ask to see them, to find out more, express concerns, ask advice or simply offer support to this project.

BUDDING'S GRASS-SHEARING MACHINE.

THE GRASS-SHEARING MACHINE,
Employed at the Zoological Gardens.



The Bishop at the Front 1915.

The Bishop of London's unprecedented visit to the Western Front and his mission for soldiers' fortitude.

'We would all rather die, wouldn't we, than have England a German Province?

The First World War Bishop of London, Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram was not a man who minced his words. He was also not a vicar who worried too much about putting people offside, provided what he was saying was in service of the moral good.

But he was also a fiercely dedicated bishop, who viewed his role both in the service of God and in service to the people of London with complete commitment.

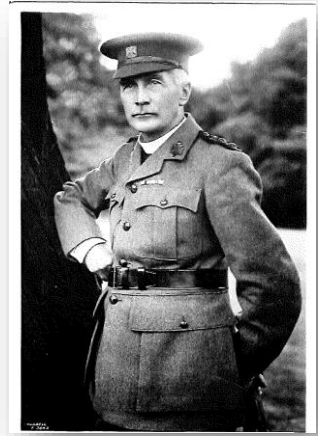
Many have referred to him over the decades as a 'firebrand' or as 'bellicose'. Historian Stuart Bell offers a more tactful view, rejecting the 'one-dimensional caricature' and arguing that his 'less-nuanced language' developed for him a reputation that outsized his zeal for war.

As with all Anglican church leaders at the outbreak of the First World War, Winnington-Ingram had to navigate the balance between not glorifying war, while simultaneously getting behind the national cause and fulfilling his patriotic duty sermons across the country, appeals to Good standing up against Evil quickly became the norm, with lessons in duty and sacrifice shortly behind.

Winnington-Ingram was a powerful preacher, who used dramatic imagery and powerfully brought biblical stories to life. In the early months of the war he deployed this 'straightforward eloquence' as John Wolffe has termed it, in his use of the story of St Stephen, the archetype of the Christian martyr. He drew a thread from Stephen, the Church's first martyr straight through to the contemporary soldiers laying down lives on the Western Front.

Stephen, like the soldiers, died standing up for truth and opposing persecution. He was also 'fearless and consistent in his witness of Jesus', as Wolffe argues, which Winnington-Ingram believed should be pivotal to the life of the soldier. Bell reinforces this, carefully making the distinction that the bishop glorified the causes of war, but that subsequent readers have 'misread as a glorification of war itself'.

But it is also clear that Winnington-Ingram's support for British soldiers went further than faith alone. As Alan Wilkinson describes in his impressive history of the church at war, the bishop 'said that Germany could not at present be trusted to keep any treaties; after their use of poison gas, and the sinking of the Lusitania'. At least publicly - and it seems likely also privately - he believed in the



message perpetuated by British propaganda: Germany was a militaristic nation, not to be trusted to act with decency or morality.

Winnington-Ingram also believed, perhaps influenced by the lesson of St Stephen, that 'chivalry and Christianity went hand in hand', as studied by Stephan Goebel. This was not just words to the bishop, but 'chivalrous conduct meant the translation of sound religion into action'. And he was not afraid of acting on his word.

In early 1915 the Bishop of London wrote to his old friend Sir John French and requested a trip to visit the Western Front. This was immediately welcomed by the BEF's commander, and the date for his visit was set for Holy Week, that year in the last week of March.

The official visit was covered in the press and a full account was hastily published in May 1915 by the Bishop's chaplain, G Vernon Smith. They carried with them a portable, carved altar and crates of hymn sheets supplied by SPCK. Their mission was ambitious: Smith estimated they had taken 10,000 copies of various prayers and meditations on their journey.

They landed at Boulogne and immediately set about meeting with the soldiers at British HQ. The men travelled with the Army Chaplains' Department, wearing their uniforms to distinguish their vocations. Smith describes that from that very first evening they were warmly welcomed by all ranks of the army, services and concerts packed as they were gratefully received.

From Boulogne they journeyed closer to the front, to Clearing Stations and hospitals stopping at Church Army and YMCA huts along the way. The chaplains ensured were met with enthusiastic troops, including those being put forward for baptism and confirmation. Several histories describe the enthusiasm of young soldiers affirming a life of faith, especially in this early phase of the war. At one military church, Smith described 70 soldiers coming forward for confirmation by the Bishop.

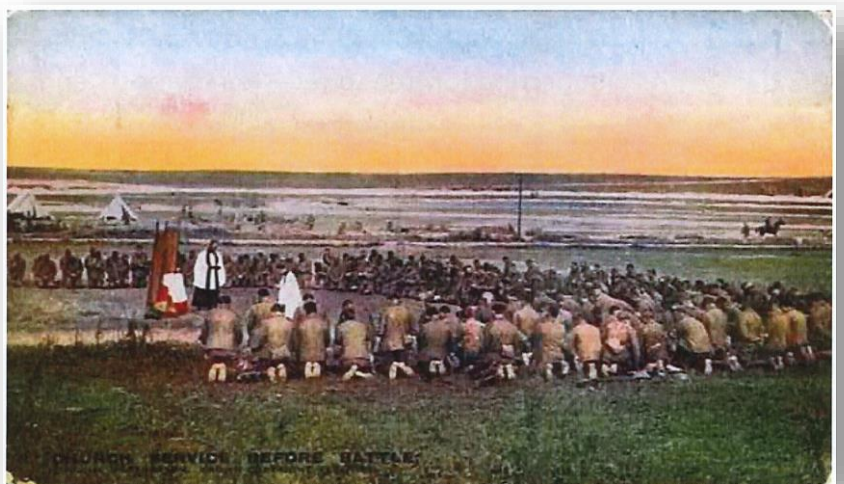
Travelling in the lead up to Easter, it was easy for Winnington-Ingram to preach on his preferred theme of Sacrifice. He reflected that 'there surely have never been circumstances which made it easier for men to understand the full meaning of the great message of the Cross'. The value of life - and the meaning of death - were very clearly weighing on men's minds, which the Bishop saw as his opportunity to instill the full meaning of God.

He deeply believed that 'the spirit of self-sacrifice always leads men nearer to God' taking from 'the silver lining to the dark cloud of war' to believe that 'we have to ready to receive back into England men with a stronger faith in God than many of us at home now have'.

As a historian, this reads very clearly as a line from early in the war, before the grinding down of the Somme and Ypres, even before the scale of loss felt at Gallipoli. Published under censor, there is very little feeling of the resignation or defeatism would have coloured a later account. The hope that Winnington-Ingram felt is admirable, but distinct to the era of the war's first year: an all-volunteer army, out to defend Brave Little Belgium and protect the interests of English liberty. This rings through in the Bishop of London's other theme for the week: fortitude. This sense of resilience and the emboldening of the nation's youth is again reflective of an early-war optimism. This feeling that war would harden up a weakening youth, making them both physically and mentally stronger, was a particular strain of imperial muscular Christianity, popular since the turn of the century and the Boer War. 'Fortitude also that the private soldier who had to endure hardships day by day must have ... This fortitude could be best gained by looking at the example of Jesus Christ, for in Him is seen the most wonderful instance of fortitude in the history of the world.'

Throughout Holy Week and Easter, Smith estimated they conducted almost 70 services across the front, primarily rotating the same preaching and hymns. The four of choice plentiful in the SPCK's supply were "When I survey the wondrous Cross", "Rock Ages, cleft for me", "There is a green hill far away", and "Jesu, Lover of my soul". Hymns that have survived the test of time to still be sung today, but also that would have been familiar to a broad spectrum of soldiers, no matter their church preference.

In Smith's rousing reflection on the Western Front tour, it is however notable how little *action* the men encounter. Again, in line for that early phase of war, the clergymen were not allowed to enter the trenches or get too close to the active front. Sir French, perhaps familiar with Winnington-Ingram's boldness, gave him a specific warning against it. At this time, the YMCA were also not allowed to operate close to the trenches, and touring music troupes were also constrained to the bases.



Likely due to the censorship, we don't get Winnington-Ingram's perspective on this limitation. One imagines, for all his talk of courage

and sacrifice, he would have been willing to travel forwards. Yet, it also just as likely could have felt anathema for someone non-military, despite the uniform, to have taken such a risk. The Church of England did ultimately come under criticism from some soldiers and corners of the press for *not* sending its chaplains into the front lines, and later in the war permissions were changed to make this possible. It does a disservice to consider the four years of war as one stationary image or set of practices.

In his rousing patriotism and commitment to self-sacrifice the Bishop of London reflected a bold and confident Britain, yet untested in any Great Push. Entrenched and committed to the long war ahead, the Army he met were still engaged in the optimism of the adventure; those back home praying for the making of the nation in the overthrowing of Germany's barbarity.

While his own views would ultimately mellow and mould to the public opinion by end - at least in comparison from where they had begun - Winnington-Ingram's: patriotism and commitment to the spiritual life of soldiers was an important moment in the country's adaptation to total war, and an important reflection on the centrality of the national Church in that moment.

Dr Kathryn White

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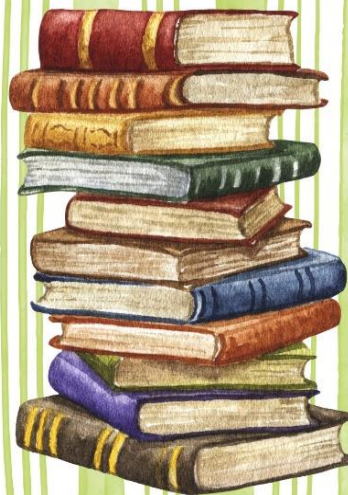
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back of church**

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



BAPTISM

We welcome into our church family, by baptism.

Elsie Rowan Burton on

2nd August 2026 at St James

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES:

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

Joyce Lombarde - memorial service 10th August 2026

We remember with affection.....Year's Mind in September

- 1st Geoffrey James 2003, Eileen Puddle 2004, Jenny Poole 2006
John Theaker 2018
- 4th Graham Westley 2012
- 6th Callum Fletcher 2015, Maureen Critchley 2020
- 7th Peter Newman 1988, Betty Clegg 2011, David Pugh 2024
- 9th Leonard Carpenter 1997, Brenda Browning 2017,
Mary Powell 2021
- 10th Mervyn Morgan 2003, Bryant Witts 2013, David Simpson 2024
- 11th Jack Banfield 2002
- 14th Ruth Merritt 2000, Rosalind Medcroft 2005, Sam Trump 2014
Janet Midgley 2024
- 15th Betty Williams 2001
- 16th Sheila Wright 2013
- 17th Caroline Smith 2010
- 18th David Dixon
- 26th Constance Pate 2003
- 27th Bob Littleford 2012
- 28th Yvonne Green 2017
- 29th James Cook 2021, Wendy Tomlin 2023
- 30th Jo Edgington 2001, James Grimes 2007, Michael Cornock 2013
Audrey Pearson 2017, Jennifer Price 2019

NB the flower rota is on page 23



Mrs Gregory – Principal

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