



Memory Tree



"where the river flows everything will live"

**Tidenham Parish
Link Magazine
Spring 2025**



Hansel & Gretel from Splash



The Ugly Duckling from Sedbury & Tidenham Beavers

**St Mary & St Peter's Church
Christmas tree Festival**



The Snow Queen from Tutshill School



10th Anniversary Folk Club in St Luke's Church 8th March 2025



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**Tidenham Parish
Link Magazine
Spring 2025**

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Inside this time ...

... Parish update from Churchwarden Brian

... News from our schools, from Sedbury Space, and from the PCC

... New Church Electoral Roll Spring 2025



**St Mary & St Peter
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Sunday: 9:00am

**St Michael & All Angels
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Sunday: 4.00pm/6.00pm

**St Luke's
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Sunday: 11.00am

www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk

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PTO	Revd Anna Griffiths	07504 662539
PTO	Revd Miri Keen	07933 172552
PTO	Revd Canon Ed Pruen	07752 569794
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Deputy Warden Chase	Susanna Jacks	07411 188627
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PCC Treasurer	Paul Coombs 814yug@gmail.com	07831 469951
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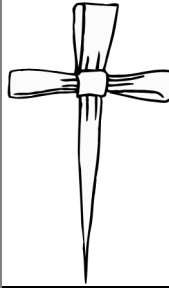
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Neighbourhood Watch 101





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ADVERTISING IN THE LINK: Roger Martin
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Tanya White

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

I hope that everyone is keeping warm & well.

Inside this month:

- **Churchwarden Brian Duerden gives us a Parish up-date** (pages 4-5)
 - **New Church Electoral Roll compilation** (pages 6-7)
 - **Folk Club dates** (page 14)
 - **Parish Schools** (pages 16-17)
 - **Befriending Lent from Brother Tom** (page 19)
- **Report from the Friends of St Mary & St Peter's** (pages 24-25)
- **Report & answers to the Christmas Tree Festival** (pages 26-27)
 - **Celebrate Easter together** (pages 30-31)
- **PCC Highlights from the new PCC secretary** (page 34-35)

If not paid already, annual subscription of £6 is potentially due

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See what you can discover and enjoy our slightly bigger magazine, **prize for mistake spotting!**

Love from **Tanya**



PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Summer Link** (June, July & August 2025) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 2nd May 2025**
 Email: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com
 or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169 or 07802 874036)



Revd Nicki Bullivant
Associate Priest & Wellbeing Chaplain



Prof Brian Duerden
CBE
Churchwarden



Robin Riordan
Churchwarden

Spring Greetings
to all our parishioners

As I look out at the first new shoots of spring, with snowdrops in full flower and the early crocus (mostly yellow) and hellebores brightening the garden, I had hoped to be able to start this article with the anticipation that our PCC representatives would be starting the shortlisting and interview process for the appointment of a new Vicar of Tidenham Parish and Priest in Charge of the Parishes of St Briavels and Hewelsfield. Unfortunately, our initial advertisements in the bleak months of January and February did not yield the applicants we had hoped for. However, this is not a disaster and is by no means unusual at this time in the Church of England. We are in discussion with the Diocese about the most suitable time to pitch a further advertisement which will be sooner rather than later and there are numerous other parishes that have had to go through more than one advertising round before attracting the person they are seeking – so, we must not be downhearted!

Please watch the weekly briefing for regular updates on how we move forward.

Meanwhile, we are grateful to have excellent support from our clerical team who have kept the services and other pastoral activities going (almost!) seamlessly. They are all providing enthusiastic help and advice to our churchwardens and PCC members, who are all pulling their weight and more. Nicki, as our Associate Priest and Wellbeing Chaplain has the lead pastoral role and all keep in good contact as a team and Robin and I meet on a monthly basis with them, including colleagues from St Briavels and Hewelsfield. We are very fortunate as a parish in having such a team who are part of our active congregations as well as leading our services – thank you to you all!

Although we have shivered and sheltered from wind and rain and wrapped up



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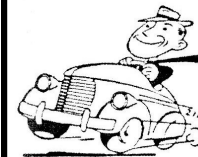


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against the pervading cold, it has been good to see that our congregations have not been deterred and have taken part in the whole sequence of services and activities, from Advent Carols at the beginning of December, through our Parish Carol Service and then our Nativity and Crib services and culminating with Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day services. Interspersed were various concerts and entertainments, with a special mention of the two nights of "Christmas Crackers" – thank you so much indeed, Fiona and your enthusiastic, funny and talented team, including this time the Whirligig singing group. We were also very pleased to welcome our local schools into our church buildings to celebrate their school services.

Then we had little time to digest the turkey and Christmas pudding before it was Epiphany Carols, the presentation of gold, frankincense and myrrh and finally Candlemas and Christingles – where did those two months go? Now we look towards Lent and then Holy Week and Easter as the days lengthen, temperatures start to rise and our hedgerows, woodlands and gardens burst into colour – we have much in our local world to be thankful for. We will be joined for Palm Sunday services by Rev Ali Mephram, who is responsible for supporting parishes in vacancy in our diocese and on Good Friday and Easter Sunday by Archdeacon Hilary. Please look for details further in this edition of The Link and in the bulletin.

On an organisational level, I have mentioned the sterling work of the PCC which is even more important in our vacancy. I urge members of our congregation to think about what they can offer in skills, expertise, experience and plain common sense that would be valuable to our church's council – it need not be onerous, and it is often quite fun! Linked to that is the need to ensure that all who consider themselves to be members of our church body ensure that their names are on the new Electoral Roll. Before the next Annual meeting in May, our current roll will be extinct and only those who have completed the application (very simple) to be on the new one can stand for Churchwarden or PCC membership or nominate someone and, even, vote in those elections – so please fill in the application on paper or on line; all the information is on p6-7 of this edition of The Link.

For all the enthusiasm about our activities and our enjoyment, we all recognise that it has not been an easy winter for many and we have had some sad losses from our church family. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends and we hope we can provide support that will help them through difficult times.

Brian Duerden
Churchwarden



New Church Electoral Roll Spring 2025

Background: Every six years each Parish of the Church of England has to compile a new electoral roll and as the existing roll was compiled in 2019, we have to create a brand new electoral roll in 2025!

Q. Who does this apply to?

A: Everyone!

Q: But my name is already on the electoral roll for public elections!

A: The church electoral roll is totally separate and is used to enable you to vote at our Annual Church Meeting and to hold certain positions such as *sidesperson*, or to be part of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is responsible for local church affairs.

Q: So who can apply to go on the new roll?

A: Under the Church Representation Rules you are entitled to have your name entered on the roll, if you:

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over; and
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment, in which you make ONE of three declarations/ namely that you:-

- a) are a member of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England and are resident in the parish OR
- b) are a member of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England are NOT resident in the parish having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months OR
- c) are a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England, but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and that you are also a member of the Church of England and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Q: I have been baptised, but I can't find my baptism certificate.

A: That's OK. We only ask that you confirm you have been baptised. You do this by ticking one of the declarations and signing the application form.



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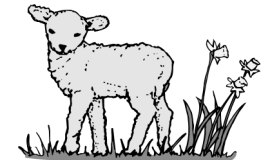


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Q: I have been baptised, but I haven't been confirmed. Can I still be a member?

A: Yes, you don't have to be confirmed, but if you want to explore this please speak to Revd Nicki Bullivant or one of the churchwardens, who can help you explore what confirmation means.

Q: I see from the application form that you are now asking for a phone number / email address. Why are you asking for this personal information?

A: You do not have to supply this information. We are asking for this information in order to make communications more efficient. This information will be kept securely by the Church Electoral Roll Officer for Tidenham Parish and not disclosed to third parties outside the church. It will not appear on the public version of the electoral roll which will be posted on the notice board of each church in the parish on 22 April 2025, which contains only your name.

You can also find a copy of our "Electoral Roll Privacy Notice 2025" on the "Contact" section of our church website, under "Downloads", or on our church notice boards.

Q: I am unwilling to give you a phone number or email address, but can I still be on the church electoral roll and vote at the Annual Church Meeting?

A: Yes, providing your phone number and / or email address is entirely voluntary and does not affect your entitlement to be on the Church Electoral Roll or vote at the Annual Church Meeting.

Q: Who do I contact to get an application form, or if I need more information?

A: Application forms will be available at all three of our churches from Sunday 23rd February 2025.

If you have previously given me your email address I complete and email back to will send you a fillable pdf file that you can me at iain706gardiner@btinternet.com.

You can also find a fillable pdf Application form on the "Contact" section of our church website, under "Downloads", which you can complete and email back to me.

Q: When do I have to return my application form?

A: All application forms must be completed and returned to me by Tuesday 15th April 2025.

If you want an electronic Application form or need more information, or have any questions about the church electoral roll, you can contact me on 01291 624868, or by email at iain706gardiner@btinternet.co

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer for Tidenham Parish
04 February 2025



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Samantha Hopper
Sedbury Space
Manager

SEDBURY SPACE News

As the new Manager, I am pleased to say that I have settled into the role at Sedbury Space and have some exciting new ventures in the pipeline.

Thankyou to EVERYONE that has made me feel so welcome. My aim is to continue the amazing work already in place and my focus is very much on what can we do that YOU the community want!? The kettle can always be on and I welcome your thoughts or ideas on how we can work even better with you so pop in to the open house day on a Wednesday and have a chat.

- We are in the final stages of starting a monthly support meet up for parents who have experience of autism, adhd and the like, the idea being parents with lived experience of the journey pre and post diagnosis can have a place to come together and share/support each other on what can be a very confusing and frightening journey.
- The newly established Cancer Support Café continues to thrive, as does the memory session which is designed to exercise the memory and provide support and advise. We have UpToDate contacts and literature for the Alzheimer's society available at the sessions and can give the information needed for self-referral to the relevant agencies.

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The community Sunday Lunch continues to be fully booked and last month we enjoyed a homemade Beef Stew with crusty bread made by Michael and hester and homemade treacle tart made by maggie!! The room was loud with chatter and laughter as always. Its not always about the food, it's the company too!



- We have arranged breakfast clubs in partnership with Two Rivers Housing, the first taking place in the February half-term! Bookings are now being taken.
- We have arranged a pizza making session again for March 3rd
- We are looking to confirm a date for a cooking to a budget class which will help many in these difficult times.

We had a call from a family member of a regular at our 1stop café asking if we could help to surprise her auntie for her 90th birthday- we of course said YES and set to work. Carol and our army of volunteers helped to add that extra element of celebration with balloons and extras. Its fair to say the Cake outfit went down well. The look on Shirley's face was amazing and the joy in the room was priceless!



WE CAN NOT RUN OUR SESSIONS WITHOUT YOU!
SO IF YOU HAVE A SPARE FEW HOURS A WEEK OR A MONTH WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO ADD TO OUR AMAZING CREW OF VOLUNTEERS.. PLEASE POP IN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Contact details for Sedbury Space are:- 07522 178639 or
managersedburyspace@gmail.com





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 Revd Nicki Bullivant 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 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.





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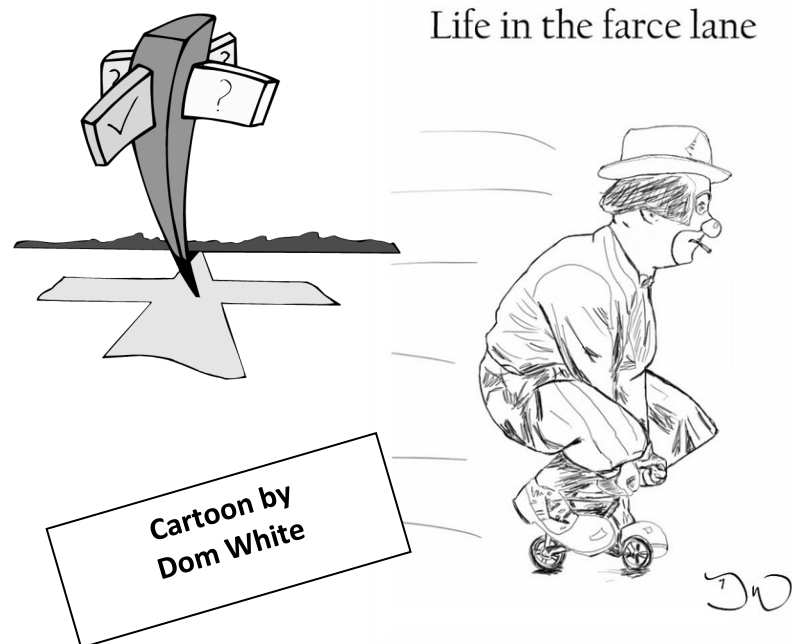
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Parish Contact Website Address

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Parish Facebook Page: for communicating news & info to the wider community. Please 'follow' or 'like'.

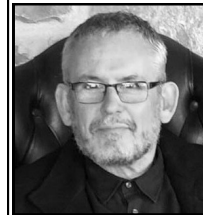
<https://facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch>

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



Sedbury Space Snippet

From Lee Durbin

Growing up in the valleys of South Wales during the holidays my cousin and I would help out on my Dad's Pie van. He worked for Peters Savourys and here was planted the seeds of my destruction, a life long love of pasties. There was, however, another delicacy that they sold, the Rissole.

What is the Welsh Rissole? Well that's the great mystery. It is ball of deep fried breadcrumb covered loveliness. What is in it? Well it is a savoury food. I would not give it to a vegetarian but saying, hand on heart, it has meat seems a stretch. But it is precious. On holiday, when camping, there is always one day when my family and a friend's family we holiday with decide "tonight we shall eat the Fish and Chips". Then there is the race for the Rissole. A hard fought contest to get to the Fish and Chip emporium first and grab all the lovely orange balls. In the end though, the Rissole is a Magnificent Mystery.

What does this have to do with Sedbury Space? Well Sam, our manager, has been asked "What is Sedbury Space?". We are a community focused charity. We look to promote community cohesion. We rent out the space for community groups, we run groups ourselves (Tuesday morning drop in cafe), we work with Nicki on wellness projects, we signpost people to helpful agencies and sometimes we just provide a drink and a loo for children's activities on the park. But, really, I think Sedbury Space is a Rissole.



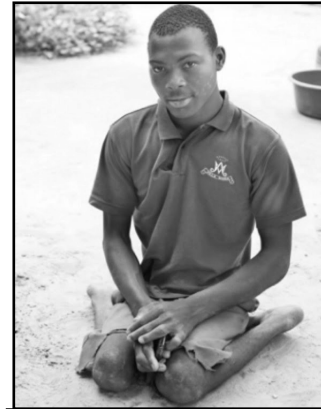
*Tanya's Link
Spring Prize Challenge*



This Spring will include a new Budget and we may be considering our personal **COSTS** of **LIVING** and **EXPENDITURE**!

See if you can find all these words associated with aspects of Finance and 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, mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com to be in with a chance winning the prize!

ACCOUNT	DETERMINATION	MORTGAGE
AVERAGE	DISCOUNT	PAY
BALANCE	DUES	PENSION
BANK	DUTY	PRICES
BILLS	EARN	RATES
BONDS	ENERGY	REGULATE
BUS	EXPENDITURE	RISE
BUY	FARE	SHOP
CAP	FEES	TAX
CASH	FUEL	TUITION
CHANGE	HEAT	USE
COSTS	INCREASE	VALUE
CREDIT	LIVING	WAGES
DEBT	MONEY	



Constantino had never been able to walk. Before our project partner stepped in to help, it looked as though his disability would define his entire life

➤ When our project partners first met Constantino, the young man could only get about by crawling, using his arms to drag himself from place to place. Added to the discomfort were the insults – some who met Constantino despised him and called him “a dog”.

Constantino had never been able to walk. He struggled to attend school and was falling behind his peers. It seemed as though his disability would keep him from ever living a life of dignity and independence.

Constantino’s story is not unique. It is estimated that three quarters of a million people in Mozambique live with disabilities. Their suffering is compounded by the overall deprivation of their country. Mozambique is regularly ranked as one of the most impoverished countries on Earth.

Political instability, natural disasters and Islamist terrorism have worsened the situation.

Demonstrating the love of God

“In Mozambique, people living with disability are among the most marginalised, stigmatised and excluded,... A significant proportion of people with disability have mobility needs caused by genetic conditions, natural calamities, war, work and road accidents, diseases, and so on. Yet in the Mozambican culture, disability is seen as a curse or a result of someone’s misdemeanour...but God’s love compels us to love those around us, including those that live with physical and intellectual limitations.”

Working through churches and church leaders, our partner plans to provide specialised wheelchairs for adults and children with long-term disabilities and complex needs.



The church celebrates with Constantino after he received his wheelchair



Christian News

Our Faith in Today's World



Khalti with her husband and two children praise God for the arrival of their food aid from Barnabas

➤ **Emergency food aid a "lifeline" for Bangladesh Christians after floods:** One thousand Christian families in Bangladesh received parcels of emergency aid from Barnabas following the worst flooding the country had seen in a decade.

The families each received a month's supply of food – including rice, lentils, potatoes, salt, sugar and cooking oil – as well as water

purification tablets. Those who needed them also received medicines. Our project partners described Barnabas' contribution as a "lifeline" for the Christians Through meeting their physical needs, the partner told us, the aid "has reinforced and strengthened the belief that the Lord watches over and cares for His followers."

Among the recipients was the family of Khalti. Khalti is the wife of a farmer. The floods destroyed his cultivated fields, which left the family without food or income.

"The joy of seeing my children smile again is beyond words," said Khalti. "We had almost lost hope, but the help from Barnabas Aid has shown us that there is still kindness in the world. We thank Jesus for this blessing and the hand of hope that has reached out to us in our darkest hour."

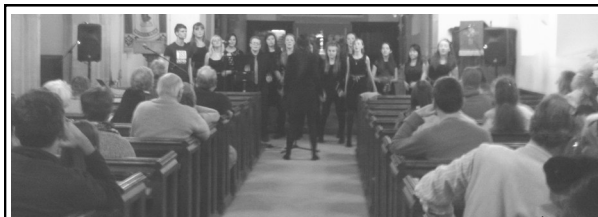


R	S	D	U	E	S	A	E	R	C	N	I	B	T
S	E	E	F	I	C	O	S	T	S	T	A	N	A
E	T	G	H	P	E	N	S	I	O	N	O	V	C
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E	E	E	S	I	R	O	E	O	P	T	G	E	C
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In our Winter Wordsearch we were seasonally collecting words from **"WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT"** and there were 38 words to find.



This was a Wordsearch Puzzle containing mistakes! A mail from Nicholette Flatman said "Having completed the Link Challenge, I ended up with the following letters - T O T H E I V E A R T H S N B E P E A C E I am guessing the correct answer is -To The Earth Be Peace This would leave the following rogue letters - I V S N" This is very correct and definitely wins the prize! As I also received a correct answer from Polly Morgan, I will give her a prize as well!!! Well done to all who had a go, I hope that next time will be mistake free...



10th Anniversary Folk Club

St Luke's Church

Saturday

8th March 2025

6 - 8.30pm

(doors open 5.30pm)

See contact details below

Please bring Refreshments
to share



Here we are complete with
Wyedean Gospel Choir in
2015



More Folk Club Dates

St Luke's
Church

Saturday

12th April 2025

§ Saturday, 31st May 2023

6 - 8.30pm

(doors open 5.30pm)

Coffee § Tea will be provided.

But please bring along any
further Refreshments to share...

Contact Bill § Tanya White
(01291 623169)



TUTSHILL W.I.

Back in the mists of time – so long ago we can only just remember! – we had decided to 'go local' for our November AGM and Christmas meal. Natalie and her staff at the Café on the Hill rose to the challenge and our formal meeting was followed by some

delicious food, after which the evening was rounded off with some gloriously silly party games. Early December saw a small band of intrepid members decking a cherry tree on the Rec with multicoloured pompoms (to complement the Advent calendar on the bus shelter), and we finished the year with a talk from Caerwent Craft Chocolate on handmade chocolate, including samples to taste and their products available to purchase. All very satisfactory!

So far this year we have had a most interesting and entertaining talk from a midwife whose career began in Glasgow more than forty years ago (goodness, how things have changed!) but included time spent in the Middle East and Africa where she had to work with women who had undergone FGM. We are currently looking forward to hearing all about SARA in February, to be followed by a Drumming Workshop in March, advice on colour tones for home decorating in April and a talk about GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in May. We are also now planning our entry for the Scarecrow Trail during the Easter holidays.

Our meetings are usually, though not always, on the third Monday of the month, 8.00pm in Tutshill Memorial Hall; but may take place elsewhere depending on the speaker/topic of the evening. You would be welcome to come for a try-out to see whether you would like to join us. If you would like to know more about our activities, take a look at our Facebook page, or contact our Secretary, Pat Cannon: secretarytutshillwi@gmail.com / 07795 424694



tidenham historical group



Evening meetings from September to April are held monthly on the last Tuesday at 7.30 in Sedbury Village Hall, 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 tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com

MEETINGS

25th March
7.30pm

"Hill Forts and track ways of the lower Wye Valley"
Simon Maddison & Dick Finch.

29th April
7.30pm

"Food Glorious (Gloucestershire) Food!", John Putley
This tasty presentation explores the various local recipes found in the county Archives and looks at the foods – some nice, some not – that have been cooked in Gloucestershire.

SUMMER PLANS (details to be given later)

A visit to Tidenham parish church of St. Mary and St Peter

to look at the newly refurbished North aisle, hear about the detailed process required to alter this ancient building and look at some of the historical items found during the works.

A guided walk of the "seaside " resort of Severn Beach.

A day trip across by the ferry at Beachley for a day out at the lido, cafes and seaside amusements was the highlight for many who lived in this area.

Woodchester Mansion A fascinating unfinished gothic house run by an independent trust, located in National Trust grounds near Stroud.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the January meeting. The group is steadily building up an archive of old local postcards and photographs. If you have anything to donate or that we could scan, please get in touch or bring to a meeting.



**Children, Youth and Families'
Missioner - Emma Durbin**

Before writing to you I have been sat reading about and pondering on a man called Daniel and his three friends. We are just about to start exploring Daniel in Splash (Children's Church). Daniel & co were devout followers of God who had been taken captive and made to be servants in another country. The king they were asked to serve and obey was called Nebuchadnezzar (and by the way there's archeological proof for his existence), and at some point, he, like many dictators throughout our history, began to believe that he was divine. Anyone who disobeyed him was put to death. Daniel & his friends stood up to the king AND if you want to know what happened next....pick up your Bible and find the book of Daniel!!!!

Anyway, it got me thinking of President Trump and Bishop Budde and it got me thinking about the realities of being a Christian and the importance of knowing what Jesus is actually all about....what does He actually say, and how easy is it for us to get distracted by what everyone else around us says and thinks?? Because Jesus is called a 'light in the darkness' for a reason.

And so surely, the lesson for the children and for us when putting the story of Daniel into context for us, is to 'read or listen or watch' when we can, what Jesus said and did and then, with these things in mind, hopefully, stand up to the images, quiet whispers, bullies and dictators in our lives and world today. And who thought exploring faith with the children was easy!!!!???

On a separate note, the dates for our annual Scarecrow trail this year are Sunday, 6th to Sunday, 27th April and the theme for this year is

FAVOURITE BOOKS.

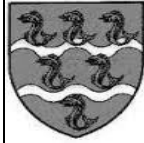
Trail maps and answer sheets can be bought from Tutshill shop.

If you fancy making a Scarecrow but are not on the route, don't worry, we can find a host for you....the more scarecrows the merrier!!!!





News from our Parish Schools



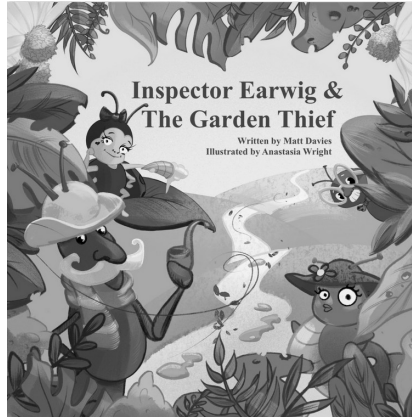
Tutshill School – 01291 622593

This term we have had a great time at

Art Club exploring a wide range of materials and ideas. We've looked at the colours of the rainbow and made bunting using paper and

fabric scraps, we've made some large-scale abstract pieces using some starting shapes that the children then added to and made their own using stencils and their own designs.

The author Matt Davies will be visiting Tutshill on Friday 28th March to talk about being an author and to talk about his new book "Inspector Earwig & The Garden Thief".



Wyedean

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

Wyedean School – 01291 636180

Year 7 Art Club have done a wonderful job

designing and creating the flower Props for the **Little Shop of Horrors** school production! Well done to all performers - there were four performances in February 2025.



This **World Book Day** in March, all students are invited to participate in an exciting Book Design Competition! The mission is to design a book cover for an original personally written story!

How a story is brought to life visually. Designs to Include • A Striking Front Cover • Title of the book • Author name • Eye-catching artwork or graphics that reflect the book's theme or story • On the back of the design a short blurb or summary of what the book is about.

Let's find out more soon ...



CHASE GARDENING CLUB



The speaker at our November meeting was Nathalie Mignotte originally from France but now living at Westbury on Severn. She gave us a well illustrated and encouraging talk on "Seasonal Colour in the Garden" beginning with the yellow, terracotta and burnt orange of autumn and moving through the bleaker winter months, red berries and hamamelis, to the joys of spring bulbs and the abundance of summer colour with roses, clematis, peonies etc. A memorable hint: cut back lavender to 8" on the 8th of the 8th (August).

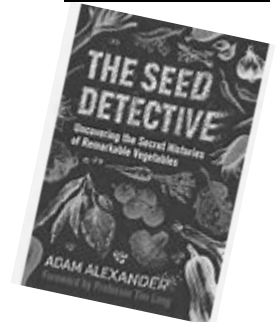
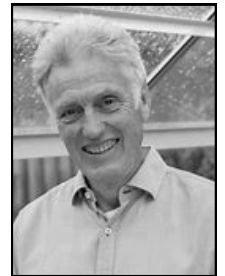
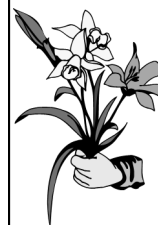
In December we held a minute's silence for one of our long-time members and most enthusiastic supporters, Tony Roberts. He will be missed. The meeting combined a talk on "Winter Scent in the Garden" by Gail Plant, who came equipped with lots of "smelly" specimens, and our Christmas celebration to which all members generously contributed. Mulled wine and soft drinks were served by the Committee, there was a challenging quiz and an excellent raffle.

The Club had intended to enter the Christmas Tree Festival at Tidenham Church but due to unforeseen circumstances had to withdraw this year. Better luck next time?

There is no meeting of the Club in January. The speaker in February is Adam Alexander, the rare vegetable seed expert, on his adventures in Albania; in March the topic is "Plants of the Season" and in April "Planting a Container".

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.





Women's Institute

Chase WI

Chase WI started the autumn with a bring and buy sale and members meeting which was extremely successful and we also held a craft stall in Chepstow at the Palmer Centre which contributed to our funds. Our December meeting was a wonderful Christmas celebration held at Abbey Mill, enjoyed by all.

We again took part in the church Christmas tree festival and this was very successful with many of our members joining in the Carol service at the beginning of the month and helping to "man" the festival itself.

January brought us to the New Year, sadly without Poppy Moss one of our longest serving members, who was not able to attend as she had fallen and broken her femur. Unfortunately Poppy has since passed away. Our speakers this month were Moira and Paul "Blood Bikers," these wonderful volunteers ride all over the country delivering blood, baby milk and laboratory tests to the relevant hospitals. Paul and Moira are Welsh based but often deliver all over Britain, a lot of the time in relays to the different counties. They have riders working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year all of which are volunteers helping the NHS and saving the service a great deal of money and resources. Their talk was so informative and interesting and such a wonderful organisation completely run by volunteers with



no paid staff at all. Their bikes are normally stored in local fire stations, theirs being Cwmbran and locally they deliver between the Cardiff, Newport, and Abergavenny hospitals.

For 2025 we have walks, meals and visits planned as well as our monthly meeting and any new members will always be welcome. If anyone is interested and would like to attend we meet on the second Monday of the month, 2.15pm at Chase Hall, Rosemary Lane
Tel 01291 621100 for further details.



Snow White & the Seven Dwarves



KS1 Pupils Make a Significant Difference

Dean Close St John's School
01291 622045

As part of their topic this term, KS1 children embraced the Making a Significant Difference challenge, carrying out acts



of kindness at home, in school, and in the community. In January, they visited Castleford House Care Home for crafting, colouring, and singing with residents. They also had a list of thoughtful tasks to complete, such as helping at home, checking on elderly neighbours, and keeping the cloakroom tidy. To celebrate their efforts, they enjoyed a special afternoon tea with the Head, Mr. Tom Rainer, impressing everyone with their politeness and curiosity.



In February, KS1 pupils swam an incredible 242 widths in a Swimathon during one of their swimming lessons, raising £450 for the Severn Area Rescue Association. They personally delivered the donation during a visit to SARA's Beachley station, where they explored the boats, rescue vehicles, and control room radios. A huge thank you to the SARA volunteers for their time and expertise - we truly appreciate the life-saving work you do!



Our Girls' football team won the Gloucestershire County Football Association schools final having previously won the Forest of Dean competition. They are county champions!



Offa's Mead - 01291 622932



WE'VE HAD FUN THIS WINTER AND ARE EXCITED FOR SPRING!



At Tutshill Community Pre-School we love to learn about how other children play. We found out about how children in China celebrate Lunar New Year and tried some new experiences. We loved trying to use the chopsticks to pick up noodles and trying our own dragon dance!

We've had so much fun with our new oven, making biscuits and pizza so far - delicious! It was bought with money donated by The Rising Sun in Woodcroft and we are so grateful.

We've talked about being kind and calm, making kindness pebbles for a friend and exploring how to make calm bottles for Children's mental health week.



Diesel is growing well and has found his voice. He is also a potential Guide Dog Dad so will have eye checks and an assessment in the coming months. Following a restful Christmas holiday at home with their fosterers our 'big boy pups', are back at work with their Guide Dog Trainers. Hunter is training with a prospective Guide Dog Owner and everyone is hoping that their partnership will succeed. Rowan has achieved seventy-five percent of the initial training targets and the matching process is already under way. Ronnie's training is going very well. He has starred on the Guide Dogs Cymru Facebook page.

Update from Miri Keen



Where Fairtrade works

Fairtrade is an international movement working in partnership with 2 million farmers and workers, in more than 1,900 producer organisations, across 68 countries worldwide.

Producer networks are regional associations that Fairtrade certified producer organisations may join if they wish. They represent small-scale producers, workers and other producer stakeholders. There are producer networks in three regions: Africa and the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Producers & businesses selling Fairtrade certified products can be found in the Fairtrade Finder directory allowing search for producers and businesses around the world that sell Fairtrade certified products.





Bertie and Diffy returned to Chepstow for a play date. They instantly made friends and enjoyed a free run

Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

Did you know that Guide Dog kit isn't 'one size fits all'? In the same way that we humans find that a particular style of shoes fit us well and help us to keep going all day, or that we prefer contact lenses over glasses, or that one style of potato peeler works for us, but another makes us feel clumsy and slow, so these very special dogs work better with equipment that matches their bodies and behaviours. We can all see that it makes sense for a smaller dog with a taller Guide Dog Owner to wear a longer handle so that their connection is relaxed and comfortable.

But Guide Dogs' expert Trainers choose from a range of handles to bring out the best in each dog and to make sure that they are comfortable and confident. For example Chepstow pup Rowan is a gentle leader and so his trainer has introduced a side attached handle on his harness so that the person he is guiding can feel his shoulders turn as well as a light pull forward. (These handles are often used to enable Guide Dog Owners with balance challenges to have a little more warning that their dog is about to turn.) Puppy Raisers play an important role in introducing basic equipment like collars and leads, T-touch harnesses, car harnesses and jackets, so that when their pup goes into training they are well prepared to accept new equipment and maybe even look forward to the promise it brings of adventures and treats.

Our local pups are thriving!

Umber has been selected to take the next step towards becoming a Guide Dog Dad. His genetic testing and x-ray results are all good so he will visit the Guide Dog Breeding Centre in Leamington for further tests. We are all hoping that in the future we will have Umber Juniors training in Chepstow.



Here is Mason playing gently with teddy



Befriending Lent

I'm typing this a few days after the end of the Christmas season, which we celebrated on second of February with the lovely feast of Candlemas. By the time you read this, Lent will be upon us. It can be

very tempting to see the season of Lent as a rather dour and depressing time but actually, traditionally, it is a season very much focused on joy. We take the opportunity, each year at around about this time, for a spring clean of our lives and souls - if you like something of an internal audit of our spiritual life, to make us ready for the greatest and most important day of the year: Easter.

In the northern hemisphere there is a lovely coincidence between the Christian keeping of Lent, and the natural awakening of the world at springtime. Notice the days get longer, and (usually!) warmer as we make our way through Lent. There is more light. There is more growth. There is colour, as the snowdrops, then the daffodils, and then all the springtime flowers appear. All of these are hints and guesses, in the natural world, of the wonderful operation of God's grace. New life blossoms as Christ bursts from the tomb at Easter, and Lent is a wonderful gift to which we can prepare ourselves to be fully bathed in that Easter light.

Traditionally there have been a number of different ways to use Lent in order to hone our spiritual lives. At their simplest, these are silence (or quiet), study, charity, and prayer. There are a hundred different ways of exploring any or all of these ways into refocusing our lives on Christ and his resurrection, and any of the ministers would be delighted to talk to you if you wanted to have conversation about how you might use Lent this year.

Above everything, as we move through spring, as we pray for the future of our own community to unfold, be ready to blossom into the light of Easter.

By Tom OC



Chepstow Choral Society is proud and excited to be offering a different style of Spring Concert this year, with music featuring a programme theme loosely built on what we can learn from nature and the natural world through music – two of the compositions specifically focus on this in the compositions.

Sing in a Season, by Bob Chilcott, was commissioned for its premier performance in 2023, using words by poet Charles Bennett and urges us to look at the diversity and richness of the surrounding natural world using our voices. **The Sprig of Thyme**, by (Sir) John Rutter, is a delightful collection of eleven well-known folk songs of styles and genres and set to various orchestral accompaniments

Chepstow Choral Society is excited and immensely proud to be giving the first performance of **The Gift To Sing**, by our own Musical Director, Graham Bull. Graham commenced this project during lockdown, and used four powerful poems – “The Gift To Sing” (James Johnson 1917), “The Birds Will Sing Again” (John O’Brien 1921) “Everyone Sang” (Siegfried Sassoon 1919) and “I’ve Learned to Sing” (Georgia D Johnson 1941)—as the words for the setting of this composition. The work demonstrates the joy of singing and use of orchestra to do so, making music such an integral part of our lives.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! –MARCH 29th AT ST MARY’S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW, 7.30pm --and offer YOUR support to YOUR CHORAL SOCIETY, SINGERS, ORCHESTRA - AND OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR GRAHAM BULL FOR HIS TIRELESS COMMITMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR CHORAL MUSIC FOR OUR AREA.

Tickets (£15, u/18s and students free) will be available from Chepstow Bookshop, choir members –information on website etc

CCS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!! If you would like to join a friendly four-part vocal group who perform with first-class musicians, CCS is for you! For further information, please contact Marjorie (01291 – 623310, bduerden@doctors.org.uk) or visit our CCS website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook & X (Twitter) @ChepstowChoral M.Duerden



News from Heather Johnstone
Church Mission Society

Location: Tanzania

What I do: Helping to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project

Through our assistance programme we recently were able to help a very impoverished lady by the name of Nyambuli. I overheard her telling one of our seamstresses about the problems she was having at home as she was getting rained on inside her house and needed to fix her roof but didn't have the wherewithal to do so. I went to visit her at home and was shocked to see that her house was literally falling down around her. The tin roof was completely rusted through and provided no protection against the elements, the house had also been very shoddily constructed and bricks were falling out of the wall. Her young teenage son was sleeping in the lounge as it was too dangerous to sleep in his room. We replaced the roof and rebuilt most of the walls above lintel height. While doing this we realised she had no toilet facilities, and as her health is not great, by the grace of God we were also able to build toilet facilities.



Nyambuli in front of her repaired house

Praise point: We thank God for his great provision and for the generosity of supporters in the UK.



A dozen or so of the Rehema ladies have started a new social tradition. Each month one of the women will host a get-together at their home. They will provide food and sodas and all the attendees will contribute an agreed sum of money which will cover their host's costs as well as a financial contribution enabling them to buy something they need or would like. It is a bit of a savings scheme with a social slant. As their “mama” I am fortunate enough to have attended all the celebrations...



christians
against
poverty



Take your first step out of debt

No matter how large or small your problem is, we can help. Our free, expert debt help will advise on the best route out of debt, and offer different types of support to help you become debt free

The first step is often the hardest, but it's really worth it. Asking for help can be daunting, particularly for many people who have reached a crisis point before calling to book an appointment.

Our friendly New Enquiries team is the first port of call. We'd love to listen to you and see how we can help get you started on your journey out of debt.

Across the UK in 2023:



9,582
people were supported by CAP's debt help service



2,292
people became debt free



4,746
people started their journey out of debt



Our mission is to see transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty.



Does it cost anything?

All our services are completely free! We are able to provide free services because CAP is a charity and receives donations from churches and individuals who want to help people.



Do I have to be a Christian to use your services?

No. CAP will help anyone regardless of their religious beliefs. We are committed to our services being accessible and inclusive. We support people from all faiths. We do not discriminate by age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.



Is there a maximum or minimum amount of debt that you can help with?

No. You may access our debt help service no matter how much debt you have.

Contact Rev Nicki Bullivant for more information



Chepstow Choral Society

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music Wales & Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies: (Registered Charity no. 112798)

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY is proud in 2025 to celebrate being the only Society in our area to offer four-part choral singing concerts featuring orchestras with fully professional instrumentalists, and soloists often from RWCMD commencing their fully professional careers.

ON SATURDAY, 29th MARCH 2025, 7.30pm
at ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW,
he Society will present a very special concert.

“THE GIFT TO SING”

With CCS Orchestra (leader Paula Kempton)

Sing in a Season – Choir & Orchestra – Bob Chilcott

St Paul's Suite -- Orchestra – Gustav Holst

The Gift To Sing –Choir & Orchestra – Graham Bull

**Fantasia on Greensleeves – Vaughan Williams
Orchestra**

A Sprig of Thyme -- Choir & Orchestra -- John Rutter

This Concert features music by British composers – including a major work for Choir and Orchestra by our Musical Director, Graham Bull.



The Parish Lunch ...

Thursday, 6th March 2025

Thursday, 3rd April 2025

Thursday, 1st May 2025

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts
phone
George or Beryl
on 01291 625551

As we move into it our 16th Year we go forward with around 50 regular guests and our army of helpers.

We have in place the monthly dates for March April and May the meal will be held on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.

Sadly, I have to tell that one of our founder guests, Poppy Moss has died after a short illness. Poppy and her Husband were with us from the very start.



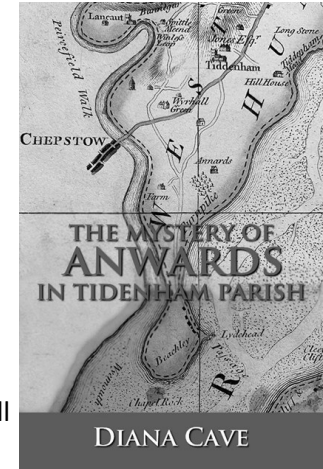
New guests are most welcome but please contact Beryl or George for further information. 01291 625551 will find us.

Fact Gatherings...

Something in the air?
Sense of smell can be more acute in spring as there is usually more moisture in the air.



I've just written a book about the local area: The title of the book is **The Mystery of Anwards in Tidenham Parish**. It can be ordered from Chepstow Books or on line. The front cover is a map of 1800. Whilst the main focus is on Anwards, Sedbury, the book also includes information about Tutshill and Tidenham. The history begins in the early 1600's, but continues to the present day and also aspects of crossing the Severn are considered. Yet there is still so much more to discover, so hopefully someone will take up the challenge to further our knowledge of this lovely area.



This book is about a late medieval house, which seems to have disappeared. It is called Anwards, and was located in the southern part of Tidenham Parish near Sedbury, which is bounded by the rivers Severn and Wye.

I am interested in house history, so when I discovered Anwards was a 'capital house', it became a challenge to know more. I was curious about the people who lived in it over the centuries; their lives, status and values.

This is a detective story and some discoveries may be of surprise even to local residents. Several of the people mentioned may also have links with the present. In fact, in the process of this investigation I have learnt how settlements changed and are still changing. Also, how the orchards, which were once so prevalent here have sadly vanished.

Diana Cave



Q. What do you call a bunny with fleas?

A. Bugs Bunny!

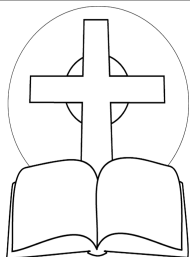


Ukraine or Bust

Mike and Mandy travelled to Ukraine and delivered all the collected things as planned!

They then made many visits to places on their return journey...

We will find out more in our Summer Link, so watch this space.



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 **A time for everything**

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.



St Luke's Coffee Morning

This will be held 10.00-12.00



We meet on the last Monday of each month except

Bank Holiday Mondays:

Monday 31 March 2025

Monday 28 April 2025

Monday 26 May 2025

Welcome FREE coffee/tea, cake and biscuits



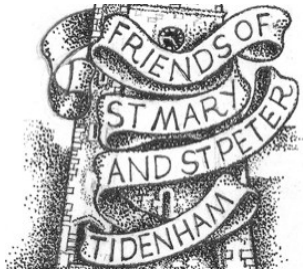
But to help us pay for Hire of the Church & support the Wellbeing Chaplain any donations are gratefully received

Contact Polly paulinemorgan23@gmail.com or Revd Nicki nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Found in other churches' notices:



"A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honour of his wife."



ST MARY & ST PETER'S TIDENHAM

TIDENHAM PARISH CHURCH RE-ORDERING UPDATE

The reordering has gone down well

universally. All visitors have commented on how well it fits into the church and does not look either new or intrusive. We were very fortunate that the kitchenette was ready in time for the Carol Service and it was followed by mulled wine and mince pies; it was very good to see such a large gathering in the new space.

We have recently been donated a coffee machine and so good coffee is on offer following services.



The Vestry fit out is now complete and looks excellent



And the robing cupboard is behind the wall in the Vestry.

Save the Date

Family Fun At Tidenham 10th May 2025

Bring your own picnic and enjoy a fascinating Churchyard Trail.

Summer Gala Concert 10th June 2025

Themed Flower Festival 20th – 24th June 2025

Further details to follow!



Flower Festival



Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Holocaust Memorial Day – Remembering Srebrenica

8 March, 7pm
St Mary's Church,
Wotton Under Edge,
Gloucester, GL12 7LS
A Holocaust Memorial Day service with guest speaker Sheila Osmanovic, who will share her experience of the siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica genocide. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/holocaust-memorial-day-remembering-srebrenica/>

Family pancake party
4 March, 3.30pm to 5pm
St Michael and All Angels Church, Gloucester GL2 8BN
For primary school children and their families to do activities and crafts, listen to a story and eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW33B1SIP-n1sNJwJyYSO-l15f6qMilyzgqHtn6O3YI9kG42Q/viewform>

The Collation, Installation and Welcome of the Archdeacon of Cheltenham

30 March, 3pm to 5pm
Gloucester Cathedral, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY A welcome service for the **Revd Canon Katrina Scott**, who has been appointed as Archdeacon of Cheltenham. All are invited to attend as Katrina starts this new ministry. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-collation-installation-and-welcome-of-the-archdeacon-of-cheltenham/>

Spring craft fayre

29 March, 10am to 1pm,
St Stephen's Church,
Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford
GL14 2AA.
Showcasing a range of stalls by local artisans, along with Fairtrade food and gifts from global sources. Free entry, with hot food, drinks, and cakes. <https://allevents.in/gloucester/spring-craft-fayre/>



Ash Wednesday – what’s it all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period in the lead up to Easter. Lent is a chance to slow down and be more intentional about your time and priorities, making time to put God first whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or giving something up.

Ash Wednesday itself started in the early Church, around 1st to 4th century as a form of public repentance, through sprinkling of ashes.

In services today, priests mark people's foreheads with ashes – a symbol of humility and a reminder of human mortality. Priests will say the words *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"*, originating from Genesis 3:19 when God tells Adam that his life, like all human life, is temporary, but turning back towards God offers something eternal.

Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, where he fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation (Matthew 4:1–11). Just as Jesus withdrew to focus on God, Lent invites us to step away from daily distractions and reflect on our lives – what's going well, where we need growth, and how we can deepen our faith.

In medieval times, Christians followed strict fasting rules, like giving up meat, dairy, and sometimes fish. These days, it's more flexible; some choose to give up something they love, like sweets, caffeine, or social media. Others choose to take on something positive, such as daily prayer, volunteering, or acts of kindness.

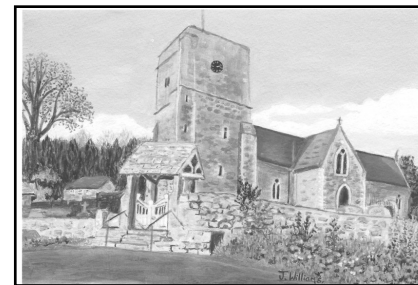
Ash Wednesday falls on 5 March this year. Whether you're a lifelong Christian, someone rediscovering faith, or just curious, you're welcome to attend a service and experience this tradition for yourself.

If you decide to participate in Lent, remember that Lent isn't about self denial, but about renewal and a chance to reset, refocus, and prepare for the joy of Easter.



The “Face” Of The Friends of Tidenham Church

Prints and cards from an original painting by Jane Williams, are available for sale with all proceeds going to The Friends of Tidenham Church.



Prints are unframed and measure 9” x 13” for £25 and would make a great present.

A4 correspondence cards, blank for your own message, with an envelope for £1.00

Please contact: Sarah-Jane Gilchrist Tel: 01291 627966
Email: secretary.friends@icloud.co

1858 EAST WINDOW—MICHAEL O’CONNOR



The 1858 window, in memory of the Reverend Armstrong. was removed in 1925 and replaced with the current window. For the past 98 years it has been stored on the floor above the Bell Ringing chamber.

In 2024 it was placed in a backlit light box and incorporated into the panelling for the Vestry and is visible in the North Aisle. In interpreting this window, one sees St Peter with 2 keys, probably alluding to the fact that during the time that the Reverend Armstrong (1848 to 1854) the new church was opened in Tidenham Parish, St Luke’s Tutshill in 1853. He also

held services at Tidenham Chase School and then in 1888 St Michael and All Angels at Tidenham Chase was built, after his time.

The window also has Mary looking over the figure of the Christ figure with the new and increased flock. Under the Christ figure’s arm is a man, very possibly the Reverend Armstrong. At their feet are spring flowers indicating a new season and growth for the Church.

This window reinforces the joint names for Tidenham Parish Church of St Mary and St Peter.



Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024



The Christmas Tree Fairy Tale Festival was a huge success. As always, such an event would not be possible without the hard work from all the contributors and volunteers. We also have to thank the

visitors who came to see the trees. We had an amazing 255 visitors this year - and that's not including the dogs!

Everyone was amazed by the transformation of the North Aisle. The kitchen and toilet were very much admired as was the brilliant carpentry and the quality of the oak used. There were so many complimentary remarks about how the new woodwork fitted in so well with the rest of the church and what a super space has now been created. The lighted stained glass window garnered huge acclaim.



**11. Sedbury Space
Happy Crafters**

The money raised from the tree entries, quiz and donations is approximately £700 which is fantastic and will go towards the new heating for the North Aisle.



Memory Tree

Thank you for your continued support.
Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church

**Well done to Tracey Crocker who won the competition
with the most Christmas Tree Fairy Tale recognitions!**

Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church



- Agreed to keep the advertising rates in the Link magazine unchanged for 2025
- Welcomed the Government's decision to extend the Listed Places of Worship scheme to 31 March 2026
- Planned to Change the name of our Wellbeing *Project* to Wellbeing *Ministry* to reflect the fact that it is now a core part of what we do.



Life Groups

Parish Life Group Meetings meeting most weeks

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

- **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
- **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

Please do speak to someone in church if you are unsure about any of the above groups.



**Q: What do you call a line of rabbits
marching backward?**

A: A receding hare-line.



Highlights from PCC meetings in December, January & February 2024/25

In December PCC members:

- Met our new Youth Worker Eve Mcleod who started working part time in the parish on 01 November
- Agreed a revised Finance Policy
- Agreed the names of the Vacancy Interview Panel – Robin Riordan, Emma Phillips, James Parsons
- Signed off the Parish Profile that had been created by a small team after a lot of hard work
- Approved the Parish Net Zero Plan
- Noted that the repairs to Tidenham church tower started in earnest in November

In January PCC members:

- approved the Charity Giving Policy
- looked forward to meeting the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Robert Springett, at Chase church on Sunday evening 9 February
- reviewed arrangements for Easter services during the vacancy
- welcomed a very positive report from Sedbury Space on the work of our Wellbeing Chaplain, Revd Nicki Bullivant
- welcomed the fact that Tidenham reordering had been completed and fast broadband was being installed
- welcomed the news that a parishioner was keen to make plans to improve the fabric of Chase church
- noted that the Treasurer had made significant progress with the annual accounts for 2024

In February PCC members:

- Appointed Iain Gardiner as PCC secretary
- Approved the PCC's response to the Diocesan questionnaire about parish share for 2026, noting that we no longer have a full time vicar for the parish, as some 20% of their time is spent at St Briavels and Hewelsfield
- Noted the arrangements for a brand new church electoral roll to apply from April - everyone has to reapply, but people can now use a pdf fillable application form and send it in by email



Christmas Tree Festival 2024

	GROUP	Fairy Tale
1	Bellringers	Rapunzel
2	Tidenham Village Residents Association	Sleeping Beauty
3	St Michael & All Angels Community & Friends	The Gingerbread Man
4	Chase WI	Snow White & The Seven Dwarves
5	Bishton Belles	The Elves & the Shoemaker
6	Sedbury Community Walks	Puss in Boots
7	1st Sedbury & Tidenham Beavers	The Ugly Duckling
8	1st Sedbury & Tidenham Cubs	The Little Mermaid
9	Rainbows	Cinderella
10	Splash!	Hansel & Gretel
11	Sedbury Space Happy Crafters	The Three Little Pigs
12	Martin Singers	Goldilocks & the Three Bears
13	Tidenham Flower Arrangers	Rumpelstiltskin
14	Tidenham Historical Society	The Three Billy Goats Gruff
15	Tutshill School	The Snow Queen
16	Tutshill WI	Jack and the Beanstalk
	Memory Tree	



“Heavenly Father, during this vacancy, guard and grow the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield, as we serve you together in this period without a Priest in Charge.

Lord Jesus, we know you have plans for us and that these plans are good. We ask you now that You will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover

Your way for the future and see Your Kingdom grow.

All this we ask in the strength of the Holy Trinity. Amen.”

BELL RINGING



Alas, the weather has not been ideal for working atop an ancient church! While the tower of St Mary and St Peter’s remains swaddled in scaffolding, ringing is still not possible at time of writing. However, we are crossing our fingers that our bells will be back in action before too much of the spring has elapsed. All the more so as we have a set of new ropes all ready to attach.

Our ringers have nonetheless continued to practise weekly on Tuesdays. Largely thanks to Richard Heys of Alvington, they have been ‘on tour’, ringing at a variety of towers including Mathern, Shirenewton and Lydney, as well as St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Chepstow (practices at the latter being in conjunction with Caldicot ringers).

Congratulations to Howard Murphy, who rang his first Quarter Peal (at Lydney) on 5 December. Howard also joined ringers from Alvington and Lydney, for a ringing trip across the Severn in January – three different towers and a pub lunch.

Bell ringers are clearly not ‘sad people who don’t get out much’!

Please check with Cate Phillips (07596 185918) if you are planning to come along on a Tuesday.

There is, of course, always the option of ringing at Alvington on Monday evenings, or Lydney on Thursdays (all 7.30 – 9.00pm).



- ✚ Regular communion services, and pastoral visits in Castleford Nursing home and a Carol Service there on Christmas Eve that was well attended by residents, their families and staff. Marj, Polly, Charlotte Della and Revd Nicki were moved by the wonderful singing and the hospitality of Castleford in providing mince pies and drinking chocolate for us all afterwards!!!!
- ✚ Bereavement support continues
- ✚ We will be hosting a breakfast club in partnership with 2 Rivers housing and the Salvation Army during the Tuesdays of half term and holidays.
- ✚ Little Larder continues to be a blessing to many and the contributions and generosity of many within the local community are very much appreciated.
- ✚ Parish Coffee morning (see page21 for dates coming up).

Here are PCSO Coe and Inspector Cook meeting up with Rev Nicki recently when they were out and about patrolling Sedbury and speaking with residents about community issues





Creating a hub for worship in Sedbury

- ✚ Bible Study continues on a Monday afternoon with 8-10 attendees and Evening Prayer on a Thursday with an increasing congregation up to 5 people, often including the people attending the earlier Chaplaincy Chatroom sessions.
- ✚ Offering a safe, confidential place for people to discuss their concerns. The Chaplaincy Chatroom has had higher demand recently, is often fully booked, and sometimes has had to be extended in length, to cater for very urgent needs.
- ✚ One stop Café and Monthly Sunday lunches continue to be very well attended.
- ✚ Partnership working with other agencies to support individuals.
- ✚ The Cancer Cafe Drop-In, which was in its pilot stage at the last report, is now established as a regular daytime monthly activity. Referrals are now coming from a wider geographical area, including south Monmouthshire.
- ✚ The 2024 partnership with 2 Rivers Housing continued to be very, very successful with another Breakfast session during half term, when lunch packs also were prepared by Sedbury Space plus parish church volunteers and issued to families which signed up in advance. A Christmas party on 18th December in the Village Hall. free, good quality child's present (provided by the Salvation Army) available to every child who looked in to the session.
Refreshments for everyone as well as craft activities, Father Christmas and a little goody bag for everyone on departure.
- ✚ Food distribution in Sedbury: 2 Rivers have obtained space to store dry food supplies to be distributed to tenants in need and used for the breakfasts etc.
- ✚ Working with the Salvation army
- ✚ Successful partnership with a local surgery.
- ✚ Pilates - there are now regularly 14 people attending the session with a number of us going to Café on the Hill afterwards for 'Lattes after Pilates'



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

William Thomas James SMITH (93)
 Wednesday, 4th December 2024
 St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase

Colin Donovan LEE (94)
 Tuesday 10th December 2024
 Service at St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham
 followed by Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Betty Anne BASTIN (81)
 Saturday, 1st February 2025
 Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Yvonne Linda GIBBS
 Sunday, 16th February 2025
 Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Richard Phillip BRACE (74)
 Thursday, 20th February 2025
 Service at St Luke, Tutshill
 followed by Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Susan Pears (78)
 Saturday, 22nd February 2025
 Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase
 followed by Service at St Luke, Tutshill



Further register entries will appear in Summer 2025 edition of the Link



Celebrate Easter together

Palm Sunday 13 April

9.00am Holy Communion with Revd Ali Mepham
Gloucester Diocese
St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham

10.45am procession from Tutshill Memorial Hall to
11.00am Morning Worship with palms
with Revd Ali Mepham
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

6.00pm Evensong (BCP) with dramatised reading of
The Passion
St Michael & All Angels', Tidenham Chase

Holy Week

Wednesday 16 April

12noon Healing Eucharist
St Luke's Church, Tutshill
7.00pm 'Journeying through Grief to Hope'
Service for the Bereaved
St Michael & All Angels', Tidenham Chase

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7.00pm Holy Communion & The Washing of Feet
(optional on request)
St Luke's Church, Tutshill



Good Friday 18 April

10.00am Family Service
St Luke's Church, Tutshill
2.00pm Good Friday Worship
The Last Hour with Archdeacon Hilary
(Gloucester Dioceses)
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

9.00pm Holy Saturday Easter Eve 19 April
Easter Vigil
St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham

Easter Sunday 20 April

9.00am Holy Communion
with Archdeacon Hilary
St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham

11.00am Family Communion
St Luke's Church, Tutshill
with Archdeacon Hilary
6.00pm BCP Holy Communion
St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

