



Tidenham Parish Magazine
December 2021 / February 2022



Youth Organised Open Mic
13 November



Remembrance Sunday
14 November



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

Link Magazine
The Parish of Tidenham
December 2021/February 2022

£1.50

Inside this month... **... News of Parish Events & Plans**

... News from Vicar David:
The best of relationship



Christmas is coming...
...so come along and join our
celebrations in Tidenham Parish!



OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

St Mary & St Peter Tidenham Sunday: 9:00am	St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase Sunday: 6:00pm	St Luke's Tutshill Sunday: 11.00am
www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk		
Vicar	Revd David Treharne	01291 760034
Tidenham Vicarage, Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Chepstow NP16 7DH dtrevid@aol.com		
Associate Priest	Revd Brother Tom Clammer OC	01722 504938
Curate	Revd Nicki Bullivant	07936 787409
Reader	Fiona Gardiner	01291 624868
Reader	James Parsons	01291 622163
Children & Families Missioner	Emma Durbin	07488 373817
emmad.cyfm@gmail.com		
Youth Co-ordinator	Ethan Richards	
tidenhamyouth@gmail.com		
Church Warden	Nicholette Flatman	01291 621202
Church Warden	Brian Duerden	01291 623310
Deputy Warden Tidenham	Cate Phillips	01291 624260
Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	01291 622163
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PCC Treasurer	John Dempsey	
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Tidenham Choir	Roger Martin	01291 627800
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Marilyn Henderson	01291 620140
Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Marion Evans	01291 622252
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tidenhamparishnotices@gmail.com		
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tanya.rockymead@gmail.com		
The Link Advertising	Roger Martin	01291 627800



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CAP (Debt Help)	07539 477286
David Price	davidprice@capuk.org
Christian Aid	01291 629098
Care Home Services	01291 629098

Church Activities

Life Groups	01291 622163
Fairtrade	01291 622163

Other Local Churches

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Methodist	01291 627014	Roman Catholic	01291 622649
Sedbury Church	01594 529209	The Besom, Chepstow	07563 644860

Children & Youth

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PATA@Penguins		St Briavels School	01594 530428
Offa's Mead School	01291 622932	St John's School	01291 622045
Tutshill C of E School	01291 622593	Wyedean School	01291 625340
Toddler Groups			

Care Homes

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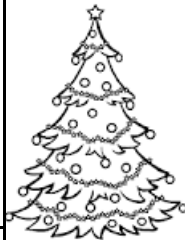
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Chepstow Library	01291 635730	Chepstow Leisure Centre	01291 635745
Forest of Dean Council	01594 810000	Gloucester Council	01452 425000
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Tanya White

Letter from the Editor
Christmas Greetings to everyone
and welcome to our
December/January/February
Link magazine.

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

An annual subscription of £5 is due with this edition

For ease of accounting at this time

Please pay this into the Tidenham Bank Account:

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Inside this month:

- **Vicar David writes about the best of relationship** (page 4-6)
 - **Sedbury Space** news (page 8-9)
- **Christmas Tree Festival** at Tidenham (page 24-25)
 - **COP 26** thoughts (page 36)

See what details and events you can discover and enjoy our magazine,

regards from **Tanya**



PLEASE NOTE Link Deadline—

All copy for the March-May 2022 edition of

The Link must be with me, Tanya White, by 7th February 2022.

Copy may be sent to tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill,
Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169)



From the Vicar

Vicar David Writes...



Vicar
Revd David Treharne

Christmas 2021.

A Message from Vicar David

A little gift of wisdom for this Christmas:

Fear less, hope more;

Eat less, chew more;

Whine less, breathe more;

Talk less, say more;

Hate less, love more;

And all good things will be yours.

Author unknown

Longing for Family and Longing for Community
– we need each other!

A year on from last year's 2020 Covid Christmas there has been remarkable progress with the Covid vaccine but there is still caution and concern about gathering. Yet, at the same time people are desperate to meet with others; to see family and/or meet with friends and neighbours and/or gather in community. This reinforces my constant mantra that relationship is SO important. Most of us human beings have not functioned as well as we could and should without good relationship which involves gathering with others, sharing meals together, laughing together, crying together, and sharing stories together. We have known the deficit in our lives from not hugging and hand shaking and we have felt poorer for the forced distance between us. As a Christian my relationship with God has been affected as faith is not just about 'me' and God, it's very much about 'we' and God!

The bottom line is that we need each other and that life and faith do not function as well as they could without the interdependence, friendship, companionship, support and presence of other human beings. What a gift we are, or at least should be, to one another, and how destructive and devastating it is when relationship goes badly wrong or doesn't work out!



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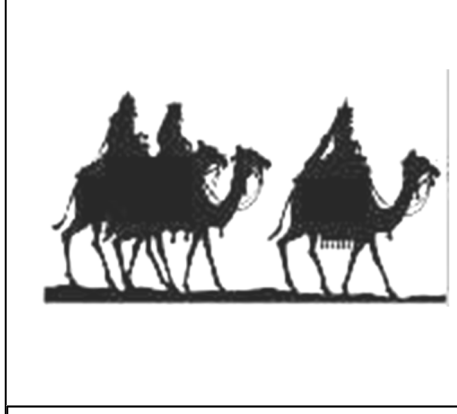
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The Best of Relationship

God himself, as revealed in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and revealed in the Holy Family at Bethlehem (Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus) displays, exemplifies and teaches the best of what it is to be in relationship, what it is to be family and what it is to be community! In the person of Jesus we receive cracking instruction of how to be in relationship with one another. He commands us to love another the implications of which are massive! The Bible fleshes out what this loving one another might look like...

Be devoted to one another, live in harmony with one another...., accept, instruct and use gifts for each other.
Greet, serve and share with one another;
bear one another's burdens, be kind to one another,
look to one another's interests, bear with each other,
encourage one another.



Build up, forgive, live in peace with one another, spur one another on to good works, confess sins to each other, pray and be hospitable to one another.

As we gather once again with family, friends, neighbours and as communities may we be profoundly inspired and transformed by Christ Jesus and the Gospel of relationship and community!

Gathering this Christmas 2021. HOORAY!

Whilst things are still precarious with Covid we are able to meet with family and friends, there are community gatherings and events and we are able to come together to worship in community.

Listed overleaf on page 7 at the time of writing are some of the special gatherings in addition to the usual times of worship.



And finally...

In the New Year look out for the Folk Club, the Men's Group activities and lots of other groups and activities meeting in the our churches, in Sedbury Space and elsewhere within the Parish!

I really hope you/we are able to gather to worship over the Advent and Christmas period. If you are able, I look forward to seeing you. If you are away, have safe travels, a lovely time and a healthy time. For those of you new to Tidenham Parish in the last year or so, we hope you feel welcome and very much part of all good things that are Tidenham Parish, both church and non church!

Thank you to everyone who make our communities work!!!

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; The radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; The belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

(attributed to Wilda English)

Merry Christmas and a very healthy and happy New Year

Your Priest and Vicar
Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham
with Beachley and Lancout
and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with
Hewelsfield & Brockweir

David



What if the wise men had been wise women?
Well, they would have asked for directions
and arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the
stable, brought a casserole and given the child much
more practical gifts!



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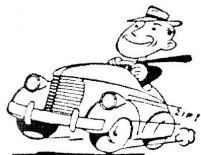
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Thurs 9 December. Ladies Pudding & Quiz Evening.

Look out for details!

Sun 12 December 4.30pm Christingle

followed by yummy refreshments, St Luke's Tutshill

Sun 19 December 3.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols,

followed by refreshments, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham

Also... look out for the return of the Christmas Trees in Tidenham Church...

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Bobble Hats, Wellies & Lanterns, St Luke's Tutshill (outside on the school field – children and adults encouraged to dress as a character in the Nativity story)

9.00pm Midnight Mass, St Luke's Tutshill

11.15pm Midnight Mass, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham

Christmas Day

9am BCP Communion, St Michael & All Angels' Tidenham Chase

10am Christmas Worship, St Luke's Tutshill

Lunchtime: Christmas Meal at Sedbury Space

Boxing Day (Sunday 26th Dec) 10.30am Simple Holy Communion with Carols, St Luke's Tutshill

2022

Sun 2 January 9.30am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham

Sun 2 January 11am Family Communion, St Luke's Tutshill

Sun 9 January 4pm Epiphany Carol Service, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham





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Check out our website:
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Sedbury Space News

With our new Wellbeing Chaplain, Nicki Bullivant now in post in the Parish, we at Sedbury Space are able to offer a Bible Study group which meets weekly on Monday 2 – 3.30 with communion being held the last Monday of the month session. In addition, there is an evening prayer session weekly on Tuesdays at 5.00 pm.

Our regular activities are going from strength to strength with a wonderful group of friends and volunteers enjoying socialising over a welcome cuppa.



Our next Memory Café will be 1st December at Sedbury Village Hall where we will be enjoying a session of Christmas crafting with Christmas music and refreshments.

Regular Groups & Activities

MONDAY: morning - cleaning!
2.00 - 3.00pm: Gentle exercise class
2.00 - 3.30pm: Bible Study Group

TUESDAY: 10am - 12pm - One Stop Café
5 - 5.30pm - Evening Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY: 2 - 3.30pm - Memory Café (1st of month)
2 - 3.30pm Shared Reading Group (last of month)
6.00 - 7.00pm Safe Space

THURSDAY: 11am - 12pm Health Walkers Café

If you are interested in any of these activities you will be very welcome and further information is available by calling Susan, Centre Manager on 07522 178639



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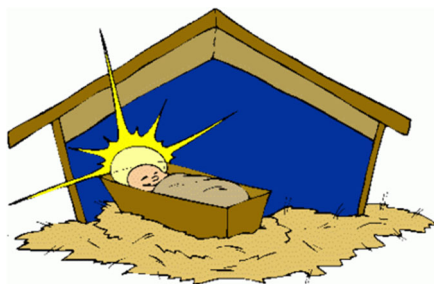
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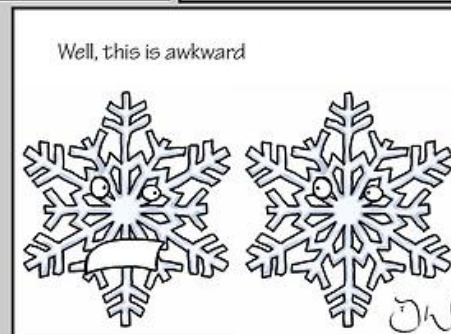
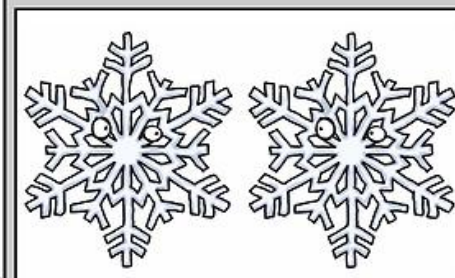
Sedbury Space Snippet 2

Hello,

Lee, Sedbury Space Trustee, here again.
At Sedbury Space we have been given some laptops to help do some Digital outreach and support. What that is and how we do it have been a couple of the issues we have been grappling with recently.

We are thinking that the best way to use them is to provide a "Space" where we can help by coming alongside those who need just a bit of guidance and reassurance to navigate the bumpy waters of the growing On-Line world.

There is an old Greek word for this, being a Paraclete (helper).
The greatest Paraclete is the Holy Spirit who is always there willing to be alongside us on the bumpy waters of life.



Cartoon from Dom White



Bullet Point News

† **Parish Website Address**

<http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk/>

† **Are You New to the Parish? WELCOME!**

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 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.

† **Wellbeing Project**

In September 2021 Revd Nicki Bullivant started her role as Wellbeing Chaplain in the Parish. The role involves post Covid recovery, enabling St Luke's to become a hub for wellbeing and to nurture faith. Many connections have already begun to be made and already there is a strong argument for looking to continue the project beyond a pilot year. Thank you to those who have supported Nicki and this initiative.

† **The Parish Church of St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham**

It is our firm hope and desire that in 2022 we will see some significant progress on the restoration and reordering of our Parish Church. The building has so much potential but needs a lot of investment. With God's help let's make it happen!

† **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 able to take place. Please do get in touch with Vicar David or one of the team if you are interested.

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

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

† **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!



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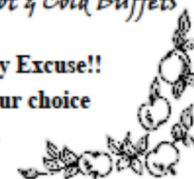
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† Illness

We would like to remind parishioners (church and non-church folks) 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.

† Churchyards:

Our churchyards are very special spaces for remembering departed loved ones. 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. ***The planting of trees is a particular issue which may cause damage to other graves and prevent a grave space being reopened in the future.*** Thank you.

† Financial Support for the Parish

If you would like to make a gift to the Church and also consider ongoing regular financial giving into 2022. 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.

† Legacy

We have been humbled and most grateful to have received legacy donations in the past. 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.

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>

Parish Facebook Group - all welcome to join this private group and post comments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

YouTube channel: ‘Tidenham Parish Online Church’ with videos to assist your devotions. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKjRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

St Briavels & Hewelsfield website www.stbandhchurches.org.uk



*Tanya's Link Prize Challenge
Christmas Greetings & Welcome to everyone*

Here is our December/February Wordsearch competition with words from the great carol
"O come, O come, Emmanuel!"

This time of the year we are thinking about, planning and celebrating Christmas. Let's celebrate here together. There are 39 different words from the carol; 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, Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BU
(e-mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)
to be in with a chance winning the prize!

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Herod's firework display causes problems for the Three Wise Men

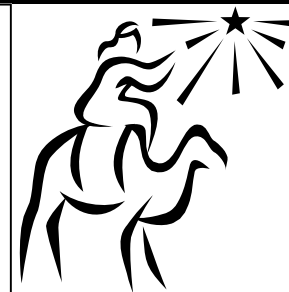


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In our Autumn 2021 Link Magazine you were gathering in 36 words from a **TEA PARTY**. When the remaining letters were collected in order you could discover **"ENGLISH BREAKFAST"**.

The winner drawn out of my hat was

Kay Hillier of Tutshill. So please enjoy the puzzle and even enter the competition!





RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

£754!!!

That is the sum raised for Ride and Stride this year.

When I wrote in the last Link Magazine we had only just started the sponsored activities and had no idea how much might be raised.

So, again, a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated and were so generous in their sponsorship.

Wendy Moppett, Local Organiser.



As the little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual: "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open-mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my email?"



+ Myanmar military shell Shan church for the second time:

The Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) attacked a church building in Pekhon Township, southern Shan State on 9 November, for the second time



+ Nine Pakistani Christians injured in shooting as Muslims attempt to seize land:



At least nine people were wounded, three critically, after a group of Muslims opened fire on Pakistani Christians in an attempt to force them to give up land in Punjab that has been handed down through generations of believers

+ Christians locked in prayer room by Hindu extremists in

Karnataka, India: Radical Hindutva extremists in Karnataka state, India forcibly detained Christians in a prayer hall, accusing the pastor of carrying out forced conversions.

+ Bible app removed from Apple's App Store in China:

A Christian software company has been forced to remove its Bible app from the Apple App Store in China after failing to gain the necessary authorisation from the Chinese government.



+ Egypt Cabinet committee

registers 63 more churches: Another 63 churches and church-affiliated buildings were licensed on Sunday 7 November by the Egyptian Cabinet committee overseeing the process.



Christian Newslines
Our Faith in Today's World

† **A billion worldwide at risk of malnutrition as global food crisis worsens:** An estimated billion people worldwide are facing



malnutrition as the global food crisis worsens, with 45 million already on the brink of famine

† **Armenian Genocide recognition bill passes first reading in UK House of Commons:** A bill to recognise the Ottoman

-era Armenian Genocide passed its first reading in the UK House of Commons on 9 November

† **Bill to recognise Armenian Genocide introduced in Israeli parliament:** A bill to officially recognise the Armenian Genocide was introduced on 9 November by six opposition members of Israel's Knesset (the Israeli parliament).

† **Pastors in India forced to document worshippers to avoid false claims of illegal conversions:** Pastors in India's

Madhya Pradesh state have started to document the names of Christians attending church services in order to protect themselves against false allegations of illegal religious conversions.



Children, Youth and Families' Missioner - Emma Durbin

A couple of weeks ago I was asked by an anxious 13 year old, " Well, what is the purpose of life anyway?". To be honest, it took me by surprise. At her age I was more worried about who was going to be No.1 on Top of the Pops.

On reflection, I was reminded of the last (traumatic) eighteen months. Do we really understand the impact this has had on us and our children and young people. Pre-Covid it was thought that 1 in 3 children will have already suffered trauma before the age of 18 years (Trauma being an overwhelming of the brain & nervous system which causes injury/ stress). Because Covid exacerbated external stresses such as social isolation, domestic abuse, lack of outdoor time, hobbies: mental health charities are now being overwhelmed by referrals.

So what is the answer? Is there an answer? Yes, thank God there is. PACE stands for 'Protective And Compensatory Experiences' (Buffers for Stress & Trauma). Recovery from trauma can be found through having a positive attachment to another person, unconditional love, Involvement in clubs, groups & community projects etc.

This isn't 'Neuro-Science' (well...it actually is!!) WE ARE THE ANSWER!! I believe that God has given us all the capability to make a positive difference in the world. Surely this is the purpose of life?

I am privileged to have recently been employed by Tidenham Parish Churches who run a Parent & Baby Group, Parent & Toddler group, Youth & Children's groups, Choirs, support in all 4 local schools, financially support charities and who have just employed a Well Being minister. The Churches in this community are trying to be part of the answer.

Maybe Christians aren't that bad after all??
Contact me on: emmad.cyfm@gmail.com or 07488 373817



News from our Parish Schools



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together
adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter

Well done all at Netball on 16th November; your commitment is impressive!



Year 7 net-ball club every Tuesday lunch! Come and practice ready for our inter house competition before Christmas ...



Wyedean School – 01291 636180



Tutshill Church of England Primary School

Healthy Eating

We are a healthy eating school and as such encourage children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) to bring a healthy snack at break time. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a fruit snack. Please could we request that parents do not send children sweets in their lunchboxes.

Please could we also request your co-operation in keeping our school a nut-free environment in the

interests of the safety of our pupils, some of whom suffer from a severe nut allergy.

Please avoid giving your children snacks or packed-lunches containing nuts (in any form) or foods with any nut content



Tutshill School – 01291 622593



music... Imagine the journey they might have taken and join them in the experience.

➤ Light a candle

The soft glow gives a new perspective and can be calming and reassuring. Remember those who cannot be with you and let the light shine into the darkness. If you're not in a space where real candles are appropriate, you can light a virtual candle on the Church of England's website churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle.

➤ Take a virtual tour of Bethlehem

See the place where Jesus came to earth and imagine what it might have been like to have been there. Try https://youtube/aLCBQ_w8BQQ. You can move your screen around the room and see for yourself the place Jesus was said to have been born.

➤ Get moving

Everyone loves a Christmas stroll—get your coat and shoes and head out for some fresh air, exercise and to appreciate the natural world. If you've overdone it on the lockdown chocolates or if you've missed company and want to see some smiling faces, get up and get out there.

➤ Follow the story:

The @glosdiocschools Twitter account is providing four short videos, released on every Tuesday in December, with each week telling a different part of the Christmas story. From Mary being visited by the angel to the birth of Jesus, these videos will help to create an individual response to the Christmas story. Every day they will tweet with links to stories, songs and ideas to bring comfort and joy at this very special time of year.

➤ Christmas services 2020 #fromyourcathedraltoyou

Gloucester Cathedral will provide a Programme of live streamed services, including Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist. There will also be on-line family and traditional carol services to enjoy. We hope, in these uncertain times, that public services will be able to take place in the cathedral in December, but if you are not able to come for whatever reason, the cathedral will bring Christmas to you.



the messenger

From the Diocese of Gloucester

The Messenger, produced monthly by the diocesan communications office, to see the whole bulletin www.gloucester.anglican.org

Comfort and joy

Christmas will be different for many people this year and uncertain times are all around us. But amid all the media messages and confusion, one thing we do know is that Christmas will never be cancelled. Jesus Christ came to earth as a tiny baby and nothing can undo that message of hope and love stronger than death.

We can all make Christmas magical by sharing God's love and hope with those around us. Simple acts of dropping off some flowers for a neighbour, writing a letter to someone stuck at home or providing a home cooked meal for a friend who's on their own, all make a difference.

Sharing is part of the joy of Christmas. Whatever position you are in, there will be something you can give to others; time to listen to someone, a donation to the local food bank, a smile and a compliment to the person you see on your walk, or a card for someone spending the season alone. These acts of kindness, no matter how small, can bring so much bring joy to ourselves and others and bring that Christmas spirit to life.

Five ways to celebrate Christmas at home

The Church of England is providing an online service for each Sunday of Advent, (www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services), a Christingle with the Children's Society, nine lessons and carols, and midnight services.

For those who are not internet inclined, Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the CofE.

> Mary and Joseph, the journey

Choose a couple of toys, or ornaments to be Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. Each day they can do something along the way—sing songs, have a picnic, look at the stars, feed the donkey, sleep in a tent, tell jokes, cross a stream, read a map, play I Spy, listen to Christmas



Proud to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by our brave men and women Armistice Day and

Remembrance Sunday



15th November was the day.. Dragon, Unicorn and Elf classes all began

Offa's Mead - 01291 622932



ST JOHN'S ON THE HILL

ODD SOCKS DAY!

On 15th November 2021 we began Anti-Bullying Week. Kicking off this important campaign, St John's pupils (and the odd teacher) are all took part in Odd Socks Day to celebrate what makes us all unique and to spread kindness throughout the School and beyond.



We're very proud to

announce that St John's Year 8 pupils, Mali and Isabelle have both been selected for the U13 Gloucestershire Academy Centre for hockey. Their selection was confirmed following assessment centres last May and June followed by trials in September. They are delighted to be chosen!



St John's on the Hill School
01291 622045



War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BN

01291 629134

Tutshill Community Pre-School

Our Ethos:

W.I.L.D - Wonder, Inspiration, Love of Learning, Discovery

We are Tutshill Community Preschool, where children's love of learning is inspired through play and the outdoors.

We are a community Pre-school that caters for children aged 2-5. We believe that learning through play supports children to develop into resilient, creative learners. We are dedicated to providing children with opportunities to:

- Follow their own learning path
 - Develop their resilience
 - Inspire their creativity
 - Learn persistence
- Become energetic and enthusiastic learners
 - Foster their self-esteem



TIDENHAM HISTORICAL GROUP Evening meetings from September to April are normally* held on the **LAST Tuesday** of the month at 7.30 in **Sedbury Village Hall, on King Alfred's Road, Sedbury NP16 7AQ.** Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Liz on 01291 621694, Carol on 01291 623736, or e-mail info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk.



tidenham historical group



Wishes everyone a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and New Year

VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS 2022

- Tuesday 25th January 7.30 "Recent archaeological and **LIDAR** discoveries in the local area" by John Hoyle
- Tuesday 22nd February 7.30 Developments on the Wye Valley Railway & Walkway
- Tuesday 29th March 7.30 "Brockweir's Ships" by John Norman
- Tuesday 26th April 7.30 "Chepstow in World War 2" by Naylor Firth



Look out for our tree in the Christmas Festival at the parish church of St Mary and St. Peter.

(left: December 2019 entry at Tidenham)



Q. What nationality is Santa Claus?
A. North Polish



CHASE GARDENING CLUB

For the first time since February 2020, members were able to meet indoors at Chase



School and, another first, at 2.30pm instead of our usual evening time. This experiment seemed generally popular including with our speaker, Adam Alexander, formerly of St Briavels but now of Itton. His subject was “Gardening above the Estuary” and described the conversion of a 3 acre plot from a neglected meadow into a thriving vegetable empire (with only a small area conceded to Mrs Alexander for flowers). His passion is saving rare varieties so a lot of the vegetables are grown for seed and members were able to buy some heritage seed varieties. He has a particular connection with Syria and has been able to supply Syrian refugees now spread all over the world with their native and preferred forms of vegetable seed to provide familiar comfort in a strange world.

After a break for tea and biscuits, the next couple of meetings were discussed. November is our long planned and much postponed venture at the Drill Hall for Nick Bailey’s talk on “365 Days of colour in your garden” and the covid arrangements were explained. Being in Wales, the regulations are different and covid passports are likely to be required.

The 17th December meeting will be a more relaxed affair at Chase School; it will start at 2pm and members are requested to bring a plate of food to share. There will be a speaker from Far Hill Flowers and a demonstration, the usual grand raffle and a quiz. Mulled wine and soft drinks will be provided and it should be a pleasantly festive occasion.

Please remember that there is no meeting of the Club in January but afternoon meetings will resume in February, all being well. For further information, please contact Bob Elliott on 01291 625659 or Bill Kerr on 01291 621100.



WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Stuck for a New Year resolution? Why not give bell ringing a go? It’s great physical and mental exercise. It’s a hobby with a social life and new friendships – ringers tend to be a convivial bunch. It’s an opportunity to be part of a team providing a service for others, especially for life’s great moments. It’s done all over the UK (and some other places). And it’s FUN!

Great strength is not required. Ringing is a skill that takes time to develop, with some taking longer than others, but once you have the basics you will be welcomed into bell towers wherever you go.

Ringers come in all shapes and sizes – beginners can start around age 10, or at any age upward from there.

Why not come along to a Tuesday evening practice at Tidenham, 7.30–9.00pm?

You will be most warmly welcomed should you wish to come and ‘have a go’. More information from Cate Phillips: 01291 624260.





Life Groups

Parish Life Group Meetings meeting weekly
Please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- **Sunday** 7.30pm Life Group for Men!
Online - James Parsons - James.darsie@gmail.com
- **Monday** 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space
– Nicki nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk
- **Monday** 7.30pm New Life Group - Vicar David - dtrevd@aol.com
- **Tuesday** 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies -
juliaparsons727@gmail.com
- **Wednesday** 10.15am Food for Thought Life Group, Café on the Hill
- Vicar David - dtrevd@aol.com
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona 624868 or Wendy 623642
for venue & topic
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White -
tanya.rockymead@gmail.com



One night Freda went carol singing.
She knocked on the door of a house
and began to sing.

A man with a violin in his hand came to the
door. Within half a minute tears were streaming
down his face!

Freda went on singing for half an hour,
every carol she knew – and some she didn't.
At last she stopped! "I understand," she said softly.
"you are remembering your happy childhood
Christmas days. You're a sentimentalist!"
"No, he snivelled. "I'm a musician!"



Chase WI

After a summer with members wishing we were back to normal by returning to the Chase for our meetings our wish was granted in October. On a fabulous day we had our first proper meeting since March 2020. Sheila Bynon our President warmly welcomed us back. Our first speaker was Lisa Bennett from Chase Farm where the family run a dairy farm. Lisa is in charge of a very successful ice-cream business which she sells from the farm and different local outlets. She explained the process and we ended up by having tasters of different varieties which we much enjoyed. It was good to know that Lisa had managed to keep her business going despite the pandemic. We thank our hard working committee for keeping the show on the road during lock down. They organised coffee mornings in Chepstow and environs. We also thank our Secretary for keeping us in touch with GFWI in Gloucester and National in London on various events.

The Annual meeting in November was slightly different this year. We usually vote for Officers and Committee but our hardworking President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee have all kindly agreed to stand again until next November. They work extremely hard for us and we much appreciate it.

Our speaker was Dr. Helen Mcarty talking about Healthy Eating. We usually provide cakes for the Forest of Dean Hospice but because of the pandemic we will be providing small prizes for the bingo sessions at the Hospice.

The first outing this year is this month and is a visit to the Hop Pocket Shopping Village and Chase Gin Distillery where we will have lunch and tasters! For our Christmas lunch we will go as usual to the Abbey Mill at Tintern. Looking ahead to next summer we will be planting a tree for the Queen's Jubilee and our fiftieth anniversary which actually was last year but we couldn't celebrate. Its lovely to be back to normal and able to meet up with our friends at our meetings. and

incidentally we have 4 new members which is great. For further in formation please call Poppy Moss, 01291 628739.

Chase Women's Institute meet
on 2nd Monday of the month
at 7.15pm
Chase Old School



COP 26

Can you remember what was agreed, what difference we as a nation have promised to make? The conference finished on Friday 12th November and is now out of the daily news reports. There were so many promises of investment into Climate Change prevention initiatives. Our government committed us to transparency so we can't hide our CO2 emissions overseas. Will we keep those promises? Sadly we have not fully honoured those made in 2009 at COP15.

There is hope though. We don't have to wait for the government to make a difference, we can. Through our sustainable choices and actions we can make a positive difference to our climate, but how?

Here are a few ideas, let me know what others you can find to try.

- We can walk, cycle, take a train or catch a bus instead of using our cars, even sometimes is better than never.
- If we need to take our cars we can share lifts or drive part of the way and then walk. This saves fuel and therefore releases fewer emissions into the atmosphere.
- Exercise also warms us up so we need less heating in our homes, or put on an extra jumper and turn the heating down a degree or two anyway.
- We can cook in batches, freeze and reheat portions as required. This leads to less food waste as well as using less cooking fuel.
- These can all save us money as well as helping reduce our own CO2 output, and maybe improve our health.
- Where does our food come from? Buying local, seasonal ingredients where possible, buying Fairtrade, and by avoiding foods that are flown into the country reduces our food miles.
- All Fairtrade produce has to be produced sustainably. To be registered Fairtrade, farmers have to reduce their use of fertilisers and pesticides and work to sustain their own environment. They are reducing their carbon footprint, and so ours when we buy their produce.
- The same is true of Fairtrade clothing; see companies like Thought Clothing or Nomads Clothing, or others. They might cost a little more but if we buy less and ethically we reduce our own emissions and CO2 footprint.

If we all do something new to reduce our CO2, then together we can change and care for this beautiful world God has given us.

Julia Parsons (01291 622163)



Folk Club

St Luke's Church
Saturday, 12th February 2022
6 - 8.15pm
(doors open 5.30pm)



At the moment, Bring your own Refreshments...

Contact Steven & Jenny Shaw (07474 608797) or
Bill & Tanya White (01291 623169)



WANTED.....

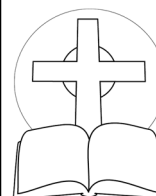
With people being able to gather in church again, we are starting to rethink our church music. We would like to be able to offer new music, encourage new singers, welcome new instrumentalists.

Do you like to sing or play? Would you like to join in the discussion or, better still, join us.

If you would like to find out more please contact me Wendy Moppett. I would love to talk to you.

wendy.moppett@btinternet.com

01291 623642



Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the
heavenly lights, who does not change like
shifting shadows.

James 1: 17



Would you like a House Blessing?



There has been a long tradition within Christianity of blessing a house and home which may involve praying in each room/ area of the house and praying for the inhabitants. Sometimes holy water may be used in the ceremony. In some parts of the world homes are blessed every year at Epiphany (6th January) with the intriguing chalking of the door ritual – see below!

As Christians we should want our homes to be places of peace and sanctuary, rest and hospitality, welcome and love. We want them to be places which the Lord inhabits with his loving presence. Sadly, some homes have some very bad things happen in them and there can be sense that the place needs to be cleansed and the space (s) given over to the reign of Christ afresh.

If you would like one of the clergy to come and bless your home whether you are new to it or now then get in touch with us. It's a good and lovely thing to do!

*A Beautiful Prayer in a new home
written by a someone local!*

Lord God, I thank you for bringing me to my new home and I ask that you give me the skills and the patience to make it a happy, peaceful and safe home.

I pray for your loving protection as my guiding Shepherd. You are my hiding place and under your wings I will find refuge.

Protect me from troubles and keep evil from me.

Fill this house with your Spirit and your love.

May your goodness and mercy surround me daily.

***My trust is in you God and I give thanks to you for your love and protection always,
in Jesus' name. Amen***



Your Financial Giving to God's Church

I am very hopeful about our future as a Christian community here in Tidenham Parish. There are some wonderful signs of life, great opportunities to minister the love of God and a committed band of pilgrims willing to follow Jesus and be the church gathered and scattered.

Much of our ministry and mission in the Parish is FREE..., but it is costly! The vicar, our buildings, our work with Children, Youth, and families, wellbeing and pastoral care is largely paid for by our local Christian giving.

As we move in 2022 and face the challenges and opportunities ahead I invite us all to consider afresh our financial commitment to God's church in this Parish. I believe that God has given us what we'll need... some of it is in other people's pockets and some of it is in our pockets, back accounts, investments, bricks and mortar. Please think about all your giving, including your financial giving to the church!!! I am considering my financial giving.

The former Bishop of Sheffield Jack Nicholls said, "Our generosity is measured not by what we give, but by what we have left when we have given."

We invite all members to give regularly and electronically if possible.

Here are some giving options -

Bank Account - Tidenham Parochial Church

Sort Code 30-91-89 Account Number 00304754

Standing Order & Gift Aid Forms available to download from Website

Website - <http://easydonate.org/COLLECT>

Text / SMS donations - To donate £5, text COLLECT to 70970 or to donate £10, text COLLECT to 70191

Parish Treasurer - John Dempsey, tidenhamtreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you to all those of you who have given generously and regularly over the last year to help make things happen. Thank you!!



Vicar David



Highlights from PCC meeting in September, October & November 2021

PCC members:-

- † PCC approved the appointment of Revd Nicki Bullivant as the new Wellbeing Chaplain covering the whole of Tidenham parish. Nicki started this new role on 27th September.
- † It was noted with sadness that Wives & Friends had decided to disband after 46 years; they held their last meeting – a celebration in St Luke’s room, Tutshill church - in September.
- † Thanked Clare Presley for all her hard work over the last 3 years as Parish administrator and wished her well for the future.
- † PCC agreed to pay our parish share for 2022 in full.
- † PCC members and the local church team met in Tutshill church for a full day review with Milly Sinclair, considering how to move forward post Covid.
- † PCC thanked John-Ross Henderson for organising and leading First Aid courses appropriate to our church setting.
- † Approved new Health & Safety policy documents for our three churches.
- † Welcomed the Chancellor’s visit to Tidenham church in September to review our proposed new disabled access.
- † Agreed arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and services over Christmas.
- † Noted that the churchwardens were formally admitted to office by Archdeacon Hilary on 14 October.
- † Received presentations from Ethan Richards our Youth Co-ordinator and Emma Durbin our Youth, Children and Families Missioner on their current work.
- † Agreed to buy a GoodBox card reader for our churches to make it easier for people to make a one off donation to church funds and to arrange for Tutshill church to have BT broadband.

- the next meeting is on 06 December



Have you heard of ‘Chalking the Door’ at Epiphany

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition that on (or near) the feast of the Epiphany Christians pray for God’s blessing on their homes, marking the door post with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we are made). The main door of the home is marked with the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) and the numerals of the New Year, connected with crosses:



The main door of the home is marked with the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) and the numerals of the New Year, connected with crosses:

For Example: 20 + C + M + B + 22

The 20 is the millennium and the century
 The 22 is the decade and the year
 The crosses can stand for the 4 seasons all belonging to God as well as starting for Christ
 The C, M and B stand for the legendary names of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar - and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house."



In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this ritual, doors are marked with chalk as a sign of inviting God’s presence and blessing into the home. The markings might be removed at Pentecost or last throughout the year.



Friends of St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham
Registered Charity no 1159658

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2021

St Mary and St Peter Church, Tidenham



OPENING CONCERT

FRIDAY DEC. 17th

7.30pm

Alison Wray (Soprano)

Roger Martin (Baritone)

Marjorie Duerden (Piano/Keyboard)



**Featuring beautiful Christmas solos and duets
including well-known carols and readings**

**Please do come along and enjoy the music and a glass of
wine! – admission FREE (donations welcomed) but PLEASE**

**OBTAIN A NUMBERED TICKET - CONTACT Marje and Brian
(Tel. 623310, e-mail bduerden@doctors.org.uk)**



Write to your MP

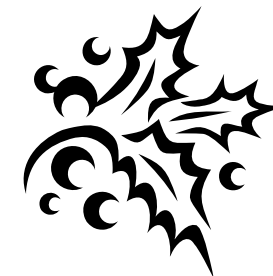
While we can all do our bit to help, this is a problem that needs to be prioritised by those in power. By writing to your local MP, you can draw attention to the injustices you're seeing in your community and urge them to speak up on your behalf. If you can, why not arrange a face-to-face meeting with your MP and have a conversation about poverty concerns in your area?

*Provide families with
emergency food and fuel*

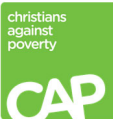
This year, CAP's Christmas appeal is raising funds to enable local churches to deliver emergency support to families and individuals in desperate need. £45 could provide a single adult with an emergency food shop, £115 could

feed a family of four, and £60 could help heat someone's home with an emergency fuel top-up. Together we can make sure families won't go cold or hungry this Christmas. Visit capuk.org/donate to give.

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



6 year old Beth Marsh was asked what she was going to give her brother for Christmas.
"I don't know, she answered.
"What did you give him last year?"
"Chicken pox."



The Cost of Living Crisis: four ways to help those hit

David Price (07539 477286)

We're all aware that the cost of living in the UK has risen significantly in recent months, with prices for energy and food at the highest we've seen in many years. But did you know the devastating impact this is having on low income households in particular? According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the rise in costs could see those who are already struggling financially having to pay up to £700 more per year.

On top of this, many of the protections put in place to shield those on low incomes during the pandemic have now come to an end, including the vital £20 per week Universal Credit uplift. The reality is, with bills up and income down this Christmas, thousands across the UK will struggle to feed their families and heat their homes. So what can we do? Here are four ways you can help right now.

Donate to your local food bank

We've all seen the news about the growing level of child poverty in the UK and sadly the number of families relying on food banks right now is higher than ever. Find out where your nearest food bank is and how you can support them. If you're not able to give financially, donations of non-perishable groceries and toiletries will most likely be welcome. Look out for donation baskets in your local supermarket, or take your items directly to the food bank.

Check on your neighbours

Through our work at CAP, we know that debt and poverty can be an isolating experience. Many people feel ashamed or embarrassed about their situation and are reluctant to ask for help. It's important to check in on those in your community who may be particularly vulnerable, and encourage them to seek the support they need sooner rather than later. CAP's free helpline number is 0800 328 0006 and capuk.org/help has more information about the services CAP provides.

Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Tidenham



HURRAH! HURRAH! Christmas is coming & the Christmas Trees are back

Preparations are well under way for the 2021

Christmas Tree Festival

The dates for viewing the trees are (at the moment):

Saturday 18th December

Monday 20th December

Tuesday 21st December

Wednesday 22nd December

Thursday 23rd December

Wednesday 29th December

Thursday 30th December

The Church will be open between 2pm and 4pm

The theme this year is Games and there will be a 'Guess the Game' competition.

As well as the trees, we are asking the Parish to make angels to decorate the Church. They can be paper, knitted, crocheted, any medium and size you fancy as long as they are mainly

white and with lots of glitter.

There are loads of ideas on on the internet: check out

YouTube

craftbits.com for a crochet pattern

feltmagnet.com (50 awesome angel crafts)

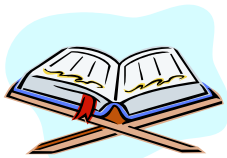
funEZcrafts.com

These are just a few suggestions and we're sure you have lots of your own fantastic ideas

Thank you
Anne & Linda



Registered charity Number: 115958



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials & Thanksgiving Services

Joyce (Joy) Winsome Hunt (106)

Friday 24th September 2021 Funeral service at ST Luke's, Tutshill followed by Cremation at Langstone Vale

Shirley Patricia Smith (65)

Thursday 30th September 2021 Funeral service at ST Luke's Tutshill followed by burial at Chase

Eileen May Hawker (90)

Thursday 30th September 2021 Funeral at Forest Crematorium

Thelma Linda Yarwood (87)

Sunday 3rd October 2021 Burial as ashes St John's Beachley

Bruce Allen (54)

Friday 8th October 2021 Thanksgiving Service, St Luke's Church, Tutshill

Patrick John Kent (87)

Thursday 28th Oct 2021 Funeral Service at St Luke's Tutshill followed by burial at Chase

John Norman Williams (83)

Tuesday 16th November 2021 Funeral Service at St Luke's Tutshill followed by burial at Chepstow Cemetery

Eric Lucas (94)

Friday 19th November 2021 Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham followed by Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels', Tidenham Chase

Further register entries will appear in the March 2022 edition of the Link



The Delta variant is spreading like wildfire in South Africa. Currently, in our household, my brother, his girlfriend, and my 13-year-old nephew have COVID. We are all isolating. Thankfully, they are recovering well, and their symptoms were not too bad. Bishop George reports that the Delta variant has also hit Tanzania very hard. He tells me that when they wake up in the morning, they are deeply thankful to God, as they never know who will be alive the following day.

Prayer point: Holy Spirit, we see your hand in the work to end COVID-19. Lift the spirits of all individuals who devote themselves to this effort, and help their work to achieve even greater results. Be with those who are ill and help them to make a full recovery.




Thank you to everyone who helps with the Foodbank.
Current needs:

- UHT Milk
- Fruit Juice
- Tinned Vegetables (Potatoes, Peas, Tomatoes)
- Coffee & Tea
- Toiletries

chepstowfoodbank@gmail.com

Activities - how the charity spends its money: The Charity accepts donations of non-perishable food from members of the public directly or via supermarket collections. These donations are sorted into food-types and checked for end date, then stored. Doctors and social workers issue vouchers to those in urgent need of food-support to present at the foodbank distribution centre where they are given 3-days worth of food.



Found in another church's notices:
"The prophecy class has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances."



News from Heather Johnstone Church Mission Society

Here in South Africa, I recently learned of a project in an extremely deprived community called Ocean View in the Southern Cape Peninsula, where two remarkable women are doing the most extraordinary work.

Their feeding scheme is supported by Ladles of Love and feeds thousands of people every day – the two women cook up pots and pots of flavoursome, nutritious food, which is then shared with scores of women who open their homes as serving stations. Within minutes of the food arriving, people of all ages bearing bowls line up to receive a meal. People with so little are filled with so much gratitude and camaraderie – it is very humbling.

Praise points: Give thanks for the many warriors who, despite their own difficult circumstances, show so much love and compassion to the hungry and destitute. Pray that their good work might continue.



Ocean View Volunteers

I have been volunteering for a Christian NGO called Living Hope who work in five disadvantaged areas, including Ocean View. Recently, they seconded me to assist at the COVID vaccination clinic in the area. The clinic is under-resourced, and the staff are run ragged, but extremely keen to vaccinate the community, many of whom are malnourished and have co-morbidities. It is an honour to assist them with registration, admittances and administration.



Holy Matrimony



**Rowen SALT
&**

Dominic Robert ALIBHAI

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at St Mary St Peter Tidenham

Holy Baptism



Jacks

3rd October 2021 ST Luke's Tutshill

Prayer Diary



See overleaf for December prayers and loose page in centre for January & February 2022 prayers...

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

A prayer Diary is not everyone's cup of tea. There are as many different ways of praying as there are different types of people. This Prayer Diary is just one way of reminding us to pray for different aspects of our church parish and community and it is not exhaustive, so please let me have feedback, negative as well as positive

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



Tidenham Parish Prayer Diary

"where the river flows everything will live"

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 November Advent Vicar David St Michael's congregation British Legion Hope	29 November PCC Members Church Toddler Groups Covid & long-suffering Covid sufferers Love	30 November Tidenham congregation Home Communion Local businesses Joy	01 December Fiona, James & families Pastoral Assistants & Visiting Team Housebound, ill and lonely people Peace	02 December Parish communications Persecuted Christians Offa's Mead Academy Deepening our faith	03 December Emma, Ethan, their families & teams Churches Together All awaiting health procedures Patience	04 December Fiona, James & families Funeral ministries Doctors' surgeries Good bereavement & end of life care
05 December Emma, Ethan, their families & Teams St Luke's congregation Beachley Barracks Peace	06 December Vicar David & family Rev Nicki Bullivant, Rev David Rees & Br Tom Clammer Chase Old School & Clubs Healing	07 December Rev Nicki Bullivant Jane Penny @ Lydney Folk Club Hospitals we use Compassion	08 December Fiona, James & their families Friends of Tidenham Chase Memorial Hall & Clubs Welfare of prisoners & refugees	09 December Pastoral Assistants & Visiting Team Sedbury Space Riverside Nursery Chepstow Hospital Love	10 December Emma, Ethan, their families & Teams Diocesan Officers St John's on the Hill School Joy	11 December Bishop Rachel & future of Benefice & Deanery Tidenham Historical Group Hope
12 December Rev Davis Rees St Briavels & Hewelsfield Leisure facilities Peace	13 December Vicar David & family Life Groups Local shops Discipleship	14 December Heather Johnstone (CMS Link) Church Wardens School Christmas Assemblies Discernment	15 December Pastoral Assistants Communion visits Sedbury Village Hall & Clubs Joy	16 December Tanya Link Magazine Home Communion Parish & District Councillors Hope	17 December Emma, Ethan, their families & Teams Rev Nicki & family SARA & Emergency Services Love	18 December PCC Secretary & Treasurer Sedbury Space Sedbury Village Hall & Clubs Generosity
19 December Parish Carol Services Our musicians & choirs Allotments Peace	20 December Vicar David & family Rev Nicki & family Castleford Care Home Hope	21 December Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Church Wardens Social Workers & Carers Love	22 December Pastoral Assistants & Visiting Team PCC Secretary & Treasurer Leisure Facilities Joy	23 December PCC Members Sedbury Space Christmas Dinner preparation All our children Foodbank	24 December Vicar David & family Church administration helpers Local pubs Hope	25 December CHRISTMAS DAY Love, Joy & peace to all people Our families
26 December James, Fiona & families Administration All our mothers & fathers Good parenting	27 December Vicar David & family Funeral Ministry Funeral Directors Sensitivity	28 December PCC Church Wardens Tutshill School Generosity	29 December Fiona, James & families Rev Nicki & family Wydean School Environmental Care	30 December Churchwardens Pastoral & Visiting Teams Emergency Services Goodness	31 December Emma, Ethan their families & Teams Sedbury Space Hungry people Family	01 January 2022 Churchwardens Fundraising for church building projects Housing Associations Happy New Year