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Tidenham**

**Sunday: 9:00am**

**St Michael & All Angels  
Tidenham Chase**

**Sunday: 4.00pm/6.00pm**

**St Luke's  
Tutshill**

**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
Reader	James Parsons	07970 489362
Children & Families Missioner	Emma Durbin emmad.cyfm@gmail.com	07369 226546
Church Warden	Robin Riordan rrtpcc@aol.com	07711 173240
Church Warden	Brian Duerden bduerden70@gmail.com	01291 623310
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Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	01291 446300
Deputy Warden Chase	Susanna Jacks	07411 188627
PCC Secretary	Iain Gardiner	07738 095839
PCC Treasurer	Paul Coombs 814yug@gmail.com	07831 469951
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Tanya White



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

I hope that everyone is well.

### Inside this month:

- Churchwarden Robin Riordan gives us a Parish up-date (pages 4-6)
  - News from Sedbury Space (pages 8-9)
  - Report & answers to the Scarecrow Trail (pages 14-15)
  - Tidenham Gala Concert & Flower Festival (pages 10-11)
  - PCC Highlights from our PCC secretary (page 33-35)
- News from Mike & Mandy on their Ukraine visit (pages 38-39)

### 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 web-site:**

[www.stbandhchurches.org.uk](http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk)

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

Love from  
**Tanya**



### PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Autumn Link** (September, October & November 2025) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

Email: [tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)

or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road,  
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Revd Nicki  
Bullivant  
Associate Priest &  
Wellbeing Chaplain



Prof Brian Duerden  
CBE  
Churchwarden



Robin Riordan  
Churchwarden

## Summer Greetings to all our parishioners

As I write this, it is a glorious start to the summer. Leaves are out, the sun is shining and the first blooms appearing. I feel grateful to live in a peaceful and pretty part of the world, showing its finest face. I am also filled with hope for life, inspired both by the wonderful celebrations of the resurrection at Easter in our churches following Lent (including services led by visiting clergy, the Revd Ali Mephram and Archdeacon Hilary) and by the season bursting into life around me.

Talking of hope, the vacancy for our new Vicar is now live again in the Church Times and on the Gloucester Diocese website, with enhancements to the three parishes profile based upon feedback from our first unsuccessful advertisement round.

Please join us in praying for our new Vicar, who is out there somewhere, to be inspired to come and lead us into a bright and hopeful future in the Parish of Tidenham.

If we are successful in appointing our new Vicar after interviews on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, given the notice they will need to give to their existing parish and the impact of school terms on their families, it is likely that they would join around Christmas time.

In the meantime, the living, breathing team comprising our ministry team, the PCC and our congregations, continue to work together in mutual respect and love across our three churches and St Briavels and



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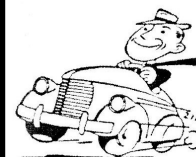


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Hewelsfield to ensure we are able to keep up our broad range of worshipping styles.

This relies on the goodwill and dedication of limited staff and many volunteers. Mission and worship is led by our Associate Priest and Wellbeing Chaplain, an Ordained Local Minister, two Lay Readers, music and worship groups, three Licensed Pastoral Visitors, a Licensed Funeral Minister and four PTO Priests. Parish leadership and management is undertaken by our churchwardens and the PCC.

Even with all this dedication, there is still so much to be done, so if you are of a mind to volunteer, you would be very welcome helping out with contributions to worship, rotas such as cleaning and many other things that need to be accomplished.

You may not know much about what the PCC does, but as well as being the board of trustees of the Parish of Tidenham, we ensure that all of the strategic, leadership and management aspects of running the parish are considered. There is strong support on the side of mission and worship from our ministry team, both in the planning and leadership of our worship in our churches, community and in conjunction with local schools. During the coming year, we will be looking to recruit new members of the PCC as some existing members will have retired. It is really not a big commitment, so if you would like to get involved, please approach me, Brian or Nicki.

Over the summer, our Missioner to Children, Young People & Families (MCYF), Emma will be stepping down from her role but still be an active member of our congregation. Emma has been a tremendous leader and Missioner, working with our schools and playgroups and bringing many new families into church in conjunction with the MCYF team of volunteers and Nicki. This is a critical area of our ministry in the community that is the future lifeblood of our parish. We are so grateful to Emma for her dedicated service to our parish.

We fully intend to replace Emma in this critical area as soon as we are able. The position is totally funded through donations and grants so we will be launching a pledge campaign to raise funds to employ a new Missioner for at least 2 years, with the intention of this carrying on



with further funding. We might be lucky and find the person who will replace Emma before she leaves and if not, will have a contingency plan to keep this vital work going until the new Missioner joins us. Again, please join us in prayer that the new MCYF will respond to our advert and be the person to take this vital ministry forwards.

Eve, our Youth Intern who has ably picked up activities with our youth supporting Emma, will be taking maternity leave later in the summer. We wish her all the best for her new addition to her family!

Our Parish Administrative Assistant, Annabelle will also be leaving her role at end of August after nearly four years supporting David and more recently, me, Brian and Nicki. We would like to thank her for all of her support and dedication and wish her well in her next adventure. In the absence of a vicar, we will be taking time to consider what support is needed and potentially combining administrative and other activities in a new role.

The current phase of work on St Mary and St Peter is nearly complete, and attention will move next to the conversion of the barn just outside of the church wall into a kitchen and meeting spaces.

That means that attention can now focus as well on much needed repairs to St Michael and All Angels in Tidenham Chase. A surveyor's report on the roof has been undertaken and cost estimates requested and we have also requested costings to update the electrics. We then intend to replicate the highly successful partnerships between the PCC and the congregation and parishioners at St Luke, and St Mary and St Peter to fund raise and help manage the completion of the works.

Life in vacancy continues, and although we have lost some dear friends this spring, we have been blessed with new joiners and live in hope that our combined prayers for a new vicar and MCYF will be answered and our strong and thriving community will get stronger.

As you pray, keep in mind that we are looking for someone who is deeply prayerful, a challenging, collaborative thinker and worker, able to hold differences in unity, with a heart for mission and community, a passion for Jesus Christ and developing His Kingdom in this beautiful part of the world.

**Robin Riordan**  
Churchwarden



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### Bullet Point News

**NEWS FLASH!**

#### ✝ 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.

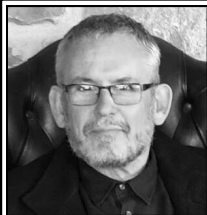
#### ✝ Churchyards

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.





## Sedbury Space Snippet

From Lee Durbin

The weather is lovely. It's definitely spring.

Life jumps up a gear.

In and around my life a lot is happening. There is a long longed for baby in the extended family that makes me hark back to the days of buggies and Huggies. One of my children is moving into their first proper place, one is travelling without us as a young person of the world and my mother has just celebrated a significant landmark. Life is happening across the ages around me.

This makes me think of Sedbury Spaces' mission to help build community for all ages. Not always easy, but if you look at our Facebook page you see Sunday Lunch Club, the VE Day celebration tea, Tuesday drop in and, also, the Children's Easter party and Holiday Club. And there's more! Take a look at our "Social Media".

Which I think means Facebook and our website. It's nice to look around and watch life happening.

After a  
summer  
off... Next  
Folk Club

St Luke's  
Church  
Saturday

6th September 2025

6 - 8.30pm

(doors open 5.30pm)

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

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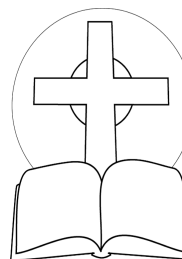
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# Colossians 3: 12-17

# Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and  
dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion,  
kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a  
grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of  
one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly  
as you teach and admonish one another  
with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,  
singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the  
Father through him.



# Cheltenham PIONEER PRAYER UPDATE from Janice Hamilton

The Palm Sunday Pilgrimage and Picnic went really well with  
over 100 people attending. The weather was great  
(the hailstorm holding off until we'd literally just cleared the  
last items from the site!) and the two beautiful donkeys drew a crowd from  
the wider community. There were lots of opportunities for  
conversations and deepening relationships.



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Cartoon by  
Dom White





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Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2pm-5pm

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2pm-5pm

**Cheese & Wine**

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 7pm-8.30pm

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Manager**

### SEDBURY SPACE MANAGER'S NEWS SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Wow! We have been very busy over the year already!

Please follow us on social media where possible or the old fashioned and reliable way of our noticeboard to keep updated weekly on our activities!

Our regular sessions/café's continue to steadily grow and be well attended, Our **TUESDAY WEEKLY DROP-IN CAFÉ** remains extremely popular and we have enjoyed much more than just chat and cuppa's. We recently celebrated VE day with a themed café session and its fair to say we partied. We have celebrated some BIG birthday's and again when asked we have included the families, inviting them to come and join in our chorus of song and blowing of candles.

Our **CANCER SUPPORT CAFÉ** continues to be of great help on both the lunchtime and evening monthly meet ups.

Our **WELLBEING CHAPLAIN** continues to need another set of legs as she is so busy, from Bible studies, prayer group, chatroom, foodbank, and much, much more we are so very grateful to have a "Nicki" on our team! We have also introduced a prayer request box, when Nicki is not here you are welcome to leave a prayer request for her anytime in complete confidence.

**NEW GROUPS** have started including a support group for Autism/ ADHD led by another valuable volunteer Dawn, who has both lived and professional experience. It has proved successful and we are trying an evening session this month in the hope that more people will be able to benefit from the meet-up.



**Ukrainian Christians rely on  
food.gives for basic needs**

"We thank you so much because from the beginning of the war, you have been close to us, and you did not let us down," reported a Ukrainian Christian.

Regular donations from our supporters have enabled us to send aid to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine

throughout the war; this believer's testimony highlights the importance of this provision. Access to food and other

basic necessities is limited, and these Christians rely on food.gives to obtain them. "We are now left only with Barnabas' help," he continued, "and we are so thankful because you stayed close to us, supported us with food, clothes, hygiene and children's necessities."

### How Barnabas helps

"We have experienced ... the killing of women and children, the destruction of our villages with the aim of wiping us out because we are Christians," said a pastor in Nigeria. "But we have also experienced love from Barnabas."

These words of thanks came after Barnabas Aid provided food, sleeping mats, roofing sheets and other urgently needed supplies to 2,200 Nigerian believers who had been displaced by anti-Christian violence in 2022. It has been our joy and privilege over many years to share with the Lord's people wherever we are able to meet their need. "Brothers and sisters who are far away continue to put us in their prayers and send food and materials to us," the pastor added. "What more can we ask for?"





### Christian News Our Faith in Today's World



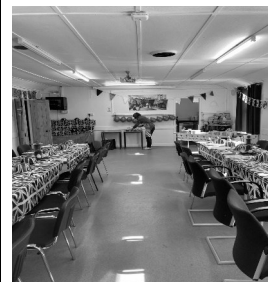
**Christian villagers in north-eastern India often rely on harvesting rainwater, which may not be safe to drink**

➤ “Water is a rare commodity,” says a Barnabas Aid project partner in Manipur, north-eastern India. You might be shocked to read that and you should be. Water is the most basic of basic necessities – and yet many of the impoverished believers in Manipur have no safe and reliable water source. In two Christian villages, people must regularly resort to harvesting rainwater, with no guarantees that the water they collect is safe or

sanitary. Another option is to purchase drinking water – but even this expensive solution may often fail owing to the political unrest, instability and violence that plague Manipur.

In recent years, many believers have been killed or assaulted, numerous Christian communities targeted, many church buildings destroyed.

“Their struggle to have sufficient supply of water keeps them vulnerable,” says another Barnabas Aid contact from Manipur. “Poverty and neglect by authorities are startling.”



THE **COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH** continues to provide a home cooked meal once a month, an example of the menu we have enjoyed....cottage pie and veg & cheesecake/Ice-cream .... Slow cooked shredded pork & homemade fruit flan.. every dish cooked and served with passion and love by our amazing volunteers!

We now have a **QUARTERLY QUIZ NIGHT** with a Kibby's fish & chip supper, which is so successful that we are looking in to hiring the village hall for the next one as we always have a waiting list to attend. Not sure if it's the fish supper or our very own Manager Quiz Master which is helping its success!!

We are excited to be adding to our **WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING NEW DROP IN SESSION**. From June we will have a monthly regular visit from a Two Rivers Housing representative, a local MP, and the Community Police. The aim is to make the people who can help or change lives be more accessible. We will update our weekly activities facebook post with all the information so please 'like' our page and stay updated.

The philosophy of the hub Manager and the team is very much,

**THERE IS NO I IN TEAM!!**

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Sedbury Space Community Hub is a **SAFE PLACE** for whatever help you need.

If we don't know the answer, we will find who does together and put you in touch. Always with a listening **CONFIDENTIAL** ear and a cuppa.







## TUTSHILL SCARECROW TRAIL 2025 Favourite Books Congratulations to all the creators

1	Rapuzel	18	Lord of the Rings
2	Dracula	19	Feet in the Clouds
3	Little Red Riding Hood	20	Missing You
4	Charlotte's Web	21	Guinness Book of Records
5	The Queen's Knickers	22	Harry and his Bucket of Dinosaurs
6	The Big Book of Super Mario	23	Elmer the Patchwork Elephant
7	Hairy Mclairy	24	Northern Lights
8	Watership Down	25	The Tortoise & the Hare
9	Road Racer- It's in my blood	26	Gangster Granny
10	Snail & the Whale	27	The Colour Monster
11	The Borrowers	28	Swallows & Amazons
12	The Smeds & the Smoos	29	Flat Stanley
13	Animal Farm	30	Peter Rabbit
14	The Very Hungry Caterpillar	31	Percy the Park Keeper
15	Lord of the Flies	32	Stick Man
16	Winnie the Pooh	33	The Tiger that came to Tea
17	The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe	34	James and the Giant Peach



## TUTSHILL W.I.



Our February speaker was Toity Deave, who gave us a fascinating inside view of volunteering for SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) along with an account of the different kinds of rescue that SARA are trained and equipped to deal with. I think we all gained a much better understanding of the challenges the volunteers face and why SARA is such a worthwhile cause to support.

March brought a complete change, when members participated in a Drumming Workshop, using different kinds of African drums, and two brave souls volunteered to demonstrate bellydancing as we built up to a resounding final crescendo!

April's meeting was rather quieter as we got to grips with 'Understanding Undertones' and how they need to be considered when redecorating at home. Samples of wallpapers, fabrics and wall colours were provided to try against each other, and the general buzz of conversation indicated the level of interest – and occasional disagreements! – aroused.

Now, as we head into summer we are looking forward to a May visit from Adele Owen, Director of GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). In June, we will be tackling Mandala Art and in July, learning about Urban Self-Protection. There is no meeting in August and in September we will be visiting award-winning Wye Valley Flowers at St Briavels. We have an associated Craft Group who meet twice a month (usually at Café on the Hill), whose handiwork is often to be seen displayed on the bus shelter and also a monthly Book Club who meet in Chepstow.

You do not have to be a WI member to attend either group.

Our meetings are usually, though not always, on the third Monday of the month, 7.30pm 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](mailto: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](mailto:tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com)

### Summer Events

Thursday  
3<sup>rd</sup> July  
2.00pm

A visit to Tidenham parish church of St. Mary and St Peter to look at the newly refurbished north aisle, hear about the complex process required to alter this grade 2\* building and have an exclusive look at some of the historical items and archaeological features uncovered during the works.

**Self-guided leaflets** for the history walks around **Pilning and Severn Beach** will be available at the Tidenham church visit.

**Woodchester Mansion** is a Grade 1 unfinished gothic Victorian house built by Benjamin Bucknall with a fascinating history. Now run by an independent trust, it is located in National Trust grounds near Stroud. The visit date and booking details will be sent out when finalised.



## Missioner to Children, Young People and Families" - Emma Durbin

Spring has truly sprung, the birds are nesting, plants are growing and it's been another busy Easter-tide.

Our two Church run Baby & Toddler groups saw large numbers of little ones searching for Chocolate eggs. Schools held Easter services and it was a joy to see a packed out St Luke's on Easter Sunday.

After about 420 sheets sold, another joy was to see the 1000+ people passing by my house, enjoying the annual Scarecrow trail. This years theme was 'Favourite books' which meant that we had an array of fabulous creations. If you did manage to go around the trail OR do the trail online, I'm sure you'll agree that the quality this year was outstanding. It seems criminal to tell you which Scarecrows were the most popular as the time, effort and money put into all of them was stupendous, but alas, folk are asking so here goes!!!

In first place came 'Winnie the Pooh' (Sedbury



2<sup>nd</sup> place

Beavers), second 'James and the Giant peach' (Chepstow MENCAP), third 'The Borrowers' (The Eden's) and fourth 'Lord of the Rings' (The Robinson's).

Thank you so much to all who made, hosted and trod the trail and a special Thank You goes to Lifestyle Express and Tutshill Butchers, Cafe on the Hill, Toytastic and Chepstow Bookshop for donating prizes. The money raised this year will go to Tidenham Parish Churches, The Wye Valley Greenway and SARA. The top score for identifying the scarecrows was 32 (out of the 33) by Clare Lewis. Well done!



1<sup>st</sup> place

To end I should probably say that this will be my last article in the Link magazine as I will be finishing my role as CYF Missioner. It has been a joy to build so many relationships and be a part of so many 'young ones' lives. Thank you so much to all of the unsung heroes who tirelessly and quietly give of their time to bless the community around us. You know who you are!!

Contact me by email...[emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)



### Tanya's Link Summer Prize Challenge

This time we are following the Scarecrow Trail, which you can see on the cover and the answers on page 14. In our Wordsearch sometimes there is not room in the grid for the whole title and so the parts of title not included in the puzzle are in brackets in smaller size font. I hope that you can find the words and then gather the remaining letters in order to find 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!

<b>ANIMAL FARM</b>	(THE BIG BOOK OF SUPER) <b>MARIO</b>	<b>STICK MAN</b>
(THE VERY HUNGRY) <b>CATERPILLAR</b>	(LITTLE) <b>RED</b> (RIDING HOOD)	<b>SWALLOWS (&amp;)</b> <b>AMAZON(S)</b>
<b>CHARLOTTE'S</b> (WEB)	<b>LORD OF THE FLIES</b>	(THE) <b>TIGER</b> (THAT CAME TO TEA)
<b>ELMER</b> (THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT)	<b>LORD OF THE RINGS</b>	(THE) <b>TORTOISE</b> (& THE HARE)
<b>FEET</b> (IN THE CLOUDS)	<b>MISSING</b> (YOU)	<b>THE BORROWERS</b>
<b>FLAT</b> (STANLEY)	<b>PETER</b> (RABBIT)	<b>THE LION,</b> (THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE)
<b>HAIRY</b> (MCLAIRY)	<b>PERCY</b> (THE PARK KEEPER)	<b>WATERSHIP</b> (DOWN)
<b>HARRY</b> (AND HIS BUCKETFUL OF DINOSAURS)	<b>RAPUNZEL</b>	(SNAIL AND THE) <b>WHALE</b>
<b>JAMES</b> (AND THE GIANT PEACH)	<b>ROAD</b> (RACER - IT'S IN MY BLOOD)	<b>WINNIE THE POOH</b>
16	(THE SMEDS & THE) <b>SMOOS</b>	



### CHASE GARDENING CLUB

There is no meeting of the Club in January and our reunion in February was muted by the sad news that two long-standing members of the Club, June Roberts and Poppy Moss, had sadly passed away.

The February speaker was Adam Alexander, well known to members for his interest in collecting vegetable seeds from far flung countries, this time Albania where 60% of the population work in agriculture and the average farm comprises 4 acres.



In March we welcomed Paul Green of Green's Leaves Nursery from Newent who regularly shows at the Rare Plant Fairs held in Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties. He brought a vast array of interesting plants and was a lively and enthusiastic speaker, generous with advice and tips and very popular with members.

The April meeting gave the committee a headache as the planned speaker let us down and we were lucky to find Chris Mattison from Catbrook who very kindly stepped in at the last minute with an unusual and beautifully photographed talk on "Unusual Plants – and how to grow some of them". The carnivorous plants were especially revolting but some of the cacti and succulents produce the most exquisite blooms.

The annual Plant Sale will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Chase School. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits will be available and it is usually a happy and sociable occasion.



There are no afternoon meetings now until September. They are held at Chase School on the third Friday of the month at 2.30pm and everyone is welcome. For further information please contact Bill Kerr on 01291 621100 or Bob Elliott on 01291 625659.





### Chase WI

Chase WI started the New Year with the loss of one of our former and most enthusiastic WI members, Poppy Moss. Sadly, Poppy passed away in January and many of our members attended her funeral to say goodbye, she is and will be so sadly missed by us all. Poppy kept us all on our toes, she was a WI member through and through having been on the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes as president and our delegate at the National Federation of WI's many times.



February saw us enjoying a members' afternoon of "Bedlam," followed by a quiz ably organised by Shirley F one of our members. March we were entertained by "Tales of a Travel Rep," Pam Beckington, this was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and caused great laughter especially when she told us she had had a complaint made by one of her travellers that she was responsible for her pregnancy!!! It seems they had requested a twin room but had been given a double, hence her predicament and was unfortunately Pam's fault! In April we were entertained with the "Big Bad Woof" ukelele group who helped us celebrate our 55th birthday year. The music was a mixture of old and new, many from the 60's and 70's, which for a lot of our members was their "era" and thoroughly enjoyed by us all.



In March our members met for a meal at the Anchor in Tintern. In April we had a lovely walk around Caldicot castle with lunch at the local tapas bar. In June we hope to have a guided tour and look around Tredegar House. We have also collected unused, unwanted gifts from the members for the Great Oaks hospice to use on their bingo nights.

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.



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



In our Spring Wordsearch we were collecting words connected financially., especially as there was a new Budget and we may be considering our personal **COSTS** of **LIVING** and **EXPENDITURE**!



There were 41 words associated with aspects of Finance and once this had been completed, the remaining letters in order spelled out the answer to the puzzle:

**"TITHE, DONATE, GIVES"**

This time I had 10 entries with 9 of them correct, so thanks to everyone for all your work on this!

The winner this time often enters the competition, so well done to **Coral Blandford of Beachley** for winning this time!



# News from our Parish Schools



**Tutshill School**  
**01291 622593**

We enjoyed taking part in the Scarecrow Trail and this year we hosted the Stick Man!

Term will end on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and we hope that everyone's summer will be good.



**Wyedean**

School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together  
adfecere pariter, perficere pariter

**Wyedean School – 01291 636180**

**Swing Band Shines at Cheltenham Jazz Festival Debut – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May.**

We are thrilled to share that our school Swing Band made its debut performance at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival 2025, marking a proud milestone for our ever-growing music department! The band's tight ensemble playing, rhythmic drive, and confident stage presence were testament to their dedication and the countless hours of rehearsal that led up to the festival.

This debut marks the beginning of what we hope will be a lasting relationship with the Cheltenham Jazz Festival—and it's certainly set the bar high for future performances!



Ronnie's superstar good looks are keeping him in the public eye through the Guide Dogs Cymru Facebook page. He is also working hard to complete his initial training.

Umber has been selected to be a Guide Dog Dad. He will probably start making puppies when he is two years old so for now he is continuing to practice all the good behaviours that he learned as a puppy in training and is making sure that he is in peak condition.

Honorary Chepstow pup Diffy will begin training in Southampton in mid-May.

Although Bertie and Mason are no longer part of the puppy training programme, they continue to be much-loved members of the Guide Dog family. They are both beautiful and intelligent pups and we look forward to hearing what their next steps will be.

At the time of writing Diesel is waiting for the results of the final X-rays to assess his suitability for being a Guide Dog Dad.

**Update from Miri Keen**



## Answers to tea questions on page 32:

1. a) All tea comes from the Camellia sinensis plant, the differences in tea types (green, black, oolong, white etc.) comes from how the leaves are processed rather than the plant itself.
2. b) Nearly 50 % of tea is produced in China, followed by India, Kenya, and Turkey .

Tea is also a significant industry in countries such as Uganda, Malawi, Indonesia and Bangladesh.



3. c) When consumers see the Fairtrade label on a box of tea it tells them that the workers and farmers that produced the tea receive a Fairtrade Price and a Fairtrade Premium

Which tea do you drink?





## Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

In recent months we've been holding regular get togethers for our local Guide Dog Puppies and Puppy Raisers along with pups and people from the wider Monmouthshire area. In the same way that

our parish toddler groups provide opportunities for young children and their parents or carers to play and socialise, these events have offered the pups an opportunity to play outside with one other dog of a similar age, and to practice their settling skills while their Puppy Raisers enjoy a breakfast roll and a chat. Being comfortable to play, or to ignore other dogs is an important part of a Guide Dog's skill set and although there is a lot of fun and laughter it's been good for the humans involved to be able to support one another when training isn't going as smoothly as we would hope.

We are very grateful to the Trustees of the Old School Hall at Chase, and the owners of the Rosemary Lane Dog Field for their support in enabling us to run these events by providing excellent facilities for dogs and humans.

News from our pups

Hunter and his Guide Dog Owner have completed their training, and Hunter is now a working Life Changer. He is the first working Guide Dog raised in the parish. Congratulations to everyone who played a part in this success story especially Cara, Alastair and Haydn his Puppy Raisers.

Rowan has completed all his skills training and is now working with a prospective Guide Dog Owner. Guide Dog Mobility Specialist Emily is training them, and everyone is hoping that their partnership will succeed.



*Hunter's official qualification photo shows him wearing his white harness, the badge of office of a Guide Dog.*



DEAN CLOSE  
**ST JOHN'S**  
CHEPSTOW

Spring was a wonderfully busy and creative season at St John's School!

In March, our talented Year 8 pupils—supported by some brilliant actors from Years 7 and 4—took to the stage with a production of **Macbeth**. They delivered two wonderful evening performances for parents and

guests, as well as a special matinee for pupils from Offa's Mead Academy, Tutshill School, and Dean Close St John's pupils. With three full-house audiences in Singleton Hall, the cast wowed everyone with their confidence, creativity, and dedication.

Thank you to our incredible actors and all who helped bring the production to life. A special thank you also goes to our local primary schools, families, and

community members for coming along to support the show.

Elsewhere in the school, our creative Year 3 and 4 pupils embraced an exciting project. After visiting a charity shop—putting their math skills into action—they designed and created one-of-a-kind outfits for a fabulous **Fashion Show**. The event was a huge success! From eye-catching designs to confident runway walks and striking poses, our young designers and models truly shone.

It's been a term full of performance, innovation, and joyful learning at St John's—and we're excited to see what the summer has in store!



**Dean Close St John's School**  
**01291 622045**



**Offa's Mead**  
Academy  
To make our best better

Our children start their academic journey in the school year in which they are five years old, when they join our Foundation Stage. As a Lift

academy, at OMA our mission is pure and simple: *to enable our pupils to lead remarkable lives. This is the golden thread that binds us all together – the reason that despite our very different paths to OMA, we are all part of one family.*

David Wayland, Principal.

**Offa's Mead - 01291 622932**



Celebrating V E Day with a street party.  
As one of the children said 'to celebrate the people that were looking after our country'



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



Tutshill Community Pre-School  
War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Cheltenham, HP16 7BN  
01295 629134

We've had so much fun exploring the world around us, with our own caterpillars, shadow play and tending to our garden.





We have limited spaces for September, if you require a place please contact us soon to avoid disappointment.

PIC•COLLAGE



After worship one Sunday a little boy told the pastor,  
"When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

"Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?"  
"Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."



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**

### More about my work

The Rehema Project benefits women and children in crisis – who don't have food, clothing or shelter and who are susceptible to all sorts of illnesses because of malnutrition. Many of them struggle with the effects of HIV or AIDS and sometimes have suffered from abuse, rape, theft and mistreatment; they are trapped in poverty, with little hope.

As Christians we are compelled, through Christ's love, to show love, compassion and mercy. It is my privilege to manage the different elements of Rehema and to share life with the amazing staff.

### My story

I am South African by birth and British by naturalisation.

In 2011, after almost 30 years of working in banking, account management and HR management, I was made redundant from my senior role in a business risk consultancy in London.

I felt called to do something completely different, something that made a difference, and after praying about it I went to Tanzania on a short-term mission trip.

I was introduced to Rehema and couldn't help but become involved.

This experience further cemented my call; I firmly believe that God called me to short-term mission to give me a taste of life in long-term mission.

After training with Church Mission Society I returned to Musoma and I'm delighted that I'm able to share the love of Christ with the Rehema ladies long-term.







christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

## Take your first step out of debt

Find out how you can improve your financial situation with our practical guide

Improving your financial situation has never been so important. With food costs spiralling upwards and energy bills soaring, it's a really worrying time. Taking control of your money can help you feel more at ease in the months ahead and lessen the stress of the cost of living crisis.

There are a few practical tips and techniques you can try to improve your financial situation

### Create a budget

It sounds simple, but creating a realistic and effective budget can hugely improve your financial situation. Knowing what money you have coming in and going out every month will help you work out how much you have left over and help you feel in control.

### Start saving

Saving money each month might seem overwhelming when you've already tightened the purse strings, but you'll be so glad you did when an unexpected cost

arises. Start small and manageable. You can set your account up to transfer the money to a savings account automatically so you don't get chance to spend it.

- Learn how to budget and get to grips with your finances with CAP's money coaching resources.

- Learn practical tools to help you live well on a low income with a life skills group.

### Attend a job club

If you are unemployed, you might want to consider attending a job club to gain the skills and support you need to find a job you'll love. You'll follow an eight-week course that will give you all the tools you need to find work, from writing a CV that employers won't be able to resist, to brushing up on those all-important interview skills.

### Know what you're entitled to

Depending on your circumstances, you might be entitled to new or increased benefits, such as Universal Credit or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Use a benefits calculator to find out if you can access financial support.

**Contact Rev Nicki Bullivant  
for more information**



## 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.**

Meeting on Monday, 30 June 2025

Meeting on Monday, 28 July 2025

(NO Meeting Bank Holiday: Monday, 25 August 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](mailto:paulinemorgan23@gmail.com) or  
Revd Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.**

### Found in other churches' notices:



"Irving & Jessie were married in  
the church in June.  
So ends a friendship that began  
in their school days."



## The Parish Lunch ...

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

No August Parish Lunch

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts  
phone  
George or Beryl  
on 01291 625551

The Parish Lunch for June and July will be held on the first Thursday of the month. There is no meeting in August.

As the year has settled down the number of guests and helpers, has steadied at around 40.

Nevertheless new guests are always welcome.

The contribution to costs is just £4.00 and provides a substantial main course, a super sweet, followed by hot drink and chocolates.

And every chance to take the fresh table flowers home.

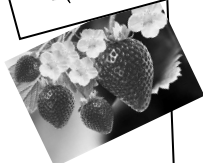
Please contact Beryl or George on 01291 625551 for more information.

Just a thought for the day: If you have a long standing problem, try kneeling.



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

Fact  
Gatherings...



*Berrylicious Season: Summer is prime time for harvesting a variety of delicious berries, including strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries. The Old Farmer's Almanac notes that these berries reach their peak ripeness and flavour during the warm summer months, making them a popular seasonal treat.*



After the basilica we went to the one Ukrainian restaurant in Chelm for a late lunch. We had a fabulous meal, with Ukrainian tea (like a hot lemon and orange spiced tea) and when the owners found out why we were there they refused to let us pay – what a lovely gesture!

Thank  
you



Let's do it all  
again next  
year!



**I'm trying to organise a hide & seek tournament.  
But good players are really hard to find!**



## Aid for Ukraine Trip 2025

Firstly a huge "Thank you" to everyone that donated stuff - you can be sure it was much appreciated and put to very good use. The medical stuff actually went off to hospitals later on the very same day that we off-loaded it at the depot in Chelm.

For those that are interested.. a very brief overview of the finances.....

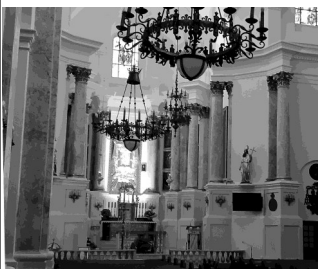
- £1400 for the long wheelbase van
- £700 diesel, About 3000 miles all told (we came back through the Czech republic which might have been a mistake!)
- £329 ferry (return)

We paid for the bulk of the food and accommodation costs ourselves.

We took:

Lots of Pet food, Several small generators, A quantity of solar battery chargers, High density food, Rescue equipment, Warm clothes, Sleeping bags, Lots of medical stuff (pain killers, catheters, syringes, bandages,), Personal hygiene products, Small toys for children, Baby formula and nappies

Info for next time: T-shirts needed by the guys of the front line who have no laundry or washing facilities so they just wear them as vests until they rot! Then of course they need a new one!



We visited the Basilica (cathedral) in Chelm, a beautiful place with a fascinating crypt! But it was so cold! -10degrees cold even in Chelm, going down to -20 degrees at night !



## BELL RINGING

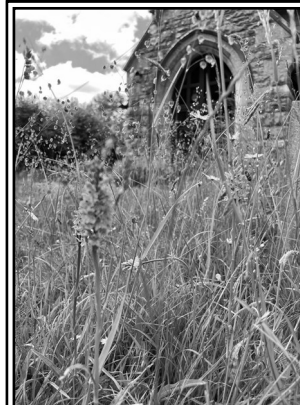


As those who worship at St Mary & St Peter will know, after four months the scaffolding is down and our bells – with new ropes! – are finally back in action. This is particularly welcome as we were able to ring for a wedding on 12 April, which, as the work on the roof went on and on, had been in some doubt. Even better, the bells sounded wonderful and the ringers were warmly thanked for their contribution to a very happy event.

Tremendous thanks are due to those intrepid souls who gathered on the morning of the wedding to give the ringing room its first proper spring clean for goodness knows how long – Vic, Cate, Richard, Josie and Sarah come to mind (with apologies to anyone else not mentioned). An extraordinary quantity of dust and debris was shifted in a surprisingly short time, resulting in a much improved ringing space.

We are looking forward to ringing as part of the Friends of Tidenham Church family funday and picnic (bring your own) on 10 May, from about 2pm onwards. Do come and see the ringers in action and no doubt there will be someone there to tell you all about what can be a fascinating and enjoyable hobby.

Having travelled round the district for Tuesday practices while Tidenham tower was unringable, we are now back 'at base'. Please check with Cate Phillips (01291 624260) if you are planning to come along on a Tuesday, 7.30–9.00pm. Sunday ringing is from 8.30am – visiting ringers always welcome.



Tidenham parish is now a group member of the "Caring for Gods Acre" a national charity which aims to keep burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities, appealing to those interested in local history and the natural world. At Chase we have used Caring for Gods Acre as an advisory resource. See their website for all the resources they offer and if you would like to access the members area please contact me as there are several member logins available still for the parish. There is a Love your burial grounds week/Churches count on Nature annually in June.

**Susanna Jacks**



### Remembering Renate Mitchard

Following her sudden and unexpected death, I had the privilege of being asked to conduct the funeral of Renate earlier this year. As we continue to treasure her memory as a member of our church family here in Tidenham, to give thanks to God for her years of life and gifts of character, and to pray for her family and all who feel her loss most keenly, I offer these little extracts from my homily at the funeral as a

remembrance. I hope you will combine these with your own memories and thanksgivings, and give thanks to God for a faithful servant of the Lord:

'...It's always good news when somebody chooses the reading for their own funeral. It can be a clear indication of what the person hoped might be said. Renate didn't leave us a reading. She left us *five* readings! In those texts we hear Renate telling us some things. Things about God, and things about her.

The fact that she has left such clear instructions is quite in character of course...My stories of Renate fall into two categories: those about when she, demonstrating extraordinary patience and fortitude, tried to teach me conversational German at Wyedean School. Her determination is probably summed up by the time that she saw me and my little group of friends taking the longest possible way to the portacabin in which she did the German oral conversations, and she shouted across the courtyard, "come on! You're walking like old men!" Determined yes. But also with an extraordinary sense of humour. When I was composing my answers to the question, 'How do you get to school?', I think she rather enjoyed it when I asked her to give me the German for, 'I sail up the Wye in my submarine'. I used that in the exam! I remember the giggling, and the glint in her eye when she gave me the translation.

And then of course lots of memories of Renate as a member of the congregation at St Luke's. Including just three or four weeks ago when I was last taking the service here, and we stood chatting at the door afterwards.



**Events and training**  
**More details for all these events at**  
**[gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)**

**Crafts that built the Cathedral:**  
**Medieval book binding,**  
8 June, 9.30am to 4pm,  
Gloucester Cathedral.  
A workshop guiding participants through the making of a medieval book binding, and creating your own 14th century style binding, using modern materials. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/crafts-that-built-the-cathedral-medieval-book-binding>

**Library tours: Music special,**  
14 June  
10.45am, 11.45am, 2.45pm  
Gloucester Cathedral  
A tour of the Cathedral's beautiful, hidden 15th Century monastic library, the traces left behind by our organists and singers over the years, from chorister graffiti to famous names. <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/library-tours-music-special>

**Questioning joy: poetic faith in a literalist world,** 25 June,  
7.30pm to 9pm,  
Francis Close Hall Campus  
University of Gloucestershire, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL50 4AZ  
The Revd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark, will be giving the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual lecture of the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation.  
<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/questioning-joy-poetic-faith-in-a-literalist-world>

**Summer quiz night with two course supper,**  
28 June, 7pm to 10pm,  
St Philip and St James,  
Leckhampton. 60 Grafton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2DD  
Quiz night and two course supper £15pp. Everyone is welcome including teams of 6, smaller groups or individuals who would be welcomed on arrival and joined together to create a team.  
<https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/xn4k8usr>

**Have your say**  
Visit Facebook  
**f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**  
Email Katherine  
**kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk**  
Visit website  
**[gloucester.anglican.org](https://gloucester.anglican.org)**





## **Thy Kingdom Come 2025** **Light up the world in Prayer**

From 29 May to 8 June 2025, Christians across the world are invited to unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Spanning the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global wave of prayer is about deepening our own relationship with God, while praying for others to experience that same transformation.

Thy Kingdom Come asks people to pray, daily, for five people they know to come to know Jesus Christ, and to encourage others to pray all over the world.

We have a wide range of free resources available on our webpage to help guide you through at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/thy-kingdom-come-2025-light-up-the-world-in-prayer>.

Bishop Robert said: "In what is an increasingly fragile world, Thy Kingdom Come takes us back the heart of prayer and Jesus' promise to be with us always and everywhere.

"As I pray for people, some I know personally, others I know only of, I seek simply to hold them in God's love; that they may know how precious and unique they are, and the fullness of life that God invites them to share.

"I find that praying in this way does, as Jesus promises, casts anxiety aside, strengthening and renewing my own faith, as I look to the needs and to the welfare of others."

Whether you're new to prayer or have taken part before, this year is another opportunity to join millions in asking God to reveal Himself in new ways.



Her readings, and actually the hymns as well, give us a good idea as to what she wanted to be said today. There is confidence shot through them. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled', she wanted us to hear, 'and do not let them be afraid' (John 14). And then that vision from Revelation about a new heaven and new earth (ch 21). Renate's faith told her that Christian faith is lived towards the future. The Christian is the one who is, quite literally, in Christ. Dead, buried, and risen. And although we only see the promise of that here, now, as if in a mirror, dimly, as Paul's wonderful words remind us, 'then we shall see face-to-face.'

It is into that face-to-face encounter with Jesus that Renate now passes.'

Br Tom Clammer, OC

### ***Footprints in the Sand***

***Mary Stevenson, 1939***

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach  
with the Lord

Scenes from my life flashed across the sky,  
In each, I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints;  
other times there was only one.

During the lowest times of my life  
I could see only one set of footprints,  
so I said, "Lord, you promised me,  
that you would walk with me always.

Why, when I have needed you most would you leave me?"

The Lord replied, "My precious child,  
I love you and would never leave you.

The times when you have seen only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."



### Remembering Susan Pears

In years to come, someone may ask you that question. A possible answer goes like this... Susan was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1946, the second daughter of a kind man from South Wales (Emlyn or Joe Davies) and his kind wife Edie. They lived in the north of London, in an area called Enfield Wash. Her older sister was very clever, and Susan sometimes disappointed her teachers by not being quite as academic as Ruth. She had two younger brothers, Robert (known as Bobby or Bob) and

David. It was a happy family.

Susan had many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins – some living nearby from her mother's side, and some in South Wales to visit on holiday from her father's side. She valued her continued contact with them and their families. At school she made good friends, some stayed in contact throughout her life. She attended Sunday School and eventually became a Sunday School teacher herself.

At Teacher Training College she made several lasting friends who in later years held an annual reunion. While there, she met her future husband, Colin, who was welcomed into her family. They were married in December 1968.

Her teaching career started in Tottenham as a Reception Teacher in a Primary School for 3 years. For 4 years she was a Housemother for the National Children's Home, looking after children who could not be in their own homes. During this time her only child, Jonathan, was born. She was delighted with him. After moving to Gloucestershire she ran a playgroup for 2 years, making good friends with neighbours.

Eventually settling in Sedbury, she quickly made many lasting friendships. For 20 years Sue was a teacher at Offa's Mead Primary School, mostly in charge of the Reception Class. She had a reputation of being kind, firm, and fair, teaching over 500 children the basics of how to survive and succeed in school, finally retiring in 2006. Her relationship with her employers was based on respect, but with a determination to raise issues that needed consideration. If anyone was going to put their head above the parapet, it would be Sue.

Susan worshipped in St. Luke's Church from July 1981 until she died in 2025, under the guidance of 4 vicars (Michael Gee, Brian Green, Royston Grosvenor and David Treharne). She was a member of the Wives' Club in



for Readership

- approved Paul Coombs as PCC Treasurer and Iain Gardiner as PCC Secretary, and the revised List of Parish Appointments for 2025/6
- underlined the importance of Emma Durbin's work by agreeing to advertise for a 2-year contract for a part time Missioner to Children, Young People & Families and approved our Missioner's programme of additional events for 2025
- agreed to reduce our parish share for 2025 to £55,000
- thanked our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Rosalind Seward for her presentation on current safeguarding issues, and approved the revised Safeguarding Policy for 2025/26 and the level 2 safer church action plan,
- approved a revised complaints handling policy
- approved electrical work at Tidenham Chase and Tutshill churches:
- an updated electrical distribution board at Chase, to include surge protection *and* new lighting bollards to light the main pathway to Tutshill church
- thanked Tidenham Bellringers who rang our church bells 80 times on the evening of Thursday, 8 May to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day



### Parish Life Group Meetings

- **Monday** 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space  
Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk)
- **Tuesday** 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies -  
[juliaparsons727@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com)
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group Emma [emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead  
[tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)
- Contact Emma Durbin for details of meetings for the young people.  
[emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)

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



## Highlights from PCC meetings in March, April & May 2025

### PCC members:

- approved proposals for Easter 2025 Scarecrow Trail
- approved the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2024
- agreed how to respond to the Diocese's questionnaire / proposals on our Parish share from 2026 - 2028
- approved our Missioner to Children, Young People & Families Spring and Summer 2025 programme of events
- welcomed news that Revd Nicki Bullivant is now a Foundation Governor for Tutshill Primary School
- agreed plans for "Play the Organ Day" at Chase church this summer
- agreed to advertise for a part time Missioner to Children, Young People & Families as soon as funding and or pledges were in place and to produce a Pledge Leaflet
- agreed to proceed with recertification of our Fairtrade church status



***Tanya has followed up this action with the Fairtrade Foundation and secured Fairtrade Church recognition for all our parish churches: St Mary & St Peter's Church, St Luke's Church and St Michael & All Angel's Church are all now accredited with always serving Fairtrade tea, coffee & sugar and supporting Fairtrade where we can.***

- welcomed five people elected / re-elected to Tidenham PCC at the annual church meeting on 11 May:
- Brian Duerden and Robin Riordan re-elected as churchwardens;
- Susan Riordan and Marilyn Turner as new PCC members and Paul Coombs who was re-elected,
- thanked Revd Bro Tom Clammer for all his work over many years across our benefice as he is stepping down from conducting regular Sunday service in the benefice.
- thanked the three PCC members who have stepped down this year: Oliver Hinton, Polly Morgan and Marilyn Henderson, a member of our PCC for 20 years who has served the parish in numerous fields – from Safeguarding Officer and Junior Church Leader to Tutshill School Foundation Governor
- wholeheartedly endorsed Emma Phillips' application to train



the early days. For a few years she was Secretary to the PCC. She enjoyed being in a house-group.

Sue was always helping. She wrote letters for Amnesty International for many years. Also she helped to look after rescued animals and birds. She supported many charities including ones concerned with conservation, nature, and people in need or distress.

In later years she befriended several older ladies, and helped several of them with various practical kindnesses. Her family life was happy – she was fiercely loyal when needed, and was well loved by all her relations. She gave great joy to her husband and son.

Sue loved her animals – several cats, 4 dogs, a guinea pig, a hamster, 2 terrapins, several fish and a magpie all received outstanding care, and the wild birds were fed as well.

Her garden was her pride and joy – she was proud of the way she looked after her tools.

Susan enjoyed listening to music, playing her family's piano, going for walks with the dogs, reading, drawing, spending time with friends and family, cooking, jigsaws, Christmas preparations and decorations, and an open fire on very cold days.

In later life Sue was a Vegetarian, and that, coupled with a wheat intolerance, had made dining out and shopping for food a little difficult until the rest of the world caught up.

Her health was not always good. At various times she was diagnosed with Depression, Type 2 Diabetes, and eventually Acute Myeloid Leukaemia with Influenza that finally defeated her. She bore all these trials with fortitude. She accepted death as the inevitable outcome of



her final illness and died at home on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with Colin and Jonathan holding her hands and comforting her.

Susan was kind, funny, pretty, caring, strong-willed, enthusiastic, loyal, a truly splendid example of a very special Christian lady.

God bless you.

**Colin Pears**



## Holy Matrimony

Hannah HOBBS

&

Aidan WELCH

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham



## Funerals & Burials

Jean RAYMOND (84)

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Funeral at St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham

Burial at St Michael & All Angel's, Tidenham Chase

Patricia HEMMING (84)

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Funeral at St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Further register entries will  
appear in Autumn 2025 edition of the Link**



*"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."*



## 2025 Annual Church Meeting, Tidenham Parish

Our Annual Church Meeting was held on Sunday 11 May at Tutshill Church, chaired by Churchwarden Brian Duerden.

Electronic or hard copies of the supporting documents are available from Annabelle Stephens, our Administration Assistant, or Iain Gardiner, PCC Secretary - the 6-page Agenda and written reports, the 16 page Trustees' Annual Report and the Annual Accounts for 2024, and 4-page Draft Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting 2024.

Congratulations to those elected to office at this year's Annual Church Meeting: -

- **Brian Duerden and Robin Riordan, who were re-elected as Churchwardens until the next Annual Church Meeting in 2026**
- Paul Coombs, Susan Riordan and Marilyn Turner who were elected to the PCC until the Annual Church Meeting in 2028.

They join our existing PCC members: Nicholette Flatman, Iain Gardiner, Andy Palmer, Emma Phillips and Tanya White.

Alongside them as Ex-Officio PCC members are: -

- Revd. Nicki Bullivant, our Associate Priest, *and*
- Molly Mayo and James Parsons, who were elected in 2023 to the Forest South Deanery Synod until the Annual Church Meeting in 2026

Please pray for all those called to serve Christ and his Church on the PCC.

Brian expressed sincere thanks to those who stepped down from PCC this year: Oliver Hinton & Polly Morgan; also Marilyn Henderson, who has stepped down after 20 years on the PCC.

**See on pages 30-31 for pictures & 34-35 for more PCC information**



The father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "That's easy, Daddy... it stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth'"





## What do you know about tea?

**National Habit:** The UK drinks about 100 million cups of tea every day—that's roughly 36 billion cups a year!

**Milk First or Last?:** The "milk-in-first" vs "milk-in-last" debate has been going on since the 18th century. Originally, milk was

added first to delicate porcelain cups to stop them cracking from the hot tea. **Not Always British:** Tea was introduced to the UK in the 17th century by Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza, who married Charles II. Before that, it was virtually unknown.

### Here are a few questions for you:

1. What is the name of the tea plant?

- a) Camellia sinensis                      b) Rosa rubiginosa
- c) Caffe arabica                              d) Theobroma cacao

2. Which are the largest tea producing countries?

- a) China, India, Kenya, Indonesia
- b) China, India, Kenya , Turkey
- c) China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka
- d) China, India , Kenya , Vietnam

3. What does the Fairtrade label on a tea box represent to consumers?

- a) That the tea is the most expensive on the shelf
- b) That the tea has a natural flavour
- c) That the tea was produced in a way that supports fair prices, decent working conditions, and environmental protection
- d) That the tea has extra caffeine



Answers on page 43



## From the Registers Funerals & Burials

### Susan PEARS (78)

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase  
followed by Service at St Luke, Tutshill

### Renate MITCHARD (83)

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Funeral at St Luke's Church, Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium  
Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Burial of ashes at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

### Olive Coombey WILES (96)

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Forest of Dean Crematorium

### Poppy MOSS

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Forest of Dean Crematorium

### Beryl Mary LEGG (88)

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
Funeral at St Michael & All Angel's, Tidenham Chase

### Marion MCLOUGHLIN (90)

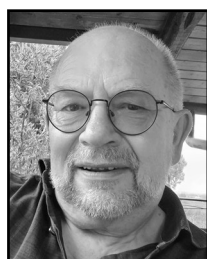
Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Thanksgiving at St Luke's, Tutshill  
Followed by Burial of Ashes at St Michael & All Angels. Tidenham Chase

### Beryl Marie FREDERICKS (93)

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Burial, St Michael & All Angel's, Tidenham Chase



Revd Nicki Bullivant  
Associate Priest &  
Wellbeing Chaplain



Revd Canon  
Tudor Griffiths  
Associate Priest



Revd Anna Griffiths  
Associate Priest

### Who's Who



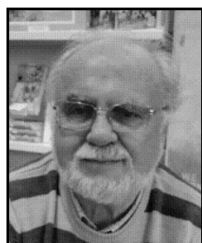
Revd Miri Keen  
Associate  
Priest



Canon Ed Pruen  
Associate Priest



James Parsons  
Lay Reader &  
Deanery Synod



Revd David Rees  
Locally Ordained  
Minister



Robin Riordan  
Churchwarden



Prof Brian  
Duerden CBE  
Churchwarden



Paul Coombs  
PCC Treasurer



Andrew Palmer  
Stewardship  
& PCC Member



Tanya White  
PCC Member &  
Link Editor



Nicholette Flatman  
PCC Member



Marylyn Turner  
PCC Member



Iain Gardiner  
PCC Member &  
secretary



Molly Mayo  
Deanery Synod



Susan Riordan  
PCC Member



Dr Emma Phillips  
PCC Member