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on
31st October
2023

Link Magazine The Parish of Tidenham Winter 2023/24



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Link Magazine The Parish of Tidenham Winter 2023/24

Inside this month...

Christmas Greetings to all

... Vicar David encourages us to
Pray this Christmas

... Christmas Trees at Tidenham

*Christmas
Blessings*



Rebekah Woolcock

St Mary & St Peter Tidenham Sunday: 9:00am	St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase Sunday: Winter 4.00pm	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 dtrevd@aol.com		
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Curate	Revd Nicki Bullivant	07936 787409
Associate Priest	Revd Canon Tudor Griffiths	07718 906066
Associate Priest	Revd Anna Griffiths	07718 906066
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Reader	James Parsons	01291 446300
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Church Warden	Brian Duerden	01291 623310
Deputy Warden Tidenham	Cate Phillips	01291 624260
Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	01291 446300
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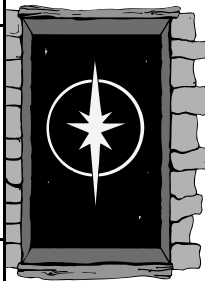


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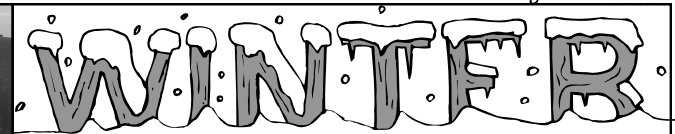
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Tanya White



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

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

Annual Link costs need to increase in line with our budget to £6

Inside this month:

- This time you are invited to use the whole Link Magazine as a "Prayer Diary"
- Vicar David invites us to Pray this Christmas (pages 4-6)
- Sedbury Space Christmas Day Community Dinner (page 8)
 - St Luke's Coffee Morning (page 15)
 - Parish Lunch, including a Christmas Lunch (page 20)
- Remember our Little Larder at St Luke's supporting our community in these difficult times

Annual subscription of £6
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Alternatively give this to your Link Distributor or to me...

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

Love from **Tanya**



PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Spring Link** (March 2024-May 2024) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 2nd February 2024**
 Email: 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... Pray this Christmas

In the midst of darkness the light still comes
As we approach Christmas I am personally only too aware of waning heat and the waning light. The seasonal changes seem to me to match what is going on in our world from Ukraine/Russian to the Middle East, or Sudan to Central America. Together with additional trials from the economic hardships and disparities to the mental health challenges the season seems to resonate... the darkness increasing and the light fading.

Yet, as I have said before, it is no coincidence that the church places the season and celebration of Christmas right in the middle of the darkest of days. **At the darkest moments of the year we recall, we remember and we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, God incarnate, into the world! It is indeed Joy to the World!**



Jesus is the Light of the World and his light and life continues to shine in hearts, minds, communities and situations that are bleak with darkness.

My prayer this year as in every year is that the light of Christ would shine in your life and in the lives of those who are living in darkness, whatever form that darkness takes and wherever that darkness is located.

You are the Light of the World

Jesus called himself the Light of the World, but he also said to his disciples, "you are the light of the world." My prayer therefore extends to me being a bearer of the light of God day to day. As Vicar and a leader of the church in the Parish of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield I also hope and pray that



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the people of God would be shining lights day to day through the way you/we live our lives; bringing the light of Christ wherever we find ourselves placed during the course of daily life. Though being a light may at times be blooming hard, very counter cultural and perhaps at odds with what's going on around us. Jesus said as much!

Pray... for the light to shine

Whilst we can and hopefully will hear the call to be light bearers (a term perhaps unhelpfully also known as Lucifers!!) one thing we can all do is pray for that light to shine in us, amongst us, around us and beyond us.

Every sad and dreary news item you end up watching or listening to pray for the light of God to penetrate and intrude the darkness.

Every Christmas card you send and/or receive pray for the light of God to shine on those persons and their situations, known or unknown to you.

Every candle you light or Christmas lights you switch on pray a prayer for someone somewhere... for light to come into the darkness.

I happily repeat this Karl Barth quote:
"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

I invite you to see every page you scan or read in this magazine as a prayer page. Lift up the peoples and places you see. Pray for the light of God to shine brightly upon them.

This Christmas join us in celebrating the Light of the World and praying for light in our world.

A word about next year... 2024

2024 is going to be a year with a focus on worship in the Parish of Tidenham. May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit renew our individual and corporate relationship with him.



And finally,

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

Thank you to all who make our parishes/communities work so well. Thank you to all of you who bring Christ's light, love, joy, peace and hope. Thank you to all our financial supporters. Thank you to all my colleagues, co-workers, volunteers, fellow disciples and fellow travelers on the road.

May each of you know the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ in your heart and in your home.

May you know the Light of the World in any darkness you may be facing and his loving presence in a special way over these days!

*Merry Christmas
and a very healthy and happy New Year
David,
your Vicar*



Your Priest and Vicar
Revd David Treharne
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and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with
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2024: A Year of Worship

"All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord." Part of a Common Worship Eucharistic Prayer

As part of our Parish Vision the year 2024 will have a focus on worship. As God's people in the Parish of Tidenham we seek to worship God the Father through Jesus Christ in the power Holy Spirit (our relational God) in our daily lives; being transformed individually and as a gathered community through encounter with profligate grace.

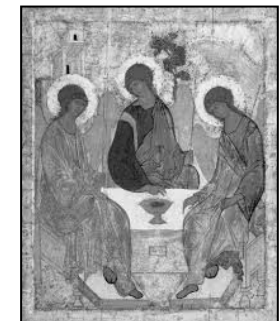
In practical terms this means we will give some attention to developing our relationship with God through individual and corporate worship practices, individual and corporate prayer and living a life of worship.

Personally, my hope and prayer is that we are renewed in our worship; that as we become more aware of, and receptive to, God's presence in our individual lives and our corporate life together we will experience transformation.

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." William Temple 1881-1944

The Parish Vision is to live life together in the flow of God's love. We endeavour to try to do this through:

- Transforming Worship (2024)
- Authentic Discipleship (2023)
- Building up Capacity
- Loving Community (2022)
- Engaging Mission (2025)





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Centre Manager Karen
Chadwick on 07522 178639

SED BURY SPACE News



You are warmly invited to a free community Christmas Day dinner Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall
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12 noon on Christmas day
Monday 25th December 2023

All Welcome
Free volunteer transport available!
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➤ **Christmas day lunch**
The popular Sedbury Space Christmas day lunch returns this year. Please contact Karen at Sedbury space or Nikki Bullivant if you would like to attend or are interested in volunteering on the day or preparing veg etc on Christmas eve.



➤ **Sedbury Space were winners** at this years Forest Volunteer wards hosted by FVAF. Sedbury Space were awarded Grassroots Voluntary group of the year, and the award was collected by Susan Riordan and Christine Gray.



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➤ **Digibus Service.** The digibus people have visited us to help support with IT and tech issues, eg. helping with connecting to bluetooth, printing bus timetables, and staying vigilant with internet security. This has been very much welcomed, and Andrew will return with his laptop, knowledge and friendly smile on Tuesday 12th December from 11am until 2pm at Sedbury Space.



➤ **Forest of Dean Baby Bank.** We are now a collection point for this service which helps to redistribute clothes, nappies, and equipment to families in need. We have already had 2 collections. As well as dropping off at Sedbury Space, donations can be left in St Luke's Church porch in bags clearly labeled, Forest of Dean Baby bank.

➤ **Helping Families in the Forest of Dean and Wye valley** since 2017, the Forest of Dean Baby Bank is a safety net for families who need help with baby essentials such as nappies, wipes, and toiletries, as well as baby related equipment like prams and high chairs. We are gratefully supported by We also help with providing good quality donated clothes from 0-14 years including shoes and school uniform for a range of local schools.

How to get help: Find us on Facebook @fodbabybank
Yourbabyfod@outlook.com
07789 465127 Mon-Fri 9am-11am Forestbabybank.org

➤ **Forthcoming plans and events.** Sedbury Space are looking forward to entering not one but two Christmas trees for this year's Christmas tree festival! Our happy crafters and memory café are keen to get crafting and decorating, and we also have our newest and youngest Duke of Edinburgh volunteer Eliza to help us.

➤ We have **Chepstow ukelele club** entertaining us at the One stop café on Tuesday 12th December, and Sue and Trevor the following week on the 19th December.

➤ **Gardening Club.** In 2024. We are looking for keen gardeners to join a **gardening club.**



Bullet Point News

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

It has been lovely to have people getting in touch once again about getting their baby christened or perhaps having a wedding in church. Many congratulations if you're at this stage of life! Please do get in touch with Vicar David or one of the team.

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!

✝ **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.

✝ **Legacy**

We have been humbled and most grateful to have received legacy donations in the past. Perhaps you might consider leaving a financial gift when you die which can help towards the costs of mission and ministry for the future, particularly at this challenging time.



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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/UCkRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

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

BELLRINGING



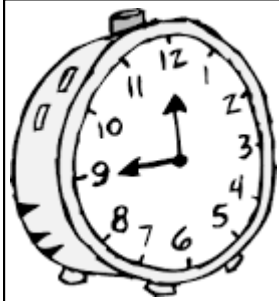
Bells are part of the traditional Christmas 'soundscape' – Ding dong merrily! – and indeed part of worship at St Mary & St Peter's on most Sundays. But how many people realise that church bells are rung by means of a system of pulleys and wheels known as 'full-circle' ringing, a peculiarly British invention? By altering how far up each bell is allowed to swing, ringers are able to control the timing of the next strike and thereby change the order in which the bells are heard, weaving patterns of sound – rather like the ribbons on an old-fashioned maypole.

In Victorian times, bellringing was an almost entirely male activity and ringing heavy bells seen as a sign of manliness – possibly why some clergy regarded ringers as drunken undesirables! Nowadays, nearly a half of all bellringers are women and when we combine with our fellow ringers of Alvington the band can include ringers aged anything from twelve to eighty.

At Tidenham we are blessed with six lovely bells and have a band of friendly ringers who would be more than happy to welcome anyone interested in coming along to find out more about how to ring them.

Why not make it your New Year resolution? We practice weekly on Tuesday evenings, 7.30–9.00pm.

For more information, ring Cate Phillips – 01291 624260.



Tanya's Link New Year Prize Challenge

In this Wordsearch we are **CELEBRATING New Year**.
There are 39 words to locate.

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
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BELLS	HAND	OUT
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CLOCK	KINDNESS	PARTY
COUNTDOWN	KISS	RESOLUTION
CUP	LAST	RING
DANCE	MEMORIES	SHOULD
DEAR	MERRY	TIME
DOOR	MIDNIGHT	TOAST
FESTIVE	MORNING	VOW
FINE	MUSIC	WITH
FORGOT	NEW	YEAR



✠ **Widow "Halia"** – described by our project partner as "one of the poorest believers we have ever seen in over 10 years working here" – **now has a regular income making and selling baskets for use in the distribution of rice from the milling machine**

✠ **Amidst a spiralling situation, Barnabas has been working continuously to provide food parcels and other aid to Christians in need throughout Lebanon:** "Thanks to Barnabas fund that assists us with food parcels! We feel safe and can survive if that parcel of food Barnabas gives to us reaches



us... May the Lord enable them to continue this ministry of giving to enable Christians survive in rural remote areas," finished Keserwani in his message to us.



Christian News
Our Faith in Today's World



✝ **Fertiliser shortage deepens world food crisis:** The continuing need to provide food aid for our suffering brothers and sisters was highlighted recently by a reports of a global shortage of fertiliser

✝ **Barnabas completes 11th new school building in Pakistan:** Thanks to generous donations from our supporters, Barnabas has completed a new school building for impoverished Christian children.



✝ **Christian pre-schools in Bangladesh give free education to poor Christian children:** More than 225 children are attending seven Barnabas-funded pre-schools.

✝ **Barnabas-funded rice mill provides for more than 13,000 Christians in SE Asia:** The rice milling machine represents an exciting new dimension in Barnabas Aid's food.gives project, and is "providing a crucial lifeline" to hungry Christians



A	H	A	N	D	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	F
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C	S	L	W	O	V	T	S	D	F	W	Q	H	N
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In our Autumn Link magazine Wordsearch we were Harvesting. There were 41 words to locate and well done if you managed to succeed and discovered **"FRUIT VEGETABLES"**

I feel encouraged as this time I received 5 correct entries again.



The winner, this time, was Margaret Coombs of Chepstow.

Well done!



An invitation & call to pray... here are some quotes

"Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays."
Kierkegaard

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."
Max Lucado

"To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another."
A.W. Tozer

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil."
Mother Teresa

"Much more is accomplished by a single word of the Our Father said, now and then, from our heart, than by the whole prayer repeated many times in haste and without attention."
St. Teresa of Avila

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words with out a heart."
John Bunyan

"The fewer the words, the better the prayer."
Martin Luther

"Pray as you can, and do not try to pray as you can't."
John Chapman

"Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."
D. L. Moody

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."
Karl Barth

"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness." -
St. John Chrysostom

"It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone."
Hudson Taylor

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication."
St Paul, Ephesians 6:18a



NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT

TIDENHAM PARISH COMMUNITY E-MINIBUS

Tidenham Parish Council are finalising their plans for a community minibus. This has been funded by windfall money for the community from the recent housing developments.

It will be based at Sedbury Village Hall, and available for local groups to take to events and activities in the parish, and a little beyond as well, for example into Chepstow.

ST BRIAVELS MUSICAL MEMORY CAFÉ

Again goes from strength to strength. Their Christmas session will involve most of the musicians who have been involved recently – so a good time will be had by all!

SEDBURY SPACE

Also going from strength to strength. Now so many activities and community support programmes – please check out their noticeboard or webpages to see if something is just the right fit for you.

SEDBURY SOFT EXERCISE

Hugely enjoyable. Every 2nd Wednesday afternoon, 2-3.30 at Sedbury Village Hall. The marvellous Andrew who provides the support and the equipment also does a session at The Woolaston Friendship Group. This is usually every 3rd Thursday in Woolaston Village Hall.

HEALTHWALKS

Healthwalks, officially Forest of Dean Community Walks, are available in Sedbury and St Briavels.

From 2.00 in St Briavels every Tuesday from The Assembly Rooms. At 10 from Sheila's Shop in Sedbury every Thursday.

NEW DROP IN

I have been invited to start a new Community Agent Drop In at The Rising Sun Community Pub.

I will be there from 11 to 12, every 2nd Wednesday morning

Regards, Richard Skinner

RICHARD SKINNER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT

Tel. 07927 051328 / or leave message at: 07738 759192



tidenham historical group



Evening meetings from September to April are held monthly on the last Tuesday at 7.30 in Sedbury Village Hall, King Alfreds Road, Sedbury NP16 7AQ.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Liz on 01291 621694, Carol on 01291 623736, or e-mail tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY EVENING MEETINGS 2024

Tuesday
30th January
7.30pm

“Society and industry in the 17th century Wye valley: the commonplace book of John Gwin”

by Professor Madeleine Gray.

John Gwin ended his days at Llangwm near Usk but his family was based at Chapel Hill near Tintern.

He kept a commonplace book - a sort of notebook, full of fascinating family stories, medical recipes, information about the Abbey iron works,

fruit orchards, and his friendship with Henry Walter of Piercefield, an independent preacher.

Tuesday
27th February
7.30pm

“The story of some significant VAD Red Cross nurses

in Chepstow and district” by Liz McBride.

Tuesday
26th March
7.30pm

“Chepstow bridge: an internationally significant bridge” by John Burrows.

Tuesday
30th April
7.30pm

“The centenary of Dean Close St. John’s on the Hill : A history of the school and its site”

by Christine Leighton, the school Archivist.



Introducing Lorna...



I’ve recently started worshipping at St Luke’s with my husband Sam, our twins Eleanor and Rosie, 12, and Oliver, 8. I’m a first-year ordinand, studying part-time in Gloucester with Ripon College, Cuddesdon. I’ve joined Tidenham parish having been a member of St James’ in Bream since I was nine.

Part of the reason for the move was to widen my experience in a new context; I’m already really enjoying meeting new people and I’m looking forward to helping with worship across the benefice.

Besides my studies, I work part-time for Hereford Diocese as a Church Building Support Officer helping churches look after and develop their church buildings. Prior to this I worked in affordable housing and the charity sector for 14 years managing building projects.

I have always felt called to serve and I’ve lived this out through being involved in voluntary activities both within and outside church and through my work.

About five years ago I felt God might be calling me to full-time ministry, but I was fairly sure He was wrong (!) and as my son was still quite small at the time, I parked that idea for a bit. However, the feeling never fully went away and in 2021 I started to explore a call to ordination more seriously. The discernment process has a joyful process of discovering more about God and who He is calling me to be and I’m excited to continue my journey at Tidenham.

St Luke’s Coffee Morning

Welcome tea/coffee and cake morning

This will be held 10.00-12.00

on the LAST MONDAY of each month.

Next Dates: 29th January & 26th February 2024

Contact Polly paulinemorgan23@gmail.com or

Revd Nicki nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk for more information.





News from our Parish Schools



Tutshill School – 01291 622593

Recently the children at Tutshill have been taking part in activities linked to 'UK Parliament Week'.

The children have been thinking about issues and causes that they care about and investigating the core British Value of 'Democracy'.

Children in Key Stage Two have been taking part in live debates while some of our younger children have been thinking about the qualities and values needed to be a good leader.

Christmas Lunch: We are delighted to inform parents that we will be providing a Christmas lunch for children this year on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

This is always a lovely occasion with Christmas music, crackers (kindly provided by the PTA), and lots of laughter'



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre
Aspire together, achieve together
adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter

Wyedean School – 01291 636180

In 2023, it is easy to forget how much this year group's education and wellbeing was impacted by COVID lockdowns. This culminated in them missing the opportunity to sit formal GCSE exams two years ago. Despite no prior external assessments, they are also the first-year group sitting exams in England since COVID to have not had any additional concessions.

Gwennan Jeremiah, Principal, stated that, "The attainment of every qualification this year is a testament to the hard work and determination of our students. They have faced incredible challenges in their secondary education but with support from our teachers and team of support staff, our students have secured the grades that they need to progress on to university, apprenticeships, and the workplace. It is important that we take this opportunity to reflect on all that they have achieved and wish them every success in their next steps."



CHASE GARDENING CLUB

There are no formal meetings of the Club during the Summer and the new season of afternoon talks commenced in September. This meeting began with a minute's silence for Margaret Smith, one of the founder members of the Club and a very long-standing and hard-working member of the Committee in past years.

Our advertised speaker was unfortunately ill and unable to attend but the indefatigable Pat Knight found a very adequate replacement in the form of Jo Thompson of Wye Valley Flowers based in St. Briavels. Jo gave a very interesting talk on the formation of her flower business in the village which includes sheep, glamping, pick your own as well as floristry and workshops. The start-up was not helped by the advent of Covid in March 2020 but, with great local support and a lot of hard work, has prospered and in May 2023 Wye Valley Flowers was one of the growers contributing to the floral arrangements at the King's coronation. The talk has inspired some of our members to attend a Christmas wreath-making workshop at Hope Farm at the end of November.

The AGM followed and the present Committee was re-elected with the usual hopeful request that anyone interested in joining our select band will be welcomed with open arms!

In October we yet again had to find a speaker at short notice due to illness, this time Ruth Chivers formerly of Woolaston but now of Gloucester filled the breach. She is a garden designer and gave us "10 Tips To Improve Your Garden". It was very interesting to look at gardens from a designer's viewpoint quite different from a cottage gardener's where things tend to run riot. Emphasis is on dimensions, divisions, planting for function, form, foliage and texture with evergreens for structure; colour by way of flowers and fruit came tenth on the list. Vegetables did not get a mention but enormous empty pots were highly recommended. It was very mind-broadening!

It is hoped that the November speaker, Julie Richie, will not succumb to the curse of Chase Gardening Club and will be able to give her planned talk on "Gardening in the Hot and Cold". In December we will hold our Christmas Social which will include a talk on "Gardening for Wildlife" plus a quiz, grand raffle and the usual shared "bring a plate" Christmas feast. Mulled wine and soft drinks will be supplied by the Club.

Meetings are held at Chase School, Rosemary Lane on the third Friday of the month at 2.30pm. All are welcome. For further information, please contact Bob Elliott on 01291 625659 or Bill Kerr on 01291 621100.



Chase WI

Our May meeting coincided with the Coronation of King Charles and members had voted to hold our meeting as normal on the 8th May 2023.

We met in the hall, decorated to celebrate the coronation and for a wonderful afternoon tea, supplied by all the members but beforehand our speaker Nick Bunger entertained us with "magic." His talk included members and demonstrated "power of thought" and magic. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his demonstration and we plan to have him back next year as he was so entertaining.

In June one of our own members, Margaret Kinsey, transported us to her childhood in the Rhonda, together with the appropriate costumes and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. June our speaker was unfortunately taken ill and Pearl Ricards (a new member) showed us "Armchair Pilates" with relaxation. Several members relaxed so much they almost fell asleep but tea and biscuits revived them!!

For our trip in June, we were transported to Bristol by coach and then boarded a boat in the harbour, which took us on a leisurely trip to Hanham, where we disembarked and had a lovely lunch looking over the river. Members thoroughly enjoyed the trip where we were able to see a lovely selection of birds and wildlife, and some were very lucky to see an elusive kingfisher. Our guide also explained the landmarks we saw on the sail and how important the port of Bristol had been for so many people over the years. It is now mostly used for the sport and leisure activities that abound in Bristol harbour.

Our WI like to subsidise trips and membership for our members and to that end some of us have cleaned the bus shelters for the Parish council to raise funds. Also, to this end we are planning a "garden party" and tea in one of our member's gardens on the 4th August (weather permitting of course). This to include members, spouses, family, and friends.

Our meetings are held at Chase Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2.15pm, new members would be very welcome.

If anyone would like to attend and see if it is "for them" we would love to see you.



DEAN CLOSE
ST JOHN'S
CHEPSTOW

At St John's, we feel that music is a vital part of our

curriculum, supported through extra-curricular clubs and 1:1 lessons with our team of visiting music teachers. Research shows that musical education is essential to a child's cognitive development, offering a creative outlet that encourages students to

cooperate with others and to explore their own musical individuality. From their earliest years in Kindergarten to our flourishing Year 8s, every year group receives weekly class music lessons with our music teachers.

Our varied music curriculum offers our children opportunities to compose, perform and interpret a wide variety of music from around the world. Whole class instrumental lessons take place from Key Stage 1 upwards on a whole host of

instruments and our Year 7s and 8s explore their music technology skills in their composition lessons.

St John's has a strong history of choral singing and our choirs regularly lead our school events, concerts and church services.

Dean Close St John's School
01291 622045



Offa's Mead
Academy
To make our best better

Offa's Mead - 01291 622932

Offa's Mead Primary were joined by Nicki Bullivant & Emma Durbin for their Harvest Assembly where they received lots of food items that were donated towards St Luke's church food Pantry.

Food will also be donated to those in need within the local community..





Sedbury Space Snippet

From Lee Durbin

As we look around the world as this time, as we see the challenges that so many people face, its important to be thankful for what we have.

One of the things that comes to mind for me is that I have the opportunity to be neighbourly,

I have the time to be neighbourly, all I need to do is meet the challenge to be neighbourly.

There are lots of ways to be neighbourly, a quick hello, a donation to a food bank or local charity and many others. That's what Sedbury Space is, a place to be neighbourly.



Folk Club

St Luke's Church
Saturday, 9th December 2023
Christmas Celebration
Bring & Share



Next one is
Saturday,
10th February 2024

6 - 8.30pm
(doors open 5.30pm)

Coffee & Tea
will be provided.

But please bring any further Refreshments...



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



This can help you to increase your savings, reduce debt and bounce back more easily after any financial knocks.

It can impact future generations

There's so much power in speaking with your children or other young people in your family about money. Share your experiences and empower them to feel confident in managing their money. Apps like GoHenry are a useful tool to teach kids practical money management skills that they will inevitably use when they're older.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) offers free money coaching and budgeting courses. Find out if an online or in-person course is running near you by visiting capuk.org/capmoney. If you or someone you know is struggling with finances, CAP is available to offer free expert debt help alongside practical and emotional support. Find out more by calling 0800 328 0006.

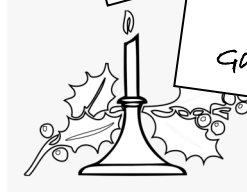
Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

10 December 1896, saw the death of the Nobel Prize's namesake, Alfred Nobel. In Nobel's will, he declared that his accumulated wealth be used to give awards to members of society who show great achievement in the advancement of humanity.

The London Tube was opened on 10 January 1863.

Robert Peel was born on 5 February 1788 and went on to become Home Secretary, then Prime Minister and founded the Police force—known as Peellers or Bobbies.

Fact Gatherings...





Five reasons to talk about money

David Price

(07539 477286)

From generational values to feeling embarrassed to just being British, there are all sorts of reasons why we don't like talking about money. But being open about our finances can make a difference to a whole range of areas in our lives.

The Money and Pensions Service's annual Talk Money Week is taking place in November. To mark the occasion, we want to share five reasons why it's worth taking the plunge to talk about money with your partner, children, friends and wider family.

It lowers stress levels

Speaking about a problem can help to lift a weight off your mind because you're no longer carrying the burden all by yourself. This certainly applies when it comes to money troubles. What may appear to be a huge obstacle often feels more achievable once you've shared your concerns with a

trusted friend or family member and received their encouragement.

It strengthens relationships

Keeping money troubles secret from your other half or someone you share financial responsibilities with can be damaging to your relationship. On the other hand, sharing openly as soon as things become a problem helps to build trust and unity as you can tackle it together.

It helps you access support

Discussing money worries can help you find out where there is free help available in your local community, as others share what they know. If you're struggling in debt or need support with managing your money, visit moneyhelper.org.uk or see capuk.org to find out more about the face-to-face services Christians Against Poverty (CAP) offers.

It makes you more financially resilient

Having regular conversations about money can help you stay focused on your financial goals and gain useful skills from others.



Children, Youth and Families' Missioner - Emma Durbin

This definitely happens daily in my house but I wonder, on the run up to Christmas, how many of us are reacting in this way? Presents to buy, lists to make, people and expectations to meet. And then we bemoan the fact that Christmas has become too commercialised, which of course is a valid opinion.



But hold on! Christmas is still the churches busiest time of year and folk that never usually come to church, sense a calling deep inside, to step through the doors and hear and sing about the Birth of a Saviour.

Also, you might be heartened to know that we will be holding 6 Christingle services for 500+ children, schools are holding carol and nativity services Tutshill School is taking part in 9 Lessons and Carols at St Mary & St Peter's Church (not forgetting the Christmas Tree Trail Quiz). St Michael & All Angels and St Luke's will hopefully see many families come through the doors throughout Christmas. Carols are being played in shops and on the radio, Christmas cards are adorned with Angels and Nativity scenes etc, etc. So maybe Jesus still is in Christmas and maybe our call (amidst the chaos) is to be praying that those who hear the story of Jesus' birth through the speakers at Tesco or by walking through the doors of a Church will experience God.

And if you are like me, barking on about how much there is to do already, may WE find some time to stop, be calm and breathe in the mystery, wonder and miracle of God being willing to make Himself like us just to show us how much He loves us!

P.S. And if you fancy volunteering to help make some Christingles, please do be in touch!!

Contact me by email Emmad.cyfm@gmail.com



The Parish Lunch ...

December lunch is 2nd Thursday but this is usually 1st Thursday of the month



Christmas Lunch:
 Thursday, 14th December 2023
 Thursday, 4th January 2024
 Thursday, 1st February 2024
Parish Lunch
 12.15pm
 Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts
 phone
 George or Beryl
 on 01291 625551



We're here for you

Every one of us is on a journey. For some, life might seem plain sailing but for many, the path can be a bit bumpier. Maybe your life has hit a roadblock and you want to find a way out. Or you're stuck at a crossroads and aren't sure which way to turn.

Whatever your situation, you're not alone:

- Your situation doesn't have to stay as it is. There is always a solution.
 - Although bad things can happen, you don't have to let your past experiences or actions determine your future.
 - There is a way through so never give up or give in to your circumstances.
- Often in difficult times it's good to talk to someone you trust about how you feel.

At TIC+, we're here to listen and help you get your life back on track. You can talk to us in confidence, and we'll never judge you. Contact us to get the support you need today

TIC+ is an operating name of the charity Teens in Crisis. We've been supporting young people and their families since 1994.

contact us at www.ticplus.org.uk
 or call 01594 372777 or text: 07520 634063

Charity No. 1045429



News from Heather Johnstone

After a busy start to the year, business tailed off and we had very few customers from Easter until the end of June, which was very challenging. However, I'm delighted to report a bumper season over the next six or seven weeks with lots of volunteers visiting Musoma, mainly with the UK Christian charity

Go MAD (Go Make a Difference in Tanzania gomakeadifference.co.uk). The Go MAD groups eat at Rehema four times a week, and our onsite craft shop also saw the benefit of having a lot of visitors.

Almost all the volunteers (over 120 people) had items of clothing made by our seamstresses, which is part of the volunteers' Tanzanian experience and also a real blessing for our seamstresses.

Our project had been in the doldrums for so long and the positive energy that had been generated because people were working and busy and happy is just wonderful to see.

If only it could be like this all year round!



The reciprocity of joy in the giving and receiving of great customer service



Found in another church's notices:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, yet shall he live."



A Big Thank You

Through our spending we can choose the world we want. All Fairtrade goods are produced sustainably, so buying Fairtrade produce is one way to make a difference to people and planet. Each year Fairtrade producers around the world are able to spend money on projects that have a positive environmental impact for them and their communities, such as:

- Clean water and toilets
- composting,
- crop diversification
- investment in greener energy
- training to control pests
- improving productivity and quality
- soil and water management

By choosing Fairtrade products when you shop, you are doing what God asks of us – “to act justly, do mercy and walk humbly with your God”, Micah 6 v8.

In our Parish we are helping too as we are ‘Fairtrade Churches’, meaning we have pledged to use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar when we serve refreshments.

Thank you collectively and individually for buying Fairtrade and so enabling farmers to have the things they need and to look after the environment. Let us keep going to enable more producers to have a fair life.

If you would like to know more about Fairtrade and it’s sustainability, please ask Julia, Tanya, Cate or Marilyn.



Christmas Giving

FINANCIAL SUPPORT - Christmas Giving to your Church here.

As Christmas approaches, the church in this Parish relies on extra financial giving. Our ministry and mission is dependent upon it. Please consider whether you can give a financial gift to God’s church here in this Parish and/or whether you can increase your regular giving. Parish Bank Account - Tidenham Parochial Church Sort Code 30-91-89 Account Number 00304754. Standing Order & Gift Aid Forms available to download from Website and there is a card reader in church. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk/giving/>

Parish Treasurer - Paul Coombs

A big thank you to all of you who give to the Lord's work here in this place!

FOOD

Chepstow FOODBANK will be very pleased to receive food for people over Christmas. They may well also be on the lookout for volunteers to assist. Please contact Sarah at info@chepstow.foodbank.org.uk or Hilary at news@chepstow.foodbank.org.uk for information.

The Little Larder in the porch at St Luke’s Church will also be open for people over the Christmas period. If you are able to donate food items and toiletries that would be amazing. Please contact Revd Nicki for more information. nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk

CHARITIES

The PCC invites and encourages us to consider giving to a charity, including the following:

Crisis, Bank sort code: 16-00-30, Account number: 12011155

Barnabas Fund, Bank sort code: 20-26-53, Account number: 50133299

Embrace the Middle East, Bank sort code: 60-11-01, Account number: 15540464

Further details of ways to donate and how to donate by Gift Aid, if you are a UK taxpayer, can be found on the websites of each of the charities.

UKRAINE-OR-BUST.ORG

In February 2024, Mike & Mandy Scott will be driving a van full of aid for Ukraine all the way to Chelm near the Ukraine border. Chepstow to Chelm has a bit of a ring to it! The website has a lot of information and an Amazon list of desired items, if people want to use it ukraine-or-bust.org

Thank you to all who make our parishes/communities work so well. Thank you to all of you who bring Christ's light, love, joy, peace and hope. Thank you to all our financial supporters. Thank you to all my colleagues, co-workers, volunteers, fellow disciples and fellow travellers on the road.



CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music. Registered Charity no. 1127098



Christmas Concert 2023



at Chepstow

Leisure Centre Arts Hall
WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER
7.00pm

A mix of sacred and secular items much-loved carols, seasonal readings, and popular Christmas choral music, both sacred and secular. A lovely programme to enjoy and commence the season.

Tickets £10 (u/18s and students free) available from Chepstow Bookshop and include a glass of wine or soft drink with mince pies.

Chepstow Choral Society is looking ahead to Saturday, March 23rd, 2024, with a performance of Rossini's sparkling "Petite Messe Solennelle", a work that is neither dull, solemn nor "petite", and has wonderful choruses, quartets, and solos. New singing members most welcome contact Marjorie on 01291 623310 and chepstowchoral@gmail visit our website– www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk . Also follow us on Facebook & Twitter (X).



we can put on the van. That Amazon list on our website is really good as it includes everything they need in Ukraine from generators at £200 through to high density food like a bar of chocolate at £1.50.

If you want any further encouragement, St Luke's will be hosting a Ukrainian evening on Jan 6th with food and entertainment provided by the local Ukrainian community, and the youth of our church are putting together a presentation covering various aspects of Ukrainian life.

www.ukraine-or-bust.org

email: ukraineorbust2024@gmail.com

Ukraine Or Bust

Mike & Mandy Scott



Filkin's Drift

An 870-mile walking tour of the Wales Coast Path, is a radical approach to sustainable touring. With the climate emergency sharply in focus and people looking for new ways of connecting post-covid, it is clear that the music industry needs fresh and imaginative approaches to touring.

Folk duo 'Filkin's Drift' have found an answer in the ancient Welsh bardic tradition.

In Welsh, 'Cerdd' means music and 'Cerdded' means to walk. For Filkin's Drift, this suggests an intrinsic connection between roaming and creating music.

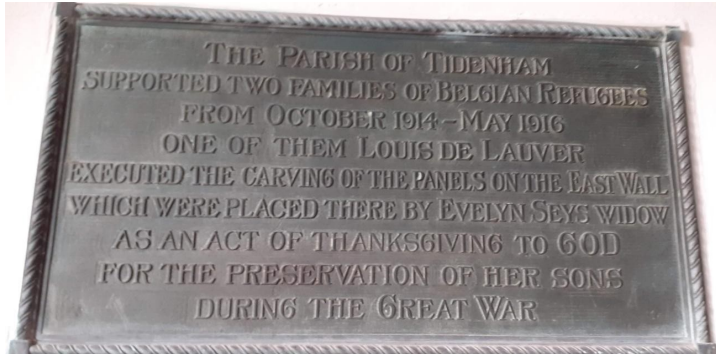
From St David's on 3rd September 2023 their walk was to be completed at Chepstow with a final celebration in a packed St Luke's Church, Tutshill on 31st October.





Ukraine or Bust!

In the Porch at St Luke's there is a plaque, remembering how, during the First World War, the parish of Tidenham supported two Belgian refugee families.



Seeing that plaque struck a chord with me, as my own family escaped from Brussels

during the first World War and settled in Torquay. Family legend has it that the three sisters caught the last boat across the channel with their money stuffed in their knickers for safekeeping!

War is a terrible thing, as I write this article, war has broken out in the middle east, thousands are dead, Sudan is at war with itself, The Congo seems to continually be at war, and, of course, Ukraine.....

Which led to Mandy and I deciding that we should try to do a bit to help, and take a van load of Aid to Ukraine. We are going to take a journey of over two thousand miles there and back, across Northern Europe in February - we must be mad! But last winter Russia targeted the power stations leaving hundreds of thousands of people in the villages and towns along the front line completely without power, and everyone expects more of the same this year. Did you know that the average temperature in Ukraine during the winter is between 0 and - 2 degrees, and that when the east wind blows from Siberia, it can go down as low as minus 20 degrees!!

So we need help to fill that van, and we are asking friends, family and the members of our church community to be that help. If you go to our website www.ukraine-or-bust.org, you will find both a way to donate money, and also a way to actually buy something useful on Amazon that



Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Tidenham

Christmas Tree Festival

Please visit Tidenham Church (A48 first left after the dive centre) to enjoy the decorated trees and try to guess which Carol the decorations on each tree reflect.

Dates when the Church will be open:



Donations will go towards the continued development of St Mary and St Peter's Church

Registered charity Number: 115958





A Small Part of the Eulogy for Sylvia Lewis from her family: 25th October 2023

Sylvia was born in March 1933 ... The family lived in a small cottage which had no water or electricity and had an outside toilet. But eventually when Sylvia was about 16, her parents built a bungalow on part of the land used for their market gardening: on moving Sylvia described it as an absolute joy to be there with a bathroom, hot and cold water, parquet flooring and a lovely fireplace in the lounge. There was no electricity at first but there was a generator to provide light.

Sylvia's parents also started a coal business; Sylvia used to help out with the coal business later in her life when she was married and used to go to South Grove once a week to do the office work. She took some exams to do with the Coal Board and was delighted and rightly very proud to have been awarded the top marks in the whole country. She kept a photo and article from the local newspaper of her receiving her certificate.

Sylvia's first job was with the Co-op, working in their offices in Chepstow. Her weekly salary was 37/6d.... Meanwhile she started taking shorthand and typing classes in the evening. Sylvia got a job at Fairfields as a switchboard operator and general clerk. It was at Fairfields that Sylvia and Charles met, with Charles winking at Sylvia on the stairs. Charles used to cycle to the office and Sylvia got a bike too so they could cycle together. They got married in March 1953 and it would have been their 70th Wedding Anniversary this year....Once married they rented a flat at Penmoel Cottages at Woodcroft and lived here for several years.

At work Sylvia was promoted to be a shorthand typist at Fairfields, but soon found she was pregnant and left earlier than expected...At this time Sylvia and Charles were able to have Bali Ha'i built at Tutshill with financial support from parents... It had always frustrated Sylvia that she left school without any qualifications so she later decided to take 'A' levels as a mature student. She took English Literature and Law and was pleased to pass both.



Life Groups

Parish Life Group Meetings
meeting most weeks

Please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- **Sunday** 7.30pm Life Group for Men! Online
- James Parsons - jamesdparsons727@gmail.com
- **Monday** 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space
- Nicki nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk
- **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 - dtrevid@aol.com
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy
fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group Emma emmad.cyfm@gmail.com
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead
tanya.rockymead@gmail.com
- Contact Emma Durbin for details of meetings for the young people.
emmad.cyfm@gmail.com

January and the New Year may be a time for you to consider popping along to a small group. Please do speak to someone in the church if you are unsure about any of the above groups. If none of the groups above work for you then there will also be the opportunity to explore the Christian faith in readiness for baptism and/or confirmation plus we'll probably watch some further episodes on the Chosen... a series on the life of Jesus.

Q. How does Good King Wencelas like his pizzas?



A. One that is deep pan, crisp and even!



Highlights from PCC meetings in September & October 2023

PCC members: -

- thanked all concerned for making both the Sunday Hog Roast and the Filkin's Drift concert successful events
- approved the new 2-year contract for utilities at our 3 churches, albeit at significant increased cost of approx. £5 - £6000 per annum
- approved the 2023 Autumn schedule of events in Tidenham parish for our groups of Children, Youth and Families
- welcomed the arrival of faculties to repair Tidenham Tower and reorder the north aisle of Tidenham church
- agreed to a trial of new heaters in Tidenham church north aisle
- agreed to arrange for Tidenham Church to be open to the public after re-ordering work, on 100 days per year in addition to those occasions when church services are held.
- welcomed that Tidenham Tower went green for Mitochondrial Disease week in September and red for Remembrance week in November
- thanked Marilyn Henderson for all her tireless work as Parish Safeguarding Officer, and welcomed Rosalind Seward as the new PSO from October
- enthusiastically approved the monthly parish coffee morning to continue for at least another 12 months at Tutshill church
- welcomed Robin Riordan as our new Foundation Governor of the Forest Edge Federation, as Revd David Treharne's substitute.
- noted that SSE had installed smart electricity meters in all our three churches by the end of September as promised



When her children (Andrea & Cynthia) were young she helped out at Brownies later becoming Brown Owl and made a great success of it. She later moved on to running the Girl Guides. Sylvia always had a strong Christian faith and was a regular church goer to both Tutshill and Tidenham churches and was in the choir at the latter until quite recently. She became involved in the running of church fetes and harvest suppers. Sylvia also gifted Tutshill Church the money to buy Nativity figures for a crib scene which we believe the church still has....

Sometimes holidays were taken abroad with family: coach holidays to Portugal & Majorca; New Zealand for the wedding of Sylvia's nephew. Grandchildren had started to arrive and Sylvia was wonderful at entertaining them: there are many happy memories of going down to the 'Rec' to play football. Surprisingly Grandma-Sylvia was the goalie and would try to catch the ball in her skirt!

The family all remember Sylvia's wonderful Yorkshire puddings to accompany her Sunday lunches with a plethora of vegetables and everyone who tasted it remembers the famous sherry trifles. Retirement involved the garden and their regular day trips out would usually stop at a pub for lunch. They had some regular haunts with Charles happy to drive far and wide. Sylvia took up painting, attending an art class once a week and Bali Ha'i has a number of her paintings hanging on the walls. She enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and took sculpture classes with Andrea too.

Sylvia enjoyed singing in Chepstow Choral Society and belonged to Tidenham Historical Group. Throughout her life she always expressed her love for her family and thoroughly enjoyed the company of her brothers and sister and all their families. She loved to find out about all her grandchildren, nephews and nieces and how their lives were progressing.

Sylvia's life came to an abrupt end which was a shock; but on the day she was taken ill she had been to a coffee morning with friends, had a nice long chat on the phone with Cynthia in the afternoon and then went to the Tidenham Historical Group lecture with Andrea that evening. A serious stroke later the same evening left Sylvia in a coma for 6 days before she passed peacefully away.

Sylvia was a lovely caring, gentle person who is greatly missed.



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

Patricia Rose MANSON (93)

Wednesday, 23rd August 2023

Forest of Dean Crematorium & St Luke's Church, Tutshill

Kathleen BULLEN (84)

Thursday, 4th September 2023

Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Bettie Maud RYMER (90)

Wednesday, 6^h September 2023

Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Joan Elizabeth CHALK (85)

Thursday, 7th September 2023

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Peter John PHILLIPS (76)

Thursday, 7th September 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill & Langstone Crematorium

Margaret Joyce SMITH (87)

Thursday, 12th October 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium

Sylvia Desiree LEWIS (90)

Wednesday, 25th October 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium

Further register entries will appear in Spring 2024 edition of the Link



Help the homeless with Gloucester City Mission's winter appeal

Each year, Gloucester City Mission gives out 750 pairs of men's and women's underwear to people who are homeless, costing the charity £6,000. Their Undies Under the Tree appeal asks if you can donate a new pair of boxer shorts or briefs, size 8 to 14, that they can then distribute to rough sleepers or through their Restore Clothes Bank.

Leave your donations before Christmas Eve under the Giving Tree in the Eastgate Shopping Centre or at participating churches and schools. Visit gloscitymission.org.uk to find out more and for ways to donate.

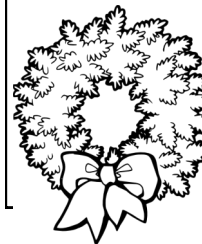
Can you host a meal this December?

To Stroud-based charity The Long Table, the real magic of Christmas lies in sharing a meal. Host a meal in your worshipping community between 9 and 17 December and, together, all the meals shared will create The Longest Table. All the events will build connections and communities, as well as raise money so that even more people are fed. To host your event, sign up to receive your resource pack: thelongtableonline.com/the-longest-table

Top tips for a greener Christmas

- ★ Choose natural decorations. Holly, ivy trails, pinecones, rosehips.... Take a bag on a walk and see what you can find.
- ★ Use old Christmas cards to make your own gift tags.
- ★ Create homemade gifts, like biscuits, or buy gifts from a charity shop – you'll be amazed at what can be found.
- ★ Give the gift of time. Gift cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, cleaning....
- ★ Recycle wrap right. To find out if your wrapping paper is not recyclable, do the 'scrunch' test. If it springs back, it isn't recyclable. And always remove the sticky tape before recycling.

For more tips, visit A Rocha's website: arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas





From our Diocese: Christmas message from



Bishop Robert

Saint John proclaims that the light, the word of God in Jesus Christ, shines in the darkness.

I don't know about you, but as I look at our world at the end of this year in Israel and Gaza, in the Ukraine, in the lives of so many struggling in this and all nations, the darkness seems often very dark indeed. But John goes on, 'the darkness did not overcome it'. This is the good news that we tell in our Advent preparation and Christmas celebration as we join with John the Baptist in bearing witness to the light, the baby born in the stable to live among us, who will open his arms on the cross, face darkness and death, and live! We have seen how St John goes on to say God's glory, 'full of grace and truth'.

This is why I pray that even as we face the darkness of this winter, we may celebrate with every fibre of our being and all the resources we can muster the wonder of this season. Not setting aside all that troubles us but bringing it to the heart of what we do so the world may know that in Jesus Christ it is love that will win, and that this is our greatest and surest hope.

May God grant you joy in your celebration as we tell again the good news of the Word made flesh, of the birth of the promised one who brings life to us all.

Follow the Star: Join the Song

Churches across the Diocese of Gloucester are looking forward to welcoming everyone to services and events this Christmas, many of which will be filled with wonderful music.

The Church of England's Christmas campaign, Follow the Star: Join the Song, highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. Singing and hearing carols can enable people of all ages to get in touch with the wonder and the truth of the Christmas story.



Holy Baptism



Isabella Rose Massih & Oliver George Massih

Sunday, 10th September 2023
St Luke's Church, Tutshill



Shane Weldon

Thursday, 21st September 2023
St Anthony's Well

Leo William O'Neill

Sunday, 8th October 2023
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

Findlay (Finn) Buchanan McInnes

Sunday, 15th October 2023
St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham

Holy Matrimony

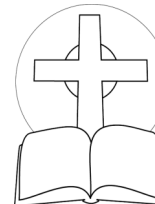


Hester Helena Joubert

&

Michael Theo Swambo

Saturday, 7th October 2023
St Luke's Church, Tutshill



*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

*He was with God in the beginning.
Through Him all things were made; without
Him nothing was made that has been made.*

John 1:1-3



LOTS OF WONDERFUL DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Sunday, 3rd December

Advent Carol Service

4.00pm

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

With choir from the Parish

Sunday 17th December

11am

Family Nativity Service

St Luke's Tutshill

whilst held with reverent awe, this service is a time of joy and celebration. You are invited to enter into the spirit of the occasion and dress up...as shepherds, wise men and angels!

Sunday, 17th December

3pm

Nine Lessons & Carols

St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham

With Parish Choir & Children from St Luke's Primary School

This is followed by light refreshments.

This event also marks the beginning of the 2023 Christmas Tree

Festival at our Parish Church.

Open days are Dec 17, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 & 30. 2pm-6pm.

Christmas Eve—24th December

4pm,

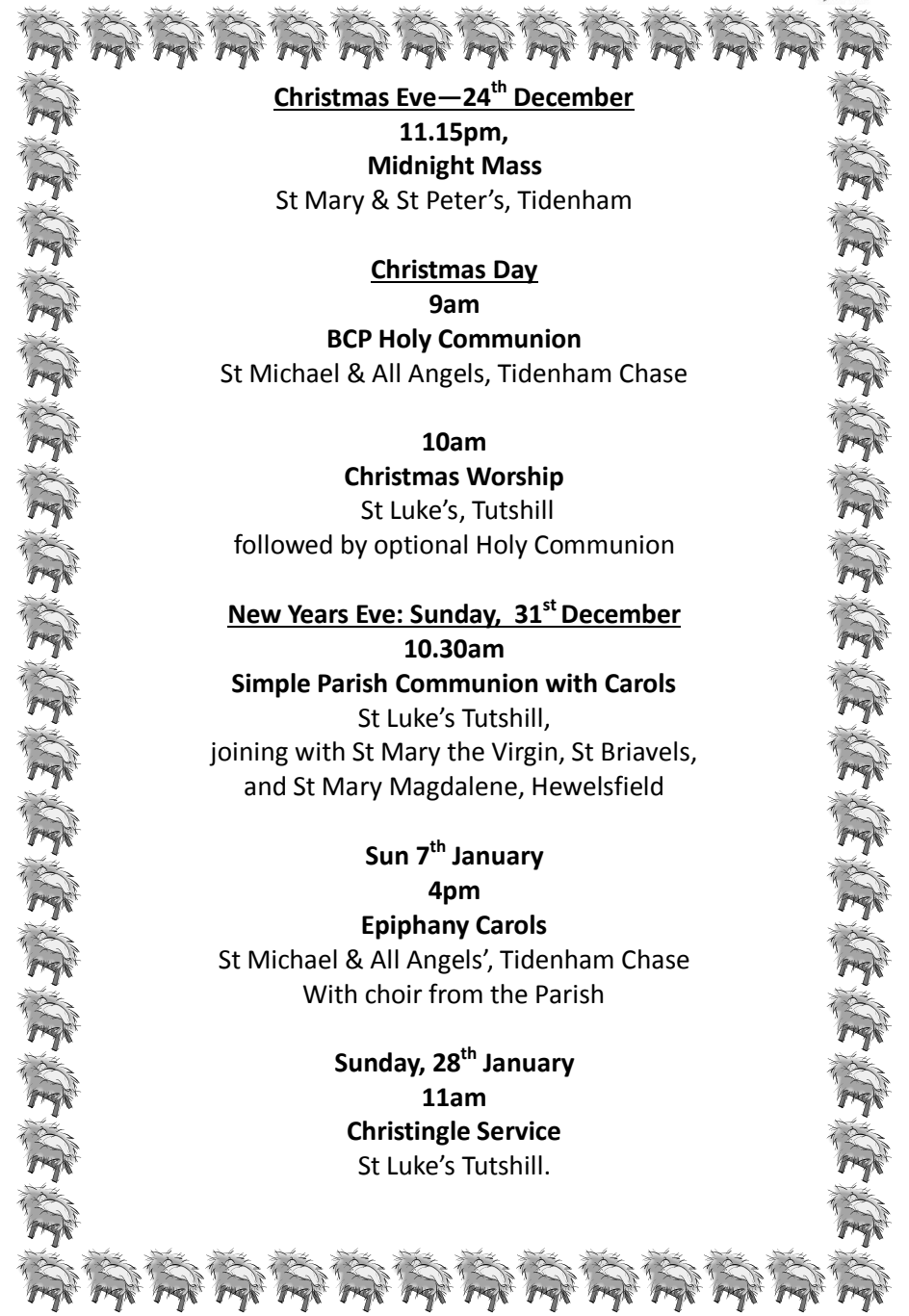
Christmas Crib Service

St Luke's Tutshill

Christmas Eve—24th December

9pm

'Midnight' Mass, St Luke's, Tutshill



Christmas Eve—24th December

11.15pm,

Midnight Mass

St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham

Christmas Day

9am

BCP Holy Communion

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

10am

Christmas Worship

St Luke's, Tutshill

followed by optional Holy Communion

New Years Eve: Sunday, 31st December

10.30am

Simple Parish Communion with Carols

St Luke's Tutshill,

joining with St Mary the Virgin, St Briavels,

and St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield

Sun 7th January

4pm

Epiphany Carols

St Michael & All Angels', Tidenham Chase

With choir from the Parish

Sunday, 28th January

11am

Christingle Service

St Luke's Tutshill.