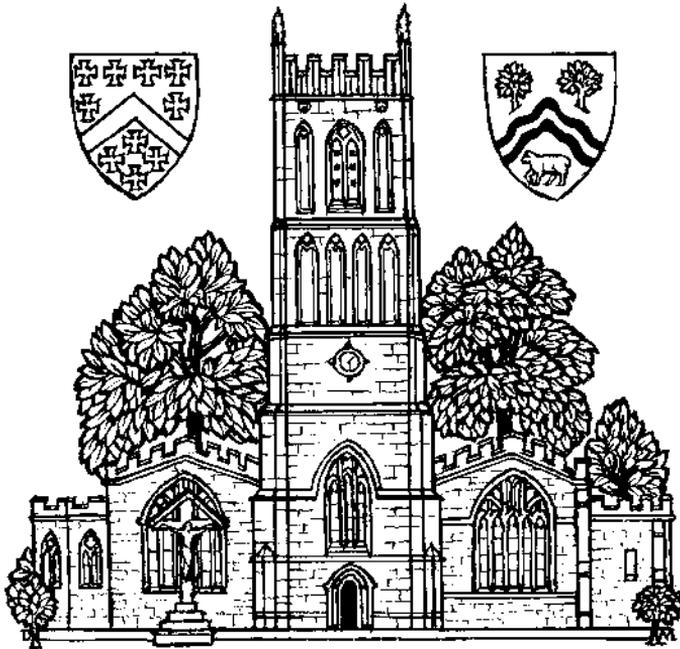


THE PARISH MAGAZINE



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

70p per copy. £7 annually

APRIL 2018

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 Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

The Ramblings of the Associated Priest

Dear Friends,

WAS FILLING THE KETTLE the other morning when I noticed that I was being closely watched through the window by a sheep. He reminded me of a story about a sheep, called Shaun who became lost. As far as Shaun was concerned of course, he wasn't lost. Being surrounded by an abundance of lush grass on which to munch, he was in sheep-heaven but to the shepherd, he was lost. As soon as he noticed, the shepherd went off in search of the lost sheep and it was many hours later that Shaun was located very near to the busy railway line. The shepherd was overjoyed at finding Shaun and placing him upon his shoulders, undertook the long walk back to the rest of the flock.

As far as the ecstatic shepherd was concerned, Shaun had been saved from the certain fate of becoming a mascot on the front of the 11:15 train to Bristol. He was rescued and returned to the flock. But from Shaun's perspective, as already noted, he was blissfully unaware that he was lost in the first place and made no contribution to his getting found and thus saved. The shepherd did all that was necessary.

That was not the last time that Shaun ever got lost, but each time it happened, the shepherd went off in search and was always full of joy when he found him and brought him back. One day though, things changed from Shaun's perspective; he began to realise that although he couldn't explain why he seemed to be worth so very much to the shepherd, he was immensely grateful for being found and saved. Shaun tried very hard from then on not to get lost again and he formed an ever-growing and everlasting love for that Shepherd.

I have a mate, in Bristol, who woke up one morning in his usual place amongst the bins behind the supermarket and thought, 'I can't do this anymore – I'm an alcoholic and drug-ridden mess. I've lost my wife, my daughter, my job, my dignity,' – and then he realised that he hadn't lost his wife and daughter, he knew where they were, it was himself who was lost. And guess what, the same shepherd came and found him as well and took him back to his flock.

Peter

St. Mary's Eco Church Project

Do you agree that God's creation should be kept as he intends it to be? Are you interested in supporting the church's aim of contributing towards eliminating environmental problems that we ourselves are creating day by day? Do you consider your lifestyle as being green? Are you passionate about supporting environmental issues which would ensure that one day all people across the world have a standard of living such as ours?

St. Mary's church has embarked on a programme of activities/projects to enhance the meaning of Caring for God's Earth in our daily life. This project is sponsored by the Church of England and has as an end result the awarding of a Bronze, Silver, Gold award for any achievement we obtain.

As members of God's church we are reminded of our responsibility towards the caring for our world, for its creatures and its people. The Eco Church scheme has numerous projects/activities (numbering over 75 in total) for consideration.

Some of these projects/activities we already do and have done for some time. We are now considering some of those activities which we feel are appropriate and would like to achieve. We have already started and completed one project which was to raise money so that we could twin our two toilets in the Parish Room to a new toilet in Nepal and a new toilet in Africa.

We wish to continue with some other projects which are mostly related to our own environmental issues within the church/community.

The issues we firstly wish to engage in, for example, are:

- ◆ Litter Picking
- ◆ Opportunities for local people to get out and enjoy God's earth
- ◆ Praying for a specific overseas environmental project
- ◆ Host activities or events that facilitate the recycling and/or re-use of goods (e.g. clothes swap or give-and- take schemes)
- ◆ Encouraging members to use locally grown produce (e.g. sharing our own abundant fruit and vegetables) and Fairtrade
- ◆ The use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials and the use of bio-degradable cups and plates

To pray for specific overseas environmental projects and for the church be kept informed about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on Christian communities elsewhere in the world.

Anyone who feels strongly about environmental issues and would like to help in this scheme please contact Alan Bell, Anne Parry, Hilary Varlow or Adrian Davis. It is our wish that all members of the church take ownership. Any non-church members or people with environmental knowledge/experience would be very welcome.

Alan Bell



Mothers' Union Meetings and Events for April:

Wednesday 4th April 2.15pm Parish Room
John and Robin Evans lead a seasonal reflection
followed by tea and home-made biscuits.

Monday 9th April 2pm at St. Giles, Uley
Deanery Lady Day Service
Followed by refreshments in the church

Wednesday 18th April 9.30am Corporate Communion
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.

Wednesday 18th April 7.45pm Parish Room
Poppies: Come and learn more about the project to cover
the tower in poppies for Remembrance Day.

**Remember, you are welcome to all our meetings and
services.**

Sue Plant (Branch Leader) Tel: 01453 845157

Readings for April

- 1st Easter Day**
Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Gospel: John 20: 1-18
- 8th 2nd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 1: 1-2:2 John 20: 19-end
- 15th 3rd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 3: 12-19; 1 John 3: 1-7; Luke 24: 36b-48
- 22nd 4th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4: 5-12; 1 John 3: 16 - end; John 10: 11- 18
- 29th 5th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 8: 26 - end; 1 John 4: 7 - end; John 15: 1— 8



The Oriana Singers and the Severn Strings
present

Bach's St. John Passion

on Saturday, April 14th at 7.30pm in
St. James' Church, Dursley

Tickets £12.50 from Durcan's, Dursley,
Choir Members or on the Door

Children free, Refreshments available.

Hymn Teasers

How did you get on with this? Did you enjoy trying to find the answers? Would you like another similar one or should I select a phrase from each hymn? Please let me know - 842300 or the e-mail address from the last page.

MSLFT	My spirit longs for thee
OFAHTPMG	O for a heart to praise my God
FDAFN	Forty days and forty nights
LTWA	Lord, thy word abideth
JGMTIP	Jesu, grant me this, I pray
AWWVB	All who would valiant be
MGILTNB	My God I love thee, not because
OJIHP	O Jesus, I have promised
CGSHD	Come gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove
LSOTS	Loving Shepherd of thy sheep
AYWSFSR	All ye who seek for sure relief*
SYFTKOG	Seek ye first the kingdom of God
TATWBTA	Thou art the Way, by thee alone
DLAFOM	Dear Lord and Father of mankind
BTMGAMG	Be thou my guardian and my guide
JLWLTT	Jesu, Lord, we look to thee
OTWCFA	O thou who camest from above
FTGF	Fight the good fight
LJTOM	Lord Jesus, think on me
TKOLMSI	The King of love my shepherd is

*All you who seek a comfort sure (words in Anglican Hymns Old and New)

Beavering Away (or Re-ordering update)

Last time we wrote in the church magazine, about the reordering, we had been granted permission to proceed with Stage One. This set in motion a bevy of activities to fulfil the conditions stated in the Faculty. So then it was essential that we liaised with the architect to present final designs for the West End in order to proceed with the alterations. These are the toilets, the servery, and flower cupboard. And underlying all these is the very first part of the project. Behind all extensive plans lies an unmentionable necessity. In this case - THE SEWER.

Potential contractors to carry out the various aspects of these works will be approached for quotes and decisions then made. As an essential part of this re-ordering plan, it is important that a portfolio of photos of the church, as it is at the moment, is assembled and archived - with all other photos of previous alterations. - as part of the architectural history of St. Mary's.

With regard to money raising, Renishaw has recently given the fund £2,500, which was received with thanks. In total, £103,000 has been raised, some of which has been utilised in the preparation of this project. Ongoing funding by events at St. Mary's and applications for grants is part of the Beavering Away being carried out. Also, the selling of pews is part of this, and anyone interested can contact Kate Tutty on 01453 844222 to discuss the options.

All fund-raising, big and small, can be added to the list Anna Yarker holds, and is warmly welcomed.

Shirley Wyse

St. Mary's Art Group

After a couple of months when, due to illness and holidays, the art lessons were interrupted, we are resuming our "Watercolour for Beginners" on the first Friday of the month starting with April 6th at 1.30pm to 4.00pm. The cost is £5.00 per person towards the church restoration.

Anne Slann

Hmm!

An elderly Scottish preacher always thanked God for the weather. Even when it was really awful he would pray,

"We thank you, Lord, that every day is not as bad as this one."

Monarch Books

April 9th

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Pastor and Martyr

Dietrich Bonhoeffer--along with his twin sister, Sabine--was born on February 4th, 1906, in Breslau, Germany (now part of Poland). In 1933, before Hitler came to power, Bonhoeffer, a minister in the Lutheran church, as well as a participant in the European ecumenical movement, became known as one of the few figures of the 1930s with a comprehensive grasp of both German- and English-language theology. His works resonate with a prescience, subtlety, and maturity that continually belies the youth of their author.

Bonhoeffer served as a curate for a German congregation in Barcelona during 1929-1930. Following his ordination at St. Matthias Church, Berlin, in November 1931, his life of dedication led him to service in several countries. He helped to organize the Pastors' Emergency League in September 1933, prior to assuming the pastorate of the German Evangelical Church, Sydenham, and the Reformed Church of St. Paul in London. During his sojourn in England, Bonhoeffer became a close friend and confidant of the influential Anglican Bishop, George Bell. After the Confessing Church was organized in May 1934 at Barmen, Germany, Bonhoeffer returned from England in the Spring of 1935 to assume leadership of the Confessing Church's seminary at Zingst by the Baltic Sea--a school relocated later that year to Finkenwalde in Pomerania. Out of the experiences at Finkenwalde emerged his two well-known books, *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Life Together*, as well as his lesser-known writings on pastoral ministry such as *Spiritual Care*. His work to prepare pastors in the Confessing Church continued right up to 1939.

Bonhoeffer's early travel to Rome, his curacy in Barcelona, and his post-doctoral year in New York (including regular work at Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, as well as travel to Cuba and Mexico), opened Bonhoeffer to the ecumenical church. In 1931 he was appointed youth secretary of the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches, and in 1934 he became a member of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work. At conferences throughout Europe he vigorously represented the cause of the Confessing Church and challenged the ecumenical movement about its theological foundations and its responsibility for peace. Bonhoeffer's theologically-rooted opposition to National Socialism first made him a leader, along with Martin Niemoller and

Karl Barth, in the Confessing Church (bekennende Kirche), and an advocate on behalf of the Jews. Indeed, his efforts to help a group of Jews escape to Switzerland were what first led to his arrest and imprisonment in Spring 1943. His leadership in the anti-Nazi Confessing Church and his participation in the Abwehr resistance circle (beginning in February 1938) make his works a unique source for understanding the interaction of religion, politics, and culture among those few Christians who actively opposed National Socialism, as is particularly evident in his drafts for a posthumously published *Ethics*. His thought provides not only an example of intellectual preparation for the reconstruction of German society after the war, but also a rare insight into the vanishing social and academic world that had preceded it.

Bonhoeffer was also a spiritual writer, a musician, and an author of fiction and poetry. The integrity of his Christian faith and life, and the international appeal of his writings, have led to a broad consensus that he is the one theologian of his time to lead future generations of Christians into the new millennium.

He was already attacking the Nazis in radio broadcasts. Two years later he was the leader of an underground seminary with over twenty young seminarians. That seminary is often seen as a kind of Protestant monastery, and is responsible for many of his considerations about the Christian life as it pertains to community. Later the seminary was closed by the Secret Police. In 1939, through arrangements made by Reinhold Niebuhr, he fled to the United States, but returned to Germany after a short stay. He believed it was necessary to suffer with his people if he were to be an effective minister after the war. The last two years of his life were spent in a Berlin prison.

During the time that Bonhoeffer was in prison, he wrote a book titled *Letters and Papers from Prison*. The manuscript was smuggled from jail and published. These letters discussed the brutality and horrors of life in the prison camps, besides Bonhoeffer's consideration of the secularization of the world and the departure from religion in the twentieth century. In Bonhoeffer's estimation, the dependence on organized religion had undermined genuine faith. He felt that God must be known in this world as he operates and interacts with man in daily life. The abstract God of philosophical and theological speculation is useless to the average man on the street, and they are the majority who need to hear the gospel.

The Cost of Discipleship was written in 1939. This book is a rigorous exposition and interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount, and Matthew 9:35-10:42. It calls for radical living, if the Christian is

to be an authentic disciple of Christ. Bonhoeffer's major concern is *cheap grace*. This is grace that has become so watered down that it no longer resembles the grace of the New Testament, the *costly grace* of the Gospels.

By the phrase *cheap grace*, Bonhoeffer means the grace which has brought chaos and destruction; it is the intellectual assent to a doctrine without a real transformation in the sinner's life. It is the justification of the sinner without the works that should accompany the new birth.

Bonhoeffer says of cheap grace:

[It] is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Cheap grace arose out of man's desire to be saved, but to do so without becoming a disciple. The doctrinal system of the church with its lists of behavioural codes becomes a substitute for the Living Christ, and this cheapens the meaning of discipleship. The true believer must resist cheap grace and enter the life of active discipleship. Faith can no longer mean sitting still and waiting; the Christian must rise and follow Christ.

It is here that Bonhoeffer makes one of his most enduring claims on the life of the true Christian. He writes that "only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes."

He was hanged in the concentration camp at Flossenbürg on April 9th, 1945, one of four members of his immediate family to die at the hands of the Nazi regime for their participation in the small Protestant resistance movement. The letters he wrote during these final two years of his life were posthumously published by his student and friend, Eberhard Bethge, as *Letters and Papers from Prison*. His correspondence with his fiancée, Maria von Wedermeyer, has been published as *Love Letters from Cell 92*.

Doug

Anniversary Service for Bishop Michael Perham

At Evensong in the Cathedral on April 18th at 5.30pm the Cathedral Choir will sing an anthem which has been commissioned and dedicated to the memory of Bishop Michael. This is the day after the first anniversary of Bishop Michael's death. Titled *O Eternal God*, it has been written by John Joubert, who had his ninetieth birthday last year.

Stroud District Foodbank

Rev'd Iain spoke to the Foodbank which has received all the goods you have donated. This gives us the chance to see the impact your maybe small gifts can make when viewed collectively with everyone's donations. 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).

Thank you so much for choosing the Stroud District Foodbank as your charity of the month, we are so grateful and value your prayers and financial support as we reach those in need in our district.

Stroud District Foodbank provides food, toiletries and support for people who are struggling financially and find themselves in a crisis. Our supplies are all donated by individuals via schools, churches, supermarkets and companies and stored in our warehouse in Brimscombe, Stroud. Last year we received over 50 tonnes of stock which reflects the incredible public support we have. We are also well supported by an army of volunteers, 150 and counting, without whom we'd not be able to operate.

Customers obtain a Foodbank voucher from one of our many referral partners, such as Citizens Advice, health visitors, Stroud District Council or social services. The voucher is exchanged for around 3 days' food and toiletries, at one of our drop-in centres, which are located in Stroud, Stonehouse, Dursley and Wotton. Customers are warmly welcomed at the drop-in with a cup of tea, a biscuit and someone to chat to. For customers in the Nailsworth, Sharpness and Berkeley areas we provide a delivery service. In the past year over 3400 people, 2200 adults and 1200 children have been fed through this service.

In 2017, the Stroud District Foodbank expanded its provision, reaching out to families through local Primary Schools, offering food to cover school holidays. More than 200 families have so far been helped by this initiative and we'll be continuing this service during Easter and the summer holidays. Around 20% of our stock goes to providing food over holiday periods, including our Christmas Hampers.

Other local organisations also benefit from food and toiletries donated to the Foodbank, around 20% of our stock goes to support organisations such as Marah, Open House, Ark House, Beresford Women's Refuge, Season House, Salvation Army, Gloucester Period and Kids' Stuff.

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

Wotton Arts Festival

27th April - 7th May

After nearly 50 years the Arts Festival in Wotton is still flourishing and we are delighted that Ali Vowles has agreed to be our Patron. The Festival's strength is in the local content which is spiced up by talents from further afield. Expect to see the usual core events through the week but watch out for the Bristol Ensemble's popular programme with clarinettist Katie Jenner from Wotton. The Wotton connections go on with musicians Justine Tomlinson, her sister, Juliet, and Laurence Kempton and poetry interludes from Dr. Rosie Bailey for a Sunday afternoon treat. There will be a special film evening at Under the Edge Arts about the poet Charles Causley with live guitar music by Jim Causley. Following its successful debut last year the photography competition's theme this year is Hidden Gloucestershire.

Full details of all events in Festival Brochure

Tickets for all events from Longfield, 15 Long Street, except Film Evening (Fish out of Water) and British Meal (the Edge Café)

Enquiries: please phone 01453 842499
or visit www.wottonartsfestival.org.uk

Letter from 'Send a Cow'

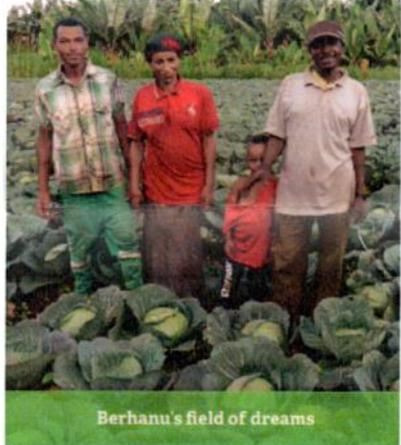
Dear friends at St. Mary's Church

Thank you for supporting Send a Cow this Lent by donating £215.50 to our work in rural Africa, raised at your "Lent Soup Lunch". Please pass on our gratitude to your congregation for helping transform the lives of people like Berhanu in Ethiopia.

Berhanu had been stuck in the poverty trap trying to grow maize, but with little reward.

Thanks to the generosity of churches like yours and Send a Cow's training, Berhanu has now turned his life around.

Just see in the photo row after row of healthy cabbages that he has been able to grow despite the lack of rain. This is his field of dreams! He is able to dream of a bright future where his family is able to eat healthily and he will be able to send his children to school.



Send a Cow works with communities like Berhanu's to provide them and their households with support and skills training on subjects such as vegetable seed beds, composting, water harvesting and crop care.

Your gift of £215.50 helps people like Berhanu envisage a brighter future.

Thank you for putting God's love into action this Lent and helping people like Berhanu turn their lives around. We are truly blessed to have your support and enclose a certificate to celebrate your fundraising efforts.

May God bless you in your ministry.

Ann Hatton,
Church Development Manager

P.S.: if you would like to receive regular prayer updates about our work, please do contact me at: ann.hatton@sendacow.org or call the Supporter Care team on 01225 874222

Wotton Day Centre

Wotton Day Centre meets every Thursday at The Civic Centre to provide a lunch, tea, coffee and companionship for elderly people living in Wotton.

Eighteen months ago, our numbers went down considerably, for various reasons, but we now have a waiting list. Unfortunately, we are not able to receive those on the waiting list due to lack of helpers. In particular, we are desperate for cooks. Because of ill-health, some of our cooks cannot help at present and I would like to appeal for someone to offer, either to work alone or in pairs, to provide a meal for 15 – 18 people, particularly over the next few weeks, depending on when you were available.

Although the numbers may seem large, it is not really a difficult task and our regular helpers are very willing to help with any advice needed.

Our members are always very grateful and enjoy their day.

Any offers of help with drivers at 10am or 1.45pm to transport the members - they all live in Wotton, would be appreciated.

If you can help, would you kindly contact me on 01453-844370 or joandeveney@btinternet.com and I will give you more details of what the task of cook involves.

With very many thanks,

Joan Deveney

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Offer of £130 to St. Mary's

To celebrate their 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical Insurance is offering to donate £130 to St. Mary's for every new home insurance policy taken out by a member of our church during 2018. One of our congregation has already taken out a new policy, and we have received £130!

Look out for the advert elsewhere in this edition, see the poster displayed in the church porch, or speak to Adrian Davis.

Children's Society Box Collection

I would like to thank everyone who came to the Box Opening Coffee Morning in February and special thanks go to Sheila Braidford, Jackie Excell and Kate Tutty for their help that day. Jackie did a good job making the tea and coffee etc. while Kate and Sheila did sterling work counting the contents of the boxes. The coffee morning raised £153.40 and box money amounting to £541 has been banked to date.

Some of the boxes had been emptied last October, when the old pound coins were called in, and the total collected then was £177. So, thank you to our generous box holders for continuing to support the work of the Children's Society during the past year and to everyone who came along on February 3rd to drink coffee, buy from the stall and give donations.

Dot Moss



Eternal life

I used to enjoy Scout camp. Yet, after a damp week under canvas, I'd be exhausted and ready to return home — a secure dwelling place.

Paul likened our bodies to tents! They are temporary dwelling places for our lives on earth. After the trials and joys of spiritual camping, we discard our bodies when we die, and put on heavenly clothes. With faith, we die and rise with Christ and find a secure resting place. No wonder Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you' (John 14:2).

Death is the most certain fact of life for everyone. No one has to ask the question, 'Is there death after life?' But we should consider, 'Is there life after death?' A young woman once said, 'Well, I don't believe in heaven or hell, so therefore I won't be going anywhere.' The trouble is, not believing in something doesn't change its reality.

Christians have a tremendous message of hope beyond the grave. This doesn't take away the inevitability of death, or the pain of bereavement. Rather, faith in Jesus turns fear and trembling into faith and confidence. Someone once said that death is no longer 'a miserable cul-de-sac, but a glorious open road into the presence of God'.

PRAYER: Thank You, Jesus, for saying, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid' (John 14:27). Amen.

BIBLE READING Our Heavenly Dwelling (2 Corinthians 5:1-10); In My Father's House Are Many Rooms (John 14:1-6, 27)

FURTHER REFLECTION

When heaven's arches ring,
And her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home,
Saying, 'Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee!
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When thou comest and callest for me.

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott — hymn writer and a niece of Charlotte Elliott, author of the hymn, Just as I Am. (1836-1897)

SMILE

Sign outside a church: "Taking reservations for eternity. Smoking or
Non-Smoking."

Anon

'Maybe Today', Tony Miles - Kevin Mayhew

Punch Line

What do we do when God doesn't heal or respond to our predicament? We look to him to surprise us in another way--by finding a secret stair to our soul and coming to us in a way that strengthens us and enables us to go through the difficulties with spiritual poise and calm.

'Every Day with Jesus' - Selwyn Hughes

Hmm!

Our lady doctor took her very small niece to church. When they returned, her mother asked the little girl what happened.

"Well, the minister prayed and I prayed. The minister sang and I sang. The minister speaked and Auntie brought me home."

Monarch Books

Diary for April

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

- 1st Sunday – Easter Day**
6.00 for 6.30am Dawn Service at Nibley Monument
7.00am Churches Together in Wotton Dawn Service on
Coombe Hill followed by Breakfast in the Parish Room
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
9.30am Parish Eucharist for Easter Day at St. Martin's
10.15am Family Communion for Easter Day at St. Mary's
11.00am Parish Eucharist for Easter Day at St. Kenelm's
11.00am Parish Eucharist for Easter Day at the Chapel of Ease,
Tresham
6.00pm Easter Carols at St. Mary's
6.00pm Easter Service for Easter Evening at St. Martin's
- 2nd Monday – Easter Monday**
No Little Church or Games Group
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
10.00am Holy Communion at Perry and Dawes
- 3rd Tuesday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
- 4th Wednesday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;
2.15pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Room – Seasonal
Reflection;
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel
- 5th Thursday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
- 6th Friday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
- 7th Saturday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
- 8th Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's and St. Martin's
9.30am Family Service at St. Martin's
10.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's
6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's
- 9th Monday – The Annunciation of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin
Mary (transferred)**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
10.00am Little Church at St. Mary's - activities and crafts for
under 5's and carers - beginning in Church then moving to the
Parish Room;
10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes;

- 2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary’s Together Games in the Parish Room;
7.30pm Evening Eucharist with incense
- 10th Tuesday – Parish Office Closed**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s
- 11th Wednesday – Parish Office Closed**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s;
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;
7.30pm Wotton ACPM in Parish Room
- 12th Thursday - Parish Office Closed**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s
- 13th Friday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s
- 14th Saturday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Messy Church;
10 – 4pm Clubs and Groups Fair at the Civic Centre
- 15th Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Martin’s
10.15am Family Service at St. Mary’s
No Service at Alderley today
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St. Mary’s
- 16th Monday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
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 – Noah Part 1;
10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes
- 17th Tuesday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s
- 18th Wednesday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s (Mothers’ Union Corporate Communion);
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;
7.00pm St. Martin’s, North Nibley Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church;
7.45pm Mothers’ Union meeting in the Parish Room – ‘Poppies’
- 19th Thursday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s
- 20th Friday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s;
12 – 2pm Postponed Lent Lunch in aid of Church Mission Society in Parish Room
- 21st Saturday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s
- 22nd Sunday – 4th Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary’s;
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Martin’s

- 10.15am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's;
6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's
- 23rd Monday – St. George's Day**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
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 – St. George;
10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room;
7.30pm Evening Eucharist with incense
- 24th Tuesday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
7.30pm Co-workers of Mother Teresa meeting in the Parish Room
- 25th Wednesday– Mark the Evangelist**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;
5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel;
8.00pm Little Church Planning Meeting in Parish Room
- 26th Thursday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
- 27th Friday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
- 28th Saturday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
10.00am Messy Church Training Day with Lucy Moore;
7.30pm Wotton Arts Festival Concert with Wotton Silver Band at St. Mary's
- 29th Sunday – 5th Sunday of Easter:**
8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's and St. Martin's
9.30am Matins at St. Martin's
10.15am Family Communion at St. Mary's
6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's
- 30th Monday.** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
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 – Noah and the Rainbow;
10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry and Dawes;
2.00 – 4.00pm St. Mary's Together Games in the Parish Room

Early Dates for May

- 1st Tuesday – Phillip and James, Apostles**
9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
7.30pm Evening Eucharist with incense at St. Mary's

- 2nd Wednesday. 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's;
 2.15pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Room –
 "Scarves & Stories";
 3.00pm North Nibley PCC – Venue to be advised;
 5.00pm Prayer Space in the Catherine Chapel
- 3rd Thursday. 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
 6.30pm Wotton Arts Festival – Schools concert
- 4th Friday. 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
- 5th Saturday. 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's;
 7.30pm Wotton Arts Festival concert with the Bristol
 Ensemble
- 6th **Sunday – 6th Sunday of Easter**
 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
 6.00pm Wotton Arts Festival Service (no separate Evensong)

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*"

- 11th March. Juno Eluned Beeby (St. Mary's)
 18th March. William James Eveleigh (St. Kenelm's)

FUNERALS AND THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Behold! I make all things new"

- 19th February. Lionel Jones (95) Westerleigh Crematorium
 23rd February. Lucy Mackenzie (77) St. Kenelm's
 7th March. Mary Eastwood (99) Westerleigh Crematorium
 23rd March. Peter Davis (77) St. Mary's

From Churches Together:

Easter Sunday 1st April - 7.00am Sunrise Service on Coombe Hill

Possible fact

George, born in Cappadocia in what is modern Turkey, lived in Palestine where his mother owned an estate, and held a senior post in the Roman army.

In about 302 the Roman Emperor Diocletian began a severe persecution of Christians throughout the empire. George, who had become a Christian, protested to the emperor personally, for which he was imprisoned, tortured, dragged through the streets, and beheaded. The emperor's wife, Alexandria, was so impressed that she too became a Christian, and she also was executed.

Less possible legend

George is associated with a town in Libya which was being terrorised by a dragon.

The citizens fed it with sheep to keep it quiet, and when that didn't work, they moved on to sacrificing people. When it came to the turn of the local princess to be eaten, along came St. George to slay the dragon

So the townsfolk all became Christian. The Greek church adopted St. George as a soldier-saint. They seem to have applied to him the vision in Revelation of the Archangel Michael slaying Satan the great dragon.. Stained glass windows today depict both in the same role.

Patron Saint of England

In Gloucester Cathedral lies the effigy of Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, who was a leader in the First Crusade. He and his men adopted St. George as their patron saint. When they returned, the cult spread, and many parish churches were dedicated to St. George. Eventually he replaced Edward the Confessor as patron saint of England. Edward III then made him patron of the newly-formed Order of the Garter, who still process annually with the Queen into St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

Today

The Royal Society of St. George aims to promote all things English, and to encourage the observance of St. George's Day. On 23rd April each year they host an impressive service in Gloucester Cathedral, attended by the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, Mayors, and representatives of virtually every uniformed and

voluntary organisation in the county. These include Navy, Army and RAF Cadets, Scouts, Guides, St. John's Ambulance, Police, Fire Service, Royal British Legion, and even the U.S. Air Force. A military band provides the music. We are all invited to donate for a red rose when we arrive. The high point of the service is the presentation of the Nairac Award, in memory of Captain Nairac who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by the IRA. It goes each year to a young person from the county for some outstanding achievement.

So don't let's forget to hoist the flag on April 23rd.

Iain Marchant

Curacy Training - Morag Langley

Placement in a different setting is part of curate training in Gloucester Diocese. So for the months of April and May, I shall be continuing my curate training with the Stroud Team. There are 9 churches in this team, and I expect to be involved with most of them at some stage.

Placements are undertaken to enable curates to gain experiences that they have not had before and are unlikely to have in their own parish, so I expect to be involved with - the Street Pastors; hospital chaplaincy; ministry in residential settings; Pioneer ministry; inter-faith work; ministry in the community; planning meetings for the Sacred Music Festival that takes place in July.

The Stroud Team has only very recently come together and their Rector was installed on January 28th of this year. So, as well as gaining experience, I have been asked to lead and preach in a variety of church settings, and to assist in bringing together the Messy Church teams from several of the churches, and the Open the Book Teams from several of the churches.

That is a brief summary of some of what I will be doing. I think this placement will be very interesting and a time for much learning, some of which I hope will be of direct benefit to the churches and communities of our benefice in the future.

Hmm!

To a foul-tempered wife:

Should she have gone to realms above,
Farewell to peace in heavenly love,
But if she's sought the lower level,
The Lord have mercy on the Devil.

Monarch Books

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children's Church: there will be some activities left in the Catherine Chapel on Sundays 1st, 8th and 22nd. 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 9.30 am

2nd: Bank Holiday – NO Little Church

9th: Meet at 10.00 in the Parish Room

16th: Noah's Ark

23rd: St George

30th: Noah and the Rainbow

For more details, contact kirstybeasley@hotmail.co.uk

Messy Church: Saturday 14th from 9.30 to 11.00 am

A service for all ages to eat together, explore the theme "Healing" through a variety of activities; then enjoy a time for celebration - telling the story, singing and praying.

For more details, contact Morag 01453 845147

Family Communion: Easter Sunday; and April 29th

Family Service: April 15th

For more details, contact the parish office 01453 842175

Prayer for April:

Risen Lord Jesus, we thank you that we can celebrate Easter, not only with chocolate eggs, but by knowing deep inside that you are alive, and live in our hearts. Amen.

What difference does Jesus rising from the dead make to you?

Open Doors

Sunrise

Over 200 million Christians experience severe persecution. That's the sobering conclusion of the 2018 Open Doors World Watch List. However, recent opportunities to speak up for these brothers and sisters within the corridors of power give some cause for hope.

Together with Iraqi believers, I was privileged to present the Hope for the Middle East global petition to US Vice President Mike Pence at the UN and Prime Minister Theresa May in the UK. With signatures from an amazing 808,172 people around the world, Christians in Syria and Iraq are heartened to know that their calls are being heard at the highest level.

More recently, at the parliamentary launch of the World Watch List, it was encouraging to see 87 M.P.'s and other parliamentarians absorbing the message about the scale and severity of global persecution. One of our guest speakers was Egyptian businessman "Michael" who described the increasing persecution in Egypt as 'the fight of our lives'.

Violent attacks and church bombings in Egypt have become mainstream news, but there's a hidden story of violence against women, too. The kidnapping of Christian girls for forced marriage to Muslim extremists is becoming commonplace in Egypt. Such abductions have a huge impact, not only on the girls themselves, but also on their families and communities. As the mother of two girls, the prospect of suffering in a similar way seems unthinkable.

But this is the road we see Jesus Himself walk on the way to Good Friday to 'give His life as a ransom for many' (Mark 9:45). Our persecuted brothers and sisters are, similarly, going through a Good Friday experience, but proving God's faithfulness in the midst of sacrifice. As part of the body of Christ, our calling is to support and pray with them — as many have been doing daily through our Lent resource Live Like a North Korean — and to let them know they are not forgotten.

Following a resurrected Lord gives the ultimate hope that a new day will dawn. The word 'Easter', which has its origins in 'east', suggests the brightness of sunrise and Zechariah's song expresses this most beautifully: 'because of the tender mercy of our God the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death' (Luke 1:78-79). As you can see from this magazine, thanks to all who support our brothers and sisters, the light of Christ brings a new dawn for them and those around them.

As you follow Christ this Lent, through Good Friday to Easter Sunday, may you know that your persecuted family, and the Open Doors team, are praying for you, too.

Lisa Pearce, CEO, Open Doors UK&I

**Living out Christ's love and hope
Being advocates for human flourishing, through
initiatives which combat injustice, environmental
destruction, exclusion and isolation**

SOcial ACTION plays a huge part in living out our understanding of the Gospel. So much goes on in our schools and worshipping communities that contributes to championing, campaigning, and enabling people, and our environment to flourish. There are so many great stories to share to encourage and motivate each other; and so many great projects.

From the smallest of our neighbourhood projects, where a school has linked up with a residential care home for the frail elderly; a nature corner of a churchyard linking a playgroup and church; to church communities supporting people and their families living with dementia, there is much to share. We've been linking up with the bigger national story of the complexities and challenges of the rise in the number of people with mental health issues, raising awareness about homelessness; poverty, foodbanks; and even the international challenges of refugees, and welcoming refugee families into our communities. We are committed to making sure our churches are as safe as they possibly can be for children and vulnerable adults.

There is just so much we are engaged with at so many levels on this 'flourishing' agenda. We do this because we are the Church - we seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Judith Knight, Assistant Diocesan Secretary and Head of HR and Safeguarding

FestivALL: 17 May to 17 June festivall.org

FestivALL is a month of events bringing people closer together and celebrating inclusive community in and around Gloucestershire.

How to get involved:

1. Create or brand an event of your own, big or small, for FestivALL
2. Attend a launch event at Gloucester Cathedral
3. Join in with one of the events happening during the FestivALL month

You are invited to the free launch party on Thursday 17 May, 4pm to 7.30pm at Gloucester Cathedral. It's a fun, totally free all-age party / bring a picnic, enjoy live music, dancing, sports and more.

How ducks could raise your church's green rating

An eco-advocate who is passionate about protecting our planet is offering a talking PowerPoint to help other churches become better environmental stewards.

Chantal Whitehouse is part of the environment team at St Andrew's Church, Churchdown, the first church in the Diocese to achieve the A Rocha UK Silver EcoChurch Award. A Rocha is a Christian environmental charity, and the award recognises the work that churches do to incorporate green thinking in all that they do.

Chantal said: "We are trying to make environmental considerations part of everything that we do as a church and to carry on raising awareness of action people can take."

The church has been posting daily Lent eco challenges on Facebook, recycling coffee pods (this has so far raised over £400 for Gloucester Autism Support Group) and recycled inkjet printer cartridges to raise money for Gloucester Food Bank. Even the Fair Trade communion wine that the church buys uses ducks instead of pesticides to remove snails from the grape vines.

Get in touch with Chantal on chantillywhitehouse@gmail.com for a copy of her PowerPoint and some creative ideas on making greener choices for your church. More information about the EcoChurch awards can be found at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

National Vocations Sunday, 22 April

Each of us is called to be and do what God has called us to. For some that might mean ministry in the church, but for many of us, it is to life within the wider community. Vocations Sunday is a chance to talk about who and what you believe is your calling. Use this day to talk to others about their calling. Ask someone how God is blessing what they are doing and what their challenges are. Then pray for them in their vocation.

If you would like to explore this further, please come to our next Vocations Day on 16 June. Contact pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk for more information.

Events and training

More details for all these events at www.gloucester.anglican.org/events/2018-01

**'ABCD' Community Development, Thursday 19 April, 10am to 4pm
Gloucester Farmers Club, Greville Close, Gloucester GL2 9RG (£10)**

An introduction to community building practice and how Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is growing across Gloucestershire. Stories of how good ABCD practice is enabling friends and neighbours to get together to do the things they love, and make a difference where they live. To book, email nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

**Welcoming people to new housing developments—a networking and training evening, Monday 23 April, 7.15pm to 9pm
St. Lawrence Church, Bourton-on-the-Water (please park on nearby roads).**

Particularly suitable for parishes which have new housing developments of up to 300 houses and it would be appropriate for a group to come from a parish. E-mail Helen Wolfson to book by Wednesday 18 April on hwolfson@glosdioc.org.uk

Social media training

Monday 23 April, 6.30pm to 8pm, Parish Centre, St. James the Great, Dursley

Training for more of our congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using social media, both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Book at <http://bit.ly/2Hrcxqs>

Christening Workshops

Tuesday 24 April, Chipping Campden, Saturday 28 April, St. Andrew's, Churchdown (more in May, check the website events calendar for details).

One or two people from each parish are invited to come along to learn more about the national Christening resources, ways to maintain relationships with Christening families and hear good news stories about how initiatives are working in parishes across this diocese. For booking and information contact nkent@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835544.

FestivALL sharing and learning day

Friday 18 May, 10am to 4pm, Gloucester Cathedral

Inspiring talks and workshops exploring inclusion. Contact ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835515

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email 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

The Messenger

News from MAF

A Rainy Day in Croydon

Stuart King, one of MAF's founders, tells how the organisation took to the skies 70 years ago on its very first 'flight of faith'

Traumatic at times, MAF's story is an adventure of faith' Above all, it's God's story.

After World War II, in air forces throughout the world, the hearts of men and women were stirred by one question above all others — 'Can aircraft that were used so effectively for death and destruction now bring God's peace and love to isolated people living in unreachd areas?'

New Zealandcler Murray Kendon who'd been an RAF pilot in Coastal Command — was one such airman inspired by this idea. Jack Hemmings, Ken Ellis, Torn Banham and I were among the first to join Murray and his new organisation, Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF). We knew God had called us to survey the needs of missions in Africa. And we needed an aircraft to do this.

It took two long years to raise funds for the twin-engined, four-seater Miles Gemini aircraft that became known as The Mildmay Pathfinder in honour of our sponsor, the Mildmay Movement. Finally, on the afternoon of Tuesday 13 January 1948 at Croydon Airport — after an electrical fault had been corrected — Jack (pilot) and I (co-pilot and engineer) were given permission to take off,

We flew into squalls of icy rain with 70mph crosswinds. There had been a brief debate about waiting for better weather, but we had done more dangerous things in the war, and could not wait any longer to start this new adventure!

Flying low across the Channel, the strong sidewinds made it necessary to correct our course by 20° all the way to France. Two hours later, we touched down safely in Paris — the first leg of our African adventure completed safely. Praise the Lord!

Throughout this 70th anniversary year, Flying for Life will continue the amazing story of MAF's beginnings. However, just before the Pathfinder left England that day, a supporter thrust a small movie camera into my hands and urged me to film the journey. The resulting documentary — plus interviews with Jack and myself - is called *Flights of Faith* and is now available on DVD for a suggested donation of £5 by phoning 01303 852819 or e-mailing supporter.relations@maf-uk.org

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Word Search

Head and Shoulders



Brow Cheek Chin Ears Eyes Gums Jaw
Lashes Lips Locks Mouth Nape Neck Noose
Nostril Scalp Shoulders Skull Teeth Temple
Throat Tongue

Are you going into hospital? Do you know someone who is in hospital?

The chaplains offer Spiritual support, prayer and a listening ear as well as Holy Communion for those who require it - but they can't help at all if they don't know you're there!

Contact the Hospital Chaplains:
0300 422 6200 Gloucester Royal Hospital
0300 422 4286 Cheltenham Hospital

We do, of course, welcome visits from patient's own church teams, and know how important it is for some patients to receive HC from their own church – but I hope that we can at least lighten your load by making your visits less frequent. When you do visit the hospitals we are always pleased to welcome you to our offices on either site – please call in and introduce yourself.

Thank you for your help in this –
John

Rev John R Thompson
Lead Chaplain – Department of Spiritual Care
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS FT

Open Doors Remembering Brother Andrew's Wife

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Cornelia van der Bijl (known as Corry), the wife of Open Doors' founder Brother Andrew. She passed away on 23 January, surrounded by her family.

Corry was born in March 1931, and she and Andrew met in their youth, before marrying in Alkmaar in June 1958. We give thanks for her life and her faithfulness in serving the Lord. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants" (Psalm 116:15).

Please pray for Brother Andrew and his family, that God would comfort them during this time of grief, and give thanks for Corry's life and for all the people whose lives she touched.

If you would like to read more about Corry's impact on Brother Andrew's ministry, then why not order a free copy of *God's Smuggler* - and if you've already read it, pass it on to a friend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An Anglican Archbishop and a Roman Catholic Archbishop both died. When they reached the Pearly Gates, St. Peter ushered them into a waiting room. After they had been kicking their heels for an hour or so, a pretty girl arrived and was shown straight in. At this their Graces protested, asking why such a youngster should get preferential treatment over men of their standing.

St. Peter looked at them for a moment and said: "That young girl has just crashed her sports car which she learned to drive a year ago. In that short year she has put the fear of God into more people than your Graces have in the whole of your lives!"



The village parson was dragging through his sermon when he observed that the congregation had fallen asleep, except the local idiot sitting at the back.

"What's this," he roared, "everyone asleep but this poor simpleton?"

Came a voice from the back, "Aye, and if I wasn't so simple I should be asleep an' all."

Monarch Books

**Deadline for the May Magazine by April 14th, noon, please.
My e-mail address is douglas.hobbs@homecall.co.uk**

Regular Groups and Events at St. Mary's

The Ark Coffee Shop, 43 Long Street, Children's play area, Traidcraft (01453-521 838)

Bible Study and Housegroups: *full listing in magazine*

Flower Guild: Contact the Parish Office (Tuesday-Thursday 9am-1.00)

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 (Tuesday-Thursday 9am -1.00)

Communication: Vacant

For Young People: Little Church. Mondays 9.30 – 11.30am (term-time. Holiday start time 10am in Parish Room). For pre-schoolers and their carers. Story in church followed by arts and crafts and a healthy snack in the Parish Room. Contact Kirsty Beasley (07811 187899).

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, Ruth Gibson (Exell) 01453-454593, Lois Etherington 01823 462955

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), June Hawkins 01453 547793 or wendybarber5@yahoo.co.uk

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

Home Care/Home Help

Brenda's Home Care.....07899 080309 or b.alway@btopenworld.com

Piano Tuning and Repairs

Eddie Garrard 07789777008

Portable Appliance Testing and Electric Appliance Repairs.

Wright Connections,(Mobile 07942893993)