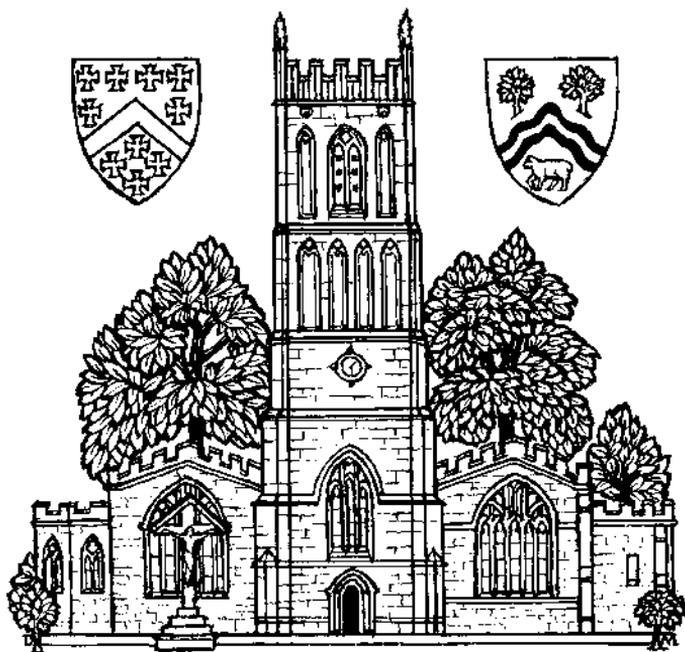


THE PARISH MAGAZINE



THE TYNDALE BENEFICE OF
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE WITH
OZLEWORTH, NORTH NIBLEY AND
ALDERLEY (INCLUDING TRESHAM)

70p per copy. £7 annually NOVEMBER 2017

The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Wotton-under-Edge; The Parish Church of St. Martin of Tours, North Nibley; The Church of St. Nicholas of Myra, Ozleworth; The Parish Church of St. Kenelm, Alderley; The Perry and Dawes Almshouses Chapel; The Chapel of Ease at Tresham. (North Nibley also publishes its own journal 'On the Edge')

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Copy deadline 14th of preceding month

Clergy Days off:

Rev'd Rob, Thursday

Rev'd Christine - usual days off Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

Rev'd Morag - usual days off Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays

Letter from the Curate

Dear Friends

NOVEMBER is a month for remembering. It is the month when, as a nation, we remember those of our Armed Services who gave their lives for their country.

November is also the month when, as individuals or in small groups, we remember those amongst our family and friends who have died, as we gather to commemorate the faithful departed on All Souls' Day.

In this past year, thoughts of war and death have never been far from our minds as we hear of violence and atrocities carried out in various parts of the world, and as we have heard threats and counter threats being voiced in the media.

And I wonder – have we learned anything that will enable all peoples of the world to move on in a better relationship with each other? A relationship of respect for all, regardless of colour, creed, race, sex or anything else that appears to divide us.

There is a hymn that sums up my thoughts. It is called “A Hymn for Remembrance Sunday” by Charles Henry Wood and it was written very recently for a concert to raise funds to provide a memorial for members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives since 1945 – and 1963 is the only year when there is no name on that memorial!

*Grant peace, O Lord, across our strife-torn world,
Where war divides and greed and dogma drive.
Help us to learn the lessons from the past,
That all are human and all pay the price.
All life is dear and should be treated so;
Joined, not divided, is the way to go.*

But for that to happen requires every single person to work for peace and I quote the first and last two lines of a poem called “There will be Peace” written by David Roberts, also very recently.

*There will be peace:
when attitudes change;
There will be peace:
when enemies become fellow human beings.*

And I remember the words of Jesus, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5: 44). Jesus calls each one of us today to follow his way of love and peace.

With every blessing in Christ
Morag



St. Mary's Mothers' Union Meetings and Events for November

**Wednesday 1st November
All Saints Special**

St. Mary's Parish Room at 2.15pm
Followed by tea and chat

**Wednesday 15th November 9.30am
Corporate Communion at St. Mary's**

3rd Wednesday prayers and readings are led by Mothers' Union members. It is followed by coffee in the Parish Room. We welcome everyone to join us, both at the service and for coffee afterwards in the Parish Room.

**Wednesday 15th November
Advent Programme**

St. Mary's Parish Room at 7.45pm
Followed by coffee and chat

**Friday 24th November
Seasonal Lunch with Sale of Mystery Parcels**

St. Mary's Parish Room
Please see separate notice for full details

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Further information on all events from:
Sue Plant (Branch Leader) Tel: 01453 845157

Support for Carers

“If you look after a loved-one with a long-term condition, then you may like to know there are support groups for you in the Stroud/ Nailsworth area. These are helpful for getting information, swapping coping-strategies and as a chance to share your story with others who understand the stresses and joys of caring. For details contact Roger at ‘Carers Gloucestershire’

01452 872241 / rhare@carersgloucestershire.org.uk

Creative Wotton

What a fantastic number of talented people we have in Wotton who came together to make a wonderful few days in September. The variety of exhibits was amazing, from sewing and crochet, through water and oil painting, stained glass, calligraphy and mosaics. We were also delighted with demonstrations of lace making, card making, hardanger, crochet and cross stitch as well as flower arranging. Talks about glass fusion, wood carving and mosaics were very interesting as well as a talk on the kneeler.

A group of patchworkers brought a wide selection of their work and were on hand to talk about the Linus Project UK, which donate quilts to long term cancer patients, mainly children, in hospitals and are a much cherished keepsake. Thanks to them for their dedication.

Refreshments were served by so many wonderful people with delicious soups available at lunch-time and lovely cakes to tempt all day. A big thankyou to all the cake bakers and soup makers as well as those who helped tidy away each day.

We welcomed over 250 people through the doors and raised an amazing £1430 towards the re-ordering.

All this would not have happened without the help of a few devoted people, Kate, Peter, Douglas and Richard.

Many thanks, Gillian Carpenter

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November

The usual parade and church service will take place – march from the Chipping 10.30am, United Service at St. Mary's 10.50am, laying of wreaths at the War Memorial approx. 12.00 noon. House-to-house collectors for the Poppy Fund, organized by Lucy Stanley (Tel. 842840) will be out and about during the previous fortnight.

Wreaths for organisations will be available from Ralph Rowden, 58 Bearlands (843947) from 28th October. Last year, thanks to the generosity of Wotton and nearby villages, and a lot of hard work, we were able to raise just over £10,000 to assist ex-service people and their families

The Royal British Legion has arranged a Poppy Concert, with grateful thanks to the Wotton Silver Band and the Bluecoat School, at the Town Hall on Friday 3rd November at 7.30pm. (Tickets £10).

I.W.M.

Local Charity of the month

Lifeboats

The Wotton support branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was formed 25 years ago and has continued ever since, led by chairman John Barnett. It hosts fund-raising events, and has a stall at most local shows, including the Wotton Charities Fayre on 25th November. This year, the national committee decided to stop house-to-house collections and blanket canvassing after criticism of pestering by other charities (not RNLI). This leaves a fund-raising hole of £3,500, which the committee is working to fill. Many will have watched the real-life rescues recently shown on BBC television. John has sent Iain Marchant this summary to encourage further ideas to support the work.

RNLI Christmas Cards, Calendars and other Items

The Branch sells RNLI Christmas cards, calendars and diaries and other RNLI items at local events. Events we will be attending in the remainder of 2017 include:

- Branch Coffee Morning / Souvenir and Book Sale - North Nibley Village Hall - Saturday, 11 November (am)
- Iron Acton Christmas Fayre - Iron Acton Parish Hall - Saturday, 18 November (pm)
- Wotton Charities Fayre - Civic Centre, Wotton - Saturday, 25 November

For those who have been unable to order Christmas cards on-line, come and see us at one of these.

Respect the Water

Around 150 people drown around the UK coast each year; that's more than those killed in cycling accidents. The problem isn't just dangerous sports or being out in stormy seas; most deaths happen when people are near the shore, doing seemingly harmless activities like swimming or walking. Indeed, many of those who drown had no intention of entering the water when they went out that day. In addition to saving people who get into difficulties, the RNLI is committed to promoting safety advice through our Respect the Water campaign and through educating young people through visits to schools and youth groups.

Further information on keeping safe, and on what to do if you get into difficulty, is available on the RNLI website at: <https://rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water>. I would particularly advise you all to view the video “Float to Live” which covers the need to fight your natural instincts rather than fight the water.

Illustrated Talks

I still do illustrated talks to adult groups (as well as visiting schools and youth groups as an Education Volunteer). I aim to customise the talk to the audience; thus: I have based talks on “the changing role of women in the RNLI” and “the RNLI in the 19th Century”, as well as giving more general talks. (I have also given a well-received talk on off-shore lighthouses).

Past talks have included one to St. Mary’s Mothers’ Union; I believe they will give me a good reference.

If you are involved in organising visiting speakers for an adult group and would be interested in a talk on any aspect of the RNLI (or any marine subject), please contact me. I do not charge for these talks – although a donation or collection for the RNLI will not be refused!

John Barnett (e-mail: jabwrnli@gmail.com; Tel: 01453 844709)

Hosting with HOSTUK 2017-18

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

How true such advice can be! Hospitality is an equal partnership, the feel-good factor of offering it and the delight in receiving it.

HOST UK is a charity whose mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. We operate *all* year round including Christmas and New Year when being welcomed into a home is vastly preferable to lonely halls of residence.

Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only), three days and two nights at the weekend, or at New Year, or four days and three nights during the Christmas festive period.

The choice is yours. **And remember...your offer can be made at *any* time of the year.**

If you should like to know more please look at our website: www.hostuk.org Or email us on: info@hostuk.org
Or telephone us on: 020 7739 6292

November 14th

Samuel Seabury

The First Bishop in America

Samuel Seabury was born in North Groton, Connecticut in 1729. His father, also Samuel Seabury (1706–1764), was originally a Congregationalist minister in Groton but was ordained deacon and priest in the Church of England in 1730.

Samuel Seabury (the son) graduated from Yale College in 1748, and studied theology with his father. He studied medicine in Edinburgh from 1752 to 1753 and was ordained deacon by John Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln, and priest by Richard Osbaldeston, Bishop of Carlisle, on December 21 and 23 respectively, 1753. Seabury was rector of Christ Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey from 1754 to 1757, rector in Jamaica, New York from 1757 to 1766, and of St. Peter's, Westchester (now annexed to The Bronx) from 1766 to 1775.

Revolutionary times

He was one of the signatories of the White Plains Protest of April 1775 against all unlawful congresses and committees, and in many other ways proved himself a devoted loyalist. Seabury wrote the "Free Thoughts on the Proceedings of the Continental Congress" (1774) under the pen-name A. W. Farmer (standing for "a Westchester farmer"), which was followed by a second "Farmer's Letter", "The Congress Canvassed" (1774). Alexander Hamilton responded to these open letters in "A Full Vindication of the Measures of the Congress, from the Calumnies of their Enemies". Seabury wrote a third "Farmer's Letter" titled "A View of the Controversy between Great Britain and her Colonies" to answer Hamilton. Hamilton completed the exchange by writing "The Farmer Refuted" (1775).

These three "Farmer's Letters" are forceful presentations of the loyalist claim, written in a plain, hard-headed style. Their authorship was long in question, but it is certain that Seabury claimed them in England in 1783 when he was seeking Episcopal consecration. At the same time, he claimed authorship of a letter under the title "An Alarm to the Legislature of the Province of New York" (1775), not signed by the Westchester farmer, which discussed the power of what he viewed as the only legal political body in the colony. Seabury's clarity of style and general ease of reading set him apart from his ecclesiastical colleagues throughout his life.

Seabury was arrested in November 1775 by local Patriots, and was kept in prison in Connecticut for six weeks. He was prevented from carrying out his ministry and, after some time in Long Island, he took refuge in New York City where he was appointed chaplain to

the King's American Regiment in 1778. At the end of the war, he stayed in the United States; he moved to Connecticut and was loyal to the new government.

Post-revolutionary episcopacy

On March 25, 1783, a meeting of ten Episcopal clergy at the Glebe House in Woodbury, Connecticut, elected Seabury bishop as their second choice (a favourite son was elected first, but declined for health reasons). There were no Anglican bishops in the Americas to consecrate him, so he sailed to London on July 7. In England, however, his consecration was considered to be impossible because, as an American citizen, he could no longer take the oath of allegiance to the King. Seabury then turned to the Scottish Episcopal Church. At that time, the Episcopalians in Scotland were not the established church but a legally recognized, but oppressed, church that refused to recognize the Hanoverian kings. Earlier, scandal had been caused by the presence of two non-juring bishops in America in the 1720s (John Talbot and Robert Welton) who were removed from their positions - Talbot was Rector of St. Mary's in Burlington, New Jersey - after being accused of schism in the Church of England in America, which was then under the authority of the Bishop of London.

He was consecrated in Aberdeen on November 14, 1784, with the one condition that in the matter of the Holy Communion he study the Scottish Rite and work for its adoption rather than the English rite of 1662. To the present day the American liturgy adheres to the main features of this Rite in one of its Holy Eucharist Liturgies.

Seabury's consecration by the non-juring Scots caused alarm in the British government who feared an entirely Jacobite church in the United States, and Parliament was persuaded to make provision for the ordination of foreign bishops. Seabury's tenacity in the matter had the effect of making a continued relationship between the American and English churches a possibility. The problem was revealed not to be one of liturgical restrictions (the oath) but of political plans.

Seabury returned to Connecticut in 1785 and made New London his home, becoming rector of St. James Church there. A meeting of his Connecticut clergy was held during the first week of August 1785 at Christ Church on the South Green in Middletown. Seabury said of Christ Church, Middletown, "Long may this birthplace be remembered, and may the number of faithful stewards who follow this succession increase and multiply till time shall be no more."

Over the next 100 years there were 274 ordinations in Middletown and the consecration of Thomas John Clagett as Bishop of Maryland in 1792 united the Scottish and the English apostolic successions.

Doug

Wotton Carers Support Group

Thanks to David and Margaret Barter, who have written about their favourite charity. I was very interested to read about what they are doing. If you feel you would like to tell us about your charity do speak to Rev'd Iain or give me a phone call (842300) or send me an e-mail (address at bottom of last page in the magazine).

Our group came into existence four years ago at the initiative of Churches Together in Wotton, and with the help of Carers Gloucestershire to provide a relaxed and supportive environment for those who find themselves caring for a spouse, parent, child or other family member or friend of any age who is frail, ill or disabled. Such a role, whether temporary or long-term, can be exhausting, frustrating, challenging yet rewarding.....and for some is an isolating experience.

Our monthly gathering on every third Monday morning from 10.30. to 12.00. at the United Church hall in Bradley Street is open to all in this situation. We start with free tea/coffee and homemade cake and seek to create a friendly space where those in a similar situation can find support, share experiences, exchange information and ideas, and generally have some time for themselves.

At some meetings we have a speaker on a subject of common interest – safety in the home, basic first aid, powers of attorney, managing stress and claiming benefits have been subjects we have covered.

Many carers would not see themselves as that – they are just being a loving spouse, parent, son/daughter, friend or whatever, and many in this role already have good support from family, professionals or others; but for some the chance to meet those who understand their situation is something of a lifeline in a stressful life.

Carers are welcome whether they can only come occasionally or want to be there regularly. We know that things can be rather unpredictable in a carer's week but a supportive and confidential space is offered as needed at our meetings.

If you or someone you know might find our group helpful please pass the information on or just come to one of our drop-in mornings.

For more information please contact David or Margaret Barter on 01453 842403.

Re-ordering at St. Mary's

Many of us at St. Mary's have been wondering where the plans for the re-ordering have got to; and why there seems to be nothing progressing us towards the start of Phase 1. So, here is a brief update to reassure us all, - from the planning committee.

To re-cap, we have to apply and receive a faculty for all significant alterations to the church that the church community would like to carry out. The Diocese of Gloucester requires our application to be submitted and then the relevant personnel give us permission to carry on with the projects (outlined in the plan as seen at the back of the church). Objections and enquiries have to be responded to by the Diocesan officials. And certain rules and regulations regarding displaying the intention (to carry out work) are also required.

In spite of the submission of the plans being a number of months old, St. Mary's Planning Group (P.G.) have not had the go ahead. Some more details of our intentions have now been requested which require some more work involving the architect and the P.G. They are now being carried out. We are in the hands of the Diocesan officials; and we need to await their decision, on receiving our submission, to go ahead.

While, in human terms, this all seems very frustrating, and we could become downhearted by such a delay, we are seeing some splendid fund-raising efforts.

As you know, Kate Tutty and Gillian Carpenter organized, with much help, a wonderful four days of artwork and crafts, recently, which everyone enjoyed, and raised over £1,000 towards the re-ordering fund. Art classes continue monthly with some really keen artists; and others raise sums with their own projects.

Maybe we would all be helped to be patient if we were to pray consistently that God will work for the greater good in our parish—and His timing may be not ours!

Shirley Wyse

Hmmm!

Young Robert was playing in the cupboard under the stairs when he discovered a dust-covered Bible.

“Mummy, is this God's book?” he asked.

“Yes, dear,” she replied.

“Then why don't we send it back to him? We never use it.”

Monarch Books

St. Mary's Posada 2017

Mary and Joseph are once more in search of shelter in the period of Advent

Don't miss the opportunity to host our knitted Mary and Joseph. They will lodge at a different house each night over the period of Advent. Hosts take the figures to all sorts of interesting venues as well as including them in their own Christmas preparations at home. To book a night you need to sign the list. This will be in church from the beginning of November and you can sign up for any spaces.

It is essential that you provide your full address and phone number so the host before and after you can arrange the exchange. Please only sign the master list in the church. The copy in the bag which accompanies the figures is for information only.

The first host will collect the figures at the Advent Sunday Darkness to Light Service on December 3rd. The figures will return to Church for the Blessing of the Crib and first Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Then they will spend part of the season of Christmas in the stable in the Parish Room.

A full explanation of Posada and a diary of the figures' journey accompany the bag and its contents. Photographs are encouraged along with your reports. If you would like to see a previous year's diary, please ask me. There are some charming entries. I am happy to give any further information required.

I hope Mary and Joseph will find a space in your home and heart over this busy period.

Best wishes

Sue Plant (Tel 845157)

A nice Bonus for our Re-ordering efforts

This summer those of us hosting the tea and cake on a Saturday afternoon had the pleasure of meeting many new and varied people.

One of those was a runner training for running the Cotswold Way (yes, one of the ones who did the The Cotswold Way Century recently). Recently we received a note and a donation from this man who had dropped it in as he passed through during the race itself. The note read:

"To the ladies and gentleman who gave a weary runner some shelter, coffee and cake a few Saturdays ago. Here is a little something for your cause. Doing the 102 (mile) run today and wanted to pop this in for you to say THANK YOU."

Andrew Leeson

Hymn for the Month

“For the healing of the nations” (Anglican Hymns O. and N. 198)

This month sees the annual Act of Remembrance of those who died in two World Wars and the other conflicts - Korea, Suez, the Falklands, and Iraq I and II - which have followed it. With the dead we also remember those who were wounded and bereaved - in fact, all to whom war has brought suffering. No doubt we shall observe Remembrance Sunday with the reverence, respect and honour which is due.

It has been suggested that the month of November might well be kept as a time to remember all the suffering that is being endured throughout the world at this time. There are the victims of terrorism, of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters; the ever-growing numbers of people affected by AIDS and other diseases, and the increasing victims - particularly Christians - of religious persecution.

In the face of all the suffering that we know of, and of the great amount that we don't know, there is the temptation to ask, "Where is God in all this suffering?" The quick answer for Christians is, "Among his people, suffering with them", just as Christ was suffering on his cross in Jerusalem 2000 years ago. "But why doesn't he do something about it?" is a further question, and the not-so-quick answer is: "He has! He has raised his Son Jesus Christ from the dead to show that he is the Conqueror of Evil and he has given us strength to overcome the evil in our own lives and in the life of the world - and he looks to us to work with him".

It is not enough to remember and sympathise with those who suffer: Jesus did that and went on to relieve it - and he told his followers to do the same. This hymn prays:

"For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray....."

but it doesn't just offer the prayer and sit back expecting God to get to work and put everything right. It asks God to lead us in the work of fighting against evil and relieving suffering:

"To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word"

"Lead us, Father, into freedom, from despair your world release;

That, redeemed from war and hatred, men may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,"

For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;

That, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find."

T.N.



PRAYER CORNER

Stepping back, stepping forward

Read: He told his disciples to get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, on the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

After taking leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. . . In those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Mark 6: 45-46; Luke 6: 12

Ponder: Have you ever heard of Henry the Hermit or St. Cuthbert? Both are associated with the magical coast of Northumberland. St. Cuthbert made his home on Lindisfarne, otherwise known as Holy Island—a small rocky outcrop connected to the mainland by a narrow causeway that for most of the day is submerged by the sea. Henry was even more of a recluse, spending his days in prayer and meditation on an island some distance offshore. Few of us will feel called to quite such an austere way of life, but we can learn something from their example, for there are times when we, too, need to get away from it all, if only for a few moments, in order to hear God's voice. It is not that he is removed from the daily round of life—far from it—but sometimes pressures can build up in such a way that they obscure his presence. When writing this book, for example, there have been many times when I have struggled for inspiration, becoming increasingly agitated when none was forthcoming. At one time, I would have soldiered on regardless, spending hours, and even a whole day, on one paragraph, yet getting nowhere. Experience, though, has taught me to get up and walk away, to take a stroll in the garden, or to reflect on a different passage, or simply to spend a few moments doing nothing. Through stepping back, I am able to step forward.

It is noticeable that Jesus himself, at key moments in his life, made time for quietness, drawing away from the crowds, spending time alone high in the hills so that he could focus on the presence of God, away from the innumerable pressure and demands put upon him. It is not always easy to do that, I know. When the children are screaming and there is a pile of washing-up to see to, when there is another meeting to attend and another deadline to meet, stepping back can seem a luxury we can ill afford. Yet, the fact is, it is a necessity; a step we sometimes need to make if we are to have any hope of progressing further.

Ask yourself: Is it time you let go of something you are wrestling with and handed it over to God? Do you make enough time in your life to step back so that

God can lead you forward!

Pray: Living God, in the rush and bustle of each day I all too often lose sight of you, my mind occupied by the responsibilities, demands and difficulties confronting me. Instead of turning to you, I get sucked in ever deeper, getting these out of all perspective and denying myself the strength I need to meet them.

Teach me to find time for you, if only for a few moments, so that I may hear your voice and discern your will. Teach me to step back and take stock, so that I may then step forward, renewed in faith, strengthened in spirit, and equipped for whatever you may ask, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Remember: Now, more than ever, the word spread about Jesus, and large crowds would gather to hear him and be healed of their illnesses, but he would withdraw to remote places and pray.

Luke 5:15-16

Close: Living God, help me to find time for you, and so to find time for all. Amen.

'Daily Prayer', Nick Fawcett—Kevin Mayhew



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

Friday, 24th November

Seasonal Lunch

12.00 noon - 1.00pm or 1pm- 2pm

in the Parish Room

in aid of Mothers' Union Charities

To save waiting time please buy tickets in advance from the Parish Office or Sue Plant (01453 845157)

Hot Turkey Rolls, Irresistible Puddings, Tea or Coffee for £5

Wrapped mystery Christmas gifts for sale at £2 each

EVERYONE WELCOME

Diary for November

in the Tyndale Benefice serving St. Mary's, Wotton,
St. Martin's, North Nibley, St. Kenelm's, Alderley
and the Chapel of Ease at Tresham

Morning Prayer is said daily, Monday – Saturday, at 9.00 am
in the Catherine Chapel at St. Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge

1st Wednesday, All Saints' Day

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
2.15pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Room
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel
5.00pm North Nibley PCC at Blanchworth House

3rd Friday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

5th Sunday, All Saints and All Souls

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Martin's
10.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's
11.00am Holy Communion at the Tresham Chapel
3.30pm Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at
St. Mary's
(no separate Evensong at 6.00pm)

**6th Monday, 9.30am Little Church at St. Mary's – activities and
crafts for under-fives and carers beginning in Church then
moving to the Parish Room – Remembrance;**

10.00am Holy Communion at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room

**8th Wednesday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;
7.30pm St Mary's PCC**

10th Friday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

**11th Saturday, 9.30am – 11.00am Messy Church at St. Mary's –
'Peace and Comfort' Breakfast, activities and worship for all
ages.**

12th Sunday, – Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's and St. Martin's
9.30am Family Service for Remembrance at St. Martin's
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's (please note earlier
time)
10.45am Act of Remembrance at the North Nibley War

Memorial

10.50am Service of Remembrance at St. Mary's followed by Ceremony at the War Memorial

6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's

13th Monday, 9.30am Little Church at St. Mary's – activities and crafts for under-fives and carers beginning in Church then moving to the Parish Room – Shoe Boxes;

10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room.

15th Wednesday, 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's (Mothers' Union Corporate Communion)

5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;
7.45pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Room

17th Friday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

18th Saturday, 7.00pm Wotton Concert Series at St Mary's - Baroque Masterpieces

19th Sunday, – 2nd Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Martin's

10.15am Family Service at St. Mary's

11.00am Family Communion at St. Kenelm's

2.30pm Baptism of Matilda Martin at St Mary's

6.00pm Choral Evensong at St. Mary's.

20th Monday, 9.30am Little Church at St. Mary's – activities and crafts for under-fives and carers beginning in Church then moving to the Parish Room - Caring

10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room

22nd Wednesday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;

5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;

7.30pm Deanery Synod meeting at Blue Coat School.

24th Friday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;
12.00 noon Mothers' Union Lunch in the Parish Room – the popular Christmas Lunch in two sittings: 12.00 – 1.00 and 1.00 – 2.00

26th Sunday, – Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

9.30am Family Communion at St. Martin's

10.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's

6.00pm Service of Healing and Wholeness at St. Mary's (no

- separate Evensong)
- 27th Monday, 9.30am Little Church at St. Mary's – activities and crafts for under-fives and carers beginning in Church then moving to the Parish Room – The Christmas Story part 1; 10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes; 2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room
- 28th Tuesday, 7.30pm Co-workers of Mother Teresa meeting in the Parish Room
- 29th Wednesday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's; 5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel
- 30th **Thursday, – St. Andrew the Apostle**
7.30pm Evening Eucharist with incense

Early Dates for December

- 1st **Friday**, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
- 3rd **Sunday– Advent Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Martin's
10.15am Confirmation Service at St. Mary's
(no 11.00am Service at Tresham)
6.00pm Advent Service of Darkness to Light at St Mary's
6.30pm Advent Service of Darkness to Light at St Martin's.
- 4th Monday, 9.30am Little Church at St. Mary's – activities and crafts for under-fives and carers beginning in Church then moving to the Parish Room – The Christmas Story part 2
10.00am Holy Communion at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00 p.m. St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room
- 6th **Wednesday, St. Nicholas**
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
2.15pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Room
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel
- 8th Friday, 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
- 9th Saturday, 9.30 – 11.00am Messy Church at St. Mary's, 'Christmas with Joseph' breakfast, activities and worship for all ages.

From the Registers

The following services have been taken by the
Anglican Clergy of these Parishes

- HOLY BAPTISM *“We welcome into the Lord’s family”*
15th September Samuel Pink (St. Mary’s)
22nd October Taylor Rigg (St. Mary’s)
29th October Lyra Cook (St. Mary’s)

- HOLY MATRIMONY *“May God bless their lives together”*
21st October Linda Thomas and Peter White (St. Mary’s)

FUNERALS AND THANKSGIVING SERVICES

- “Behold! I make all things new”*
27th September May Mutter (St. Mary’s)

Readings for November

- 5th **All Saints and All Souls**
Revelations 7: 9-end; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12
- 12th **3rd Before Advent – Remembrance Sunday**
Amos 5: 18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end;
Matthew 25: 1-13
- 19th **2nd before Advent**
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11;
Matthew 25: 14-30
- 26th **1st before Advent – Christ the King**
Ezekiel 34: 11-16. 20-24; Ephesians 1: 15-end;
Matthew 25: 31-end

Hmmm!

A priest working in a wide-spread community in the Australian outback dropped in on a small rural school. He talked to the children about their lives and got the impression it was a happy, contented community. Finally he said, “This really is a land flowing with milk and honey. Where does that come from?”

There was a short pause, then a hand shot up at the back of the class.

“Cows and bees, sir.”

Monarch Books

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children's Church: there will be some activities left in the Catherine Chapel on Sundays 5th, 12th and 26th. Story sacks and books are available from the Children's Corner to be taken to the pews.

For more details, contact Morag 01453 845147

Little Church: usually meet in the Church at 9.30am

6th: Remembrance

13th: Shoe Boxes

20th: Caring

27th: The Christmas Story #1

For more details, contact Zoe 07776 123565

Messy Church: Saturday 11th from 9.30 to 11.00

A service for all ages to eat together, discover more of what Jesus meant when he spoke to his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion: "Peace I leave with you" and enjoy a time for celebration - telling the story, singing and praying.

For more details, contact Morag 01453 845147

Family Service:

19th: The Parable of the Talents

For more details, contact the parish office 01453 842175

Prayer for November:

Thank you, God, that you accept me as I am.

Bless me this week,

and help me to be the person you made me to be.

Amen.

Word Search

Contend



Argue Assert Battle Brawl Combat Compete Conflict
Contest Cope Deal Debate Fight Jostle Oppose Plea
Reason Scuffle Squabble Struggle Tussle Wage With
Wrangle Wrestle

News from USPG

Praying and Fasting for Madagascar

With Madagascar facing a bubonic plague epidemic, USPG responded to a call from the Mothers' Union for a day of prayer and fasting on Friday, 6 October.

Marie-Pierrette Bezara, who is the President of the Mothers' Union in the Province of the Indian Ocean, called on women to pray that 'the God of mercy save the Malagasy people from this horrible disease'. She quoted Mark 16:17-18, which reads 'And these signs will accompany those who believe... they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them'. And she added: 'We are united by our risen Lord. So dear sisters, join us with prayer on that day.'

Jocelyne Razafiarivony, also of MU in Madagascar, said: 'We pray day and night that God would preserve Malagasy people from disease. We pray for God's forgiveness for all our sins, and pray that the government may be able to cope. Be assured we will unite in prayer and fasting this Friday.'

Supporting communities affected by hurricanes in the West Indies

USPG has sent emergency grants to Anglican dioceses in West Indies where Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused devastation.

In particular, we have been in regular contact with two of the most severely-affected dioceses, namely the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, and the Diocese of The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands.

Alongside emergency grants from our Rapid Response Fund, we continue to offer our prayers and solidarity.

In the Diocese of The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands, reported damage included:

- On Grand Turk, flooding and major damage to buildings and roofs;
- On Providenciales, flooding and major damage to houses and other buildings, including 500 power lines down and the roofs blown off St Monica's Church and Rectory;
- All of Ragged Island was devastated and is now uninhabitable –

Holy Innocents Church is still standing, although water got inside;

- On Inagua island, homes and public buildings damaged.

The church is doing what it can to offer practical support to affected communities.

In the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, this emergency response has included:

- Collecting materials and offerings from the islands least-affected to assist those that are most-affected;
- Providing medical supplies, food, water, clothing, building materials and bedding to those directly affected (USPG's emergency grant will help to cover the cost);
- Organising counselling to provide comfort for those dealing with bereavement, shock, the loss of homes or relocation.

Please continue to pray for the people of the West Indies.

And please make a donation to our Rapid Response Fund to help ensure that USPG can supply emergency grants when future disasters happen.

Lesotho

'There is a good level of community co-operation. If people are in need, the community will share.'

Mamokete Makana, Mantšonyane

Punch Line

“‘Why?’ as someone has commented, is the easiest question to ask, but not the easiest to answer.’ The best position to take in times of perplexity is the position of trust. When complete trust is difficult, then first identify the fact that you already have some trust, then ask for more. You will receive from God only as much as you are willing to receive.”

‘Every Day with Jesus—Selwyn Hughes



Isaac Watts has given us a rich legacy of hymns, many of which are still loved and sung today. In his latter years someone described him as: "a little, feeble old man, shy in manner yet rich in speech.... Wherever he goes he is regarded with veneration and love, for his mind is stored with knowledge and his heart is alive with tender sympathies."

Isaac was born on July 17th, 1674, the eldest of nine children. His father was a leading Dissenter (Nonconformist) in Southampton, a clothier, and a deacon at Above Bar Congregational Church, a time when Nonconformity was experiencing some of its stormiest days. He also kept a boarding-school at Southampton but, being a steadfast Dissenter and a deacon at a chapel, he was often made to suffer, even to the extent of being imprisoned.

It is recorded that almost as soon as Isaac could lisp a word, his constant request was for "A book! A book! Buy a book!" and, while quite a child, Watts showed much skill in writing rhymes. Once, when his father reprimanded him for laughing during family prayers, Isaac pointed to a bell rope by the fireplace, where he had just seen a mouse run up, and speedily explained in verse:

*There was a mouse, for want of stairs,
Ran up a rope to say his prayers.*

As his father picked up the cane, Isaac sought to save his skin with a second verse:

*Oh father, father, pity take
And I will no more verses make.*

He was educated at the Free School, Southampton, where he studied Greek, Latin, French and Hebrew from the Reverend John Pinhorne, rector of All Saints, and headmaster of the grammar school in Southampton.

In 1690 he entered the Nonconformist Academy of Thomas Rowe at Stoke Newington, near London (dissenters were not permitted to attend universities by the Church of England).

On returning home he felt that the hymns and psalms sung in his father's chapel were dreary and very poor in poetical quality, although sound in doctrine. After discussing this with him, his father challenged him to produce something better. Isaac was not slow in responding and, during the next two years, he wrote the majority of his 600 hymns — no wonder that he is considered to be the "father of English hymnody".

The countryside around Southampton greatly influenced the poetry of his hymn-writing. The springs which developed into streams and rivers, flowing through the meadows with their variety of flowers gave rise to many of his hymns, and in this one, which John Newton, author of 'Amazing Grace' declared his favourite, one can appreciate the way the environment acted as a stimulus to his hymns.

*There is a land of pure delight where saints immortal reign;
Infinite day excludes the night, and pleasures banish pain.
There everlasting spring abides and never-withering flowers;
Death, like a narrow sea, divides this heavenly land from ours.*

*Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood stand dress'd in living
green:
So to the Jews old Canaan stood while Jordan roll'd between.
But timorous mortals start and shrink to cross this narrow sea;
And linger shivering on the brink and fear to launch away.*

*Oh! could we make our doubts remove those gloomy doubts that
rise, And see the Canaan that we love with unobscured eyes!
Could we but climb where Moses stood and view the landscape
o'er,
Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood should fright us from
the shore.*

When about 22 years of age, Isaac was invited by Sir John Hartopp to come to Stoke Newington, and be tutor to his son. Here he preached his first sermon and became pastor at the church in Mark Lane, a position he held for 46 years, before ill-health forced him to retire.

Isaac died trusting alone in the merits, righteousness and blood of Christ, of which he had so often written. One sentence from his death-bed was: "I remember an aged minister say that the most learned and knowing Christians, when they come to die, have only the same plain promises of the Gospel for their support as the common and unlearned of the people of God; and, so I find it." His life ended peacefully on November 25th, 1748, aged 75 years, the day on which we give thanks for his life and work.

Hymns such as 'When I survey the wondrous cross', 'O God our help in ages past', 'Jesus shall reign where'er the sun', 'Come let us join our cheerful songs', are just a few of the many hymns which are included in our hymn book.

Doug

Engagement: Living out Christ's love and hope

Connecting with new housing developments in innovative ways

EARLIER THIS YEAR I moved house and I have been reflecting on the process by which empty rooms have been turned into a home, unpacking, deciding where things should go, occupying the space, so that now, six months on, it is a place of returning and rest.

We know we have an acute housing shortage in this country, but this is more than simply a matter of bricks and mortar, it is about homes, for us, for our children and theirs, homes as a place to live, and from which to build community. This is something we know a thing or two about as the church too, we have been building community in England since the year 597!

As part of our LIFE vision and the housing priority within that, we are pooling that knowledge to help enable us to build community today. We have identified three strands to this work. Where there are smaller developments it is about helping existing communities integrate new homes into their life, offering a welcome and hospitality. To help us in this we are planning some workshops in early 2018 and we are also developing a welcome pack for our communities to adapt and use as part of their ministry. In our largest developments, of which we have currently identified five, we are looking to early engagement to work in partnership with the developers to build new communities by a mix of the appointment of pioneer ministers and church planting. Lastly we are planning a consultation on how we respond to medium-sized developments which is perhaps our greatest challenge. These are developments not large enough to form a new community but equally of a size that is bigger than can easily be absorbed by an existing community without careful thought and planning.

The challenge of new housing is not easy, but at its heart are homes and those who will live in them, and our commitment that they, as all who live in our diocese, will find life in all its fullness, the life we know in Christ.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Rev.d Robert Springett

Bishop Robert will lead two gatherings in January, which will help parishes explore how they can engage with small housing developments. More information to come. To register your interest, contact Helen Wolfson on hwolfson@glosdioc.org.uk

Welcoming people to new housing developments – experience from Kemble, by Martin Kingston

Engaging with people in their new homes makes them feel welcomed into the community that they have moved into. It provides them with a point of contact and useful information about their new community.

Kemble is a medium-to-large size village with a mix of older and newer housing developments. The new housing development we welcomed people into consisted of 47 new houses of different sizes, 30% of which were affordable housing. We made contact with the developer's sales office to explain that the PCC wanted to be able to welcome people into the village. The sales office staff were friendly and pleased that their purchasers would be receiving a welcome into the village.

We put together a welcome pack including a leaflet containing local information, a parish magazine with the contact number of the visitor and, if appropriate, a leaflet about Kemble Primary School. When we were told by the sales office that a new occupier had moved in, we delivered the welcome pack and a bunch of flowers personally to the house, choosing a time of day that the family was likely to be at home. After visiting, a note was made of the new residents and their address in order to avoid any duplication of visits.

If you have never engaged in this activity before, you will find that a new enlivening and rewarding experience awaits you which is very effective in extending a warm welcome to new residents.

Events and training

Digital media training

Monday 6 November, 6.30pm to 8pm, Holy Trinity, Stroud

Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media, is one of the priorities that was highlighted in the new LIFE vision for our Diocese. We would like to help train and resource more of our congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using digital media both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Places are free. Booking via 01452 835515 or kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk

Vulnerable Women in the Prison System (Positive Justice Gloucestershire)

Tuesday 14 November, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, Stroud

Alma Hageman will share her experiences of working at Eastwood Park Prison. Disabled access, but no parking. More details 01453 759438.

Rudford Retreat (quiet day), Thursday 16 November, 10am to 3pm, Rudford Church Chance to give space for God in our lives. £12. Booking on rudfordretreats@gmail.com

Young Women: God's Calling Responding with confidence

Saturday 18 November, 9.30am to 4pm

'I'm too young! You can't mean me!' Have you had that feeling that God is calling you but you think it can't be true? He doesn't call people like you. Come and talk about it on 18 November when we are holding a day for young women to come and explore their vocation. It may not be a calling to ordained ministry, but to another type of ministry – this is an opportunity to listen to how God might be leading you. To find out more contact Pauline Godfrey on 01452 835548 or visit www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/young-women-gods-calling

Domestic Abuse Workshops

Monday 27 November, St Paul's Cheltenham, Tuesday 28 November, The Old Town Hall, Stroud, Thursday 30 November, Holy Trinity, Tewkesbury and Friday 1 December, Church House Gloucester, all 2pm to 4.30pm

The Diocese of Gloucester, in partnership with Restored, is holding domestic abuse workshops as part of the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence. To book, e-mail safeguardingtraining@glosdioc.org.uk

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, e-mail Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

Saint Mary the Virgin Local Ministry Team (LMT)

"A group of lay and ordained, chosen to lead, enable and encourage others in mission and ministry"

Rev'd Canon Rob Axford, Rev'd Christine Axford, Rev'd Morag Langley, Adrian Davis, Joan Deveney, Martin Dove, Irene Perks, Sue Plant, Teresa Pottinger.

Please contact any of the team if you have a query

Pastoral Care

There is a team at St. Mary's who visit those who are sick, lonely or bereaved. The role of co-ordinator is currently vacant, but we try to meet your needs as follows:

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit at home or in hospital or for information about general pastoral matters, please contact the Parish Office on 01453 842175 during opening hours, Tuesday—Thursday 9.0am – 1.0pm

For bereavement visiting, please contact Joan Deveney on 01453 844 370

We will do our best to help with lifts to hospital or clinic, but, unfortunately, a charge will have to be made for this:

Gloucester or Cheltenham £13; Stroud or Dursley £7;

Wotton £3

Lifts to a church service can also be provided.

If you require a lift, please contact Anne Parry on 01453 843 144

Regular Week-day Services in the Benefice

Morning Prayer at St. Mary's: 9 am Monday – Saturday

Holy Communion at St. Mary's: 9.30 am Wednesday and Friday

Morning Service at Perry and Dawes: 10 am Monday (first Monday in the month Holy Communion)

Prayer Space at St. Mary's: 5.00 – 6.00pm Wednesday in the Catherine Chapel

Evening Prayer at St. Mary's: 5 pm Monday - Saturday subject to clergy availability

Evening Prayer at St. Kenelm's, Alderley: 5 pm on Tuesday

Evening Prayer at St. Martin's, North Nibley: 5 pm on Wednesday

Please check with the Diary for Sunday and special services

House Groups

Please contact the group leader if you are interested in joining a particular group.

MONDAYS

The Monday Group. Please ring Jean Fryer (842625) for information.

Kate Tutty (844371) and Shirley Wyse (844222) 68 Shepherds Leaze, just after 9 am every other Monday during school term-time.

THURSDAYS

John Forster (842557), The Old House, Under-the-Hill, Adey's Lane, 7.30 pm monthly, 3rd Thursday.

Roger and Shirley Wyse (844222), 112 Bearlands, weekly, 7.30 pm.

Ahem !

Children. The things they say!

A little boy could not understand the verse of the hymn that says:
*'Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.'*
"Why would anyone want to sit upon Satan's knees?" he asked.

The minister's wife sang in the choir to bolster the soprano section. One Sunday the father of an eight-year-old boy asked his son if he knew the minister's wife.
"Oh, yes," came the reply. "She's one of the chorus girls."

Harry left his place in the choir and made his way to the lectern for the first lesson. He ascended the steps and began to read from Isaiah in his deep bass voice: "Thus says the Lord, I am the Lord your God."

With the satisfaction of one who has discovered the truth at long last, four-year-old Timothy looked up and said, "Oh, so that's who God is!"

Monarch Books

<p>Deadline for the December Magazine by November 14th, noon, please. My e-mail address is douglas.hobbs@homecall.co.uk</p>
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Regular Groups and Events at St. Mary's

The Ark Coffee Shop, 43 Long Street, Children's play area, Traidcraft
(01453- 521838)

Bible Study and Housegroups: *full listing in magazine*

Flower Guild: Contact the Parish Office (Tue-Thurs 9am-1.0)

Mothers' Union - Group Leader: Sue Plant (01453-845157)

Music: Organist: Eddie Garrard (01453-454 849)

Assistant Director of Music: Hilary Varlow (07795 515 219)

Bellringers: Tuesday 7.30pm, Adrian Davis (01453-844393) Handbell
ringing Thursday 7.30pm

Pastoral Care: Enquiries through the Parish Office (Tue-Thurs 9am –1.0)

Communication: Vacant

For Young People: Mondays 9.30-10.45am 'Little Church' (for under-5s
and carers) followed by arts and crafts activity in the Parish Room -
Kate Cropper 07799 474054. Holiday-time start at 10.0am.

Messy Church - usually 2nd Saturday of the month, 9.30 - 11.00am

Breakfast, activities and worship for all ages. (Please look out for
notices)

For Young People for Wotton Churches: Monday Youth Group 8-10pm
(ages 14-18) at the Baptist Church Hall - Rev'd Tom Wharin (07795
681861)

Family Service on Third Sunday in the month. A service for all ages.

Other Churches in Wotton-under-Edge

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, Old Town (Roman Catholic) Fr. George Malecki,
served from Thornbury. Office: Tel. 01454-412223

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, in the Rope Walk. Rev'd Tom Wharin. (01453-
844726). Secretary: David King, e-mail address: djs.king@virgin.net.

THE UNITED CHURCH, in Bradley Street, Rev'd Phil Summers

OLIVER MEMORIAL CHAPEL, in Synwell, Norman Exell (01453-844384)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Mrs Frances Neale 01453 543888
jfn.dursley@gmail.com

LOCAL TRADES DIRECTORY

01453 code unless otherwise stated. We hope that you will support those who advertise in this Directory, although the appearance of an advertisement in no way signifies the endorsement of any goods or services offered.

Builders, etc.

J. B. Young & Sons Ltd., The Grange, Ragnall..... 842103

Cinema

Electric Picture House844401

DIY:

Wotton DIY, 40 Long Street.....842229

Electricians

Abbey ElectricsMobile 07989 595077)

Toase Electrical(Mobile 07980 917894), 843877

Florists:

Robinsons, Long Street843168

Garage (Sales, Service, Parts and MOT):

Bear Street Garage 843687

Portable Appliance Testing and Electric Appliance Repairs.

Wright Connections,(Mobile 07942893993)