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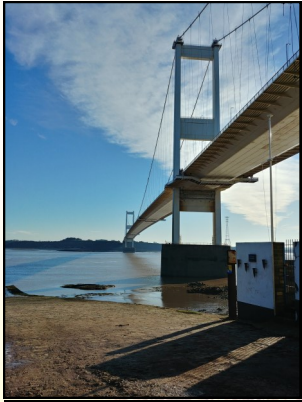


Susanna Jacks

"where the river flows everything will live"

Tidenham Parish Magazine

Spring 2021



John-Ross
Henderson

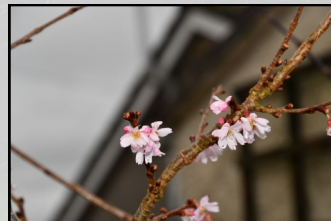


Roger Tucker



Peter Jones

Here is a small
selection of pictures
that you sent me.
Thank you.



Wendy Moppett

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Link Magazine
The Parish of Tidenham
Spring 2021



This Photo by Leonie Jones

Please enjoy our magazine....

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	dtrevd@aol.com	
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Pioneer Curate	Revd Janice Hamilton	01291 626158
Curate	Revd Nicki Bullivant	0722 833 835
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	cfmtidenham@btinternet.com	
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Tanya White

Letter from the Editor Greetings to everyone and welcome to our Spring Link magazine.

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

The last Link was our Autumn edition and now this Spring edition is both being publishing online and a few editions will be printed for those with no internet connection.

On Friday 26th February 2021 I attended on-line the funeral of Rev Brian Green (see picture). This was a special time for me to remember him and his positive influence at difficult and challenging times: to have patient faith in time of darkness. I first started editing the Link when asked by Brian and here I am today, editing our Link magazine!



Rev Brian Green

Inside this time:

- **Vicar David** writes to **Hang in There** and **Hold on Until the Tide Turns** (pages 4-6)
 - **How one might listen to God through the Bible** (pages 24-25)
 - **Update from Tom Clammer** (page 33)
 - **Scarecrow Trail** (*subject to government Covid announcements*) is planned for 27th March to 17th April 2021 (page 15)
- In the centre you can find the **Prayer Diary** from Margaret Coombs. ***This is for March, but you can also apply the suggested prayers to April.***
 - Highlights from PCC meetings (page 30)
 - **Fairtrade Fortnight 2021** (page 31)

See what details and events you can discover and enjoy our magazine,
regards from **Tanya**



PLEASE NOTE

Many things are changing at the moment
 But please send me any copy for future editions of **The Link**
 to Tanya White at tanya.rockymead@gmail.com
 or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road,
 Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169)



Vicar
Revd David Treharne

Vicar David Writes...
Hang in There!

I really hope that by the time Lent has finished and Easter arrives (4 April) we will be seeing some hopeful signs of positive change with the Pandemic situation both here and around the world!

This last year has been really tough but as I preached a little while ago on a Wednesday Facebook Eucharist (I never thought I'd be saying that a year ago!!!) I want to encourage you to keep going and not lose heart. I know many in our community are really struggling and are so weary. *Hang in there!*

Hold on until the tide turns

Back in 2017 Kathy and I were going through very dark times as Kathy faced her fourth cancer related operation in 2 years, with a second part of her lung being removed, and real worries about the future. In the middle of our darkness we received many messages of love, for which I continue to be extremely thankful. One powerful and life giving email from a lovely couple dropped into our inbox at a particular low point. It went like this...

Dear David and Kathy,

The best selling book of the 19th Century was 'The Bible.' The second best selling book was 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' also known as 'Life among the Lowly.' Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe who famously said; "When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

If our best wishes can help you both hold on, till the tide turns, then take strength to tighten your grip, to go that extra minute and then the next minute. Our very best wishes

These words were so loving and encouraging. (I wonder, who might you



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send a message of love and encouragement too?) They also remind me of some of the letters written in the New Testament to Christians who were growing weary, struggling and suffering greatly.

The Bible encourages us not to lose heart
(2 Corinthians 4:1 & 16)

A lot of the New Testament is written to Christians who were growing weary and struggling. It was jolly hard for those early believers and so many Bible texts urge and encourage them to keep on going and not to lose heart.

This will resonate with many of us today. Aside from Covid 19, it's not easy to live life as a Christian. It's not even easy attempting to live a holy life! It's hard battling temptations and accepting personal weaknesses and living with vulnerability. It's hard to be hopeful in the face of human tragedy, whether accidental or deliberate. It's hard taking the narrow road when so many people seem to be on a wide road getting away with things and enjoying it so much! Yet on top of this, Covid 19 has brought major health concerns, separation from loved ones, detachment from one another in church and community and wondering where God is. Someone said to me the other day, "it must be hard having faith in times like this." I did say, "it must be hard not having faith in times like this!" Of course, we were both right... life has been hard and a struggle with or without faith.

Wisdom in and on suffering

"How can one be well...when one suffers morally?"
— Leo Tolstoy

"Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free-wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself."
— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

"I want to suffer so that I may love."
— Fyodor Dostoevsky

"No one is ever holy without suffering."
— Evelyn Waugh



God is With us

But we have a God, revealed in Jesus Christ, who is only too familiar with suffering and one WHO understands our struggles and he sympathizes with our pain and suffering. This God, alongside a great cloud of witnesses, is urging & cheering us on as we persevere, strive and wrestle through this tough time and all the tough times of our lives. But even more than that, the God revealed in Jesus Christ is not just on the side-lines urging us on he is with us and in us and ready to give us the depths of himself to journey onwards. "Come on, keep going, do not lose heart."

Finally, our God is not only a crucified God he is a resurrection God! In him there is always a tomorrow! I don't know what life will look like once the worst of the Pandemic passes, or what the future will hold for many who experience terrible suffering daily around the world, but what I do know is that in Jesus Christ we can and will always find new hope and new beginnings and new life.

Yours, longing for the time when we can meet together once again
God bless

David

Your Priest and Vicar
Revd David Treharne

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with Beachley and Lancut
and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with
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"There is a LIGHT in this world. A healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometime lose sight of this force when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."
— Richard Attenborough

"If pain doesn't lead to humility, you have wasted your suffering."
— Katerina Stoykova Klemer



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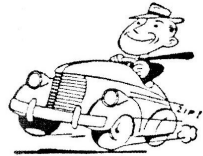
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Wisdom in and on suffering

"We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it. I've got nothing that I hadn't bargained for. Of course it is different when the thing happens to oneself, not to others, and in reality, not imagination."
— C.S. Lewis,
A Grief Observed

We have been living through a turbulent time in our history. For some this Pandemic has been a time of real suffering. Most of us have had tough times and this has given us a window into the suffering others face, and have been facing, daily for years.

It's a harsh reality that suffering is able to teach us and shape us (Romans 5:3-5), and there are those who have graciously shared some of what they have learnt through suffering. Here are some inspiring quotes. We may not understand some of the quotes or even agree with them, but in sharing them we may learn something important about others, ourselves and God.

he
"He who fears shall suffer, already suffers what he fears."
— Michel de Montaigne

"We are healed of a suffering only by experiencing it to the full."
— Marcel Proust

"Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight."
— Albert Schweitzer

"Our tendency in the midst of suffering is to turn on God. To get

"I will not deny but that the best apology against false accusers is silence and sufferance, and honest deeds set against dishonest words."
— John Milton

angry and bitter and shake our fist at the sky and say, "God, you don't know what it's like! You don't understand! You have no idea what I'm going through. You don't have a clue how much this hurts."

The cross is God's way of taking away all of our accusations, excuses, and arguments. The cross is God taking on flesh and blood and saying, "Me too."

— Rob Bell



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FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

Susan, our Centre Manager was busy last week involved in a project organized by FVAF (Forest Voluntary Action Forum), distributing 100 hampers to Secondary schools across the Forest of Dean, including Wydean School. This was a collaboration with the Local Equality Commission, Sixteen Community Café, FareShare and The Forest Foodbank creating hampers with essential cupboard goods, recipe cards and stationery.

Foodbanks have reported a massive 61% increase in demand with tens of thousands of people using food banks for the first time.



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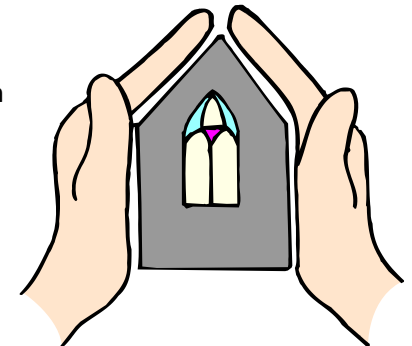


*5 Thank You and Encouragement
Prayers for the Parish*

- ✚ For the staff, churchwardens and volunteers of the Church here in the Parish and their amazing dedication and commitment.
- ✚ For all those who have enabled and participated in the online worship during lockdown.
- ✚ For all those who have given financially during this time when church income has plummeted.
- ✚ For the community spirit that has been evident when going out and about.
- ✚ For the amazing frontline workers in our locality.

5 Prayers of Intercession for the Parish

- ✚ For God's protection on all our frontline workers and the most vulnerable in our communities
- ✚ For the Holy Spirit to guide the Church here as we work out what a Post Covid Church in the Parish of Tidenham should look like
- ✚ For the Parish Scarecrow Trail
- ✚ For all those who have moved to the area, for those whose financial & employment situation is precarious and for those who have had new babies and those who plan to get married this year.
- ✚ For those who have experienced or are experiencing trauma, grief and suffering.





Bullet Point News

✠ **Are You New to the Parish? ...**

A warm welcome to you if you have moved to the Parish during these strange times. If you would like to find out more about what's goes on we'd be delighted to welcome you and talk about how you might be involved or how we as a church family can support you. Please feel free to make contact with any of the relevant individuals on the website or church notice boards.

✠ **Thinking about Baptism/Christening or a Wedding in church?**

Many congratulations if you're at this stage of life!

As things stand Weddings and Baptisms/Christenings are still able to take place. Please do get in touch with Vicar David or one of the team if you are interested. If you are thinking about 2021 then do get in touch as diaries are beginning to fill up.



For weddings visit <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

For baptisms/christenings visit <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/>

✠ **Illness**

We would like to remind parishioners (church and non-church goes alike) that they should not hesitate to contact us in the event of illness and hospitalisation. If nothing else vital prayers can be offered for those in need.

✠ **Is God calling you?**

All of us reflect on the purpose of our lives at some point. Part of this reflection can lead us to having a sense of being called to do something particular in or with our lives. May the Holy Spirit lead you to respond to what the Lord may require of you? Please do not hesitate to speak with someone at church about this. It is quite normal and remember, God can use any of us he chooses!

✠ **Financial Support for the Parish**

If you would like to make a gift to the Church and also consider ongoing regular financial giving into 2021. Bank details are Tidenham Parochial Church, Sort Code 30-91-89 & Account number 00304754. Standing order and Gift Aid forms are available to download from the website. PCC wishes to thank all who have continued to give generously.



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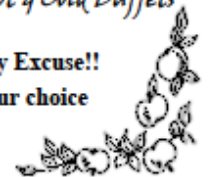
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NEWS FLASH! † **Legacy**
We were humbled and most grateful to have received a legacy donation last year. Perhaps we could all think about leaving a financial gift when we die which can help towards the costs of mission and ministry for the future, particularly at this challenging time.

† **Churchyards: A reminder to all those who tend and care for churchyard plots.**
Our churchyards are very special spaces for remembering loved ones who have died. Therefore out of respect for **all** mourners please remember that grave-areas **should conform** to the churchyard regulations. This allows for peaceful use and trouble-free maintenance throughout the churchyard. The Parochial Church Council kindly asks that no extraneous additions (stones, plastic flowers, ornaments and statuary, plants, trees, vases, kerb-edging, etc.) are placed in or around graves. Thank you.

† **AGM**
All being well the Parish AGM will take place on 25 April 2021 at 10.30am following the 9.30am Eucharist at Tidenham Church. Please contact PCC Secretary Iain Gardiner for more details. 01291 624868

† **Want to be confirmed?**
Sadly the September 2020 confirmation service in the Parish was unable to happen. However, we are looking at being able to confirm people again in 2021. If you would like to be confirmed then please contact Vicar David as soon as possible. DTRevd@aol.com If you don't know what confirmation is then you are not alone. Briefly and simply it is when someone owns and takes on for themselves (confirms) the baptismal promises that were made for them when they were too young to make them for themselves.

† **Parish Contact Website Address**
Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>
Parish Facebook Page: for communicating news & info to the wider community. Please 'follow' or 'like'. <https://facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch>
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YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos to assist your devotions. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w>
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Tanya's Link Prize Challenge
 Welcome
 to everyone with this
 Wordsearch puzzle.

This Wordsearch time you are finding words in great
EASTER HYMN: CHRIST TRIUMPHANT
 Recently written by Michael Edward

There are 32 words to locate. See what you can find.

Once you have completed this, gather the remaining letters in order to spell out the answer to the puzzle, please send this to me: Tanya White, at Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BU (e-mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com) to be in with a chance winning the prize!

ABOVE	HUMBLE	SIN
CEASELESSLY	HYMNS	SON
CHRIST	INCARNATE	SONG
CRUCIFIED	JUSTIFIED	SUFFERING
DEFEATED	KING	SUSTAINING
ENTHRONED	LOVE	TRIUMPHANT
GAZING	MAN	TRUTH
GLORY	PRIESTLY	VICTIM
HEARTS	RAISING	VOICES
HEAVEN	REVEALING	WORD
HIGH	SERVANT	



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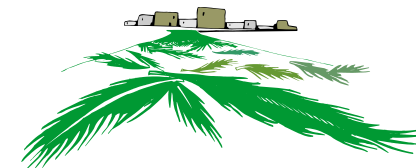


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T C E A S E L E S S L Y L E
 V R T N A V R E S E C I O V
 J H I S H E A R T S G V V C
 C U S U F F E R I N G I E R
 H M S S M E E N I S A C D U
 R B M T P P T K R H Z T E C
 I L H A I R H A R T I I N I
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 T V N N G S I E N R G E R I
 D O O I I H O E S T A I H E
 R B S N M Y H N D T G C T D
 O A G G L O R Y G N L I N N
 W G R E V E A L I N G Y E I
 H E A V E N D E T A E F E D

- Returning to a complete Link magazine, here is an **EASTER** time Word Search Puzzle,
- Whether we are in Lent or **EASTER** we can worship our **KING ENTHRONED FOR EVER.**
- We can have our **HEARTS** and **VOICES RAISING** in praise despite the difficult times that we are in at the moment.





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T: 01291 628344
E: hedgehogs@deanclosenurseries.co.uk



Monuments and graves at Tidenham

Brian Duerden

We all know that the Parish Church of St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham, is a historic building (Grade II* listed) with a history going back to the 12th century and this history is reflected in the graveyard. We see a large number of ancient graves and monuments each time we walk through the churchyard to the church building, even if they may appear commonplace because we are so used to them being there. As well as the very prominent Madocke Monument opposite the main church door, 14 other monuments are Grade II listed.



Many of these old graves, mostly without living descendants to take an interest, have been untended for many years and have become increasingly overgrown, even to the extent that some are no longer visible. Although the Parish Council is now responsible for the general upkeep of the churchyard as it is "closed" for new graves, this has not extended to attacking the overgrowth around many of the monuments which is probably regarded as a "church matter". Much to our delight, two people from the Tidenham Historical Group have come to our aid and have taken the initiative to help expose these historic artefacts and in so doing, greatly improve the appearance and relevance of the churchyard.

Carol and Richard Clammer and the four members of the Lillington family, working as two individual family teams under current Covid restrictions, have started with the vegetation around the Madocke Monument and then moved to the ones immediately behind, including finding a further unsuspected monument that was completely overgrown. This work not only has historic interest but also markedly enhances the view out from the main door of the church.

They are now progressing to the monuments along the pathway to the Lych Gate and also the ones on the slope in the South-east area towards the car park.



The work will cease shortly for the nesting season (birds and other wildlife) which means that no such clearing work should be done from March to the end of July. However, as and when restrictions are lifted, I would encourage anyone with an interest to have a look round at some of the quite amazing work that is being done. I am writing this to express our thanks to those taking on this project and excitement about what it is producing.



Wye Valley Green Way

Those of you who have not already discovered it, may be interested to hear that the Wye Valley Green Way cycle and footpath is now partially open. It can be accessed from Snipe Hill Bridge via Sedbury Lane, or from beside the railway bridge on the small lane between Bishton and Netherhope Lanes. From Snipe Hill it is now possible to walk along the embankment, with wonderful views over the A48 bridge and past the Diving Centre.

At this point there are quite a few interesting remains: the original Tidenham Station buildings, signal box and goods shed were all demolished after the halt closed to passengers in 1959. However, the site was taken over by the quarry and the original platform concreted over to form part of a loading facility for ballast stone. About half of that platform is still visible, the rest having been buried under a mound of soil which we understand will one day become a car park for walkers and cyclists. On the platform stands a large wooden structure which we think once supported the wagon-loading conveyor belt. At the northern end of the station site are two ornate metal gates which once allowed the quarry area to be closed off from the rest of the line. Beyond these the walk continues under the interesting road bridge with the distinctive metal under-structure and onwards past the site of Netherhope Halt to the tunnel entrance.

The tunnel is a winter roosting site for bats, so will remain closed until March. Thereafter it is due to open to the public and by the summer it will be possible to walk or cycle all the way from Sedbury to Tintern.

There are a number of interesting relics along the way and it to be hoped that these, along with the platform, will be preserved. The purpose of two of them remains a mystery. They are substantial, square, wooden posts, each topped with a pointed iron shoe. One is half buried in spoil just opposite the remains of the platform. The other, which is about 15ft high, stands beside the track bed just to the north of the iron gates.

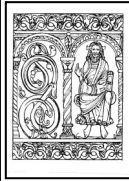
Does anyone know what purpose they served?
Answers on a postcard (or better still an email) please!!



Richard Clammer



tidenham historical group



We are not meeting at the moment

For more information about the group's varied activities contact Liz on 01291 621694, Carol on 01291 623736, or e-mail info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk.

OFFA'S DYKE



Hidden Landscapes of the Forest of Dean
Jon Hoyle

A recent talk by Jon Hoyle, the archaeologist and author of "Hidden Landscapes of the Forest of Dean", to the Forest of Dean Local History Society revealed that there is a strong opinion that some of the clearest sections showing aspects of the construction of Offa's Dyke are located in our area.

There are 2 particular sections which demonstrate this: by the Devil's Pulpit and the other in Caswell Wood near Tidenham. They demonstrate that there was very likely a cap of stone on top of a high bank with a steep ditch behind it to the east from where the excavated material was quarried. The steep bank was also possibly faced with stone. Then another shallower, bank and ditch faced west.

There is also a good section in Chapel House Wood in Tutshill but it has been quite badly eroded by badgers.



There is also a good section in Chapel House Wood in Tutshill but it has been quite badly eroded by badgers.

One other intriguing observation he made was that the Dyke appears to have been built in short lengths in addition to the previously identified larger gaps

Please Notice This



Found in another church's notices:

"Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.."



TUTSHILL SCARECROW TRAIL 2021

Disney Films

Dates: 27th March 'til 17th April
Theme: Disney Films



Trails cost £3
Tickets: available from Lifestyle Express Shop

Proceeds to Tidenham Parish Churches
with 10% to SARA
and 10% to Winston's Wish

If folk want to enter you need to contact Susan on tutshillscarecrow@yahoo.com by 6th March

***Dates are subject to change in response to government Covid announcements.**

In other words, it may not happen at Easter, but in the summer...





News from our Parish Schools



Wyedean School & Sixth Form College

Wyedean School provides the very best in terms of quality provision in

the area. Our school and sixth form centre are equipped for exceptional learning and our teachers are enthusiastic, experienced and know how to get the best out of our young people. This provision is underpinned by a broad and exciting curriculum offer. We offer an outstanding record of academic excellence in our examination results, together with exceptional guidance and well-being support.



Gwennan Jeremiah
Principal

Wyedean School – 01291 636180



Tutshill Church of England Primary School

A huge well done to all of the children at Tutshill C of E Primary School for their hard work over this unusual and difficult term. Children, parents and staff have been adjusting to the ways of online learning and as always they have shown great commitment and dedication.

The school has also been open for Key Worker families and the children who have attended have shown great maturity and positivity towards the new routines of the school. It was also great to see the children out in the snow and making the most of the winter weather we have had this new year!

To mark the end of a great term, children and teachers are celebrating with a fancy dress party and games via TEAMS meetings online. The theme is 'Express Yourself' which is inspired by the theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Across the school, children have been discussing, exploring and recognising the importance of their own mental health. They have been expressing themselves through art, music and dance. It has been an inspiring week for all involved.

Tutshill School – 01291 622593



WHAT'S IN A FOOD PARCEL?

Our food bank provides three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food.

[The Trussell Trust](#) has worked with nutritionists to ensure food parcels contains sufficient nutrition for at least three days worth of healthy, balanced meals for individuals and families.

A TYPICAL FOOD PARCEL INCLUDES:

- Breakfast cereals
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tea or coffee
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Snacks



DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Our food bank can usually adapt your food parcel to meet your dietary needs, for example, gluten free, halal or vegetarian. When you arrive at the foodbank centre, a volunteer will chat to you about an special dietary requirements you may have.

chepstowfoodbank@gmail.com



Bananas take longer to ripen if you separate them from their bunch.

Fact Gatherings...

The Latin name for banana is "musa sapientum" which translates to fruit of the wise men.



Chase WI

It is a year since The Chase met as a WI which means we missed our speakers which had been arranged by the Programme Planning Committee. Some members have taken part with on line speakers arranged by National and County Federations. In case you don't know, the WI is a three tier organization with the tiers running separately but all part of the same organization. We are hoping that restrictions will be lifted soon so that we can meet first in a public place sitting socially distanced outside, as we did last summer.

One of our members, has done two beautiful wall Hangings while being in Lock down which I hope you will enjoy looking at.

For further information please phone Poppy Moss 01291 628739.



ST JOHN'S ON THE HILL

At St John's we encourage children to think deeply, to be utterly kind in every situation and to ask inquisitive questions, preparing them to leave as confident learners, faithful friends and compassionate leaders.

Childhood is more important than ever against today's backdrop of uncertainty; it is not a rehearsal but a precious time of growth where every aspect must be nurtured. In the safe environment of outstanding pastoral care, mistakes can happen, failures can be embraced and worries eased. The results are clear: kind, caring, resilient and respectful children who are well-grounded and confident in who they are. The indescribable value of simply being outdoors must never be underestimated. At St John's we endeavour to give our children the time and space to be present in the moment so that they can enjoy *their* childhood to the full.



With best wishes,

Nick Throner

St John's on the Hill School
01291 622045



Offa's Mead Academy

February has had a few special things happening - We have had Children's Mental Health Week, 1-7 February 2021. we are also doing a Reading Challenge, and we enjoyed some pancakes in the month! With January behind us, we hope you have been working hard at home and at school, as well as taking time to play in the snow! Thank you to everyone for discovering what's possible in your online learning, being remarkably resilient and for your positive, big hearted attitude!

Daily 5 Minutes of Mindfulness Children can create their very own mindfulness calendar with ideas for 5 minutes of mindfulness with some ideas from Mentally Healthy Schools - there are so many useful tips! <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/childrens-mental-health-week-2021-primaryassembly-and-guide/>

Offa's Mead Academy – 01291 622932



War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP26 7BN
01291 629134

Tutshill Community Pre-School

are based in The War Memorial Hall in Tutshill, opposite Toast. The Pre-School is a charity and works hard to produce a safe nurturing and stimulating environment for children from age 2 years up till they start

school in Reception. The children who attend are very happy and settled, and some ask their families if they can come at the weekend too!

We start the day outside dressed in our waterproofs ready for the fresh air. Children can choose to go inside later to play but the door is always open so that they can be outside as much as they want. Amazing learning takes place outside where there are open ended resources to build with. There is also water, mud, earth and sometimes ice to explore, and the majority of children just love being in the fresh air.

We are led by the child to resources they are playing with, and we then facilitate their learning from this point. Children are more likely to learn if they are engaged in it.

If you are interested in a place for your child at Tutshill Community Pre school please contact us on 01291 629134 or look at our website tutshillpreschool.org.

Thank you.

Melanie Walton Tutshill Community Pre-School



that's okay! Identify what went wrong and approach the following month as a fresh start. A budget is never set in stone but is meant to be a tool that you use regularly and review as your circumstances change.

Spending a little time regularly taking stock of your budget is time well spent and will help you move ever closer to your long-term goals.

Here are some easy and effective ways to cut costs.

Buy in bulk

Although it may seem more expensive at first, it's better to buy cleaning products in bulk rather than making smaller purchases every month. This should save you money in the long run and it's better for the environment too, which is more important than ever. When you're in the supermarket, remember to compare the 'price per kilogram/100g' to make sure you're getting the most product for your money.

Make your own spray cleaner

It's really easy to make your own multi-surface cleaner out of things you may already have in the cupboard at home. Simply mix

together 60ml of white vinegar, one tablespoon of baking powder, one litre of hot water and the juice of half a lemon. Pour it into an empty spray bottle and away you go!

Clear out the clutter

A study from the Princeton Neuroscience Institute found that there's a link between the state of the space we live in and how productive we are. Our brains instinctively try to process everything around us, so the more clutter we see, the more our minds will be distracted. There are lots of local websites and apps for selling items you no longer need, so you might even make some money. You could also try your hand at up-cycling old clothes or furniture for a refresh, which will save you spending money on new stuff too.

Spend less when redecorating

If you've got the urge to redecorate, first try rearranging the furniture. This could help to give your room a new lease of life for free.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management, job clubs, life skills groups, and support for people breaking life-controlling dependencies. Visit capuk.org to find out more.



Spring Clean Your Finances

David Price
(07539 477286)

Did you start the year strong, setting realistic goals, despite the pandemic? Perhaps the long, cold winter combined with another national lockdown affected you mentally, physically or financially. Maybe you started the year focusing on getting fitter, healthier and aiming to watch the pennies, but it's been so hard to stay on track in the midst of the storm of challenges the world is currently facing.

Wherever you're at, it's a good idea to take time to review your finances. Checking in with where you're at financially can help to relieve stress and gives you the chance to get help sooner, if needed, rather than putting it off.

What are you saving for?

Before you start putting together your budget, it's important to consider your main goals for the year ahead. This may include saving towards a big purchase, or for an event like a holiday (when

we can all start traveling again). Then, break down how to achieve that goal.

Although you can start saving by setting aside a specific amount each month, there are other ways to save money, such as shopping around for better deals on services like insurance when it's up for renewal. It could be as simple as increasing how much you're able to save by being cannier when shopping. Just ask yourself the question: what can I reduce, what can I cut out and what can I save?

Remember to also check through your standing orders and Direct Debits and see if there's anything else you can cut out, such as a subscription you no longer use.

With your main goal considered, you can then plan how to get there by creating a budget using an online tool such as Money Saving Expert's budget planner.

What's next?

To stay on track, it's important to make reviewing your budget a part of your regular routine. If it goes a bit awry one month,



New Baby Support Group

This is a group suitable for those with new (ish) babies.

We met once before Christmas in St Luke's church, at a social distance. It was lovely to support the mums and see some of the new arrivals to Toddler Families.

We currently meet via Zoom on a Tuesday morning for a chat and a singing.

New members are always welcome, you don't have to live locally:

Please contact Jane at cfmtidenham@btinternet.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1130508917404741>



We are looking forward to meeting again in person once the Covid restrictions allow and it is sensible to do so.

Thank you to Non and Sue for volunteering their time to this group.

Jane Penny, Children and Families' Minister



Life Groups

As well as services there are various opportunities for Christians to meet together in small groups to grow in faith & support one another. At the moment these are known meetings. All welcome.

LIFE GROUP	DAY and TIME	NAME	CONTACT NO'S	DETAILS OF GROUP
Meeting for Men!	SUNDAY Evening 7.30pm	James Parsons	James 622163	Men's Group
Life Group Meeting At St Luke's	TUES Afternoon 12.45pm start at 1.00pm	Julia Parsons and Beryl Healey	01291 622163 and 01291 625551	Meet for Prayer, Bible Study and encouragement
SEDBURY SPACE	WED Evening 7.30-9.00 pm	Janice Hamilton	Janice 01291 626158	Sedbury Space
REFRESHMENT ROOM	WED Evening 7.30pm for 8.00pm start	Fiona Gardiner Elm House Woodcroft	Fiona 01291 624868	We will aim to go deeper with God, to support one another in prayer and in practice and to have fun.
WELCOME at St Luke's	THUR 1.00-2.30pm	Jane Penny	Jane 07856 679387 or Tanya 01291 623169	Exploring faith through worship, prayer and discussion. Spirit-led, Bible based time of fellowship



Update from Tom Clammer

Some of you might be aware that since I found myself needing to retire from paid ministry in the Church of England a couple of years ago I have been trying to work out where my vocation might lie moving forward.

For the past couple of years I have been exploring potentially becoming a Brother of the Anglican Order of Cistercians. This is a relatively young Order, which seeks to recover something of the Cistercian charism within the Anglican churches of Great Britain.

If you want to know more about this community you can Google them (<https://cistercianorder.com/>).

You will be aware of the ancient presence of the Cistercians within the Wye Valley, symbolized in the enduring presence of the ruins of Tintern Abbey.

Fundamentally the life is one of worship, contemplation and underpinning of the active church in prayer. In my case the focus of this prayer will be on supporting and enabling the life of the parishes. There is a commitment to at least five liturgical moments of prayer each day, together with study, reading and silence. All of this is lived fully in the secular world, and in my case in the context of my vocation to be an Anglican priest, and to be married to Emma.

Having been an enquirer, and then for the last 18 months a postulant, I am able to announce that the Chapter of the Order have agreed to admit me as a novice on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, on 19 March this year. I will spend several years as a novice, deepening my understanding of the Cistercian way, after which I may be invited to make the vows of Obedience, Stability and Conversion of Life. You won't see any immediate evidence of this development of my vocation, other than the letters OC appearing after my name. In due course you might also see that I begin to appear wearing the habit of the Order rather than a cassock and collar, as secular clergy do.

If you were able to take a moment on 19 March to pray for me, together with my fellow postulant Heller, who is also becoming a novice that day, that would be a kindness.



I just wondered if we could start a page about tips on how to tackle climate change in our homes and locally?

I am trying to change the way I buy some products, reduce plastic use and save resources, and I am sure other people have too.

It would be good to share ideas and so as a community help our beautiful world reduce the effects of climate change, and so help poor communities in the world who suffer from flooding, drought and mountains of plastic waste.

If you have tried something to reduce plastic waste or reduce the effects of climate change please let me know and I can put them together in this publication.

I think it is very important to note that these 'green tips' may not be possible for everyone and that is fine, but there may be one small change we can make that will help.

Here are 2 basic ideas to start off but please send in some more to me at melanie.walton@hotmail.co.uk Thank you! Melanie Walton

1. To turn lights off if we are not in that room
2. To try to reuse plastic bags as many times as it is safe to

"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME AFTER CLASS."



"YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."



Surprise donation from our Insurers

In December we were surprised to receive a totally unexpected donation of £130 from our Insurance Company, Ecclesiastical Insurance, who insure our church buildings.

To celebrate their 130-year anniversary they have set up a Trust130 fund to give parishes these grants.

As well as insuring church properties they also offer other insurance services such as home and car insurance to individuals and when someone takes out or renews a policy with them, the individual is able to nominate a church or parish for a grant – and someone, somewhere, had nominated us (many thanks if they see this!).

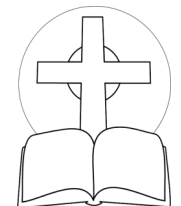
The funds came at an opportune time and went towards the expenses of developing the on-line presentation and streaming of services. I was interviewed for a podcast about these grants in February. Parishes remain eligible for nomination even when they have received a grant – so I will watch that space!

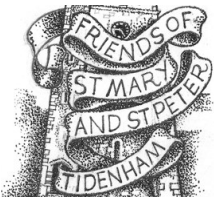
Brian Duerden
Church Warden



"Trust in Him at all times,
O people;
pour out your hearts
to Him,
for God is our refuge."

Psalm 62: 8





The Friends of Tidenham Church Friends Update



Sadly the Covid 19 Pandemic has put a temporary halt to fundraising and volunteer activities over the past year. The Friends held their AGM in Tidenham Church on Thursday 12th March 2020 which for many of us was our last activity prior to the first "Lockdown" which came into place on Monday 16th March 2020.

Work has continued behind the scenes on the plans for the reordering, putting together the details required for the necessary faculty and responding to queries raised not only by the DAC, but also such bodies as The Victorian Society, The Ancient Monuments Society and Historic England. We are very grateful to the Tidenham Historic Society for all their assistance in this work.

The last trees have now been planted in the car park and it is planned to plant the final hedge above the top fence line in the autumn. It is also planned to review the surface of the parking area in the spring and work will be done on that once a decision has been made and when finances permit.

Should you want any further information about Friends or are interested in purchasing either a print of the church or some notelets, please contact Sarah-Jane Gilchrist at: secretary.friends@icloud.com or ring 01291 627966.

The Association of Friends of the Church of England Church of St Mary and St Peter Tidenham

Registered Charity No. 1159658



Fairtrade Fortnight 2021

What sort of world do we want to live in? We can choose the world we want. If we want a stable world of fairness and sustainability rather than a world of poverty, slavery and continued increasing climate change, with more flooding, wildfires and hunger we need to make wise decisions about what we buy. In Micah 6 v 8 we read, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

When we buy Fairtrade produce we know that a fair price has been paid to the producer that enables them to care for their families, and to invest in sustainable farming and in their communities. This means things like reducing pesticide use to help wildlife, and more native trees planted to help protect against flooding and drought. Also, clean water for more people, medicines for those who are sick, and life protecting hygiene measures to prevent further spread of Covid 19.

Buying Fairtrade and local are good ways to act justly. These choices help to shape the world to one we want. Look for the Fairtrade mark on produce; it is a guarantee of a fair price being paid to the producer. Look in Tesco, M&S, the Farm shops at the Garden Centre and Hanley Farm, Deacons for some Fairtrade flowers and Toytastik for some Fair crafted toys and games. We can all buy something Fairtrade and help to create a fairer and safer world. For more information go to

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/>

Best Regards

Julia Parsons (01291 622163)





Highlights from PCC meetings in November & December 2020, February 2021

- Annual church meeting is planned to be held at Tidenham church on Sunday 25th April at 10.30 a.m. approx. [subject to Covid]
- Approved Scarecrow Trail committee's proposals for a Scarecrow Trail in the Easter holidays [subject to Covid]
- Decided, after very careful consideration, not to proceed with the restoration of Madocke family tomb at Tidenham churchyard, as the £24k cost was deemed too high
- Approved in principle the development of giving to the church by text
- Approved new £1k financial delegated authority to the Finance Committee
- Noted that most members had undertaken new online Safeguarding training
- Noted that £50k had been spent by PCC on the fabric of both Tidenham and Tutshill churches over the last 6 years
- Agreed to spend up to £5k in tidying up Chase churchyard, using money from the Burder Trust
- Authorized a Conservation Engineer to assess possible repair of Tidenham church Tower, as requested by Gloucester DAC
- Approved PCC's 2020 annual donations to charities



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL
CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music, and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798)
www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY UPDATE, **February/March 2021**

Like every other choral society or singing group, CCS has inevitably been out of action singing-wise since mid- March 2020. However, the Society has not been inactive during the enforced break! The CCS Committee determined from the beginning to keep in touch with the membership, meeting several times via Zoom (connections permitting!) and a variety of ideas and avenues have been explored. In the early months these were focussed on hoping that singing would resume in September 2020. By midsummer that became a forlorn hope –plans to try some outdoor singing bit the dust when restrictions once again intervened and, as Christmas loomed, even limited outdoor carol singing conforming to regulations was clearly not going to be possible.

A Zoom “Christmas Party” for the membership was held which featured quizzes, social exchanges, and some carol singing, all with attendant members enjoying a mince pie and drink of choice! However, the outstanding achievement around the Christmas season was an Advent Carols Calendar whereby a carol or piece of Christmas music was sent to every member for each of the 25 days to Christmas Day –a fabulous collection of beautiful Christmas selections by our Musical Director, Assistant and the “tech” Team, which delighted all who logged on daily.

We now look ahead into 2021. Like every other choral group, we are unable to say when “ we’ll meet again”. However, that is not to say that we are not looking ahead! We are! The 2021 Christmas Concert date is already booked for SUNDAY DECEMBER 12th 2021 at St Mary’s Priory Church, Chepstow in the real hope that we will be back singing in decent time to prepare a wonderful Christmas programme for all.

A priority on resumption will be recruitment. If you enjoy singing, wish to keep YOUR local choral society alive to maintain a full choral tradition in Chepstow, please contact us through the details below to find out more information. Thank You! Marje Duerden (on behalf of CCS).

For information, log into our website (see above)
or telephone 01291 623310 (Marie).



How one might listen to God through the Bible.

As part of the Lent gatherings on a Wednesday we have used a simple but powerful method of prayerfully reading the Bible called 'Lectio Divina.' The 24/7 prayer team explain Lectio Divina as follows...

Lectio Divina is a simple method of praying and meditating on scripture by oneself or in a group.

Lectio Divina is a Latin phrase meaning 'divine reading'. This is a form of meditation on the word of God that trains us to listen to His whisper speaking personally to our hearts, allowing His word to become one with us. Lectio Divina is a reflective and repetitive way to read the Bible, that is not so much focused on becoming informed by the text but rather being transformed by it. It does not replace the other types of Bible reading - rather Lectio Divina adds depth and value to all other forms of Bible reading, facilitating a movement from our hearts to more active ways of wrestling with scripture. Here we are reading purely in the devotional sense – reading for relationship with God more than a type of mental assent to learn more about God. We read the passage not so much as a student seeking to master the subject but as a child receiving a love-letter from a deeply committed and adoring Father.

How to do the Lectio Divina

If we think of a cow chewing on the cud, we are as close to discovering the way of Lectio Divina as we may get: meditating on the scripture, we salivate on a divine word or phrase, tasting and savouring, then regurgitating and savouring some more, before we swallow the word finally into our being, trusting the process of digestion will bring strength and nourishment to our bodies. *(continued)*

Tidenham Parish Prayer Diary – March 2021 (centre pages)

For each day the Prayer Diary has four items

- ✚ A person or people often involved in leadership of the Church
- ✚ A Church activity
- ✚ A community activity
- ✚ Things or attributes we value



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

Joyce BERRY (85)

Tuesday, 16th February 2021

Funeral Service and Burial St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Eileen Ida BERESFORD (101)

Thursday, 18th February 2021

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Audrey Helena VAUGHAN (90)

Thursday, 18th February 2021

Graveside Committal, St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Dorothy Elaine RICHARDS (79)

Friday, 19th February 2021

Committal Service at Langstone Crematorium

Audrey & Jack COOP (86& 88)

Friday, 26th February 2021

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Christine Margaret MILES (83)

Thursday, 4th March 2021

Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Tutshill
Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Further register entries will appear in the next 2021 edition of the Link





From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

Douglas William Anthony WATTS (56)

Monday, 5th October 2020

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Janet DORRINGTON (75)

Friday, 9th October 2020

Committal Service at Langstone Crematorium

Mabel Cordelia WALKER (96)

Tuesday, 27th October 2020

Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Phyllis Gwendoline TYRELL (90)

Tuesday, 24th November 2020

Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Alan Thomas HUGHES (78)

Friday, 4th December 2020

Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Tutshill

Cremation at Forest Crematorium

David Robert BANNISTER (78)

Monday, 21st December 2020

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Malcolm Leslie Brian HARDY (83)

Tuesday, 22nd December 2020

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Brinley George FULLER (74)

Wednesday, 20th January 2021

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Thelma Linda YARWOOD (87)

Tuesday, 26th January 2021

Committal Service at Forest Crematorium

Pamela Ann & Malcolm Leslie Brian HARDY (78 & 83)

Wednesday, 27th January 2021

Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Margaret Maureen JONES (95)

Thursday, 11th February 2021

Committal Service at Langstone Crematorium



Here are six simple steps:

1. Read

Pick a passage. To begin with, choose any of the Psalms or a passage in one of the Gospels. After inviting the Holy Spirit to come and guide you, read the passage slowly, out loud if you can. Read it twice with one minute of silence in between.

2. Relish

We could use the word 'reflect' here also, but relish describes more what we're aiming for at this stage. Meditating on the passage you have read, savour one word or phrase that you have noticed more than others during your reading. Write this word down and begin pondering what God might be saying to you through this. How is this word speaking to your life?

3. Re-read

Read the passage one more time.

4. Respond

Speak out in prayer what you sense God is saying to you. Tell Him how you feel encouraged, challenged by what He is saying to you and ask that the seed of His word in your heart would develop deep rooted truth that would lead to fruitfulness in your life.

5. Rest

Simply take some time to allow God to wrap you in His love, and let the word He has given you rest on you.

6. Resolve

Finish by articulating one way you might be able to live out the word that has penetrated your heart in your daily life.

The aim of the **Prayer Diary** is to encourage us to pray for our local Church and community.

It is our Prayer Diary, so please let me know of items you would like included. If you have a favourite prayer, thought, poem or joke please send it to me. Contributions from a variety of people will add to diversity, and therefore it should appeal to more people.

Any contributions or ideas please to
coombsmargaret@ymail.com (01291 629098)

Tidenham Parish Prayer Diary

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 February All our Church and Online Services & all who take part & stream them Churchwardens Local shops Music	01 March Vicar David & family Clare Presley – parish administration Sedbury Village Hall & clubs Forgiveness	02 March Rev Nicki & Rev David Rees & families Funeral ministry Funeral Directors Good bereavement care	03 March Online communion service Zoom life groups Foodbank Freedom from hunger	04 March Curates Rev Nicki, her NHS job & Rev Janice & their families Churchwardens Unemployed people Accountability	05 March Jane & Ethan, Teams & their families All considering Baptism, confirmation or vocations Tutshill School Loyalty	06 March Readers Fiona, James & families Men's group Sheltered Housing residents Hope
07 March Rev Janice & family Online & in Church Services & all who take part & stream them Hospitals we use Discipleship	08 March Rev Janice, Rev Nicki, her NHS job & their families Parish Toddler Groups Allotments Generosity	09 March Church of the future Parish Weekly Briefing Link & Website Social Workers & carers Hope & Joy	10 March Readers, Fiona, James & families PCC appointed governors of Tutshill School Protection from coronavirus	11 March Curate Rev Nicki, her NHS job & family Zoom groups Parish & District Councillors Love	12 March Jane & Ethan, Teams & families All our children & Youth Wyedean School with new Head Education	13 March Rev David Rees, Reader Mandy & Parishes of St Briavels & Hewelsfield Freedom from Corona virus Cohesion
14 Mothering Sunday Online and in church Services and all who take part & stream them Church worshippers Those that we cannot contact at present Families	15 March Vicar David & family All whose hospital appointments, diagnoses and treatment have been postponed PCC Finance Team Joy	16 March Pastoral Assistants & Visiting Team Woodcroft Centre Allotments Generosity	17 March Communion Service Lent Course Chase congregation Beachley Camp Repentance	18 March Readers Fiona, James & families Men's Group Local businesses Our Community	19 Jane & Ethan, Teams & families All preparing for or Considering baptism, confirmation & vocations Riverside Nursery Mission	20 March Vicar David & family Fundraising for Church maintenance & reordering Local post offices and banks Discipleship
21 March All Services Online & in Churches Life Groups Wyedean School Ecumenism	22 March Vicar David & family Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Sedbury Village Hall & clubs Hope	23 March Clare Presley - Parish administrator Churches Together Foodbank & Fare Share Freedom from hunger	24 March Online Communion Service Lent course Protection for Hospital and care Home staff Worship	25 March Curates Nicki, her NHS job & Rev Janice & their families Churchwardens Offa's Mead Academy Penguins Accountability	26 March Jane & Ethan, Teams & Families All our children and young people St John's School & new Head-Teacher Cohesion	27 March Readers Fiona, James, his job & their families Woodcroft Centre, Kate & Gareth (Managers) Long-term ill, lonely & housebound people Worship
28 March All our Church and Online Services & all who take part & stream them Churchwardens Local shops Music	29 March Vicar David & family Clare Presley – parish administrator Sedbury Village Hall & clubs Forgiveness	30 March Rev Nicki, Rev David Rees & families Funeral ministry Funeral Directors Good Bereavement care	31 March Communion Service, Zoom life groups Foodbank Freedom from hunger	01 April Rev Janice, Rev Nicki, her NHS job & their families Churchwardens Penguins Accountability	02 April Jane & Ethan, Teams & Families All considering Baptism, confirmation or vocations Tutshill School Loyalty	03 April Readers Fiona, James & families. Men's group Sheltered Housing Residents Hope