



DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER

Link Magazine

The Parish of Tidenham

Autumn 2026

£1.80

Welcome from Vicar Rev Sharon Gleed

Who's Who Pictures

Bees at Tidenham Chase

Cashback for the Church
at no extra cost to you

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

St Michael & All Angels
Tidenham Chase
Sunday: 6.00pm

St Luke's
Tutshill
Sunday: 11.00am

www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk

Vicar	Revd Sharon Gleed	07305 006693
Associate Priest & Wellbeing Chaplain	Revd Nicki Bullivant	07936 787409
PTO	Revd Canon Tudor Griffiths	07718 906066
PTO	Revd Anna Griffiths	07504 662539
PTO	Revd Miri Keen	07933 172552
PTO	Revd Canon Ed Pruen	07752 569794
Reader	James Parsons	07970 489362
Church Warden	Robin Riordan rrtpcc@aol.com	07711 173240
Church Warden	Brian Duerden bduerden70@gmail.com	01291 623310
Deputy Warden Tidenham	Cate Phillips	07596 185918
Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	07970 489362
Deputy Warden Chase	Susanna Jacks	07411 188627
PCC Secretary		
PCC Treasurer	Paul Coombs 814yug@gmail.com	07831 469951
Bell Ringers	Cate Phillips	07596 185918
Tidenham Choir	Marjorie Duerden	01291 623310
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Robin Riordan tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com	07394 693940
Parish Administrator/Notices	Robin Riordan tidenhamparish@gmail.com	07553 779632
Pastoral Visit Co-ordinator	Julia Parsons	07769 335049
The Link Editor & and Link Distribution	Tanya White	01291 623169 07802 874036

tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

The Link Advertising

Roger Martin
rogermartin340@outlook.com

07513 426322



Tanya White



Welcome to our Autumn Link magazine

I hope that everyone is well.

This month:

- Welcome from our new Vicar Revd Sharon Gleed (pages 4-5)
 - Words from Paul Coombs, PCC Treasurer (page 22)
 - News from Sedbury Space (pages 12-13)
 - PCC Highlights (page 33)
 - Bees at Tidenham Chase (page 20)
 - Who's Who pictures (page 30-32)
 - Ride & Stride (page 11)
- Remember that our Link magazine Annual Subscription is now £7.00

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

Parish Contact Website Address

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

YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos to assist your devotions.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

St Briavel's & Hewelsfield web-site:
www.stbandhchurches.org.uk

Love from
Tanya



PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Winter Link**
(December 2026, January & February 2027)
must be with **Tanya by Friday, 30th October 2026**

Email: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road,
Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169 or 07802 874036)



Vicar
Revd Sharon Glead

Welcome

Even though the natural world here in the Northern Hemisphere is beginning to slow during Autumn, having been involved in education for a number of years, for me, Autumn is connected to new beginnings and activity.

For many, Autumn will signify a return to school.

For others, it will mark the start of education in nursery or school or a transition into a different setting – a move to a new school, college, university or beginning an apprenticeship.

These transitions can mark a shift in the shape of family life, and it takes time to adjust to a new season. Change may be accompanied by a sense of excitement, anticipation or apprehension and uncertainty of what the coming year may hold.

What associations do you have with Autumn?

Autumn is sometimes connected with a season in people's lives. A time of preparation for the next season, but also a time to respond to change, mirroring the changes we see in nature around us.

During these Autumn months,

- what changes might be happening in your life?
- How might you respond to them?
- To what are you looking forward?

Autumn is one of my favourite seasons, accompanied by beautiful colours and sunshine, which is gentler than the intense heat of summer. Even though many farmers will have harvested their crops in the summer, Autumn is a time in the church where we celebrate the





goodness of God and his provision. At Harvest festivals, we give thanks for the food that has been grown and for the hands that have nurtured it, in what are increasingly challenging times. Harvest is an opportunity to both celebrate and share what we have with others in our communities. It is also a time to recognise our shared responsibility in caring for creation.

It is an opportunity to re-commit to working towards a fair and sustainable future for the whole of creation and to honour all its inter-related eco-systems as precious resources.

In all the changes this season may bring, there is hope because God is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, for ever. God's love is constant and He is ever present with us. In the Bible in the book of

Jeremiah (3:22-23) it says;

**'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.'**

Whether changes are welcome or unwelcome, planned or unexpected, we can be reassured God is with us through them all.

A blessing for all of you during these Autumn days

May the rising of the sun bring you new hope every day.

May the moon gently restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your tears,
and the breeze blow new joy into your being.

And all the days of your life
may you walk gently through this land and know its peace.

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and those you love,
now and always.

Amen

(Blessing from <https://sheffield.anglican.org>)

From your vicar, Sharon



Folk Club St Luke's Church

Saturday,
12th September &
Saturday,

12th December 2026

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)



Parish Life Group Meetings

- **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.gardiner70@gmail.com
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead
tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

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



Come along to a relaxed performance of interactive live music, with singalongs, refreshments and a chance to chat and reminisce.

These informal, friendly sessions are particularly for anyone in the local area worried about memory loss or living with a diagnosis of dementia or other brain disorder, along with their family, friends and carers. But they are also a great chance to get out and to meet new people.

If you'd like to find out more: call Mel on 07966 627840; email us or visit our website wvmim@wvm.org.uk; www.wyevalleymusic.org.uk or Facebook page @WyeValleyMusic.

And to find out more about dementia services in our area, visit our Information Table.

So, turn up and take a seat at the Music Memory Café. Every third Wednesday of the month, from 10.30am – 12.00pm.

St Briavel's Assembly Rooms, East Street,
St Briavel's, GL15 6TG.

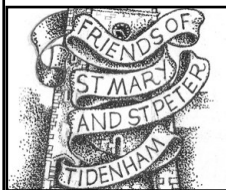
Entrance free. Parking nearby.

Next dates: Wednesday 16th September;
Wednesday 21st October;
Wednesday 18th November.

Music is the best medicine!



Rules for Editing: Foreign words and phrases
are not apropos.



**Charity no.
1159658**

Friends update

BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING CEREMONY

14th July 2026

We were very fortunate to have the retired Bishop of Hereford, the Right Reverend Martin Priddis, take the service of Thanksgiving and Blessing of the re-ordering of the North Aisle and the new Parish Office, The Tony James Memorial Building. It was a very nice service, well attended, and the Bishop spoke with real authority, without any notes.



Many of the trades involved with the work attended and were thanked for the quality of their work. We were fortunate to have Paul Snowden attend, who runs the Tony James Legacy and was the key donor on both projects. We were pleased that the Architect, Philip Belchere, could be there to see the culmination of a long project.





Sharon very gracefully allowed David Treharne to attend so he could see the results of the work that started under his time at Tidenham. He attended with his wife, Kathy, Roseanna and his mother.

St Mary & St Peter's Church Hobbies, Flower & Arts Festival June 2026

was a tremendous success.

It was wonderful to see such a variety of hobbies represented so imaginatively in the displays.

We welcomed the opportunity to share this festival with our friends displaying their fabulous art work and photography. This fitted in so well with our theme!

We raised over £200 and had 160 visitors which was amazing for only three viewing sessions. The festival is certainly growing in popularity each year.

The Friends wish to thank all those who supported the festival by either helping to create a display, volunteering in one of the many capacities and, of course, everyone who visited.

Thank you for your continued support.

Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church

Charity No: 1159658



Tutshill School



Happy Crafters



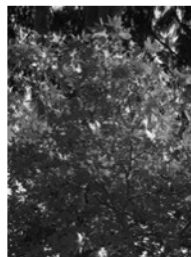
SUNDAY, 4th OCTOBER at 6.00pm
at

**St MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS,
TIDENHAM CHASE**

**Come and celebrate our Harvest Festival
with a Service of**

HARVEST PRAISE

**with a Choir from the Parish
All will be very welcome!**





RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

Saturday, 12th September 2026
Raising money for our Churches

Long Walk - contact James Parsons (07970 489362)

Pilgrimage 4 mile Walk - contact Wendy Moppett (07447 371131)

Cycling - contact John Newell (07855 510691)

Wheelchair/Zimmer Walk - and anything else
- Contact Wendy Moppett



Ride and Stride - Heritage Open Day

Come and join us to hear the bellringers, admire the exhibition of Tidenham's past, browse the stalls and enjoy some refreshments.

We are also selling the pews that came out of the North Aisle. One has been stripped and stained and is available to show you the potential.

Ride and Stride is an annual event which raises money for Gloucester Historic Churches Trust, an organisation that has provided grants for us in the past.
<https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>





11, King Alfred's Road,
Sedbury
NP16 7AG,

e-mail:

Reg Charity No: 1173511

ManagerSedburySpace@gmail.com
07522 178639

SEDBURY SPACE MANAGER'S NEWS

AUTUMN 2026

Phew!! What a summer that was ...
We like the sun but wow that was
ALOT.

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 cuppas. We
have been entertained with music
and song, and this year our manager
and 1st op volunteer's ventured out
to events with our prize tombola
raffles. Raising funds for the hub!!
We joined in the Beachley Barracks'
summer fun day and of course, the
wig-gig last month.

Our **QUARTERLY QUIZ NIGHT** with a
Kibby's fish & chip supper, remains
fully booked each time and is a great
fun night!

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH continues
to provide a home cooked meal once
a month. This month Carol and
Maggie treated us to Homemade
quiche and Michael and his team
served it up with baby potatoes and
fresh salad, followed by raspberries
and ice cream.
Perfect



for the hot day!

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

Our **WELLBEING CHAPLAIN**, Nicki,
remains ever present, from Bible
studies, prayer group, chatroom,
foodbank, and this month saw her
lead the return of the weekly
breakfast club.



LADIES SUPPORT group, who meet up every month with Nicki being at the helm, but very much letting the ladies say how they would like the meeting to run. Last month they wanted to venture outside of the hub so they enjoyed a meal together in the town.

MONTHLY DROP-IN SESSION. we are pleased to continue to facilitate a connection with your local Parish Councilor and the Community Police team where you can meet monthly on a specific date and seek help or advice. This month the Community Police drop in was particularly busy which is great. If you would like us to connect you outside of the drop-ins please just ask and we will arrange a 1-1, confidential meeting where possible. Or we now have pre-paid envelopes which can be used for full confidentiality and sent direct to the neighborhood team.

GAMES CAFE 2nd Wednesday of each month we have our games café: from scrabble or cards to snakes & ladders, of course tea and biscuits are on offer and Elizabeth very often will bake her infamous apple cake.

MEMORY CAFE 1st Wednesday of each month. Des and his team of volunteers are now back “home” at Sedbury Space from the Village Hall,

same time 2.00pm, just different venue. Last session we had a great picture quiz and Des threw in a prize bingo game.

As always, we are so very grateful for all the support we receive from our sponsor's, and we would love to work with any new business's - as a 1 off or as a monthly arrangement, Get in touch with us to find out more.

We are excited to announce that we are now part of the FOREST LOTTERY, please see our website or facebook page for more info. You win, we win...

The Community Hub is a **SAFE PLACE** for whatever help you need. If we don't know the answer, we will find who does and put you in touch with each other, always with a listening **CONFIDENTIAL** ear and a cuppa.

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

THERE IS NO I IN TEAM!!
TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!





St Luke's Wellbeing Coffee Morning

This will be held 10.00-12.00

**We meet on the last Monday of each month except
Bank Holiday Mondays.**



Next Parish Coffee Morning dates
Monday, 28 September 2026
Monday, 26 October 2026
Monday, 30 November 2026



No Coffee Morning in December
See you all in the New Year 2027



Welcome FREE good coffee/tea, cake and biscuits

Hosts Polly - Pastoral Assistant
Wellbeing Chaplain—Nicki
Bullivant

Please come along and
support us.

Contact Polly (07724738848)
paulinemorgan23@gmail.com



Rules for Editing: No sentence fragments.



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

Chepstow Choral Society

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026

At The Arts Hall, Chepstow School,

7.00pm

(rearranged from 24th June 2026, due to heatwave)

“JUST AS THE TIDE WAS FLOWING”

**A celebration in music and words of
our famous rivers and bridges**

***Including items by John Rutter, Vaughan Williams, Gilbert
and Sullivan, Mendelssohn and
arrangements of standard popular classics with
appropriate readings***

Musical Director – Graham Bull

Accompanist – Richard Kubiak

**Tickets £12.00, u/18s and students free,
including post-concert refreshments
from Choir members, Chepstow Bookshop,
www.eventbrite.co.uk**

Collection and merchandise in support of SARA



Tanya's Link Autumn Prize Challenge

This Wordsearch puzzle has words relating to

AUTUMN

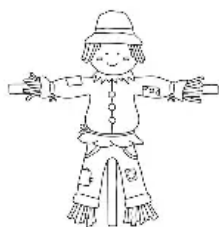
All letters not used and taken in order give the answer.

Please send this to me: Tanya White, at Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BU, email: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com to be in with a chance winning the prize!

ACORN	FARM	MAIZE
APPLE	FESTIVAL	OATS
APRICOT	FIGS	PARSNIP
BARLEY	GATHERING	PEACH
BARN	GRAIN	PEAR
BLACKBERRY	HARVEST	PLUM
CART	HAYSTACK	PUMPKIN
CHESTNUT	HAZEL NUT	QUINCE
CROP	HEAP	REAPING
CURRANT	KALE	SCYTHE
DAMSON	LEAF	SLOE
EARS	LEEKs	WHEAT



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



The Summer Link Prize Challenge was to follow the
“SCARECROW TRAIL”.

There were 33 words to locate before the remaining
 letters gave the answer:

“CHARLOTTE A CAVATICA”

4 correct entries were received.

Winner this time is Rosie Jones of Tutshill.

Good spotting for the next Wordsearch listed!



News from our Parish Schools



ABRSM and LC Examination Success

We were delighted to receive the results of the ABRSM examinations held on 3rd July. All of the pupils performed exceptionally well, achieving some truly outstanding marks, including several record-breaking scores.



Dean Close St John's School
01291 622045

Adding to the celebrations, three St John's girls travelled to Cardiff to take their LCM examinations and have already

received their results. We are especially proud of our Head Girl, who achieved a Distinction.

We are delighted to let you know that Stephanie King has been appointed as the new principal of Lift Offa's Mead. The appointment follows a thorough recruitment process involving multiple stages of assessment and an exceptionally strong field of candidates.

As part of the process, shortlisted candidates met with both staff and pupils, whose feedback helped inform the final decision.

Mrs. King currently serves as Deputy Headteacher at Glan Llyn Primary School in Newport. She has successfully led whole-school improvement work across curriculum, teaching and learning, inclusion and pupil support, helping to improve outcomes for children while ensuring that every pupil is known, valued and supported to achieve their full potential.



She is also highly regarded for her work developing staff and strengthening partnerships with families and the wider community. What particularly impressed us was Mrs. King's commitment to delivering the very best outcomes for young people, together with a clear understanding of the opportunities and ambitions we have for our school community.



Offa's Mead - 01291 622932



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together
adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter

Wyedean School – 01291 636180

Recently we welcomed
Piers Cardiff from FoDCAP

(Forest of Dean Climate Action Partnership)

into school to deliver a workshop for Year 12 students to discuss the
motivations for young people

engaging with climate related issues
and what can be done to increase
the appeal. The students provided
some fantastic feedback and really
engaged with the subject matter.

A huge thankyou to Piers for
providing such a great super
curricular activity.



Tutshill School
01291 622593

The whole school took part in a fortnight
of activities for 'Eco Awareness Fortnight'
Year 5 enjoyed making hedgehog books
and bug mug hotels as part of our
eco awareness time.

Repurposing old items around the house can be a fun way to get creative
and minimise our single use items.

Children made plastic jellyfish using large empty plastic bottles and lots of
coloured tissue paper etc. The creations were amazing!

All classes took part in Yoga/Mindfulness workshops
delivered by one of our parents.

Another of our parents delivered Sustainability
presentation to the Classes.

The National Trust gave a presentation on My
job as a Countryside Ranger!

An assembly was delivered by the Forest of
Dean District Council on climate change and
other eco awareness themes including marine
conservation.





St Michael's and All Angels at Tidenham Chase-ing bees

Even the most senior of Chase residents recall a childhood with bees at Chase church.

The space above the curving wooden chancel ceiling and below the roof has resident bees and bats during the summer and they visit the church below regularly.

Bats flit about in the church and are especially noticed when evening services coincide with dusk and failing light.

Bees which have found their way into the church have been a constant feature in the church to very varying degrees in recent years but this year there have been too many.

In April 28 we had to put this notice on the door:-

FOR A LONG TIME BEES HAVE GOT INTO THE CHURCH THROUGH SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS IN THE CHURCH FABRIC. SO THE CHURCH IS CURRENTLY SHUT AS THERE ARE A LOT OF BEES INSIDE.

It was distressing being unable to help the thousands of bees trapped in the church. Matt and Kit Newell placed several hives under the eaves outside where bees were seen entering the roof space- to entice them out of the church. The hives were then successfully moved to Rosemary Lane - and very recently honey has been collected.



Unfortunately many bees remained. Gloucester Diocese was contacted for advice and permission to proceed with a more invasive approach. The Bat Conservation Group was consulted to ensure bats were not disturbed in the process. Christopher from Venables Pest Control came and in July thousands of bees were humanely aspirated from the roof space and relocated to Blakeney where they are thriving.

Chris plugged gaps in the church fabric where bees were entering the church. At the time of writing at the end of July, it is quiet and peaceful in St Michael's. It was not comfortable living so intimately with these busy creatures. We hope Chase bees thrive - but not in the church!

At St Michael's, repair and restoration of a sound roof is now a priority, plans to proceed with this are happening.



The Parish Lunch ...

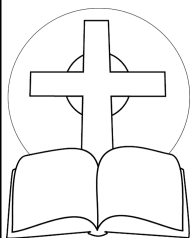
Thursday, 3rd September 2026

Thursday, 1st October 2026

Thursday, 5th November 2026

For info and lifts
phone
George or Beryl
on 01291 625551

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm
Woodcroft Centre



Matthew 5: 1-12 The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Paul Coombs
PCC Treasurer

THE PCC TREASURER and "814YUG"

There is a link and its not just part of the Treasurer's email address. Both became part of my life due to personal decisions that seemed to be verging on the dubious at the time but have subsequently turned as positive and enjoyable.

Taking the Treasurer's job first: In early 2022 the position was "in vacancy" the previous occupant having left without leaving any notes or guidance for his successor (me!). The position was taken with the caveat of leaving either at my 80th birthday or should Margaret's health deteriorate. Both of these conditions are now coming into play.

My previous financial experience had been with our small family surveying business for over 30 years with a current account and a deposit account not the 8 accounts (3 high street/4 investment & 1 building society) that "fed" money in and out of the 20+ specific areas of PCC management.

The current situation is now 2 high street & 3 investment accounts coupled to a bespoke computer programme that produces month end figures for immediate use as well as the annual reports for Gloucester Diocese and Charity Commission.

The last, nearly 5 years, have been an eye opener as to the running of a Parish in financial terms with new facets appearing occasionally even now. Two areas that are covered by other PCC members are Gift Aid (Brian Duerden) and salaries (Emma Phillips) and I have been very grateful for their help and advice in addition to support from the Vicar, Wardens and other church members when not sure about any particular situation.

Well, that 80th birthday is rapidly approaching and I shall be standing down at the end of December, having enjoyed the past 5 years, leaving the bespoke computer programme primed ready to go in 2027.

Now "814YUG": you may remember a 75-year-old car ("no I haven't had it since new") that used to be seen around the parish occasionally. An engine rebuild is in its final stages, completion being one of my goals for next year. And "yes" I enjoy working on the car which I purchased on eBay 15 years ago sight unseen from New Zealand!

So, both of those dubious decisions have turned out well!





Luke 12:27 (NIV) says: *"Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."*



Could You Help with Church Flowers in
St Luke's Church, Tutshill?

We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our flower rota. The commitment is spread out with the other volunteers, and no professional experience is needed—only enthusiasm and a willingness to help.

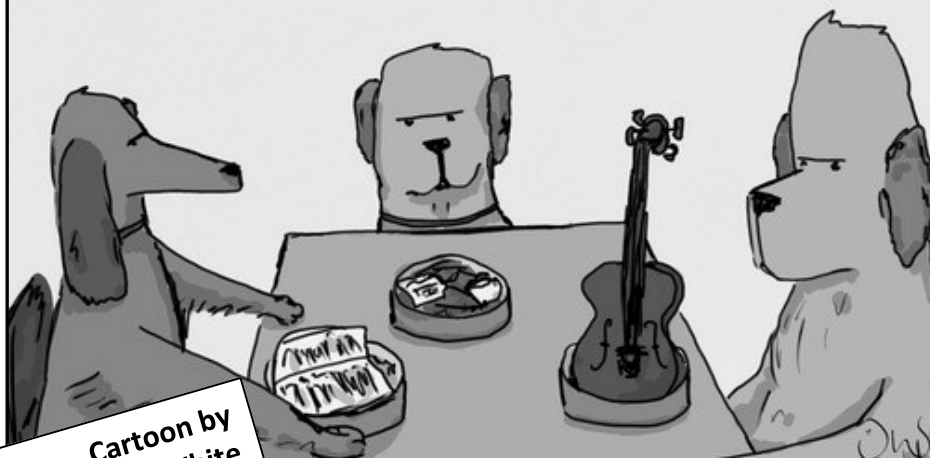
Flowers play an important part in making our church a welcoming and uplifting place for worship. If you enjoy flowers, creativity, or would simply like to contribute to church life in a practical way, please consider joining the team.

For more information, please contact:

Polly Morgan Pastoral Assistant, Tidenham Parish via email

Pollyanne60@icloud.com or Mobile: 07724738848.

"Homework for dinner again!"



Cartoon by
Dom White



Bats that aren't in the Belfry!

Bats have been found in churchyards for a very long time, often roosting in trees or buildings. A bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK: eight of these use churches or chapels for roosting, including some of the less common species such as the Natterer's bat and the Serotine bat. Some of the remaining nine species roost in large trees.

Bats do not roost in the belfry ... too much noise! They usually use different roosts through the seasons. Bats need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. They like to roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves, porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lychgates. When roosting in trees they use holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Veteran trees are full of possible roosting places.

Churchyards tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are generally relatively free of chemicals, tend to have some areas which are not too tidy and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects which is food for the hungry bats.

Why not have a quiet sit in the churchyard at the end of the day, look to see if any swifts are swirling around the churchyard and then wait to see if any bats appear. Bats can fly long distances to forage for food so, even if you don't have roosting bats in your churchyard they may well come visiting.

The Bats in Churches project ran from 2019 to the end of October 2023 and their website batsinchurches.org.uk still holds a plethora of information and resources. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partnership comprised Natural England, Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, Bat Conservation Trust and Churches Conservation Trust.



Whose Job?

This is a story about four people
named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody.

There is an important job that has to be done
and Everybody was sure that Somebody was
sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it,
but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that,
because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it,
but Nobody realised that
Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed
Somebody when Nobody did
what Anybody could have done!

Fact
Gatherings...



The Autumn equinox brings balance:
this occurs around 22 or 23 September,
when day and night are approximately equal in length.
This astronomical event signals the official start of
Autumn.



BELL RINGING AT TIDENHAM

We were happy to ring for the special Service of Blessings held on 14 July, appropriately enough as the completion of Works to the tower and the installation of new ropes were among said blessings. Unfortunately, the new ropes continued to be surprisingly springy for longer than normal, however this lingering problem has now been resolved. Many thanks to those who worked to sort it out.

Anyone within earshot of the tower on 12 June or 22 July may have thought our ringing has improved astoundingly. In fact, Tidenham bells had been selected by a visiting band from East Anglia on the first date, and another from Gloucester on the second, for the ringing of a quarter peal.

* And don't forget, our Tuesday practice is exactly that – practice for all abilities.

We continue our happy relationship with the Alvington ringers, sometimes joining their practice (Mondays) and vice versa, and make an occasional foray to join the monthly ten-bell practice at St Mary's, Chepstow, if we can't muster enough ringers for our own Tuesday session that week.

Ever on the hunt for local talent to increase our numbers, we would like to remind you that our regular practice night is Tuesday, 7.30–9.00pm, at St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham – all ages and abilities welcome. If you think you might be interested in 'giving it a go' – maybe a one-to-one try out? – contact Cate Phillips (07596 185928).

Visiting ringers planning to drop in are also advised to contact Cate, as practice may be cancelled if there are too few ringers available. Sunday ringing is from 8.30am.

* A quarter peal is a continuous, set-length performance of change ringing on church bells, lasting about 45 to 50 minutes and consisting of roughly 1,260 changes. A full peal, takes around three hours!

**Flower Festival entry
from the Bellringers
June 2026**





Importance of following instructions given by relatives from Philip Blatchly

Mr. Colin Pears purchased a memorial for his late Wife, Susan, from my Company, to be installed in St. Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Tidenham Chase. Mr. Pears requested that he be present when the memorial was installed, as this was very important to him, to help him along his journey through bereavement.

Whilst the instructions was noted on our order form, the instruction was not carried out by my staff, when the memorial was installed. This, clearly, denied Mr. Pears from being present at the time of the installation of the memorial for his late Wife.

My monumental mason and I have met with Mr. Pears and have gone through our process from order to installation. Mr. Pears has graciously accepted both of our apologies and agreed that we make the following changes to our processes to prevent this happening again:

Firstly, All of my staff that take memorial orders are to highlight any special requests, for example, such as being present as the installation or a specific date being requested, to make the instruction more prominent.

Secondly, when our memorial order forms are reprinted a specific area into be made on that form for specific requests to be noted.

Thirdly, all memorial orders are to be double checked in our offices, as well as Head Office and before our vehicle leaves our premises enroute to the Burial Ground.

I am very mindful of the distress that has been caused to Mr. Pears and his Son, by not being able to be present at the installation of his late Wife's memorial. I do hope that the changes that will be made and my apology for the instructions of Mr. Pears not being followed, have gone some way to help Mr. Pears and his Son, through this very sad time.



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

Elizabeth Rose FISHER (94)

Tuesday, 19th May 2026

St Luke's Tutshill, Ashes Interment

Muriel Daisy EVANS (101)

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill

followed by Cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Margaret COOPER (94)

Monday, 8th June 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill

followed by Burial at Chepstow Cemetery

Maurice Henry Gerrard PAYNE (86)

Tuesday, 9st June 2026

Service at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Ian Derek WALTON (63)

Wednesday, 17th June 2026

Service at Forest of Dean Crematorium

David George BURR (84)

Friday, 19th June 2026

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

followed by Cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Maureen May DAVIES (89)

Friday, 19th June 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill

followed by Burial at Chepstow Cemetery

Sandra SAYCE (81)

Monday, 6th July 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill

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



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

June Maureen WILLIAMS (92)

Monday, 14th July 2026

Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Shirley Ellen MYERS (88)

Tuesday, 28th July 2026

Cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium

John Henry ROSER (93)

Tuesday, 28th July 2026

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

Holy Baptism

Arthur John GRAHAM

Sunday, 1st February 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill



Josianne Esther WOOLCOCK

Sunday, 14th June 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill

Aramina Ruby WOOLCOCK

Sunday, 14th June 2026

Service at St Luke's Tutshill



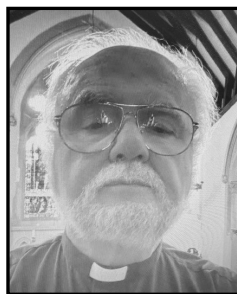
***Further register entries will
appear in Winter 2026 edition of the Link***



Revd Sharon Glead
Vicar



Revd Nicki
Bullivant
Associate Priest &
Wellbeing Chaplain



Revd David Rees
Locally Ordained
Minister



Revd Miri Keen
Associate
Priest



Canon Ed Pruen
Associate Priest



Mandy Vaughan
Lay Reader



Robin Riordan
Churchwarden



Prof Brian
Duerden CBE
Churchwarden



James Parsons
Lay Reader &
Deanery Synod



Paul Coombs
PCC Treasurer



Andrew Palmer
Stewardship
& PCC Member



Tanya White
PCC Member &
Link Editor



Nicholette Flatman
Funeral Minister &
PCC Member



Marylyn Turner
PCC Member



Angela Fryer
PCC Member &
Deanery Synod



Dr Emma Phillips
PCC Member



Susan Riordan
PCC Member

Who's Who





Alex White
Deputy Church
Warden
Music
Sermon recording



Cate Phillips
Deputy Church
Warden
Bell Ringers



Susanna Jacks
Deputy Church
Warden

**More Faces
of our
Church Family
To be seen
Next Time**



Marj Duerden
Tidenham Choir



Roger Martin
Link Adverts

Fact
Gatherings...



The science behind autumn leaf colours:

The vibrant reds, yellows and browns of
autumn leaves are the result of
chlorophyll breaking down.

As the green pigment fades, other pigments such as
carotene and anthocyanin become visible.

The most striking colours occur when a dry summer
is followed by sunny autumn days and cold but not
freezing nights.



Highlights from PCC meetings in June & July 2026

PCC members:

- Thanked Iain Gardiner for his excellent work as PCC Secretary and Paul Coombs for his ongoing work due to finish on 31st December 2026. Recognised that we are still looking for the important positions of a PCC Secretary and a PCC Treasurer, so if anyone reading this can help, we would love to hear from you, please contact Tanya or anyone else within our Church organisation
- We are advertising for a Children, Youth and Families minister
- We considered and approved the current list of Parish Appointments
- We noted the shortage of funds within our Church in Tidenham Parish and request people to review their own donations to our Church funds
- Safeguarding policy has been updated and is now published on our website and displayed within our church porches
- Our Parish office is now located in the Tony James Memorial Building, St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham
- Tidenham Chase bee issue has resulted in the cancellation of services and the closure of the building; this has now been resolved and bees have been relocated to a new hive in Blakeney
- Health & Safety: leaning memorial stones at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase have been laid flat on the ground
- Easyfundraising opportunities were discussed (see page 38)

Please Notice This



Found in other churches' notices:

"Life groups meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for food, fun, and fellowwhipping."



News from Jane Penny

We all have patterns in life, routines that help us and give us a sense of security. Then something happens that means the habit has to change... an illness, change in circumstances, an emergency or even just very hot weather.

At the time this can be challenging, but we need to remember that this may only be a phase of life (or weather) and then things can return to 'normal.' However, some events in life mean that our routines need to change permanently.... We need to adapt e.g. the arrival of a new baby is a joyous occasion but one that causes routines to be adapted and new habits formed. Sometimes a long term health condition will change our way of living forever.

Jane finds it helpful to remember that although life swirls around and has ups and downs... we have a God in heaven who never changes and even more importantly, He lives in us by His Holy Spirit. He is always with us and we can find our security in Him, no matter what happens in life.

At the beginning of June, Jane, along with Rev Jo, from the Diocese of Gloucester, other Toddler group leaders and 250 sheep travelled to the Houses of Parliament for the day! This was to launch the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups.

Toddler groups from all over the UK had sent sheep and two came home with Jane.



At the end of the gathering they were joined by Bishop Guli, (the Bishop of Chelmsford) who read a prayer for Toddler groups.





Quiet Day

Our annual Parish Quiet Day was held on Saturday, 14th March at Ty Mawr Convent and for the first time in a number of years we were back at Michaelgarth, the Convent Retreat House.



The weather was unseasonably warm and many of us sat outside. With the sun, spring flowers and birdsong it was a glorious day. We were very blessed to have the Rev Judy Howard leading us and her theme was 'From Fear to Joy' with a focus on Psalm 23.

She reminded us that, after the dark valley times, God prepares a table of good things for us and on this table we can put everything that is hurting us, helping us to a deeper understanding of God's boundless and unconditional love. Our grateful thanks go to Judy for leading us so beautifully.

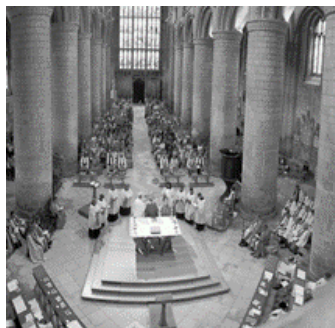
As well as our annual Quiet Day at Tymawr, there will be a local Parish Quiet Day on Saturday 10th October, 10am – 2pm at St Luke's and will be led by Rev Anna Griffiths.

Cate Phillips





DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER



What are ordinations?

At the end of June, Gloucester Cathedral once again became the setting for two joyful and significant services as the Diocese of Gloucester marked the ordination of 18 new candidates.

For many people, the word '*ordination*' may not be a familiar word. Ordination is a church service that marks someone becoming a priest.

For those being ordained, it comes after years of thinking, training and prayer about where God is calling them.

Over the last weekend in June, eleven people were ordained as priests and seven as what are called '*deacons*'.

Deacons are called to a ministry of service, both within the Church and in the wider community. They often focus on outreach, pastoral care, and helping the Church engage with the needs of the world.

Many deacons are later ordained priest, but they will still be a deacon, keeping that element of service to others at the core of their ministry.

Priests build on that foundation of service and take on additional responsibilities. They can lead Holy Communion, offer forgiveness, and blessings, and play a central role in the pastoral and spiritual life of a parish. Ordination as a priest usually comes after time spent serving as a deacon.

Family, friends, clergy and congregations from across the diocese all gathered at the ordinations to support and pray for the ordinands. We give thanks for the gifts, dedication and vocation they bring to their parishes and communities.

People can be called to many things, from ordained ministry, to nursing, to art. If you'd like to think about where God is calling you, speak to your priest.



Message from Revd Lorna Theophilus

Firstly, thank you to everyone in Tidenham, St Briavel's and Hewelsfield. You have made me and my family very welcome over the last three years whilst I have been with you as I trained for ordination. I was ordained deacon by Bishop Rachel in Gloucester Cathedral on 28th June 2026 and on the 29th June 2026 I started my position as Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Highnam, Tibberton with Rudford, Taynton and the Parish of Minsterworth. At the point of writing

this I am only in my third week, but it all seems to be going well so far! If all goes to plan, I will be ordained priest in June 2027 and I will stay as Assistant Curate in the Highnam Benefice for three to four years.

I am fortunate to have had an active Christian faith since childhood, greatly influenced by my mum and granny, but I definitely didn't plan to become a vicar! In 2018 a building project I had been helping with at my previous church finally completed and I found myself asking 'what next?' Later that year I went on a Vocations day organised by Gloucester Diocese, but I didn't really start to think that God might be calling me into ordained ministry until 2021 after I'd completed some leadership training for my job at the time.

In 2021 I also started a new job in the Diocese of Hereford helping churches with their church building projects. I thought working for the Church might be the answer to the feeling that God was calling me to something, but the pestering little voice was still there, and so I took my first step of contacting the Vocations team at the Diocese.

At every stage over the last few years, I've just tried to take the next step and see what happens, and at each stage another door has opened; even when I haven't been sure about where it was leading me! It's too far ahead to be thinking about what might come after curacy, but I know that God will be with me, and I can trust him to continue to open the right doors.





Raise funds for us for **FREE**

with  **easyfundraising**



Join as our supporter today at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Just search for:

TIDENHAM PCC

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



 **easyfundraising**

A NEW FUNDRAISING FOR TIDENHAM PCC

Sign up to easy fundraising
and see your favourite retailers donate to
Tidenham PCC
whenever you shop with them
It won't cost you any extra!

The link to our webpage:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tidenham-pcc>

For more information please speak to
Emma Phillips or one of the Church Wardens

THANK YOU!





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

Martha is a remarkable woman. At the age of four, she was hospitalised with polio, an affliction that left lasting consequences. Her education was disrupted and she was advised against marriage, being told she would be a burden. Yet Martha's faith never wavered. She married, raised three children, fostered one, and pursued theological studies, eventually becoming ordained.

Today she serves as the secretary of the Mothers' Union in Mara, playing a vital role in supporting and empowering women within the community. Her leadership and dedication exemplify faith in action, fostering unity and resilience among members. Through her work, she continues to inspire positive change and strengthen the bonds of fellowship in Mara. Her work and mission are very much aligned with what we try to achieve with the Rehema Project.



**Canon
Martha Obura**

Martha attributes her achievements to the truth found in John 9:3: "that the works of God might be displayed in her life."

This conviction has guided her through challenges, enabling her to trust in God's provision and strength. Her installation as canon on Easter Sunday is not only a personal triumph but also a symbol of hope and renewal for the wider community. Martha's life is a witness to God's grace, inspiring others to see his works revealed in every circumstance.



Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee.

Finally the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible!"

The husband was shocked. "Is not! Show me!"

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — HEBREWS!"



Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

We benefit from the support of so many fabulous Guide Dog staff, so it was a pleasure to meet Jaye Connelly at our last puppy class. She is pictured here with Guide Dog Pups Dora and Des. Jaye is on the look out for more volunteer Puppy Raisers so we asked her to share a bit more

about Guide Dogs and the Puppy Raising role.

“We’re famous for our iconic guide dogs, but when I started this role I quickly realised that my hard-working colleagues do so much more than breed and train dogs! We help people of all ages to live actively, independently and well.

- My Time To Play sessions enable children with sight loss to learn vital skills through play.
- Vision Rehabilitation Specialists help people to navigate inside and outside their home, learning routes and developing their skills with a long cane.
- We give advice on using the latest technology.
- And, of course, we create life-changing guide dog partnerships!

Covid interrupted our breeding and training programme, but the charity has made a strong recovery. Despite this, there are still many people in the UK ready and waiting to train with a guide dog. The length of wait varies because we are careful to match the right person with the right dog, taking into account size, speed, likely workload and more.

We breed between 1,300 and 1,500 puppies a year from our National Centre in Leamington Spa, so the role of guide dog puppy raiser is vital. Our puppy raisers are volunteers who welcome a puppy into their home as a tiny bundle of fluff and provides him or her with a vital foundation for their future role as a guide dog. The puppy raiser guides the puppy through training, socialisation, the introduction of new environments and experiences while providing a loving home.



There might be the odd chewed slipper along the way, but nothing beats the feeling of loving and raising a potential life-changer! There is ongoing support from Guide Dogs, who are on hand if you ever need to take a break. Raising a puppy can open up a whole new circle of friends, too, and when you're out with the dog it can be a real conversation starter! Members of the public may need a gentle reminder to adopt a hands-off approach, so they don't distract the puppy while he or she is learning.

Puppy raisers know from the start that they will one day wave goodbye to the puppy as they enter the next stage of training, often referred to as "big school". When the time comes, it feels a positive move, as the pup is clearly ready and eager to learn more. The puppy raiser has invested a lot of time and patience and can feel proud to have given the pup a strong foundation to carry on with training.

Puppy raisers receive updates from the guide dog trainer and are invited along to the training centre for a visit, so they can view the puppy's progress for themselves. It's a wonderful feeling when the dog remembers you and the tail starts to wag! And when you see the end result, when your puppy is changing a life as a guide dog or buddy dog, you can feel justifiably proud.

To find out more about Guide Dogs and their amazing work
take a look at the
website www.guidedogs.org



Contact us
0345 143 0191
volattractsouth@guidedogs.org.uk

A charity registered in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979)
and Isle of Man (1334) D707 11/25



Fairtrade Chocolate Quiz Answers



Q1. What does buying Fairtrade chocolate mean for the farmers?

Buying Fairtrade chocolate ensures fair pay for cocoa farmers. This means that farmers can afford to feed and clothe their families, send their children to school. The Fairtrade system also provides training for farming in climate friendly ways – a win for all of us.

Q2. What community projects does Fairtrade support?

Buying Fairtrade products includes money for Community projects like access to clean water, education or special equipment.

Q3. Where does the cocoa come from in Green and Black's Maya Gold bars?

Green and Black's Maya Gold chocolate uses cocoa from Belize.

Q4. How much of the chocolate eaten in the UK is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade chocolate accounts for 12% of UK chocolate sales. What an investment it would be in cocoa farmers and the planet if we all ate Fairtrade chocolate!

Q5. What is the Fairtrade mark recognized for worldwide?

Fairtrade is the most recognized and trusted sustainability label in the world.

Q6. How many children work on Fairtrade farms? None.

Buying Fairtrade chocolate means no child labour was involved in the production from farm to factory. (Sadly, this is not always the case for other chocolate.)

Q7. Who in Ghana owns the Divine Chocolate Company?

Divine Chocolate is co-owned by the farmers of Kuapa Kokoo Co-operative in Ghana.

Q8. What was the first product to be awarded the Fairtrade mark?

A chocolate bar was the first product to be awarded the Fairtrade Mark.

Well done to those of you who guessed correctly or looked up the answers.

We had no correct entries, so no prizes this time.

What will you do in our next Fairtrade Fortnight

(21 September—4 October 2026)?



NEWS FLASH!

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.



Chase WI



The speaker at our May meeting was Lisa Bennett from Chase Farm who gave us a down to earth view of the pleasures and perils of life as a dairy farmer. It may be fun making and selling ice cream and yogurt but also hard work 365 days of the year plus the anxiety around TB testing on a regular basis. We need to support our farmers who are even more at the mercy of the capricious weather than the rest of us.

In June our speaker was one of our own members, Shirley Fenwick, with support from her father Bill. Their topic was "Jewels of the Night" or moths in more mundane language. Most of us know only the annoying house moth which chews holes in our carpets or favourite jumpers but there are more than 1600 micromoths and 900 macromoths species compared with only 59 varieties of butterfly which are far better known as they fly during the day. Moths come in all sizes from minuscule to 12 centimeters long with a variety of shapes and markings all beautifully illustrated in the slide presentation.



Our planned outing to Blaise Castle near Westbury on Trym unfortunately had to be cancelled due to one of this summer's many heatwaves but two walks round St Briavel's and Woodcroft took place as well as a friendly skittles match against St Briavel's.

With the sun still beating down in July members enjoyed an excellent afternoon tea on home turf, everyone contributing to the magnificent spread, plus a light hearted quiz to keep the brain cells moving.

There is no meeting in August but there will be an informal gathering for lunch at the Boat in Chepstow for those interested. Normal service is resumed on the 14th September with a talk on the Commonwealth War Graves.

If anyone would like to join us, we meet on the second Monday of the month at Chase School at 2.15pm and new members will be very welcome.



CHASE GARDENING CLUB

Our gardening club year was concluded in June with a most enjoyable Summer Supper. We were served a delicious two course meal in our meeting room on Rosemary Lane by caterers from Abbey Mill in Tintern. As well as lots of mid summer gardening chat the evenings entertainment included a quiz and a raffle.

The club, however, is also occasionally involved with other activities and one of these was a joint outing in May with CADGAS (Chepstow and District Garden Appreciation Society) to Hestercombe House in Somerset. The house and grounds have been in existence for many centuries and in 1750 Coplestone Warre Bampfylde created the famous landscape gardens. These were then enhanced in 1904 by the addition of the formal gardens designed by Edwin Lutyens and planting schemes by Gertrude Jekyll. As often happens the gardens fell into some disarray but are now being restored by the Hestercombe gardens trust. It was easy to appreciate the rhythm of Jekyll's planting schemes as they complimented the Lutyens's designs.

Our club also managed to arrange a visit to the stunning Mounton House Garden in Pwllmeyric. A historic Arts and Crafts style house built between 1910 and 1912 as a home for writer and garden designer Henry Avary Tipping whose gardens are recognised as masterpieces of Edwardian design. It features a 24 stone pillar pergola and rose garden, terraced lawns and borders, a formal vegetable garden as well as rock and water gardens. It has been skilfully and beautifully restored to its former glory by its current private owners and is listed as Grade II. We were greeted with a glass of bubbly and shown round by the owners and their team of seven gardeners whose knowledge and skill was greatly appreciated. What a wonderful garden to have on our doorstep and such a privilege to be able to see it.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article the extreme weather we have been experiencing will have changed. It's for sure everyone will be pleased to see some rain and cooler times but, whatever the climate, Chase Gardening Club will start again in September and we would be very pleased to see some new faces as well as the friendly familiar ones.

Our next meeting will be a talk on "Labour Saving Gardening" by Philip Aubury, on Friday September 18th at 2.30pm in The Old Chase School on Rosemary Lane, Tidenham Chase NP16 7LX. Visitors welcome.

For further information please contact -
Membership Secretary Bill Kerr 07519580521,
or Chair Stella Caws 07941213777.



TUTSHILL W.I.

Back in May we enjoyed a talk on gin by Andy Cole of Vintopia, followed, in June, by a Shiatsu Workshop with Georgina Hope. Despite fears to the contrary, the weather gods then smiled on our July gathering, which took place in the gardens of Eastcliff. We were warmly welcomed by Sarah Adams, who showed us around then kindly provided cold drinks to enjoy with the snacks we had brought, while we listened to a brief talk on the growing menace of Asian hornets (identifiable by their yellow legs).



Many congratulations are due to the members who put together an impressive display on 'Tennis' for the June Flower Festival in Tidenham church.

Following our usual summer break, we will reconvene in September for a session on Lip Reading. In October, we will be learning about Therapeutic Creative Writing and our November AGM will be followed by a talk on The Forensic Experience. Our year will end with a presentation from Frances Fry entitled 'Christmas Music, Musicals and Me'. But that is not all – we already have a full programme booked for next year. So, watch this space!

Members' recent extracurricular activities included litter picking around Tutshill (to mark Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week), a day out (with tea!) at Chepstow Races, attending Woolaston WI's 80th anniversary party, and lending a hand with the Gloucestershire Federation's 'café' at the Three Counties Show.

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. There is also a monthly Book Club who meet in Chepstow. You do not have to be a WI member to attend either group.

If any of the above appeals to you, why not come along and see what you think of us? 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.

If you would like to know more about our activities, do please contact our Secretary, Pat Cannon: secretarytutshillwi@gmail.com / 07795 424694



tidenham historical group

Evening meetings from September to April are usually 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 07804 744614, Carol on 07712 574471 or e-mail tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2026

**Tuesday
29th September**

"Arming a Medieval Knight". Rob Jones.

Provided his squire is available Rob will actually demonstrate the process of dressing in a full set of armour.

**Tuesday
20th October**

"Crossing the Severn: History and memories of the ferries, tunnels and bridges that have crossed the Severn."

Dave Cheesley. Dave previously gave us a talk about Severn Beach and is returning by popular demand. ***Please note the date!***

**Tuesday
24th November**

"Opening the Treasure Chest". Liz Davenport.

Liz is a leading trustee of Woodchester Mansion which we visited during the summer of 2025. Her talk will reveal fascinating details of the family who owned the mansion.

No meeting in December (the end of the month coincides with Christmas and New Year.

We hosted a very successful afternoon for 50 members of the Gloucestershire Local History Association at the refurbished parish Church of St. Mary & St. Peter at Tidenham on 20th June 2026. In conjunction with the Friends of Tidenham Church, refreshments on arrival were offered followed by a brief history of the building and parish, and then a choice of 4 guided walks each led by THG members; the houses of Tutshill, the Wye Valley railway, the Severn Princess ferry and the church and churchyard. The undoubted highlight was a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by the Friends of Tidenham Church team in the capaciously comfortable north aisle, as we admired the stunning newly restored stained glass window. We recommend this unique and historic venue. Our thanks go to Robert & Sarah Adams for hosting a tour of their garden at Eastcliffe, Richard Jones for his tour of the Severn Princess, the team of Friends of Tidenham Church who donated many hours to ensuring the event was a huge success from start to finish, and our members who lead the groups, manned the book stall, staffed the car parks and prepared the displays.



Around the world, communities are showing incredible strength in the face of challenge and uncertainty. Thanks to faithful gifts and prayers, Christian Aid and their partners continue to stand alongside people as they rebuild lives, protect livelihoods and create lasting change.

At 18:04 on Thursday 24 June, two earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela 39 seconds apart. Measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, they were felt across Caracas, Carabobo, La Guaira, Miranda and Aragua. The second was the strongest to hit the country in more than a century.

Thousands have been confirmed dead. UNICEF estimates that 1.8 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 680,000 children. In coastal towns like Catia La Mar and Caraballeda, where housing is dense and much of it decades old, whole blocks came down. In parts of Catia La Mar, around 70% of local shops and services are now rubble.

For many in La Guaira, this is not the first time the coast has been rebuilt from nothing. The 1999 Vargas landslide struck the same stretch of coastline. Some of those now clearing rubble were children then, and are adults doing it again now.



Mildred Hernández de Betancourt, 39, was out on the street with her daughter when the shaking started. Her three children, aged 16, 13 and 10, were at home on the fourteenth floor of their building.

'I was mostly watching the utility poles and trying to shield my daughter so those high-voltage cables wouldn't fall on us,' she says. 'My husband was protecting us because the walls, the houses, were practically collapsing.' When the dust rose, she could not see her building. 'Honestly, as a mother, I resigned myself and told my husband: "My love, look, our children are gone, because I can't see the building."'

Then a breeze cleared the dust. Her husband went back up and brought all three children out. They were the last to leave.

The family is now living in in a tent. Her daughter is pregnant, and has been given medicine, vitamins and ultrasound scans.



barnabasfund

hope and aid for the persecuted church

Christian News Our Faith in Today's World



> Sustainable farming initiative blesses 570 Lao families: "This couldn't have come at a better time to help these desperate families." These were the words of a Barnabas Aid project partner in Laos after 1,750 chickens and 50 piglets were distributed among 570 Christian families. The families also received chicken and piglet feed, along with training in animal health and welfare.

> Twenty-six families were expelled from their home village in Chhattisgarh, India, after being ordered by village leaders and residents to leave their Christian faith. The families were forced to leave their homes in the village of Bharanda on 23 June. They have since been allowed to return, but tensions remain.



> Tens of thousands of Christians in Nigeria are being killed by Islamist terrorists, according to a new report published in June 2026. Figures from the Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa (ORFA)

indicate that 18,915 Christians were killed by Islamists between October 2019 and September 2025.



GOOD DAY CHOIR

CHEPSTOW & SEDBURY



FREE
TASTER
COME & SEE!

Every Thursday
10.30am-12.15pm
Sedbury Village Hall,
King Alfreds Rd,
Sedbury, NP16 7AQ

All Welcome

A fun and welcoming choir that's actually... **DURING THE DAY!**

Join forces with **professional choral conductor Lewis Hutton**, to discover and enhance your vocal abilities!

Come for the singing - stay for the friendships
Plus there's free tea & coffee!

Warbling away is like a gym session for your body and a spa day for your mind!



info@gooddaychoir.co.uk

www.gooddaychoir.co.uk



Good Day Choir



JOANNE HUME & SON LTD



Independent Family Funeral Directors

*Here to help
at a difficult time -
24 hours a day*

FREE HOME VISITS • NO UNNECESSARY COSTS
FREE, FRIENDLY ADVICE AND FUNERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE
HELPING FAMILIES IN ALL AREAS
DEDICATED CHAPELS OF REST • PRIVATE LOUNGES FOR VISITORS
PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS • MEMORIAL STONES
MEMORIAL JEWELLERY • UNATTENDED CREMATION SERVICES

01291 420972
07977 092935

168-170 Newport Road, Caldicot,
Monmouthshire, NP26 4AA
e: office@joannehumeandson.co.uk
www.joannehumeandson.co.uk





FUNERAL SERVICE

Philip Blatchly

& SON LTD

M.B.I.E., M.N.A.F.D., M.B.I.F.D., Dip.F.D., B.R.A.M.M.



Philip Blatchly
Philip R Blatchly

- 24Hr Personal Service
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

Est
1964

- Chapels of Rest
- Monumental Showrooms

HEAD OFFICE

Highcroft House, Woolaston

TEL: 01594 529345

SERVICE CHAPEL

Regents Ct, 3 Regent St, Lydney

TEL: 01594 842877

14 Chepstow Road, Caldicot

TEL: 01291 430468

5 Station Road, Chepstow

TEL: 01291 624939

www.philipblatchly.co.uk

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

R. L. Sunderland

Custom-made Curtains, Upholstery & Soft Furnishings

Also -

- Custom-made Roman blinds
- Deep buttoning
- Cushion & bolsters making
- Box cushions
- Re-stringing
- Re-covering
- Custom-made pads

If you'd like to know more about the services I provide, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Rachel Sunderland
Tel - 01594 510530
Mob - 07483 287314
Email - sunderland.rachel@gmail.com

Instagram- [r_l_sunderland_upholstery](#)
Facebook- R L Sunderland Upholstery & Furnishings





Our Financial Planners are highly qualified and have the experience to help you with:

▶ Pensions and Retirement Planning	
▶ Savings and Investments	
▶ Inheritance Tax Planning	
▶ Mortgages	
▶ Insurance and Protection	

The value of pensions and investments can fall as well as rise,
you may get back less than you invested.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not
keep up repayments on your mortgage.

The Financial Conduct Authority do not regulate Inheritance Tax Planning.

Equity Release will reduce the value of your estate and
can affect your eligibility for means tested benefits.



Please contact us for a free initial consultation on:

Mobile: 07979 157259
Chepstow office: 01291 626373 | Abergavenny office: 01873 854488
E: joshlewis@thinkpositive.co.uk | www.iam-financial-advice.co.uk

IAM Financial Planning Limited is an Appointed Representative of Quilter Financial Planning Solutions Limited,
who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



WALLHOPE FARM

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

MILK - MILKSHAKE - GELATO

We are a small, independent, family run dairy farm.

Head to our self-service vending machines in 'MOO HQ' for **FRESH MILK** and **MILKSHAKES**.

Our small batch **GELATO** is also available on site. Why not come down and give it a try?



OPEN 7AM-7PM, MON-SUN

Wallhope Farm, Boughspring, Tidenham, Chepstow, NP16 7JL

www.wallhopefarm.co.uk



Stepwise Podiatry

www.stepwisepodiatry.co.uk

info@stepwisepodiatry.co.uk

HCPC Registered Podiatrists

Routine foot care, Diabetic foot checks, Ingrown toenails, Nail Surgery, Verrucas
Sports injury, foot pain and MLS Laser

Clinic locations in Tintern and Chepstow

Unit 4 Library Place, Manor Way, Chepstow, NP16 5HZ
Wye Valley Wellness Centre, Ashweir Lodge, Tintern, NP16 6SE
Home visits available for house bound patients

Let us fix your feet

Call us today for an appointment

Tel: 01291 689917

www.stepwisepodiatry.co.uk

info@stepwisepodiatry.co.uk



September, October & November 2026



DISCOVER YOUR LOCAL CAMRA AWARD WINNING
LOCAL PUB IN THE HEART OF WOODCROFT

THE RISING SUN

A COMMUNITY OWNED PUB

OPEN EVERY DAY FOR LUNCH, DINNER, CRIBBAGE,
DARTS, BOARD GAMES, DRINKS, COFFEE MORNINGS,
QUIZ AND ALL THINGS SOCIAL



COLEFORD ROAD | WOODCROFT

P: (01291) 630888 TO BOOK A TABLE
W: WWW.THERISINGSUNWOODCROFT.CO.UK FOR OPENING TIMES

JOHN COTTRELL
Qualified Decorator
For a Quality,
Reliable,
Friendly Service



Reasonable Rates
No V.A.T.
Tel. 07760 364462
To arrange a quote



H A L L U X
P O D I A T R Y

**Do you have a problem
with your feet?**

We can help with:

painful, thickened or unsightly nails,
corns, hard or cracked skin, verrucas, pain
in your feet, ankles or knees.

Call: 01291 623 193

Email: hello@halluxpodiatry.co.uk
16A Moor St | Chepstow | NP16 5DB



55



- Fully qualified chimney sweep
- Certificates issued with every sweep
- Clean and dust free
- Bird nest removal
- Stove maintainance
- Manual and rotary sweeping

Chimknee
Sweeps

Contact Jordan



07498 310712



01594 832820



info@chimknee.co.uk



www.chimknee.co.uk



ABBEY MILL

Tintern Np16 6se OPEN Wed – Sun Feb – Dec

Thank you for supporting a local Family run business when you shop & dine with us

Arts, Crafts & Gift Centre

Local, Welsh, British & Around the World
Casual, Smart & Weekend Clothing
Celtic & Designer Jewellery

The 'Woodsaw & Wheel'

Licensed Coffee & Tea Shop, Country Kitchen Eatery

Homemade dishes using local produce

PRESENT THIS ADVERT TO RECEIVE **10% DISCOUNT OFF YOUR FOOD BILL** Wed – Fri - up to 6 people



Need a Caterer??



Wakes - Anniversaries –
Weddings - Christenings
Birthdays – Club & Society
Lunches/Dinners
Any Excuse!!
at Home, Village/Church Hall
or any Venue of your choice
Please call Shelley on:
01291 689228 / 07789593660
info@abbeymill.com

AXION

Consultants ARCHITECTS

Peter Tyler Dip. Arch. Hons.
Telephone 01291 627857
Email: tyler@axion.co.uk
www.axion.co.uk

MOTOR SERVICES of CHEPSTOW

(formerly Tutshill Service Station)

Fiat Dealer

Servicing

New and Used Car Sales

Tel: (01291) 623304

Emma & Graham Williams Gardening Services

**For a local professional
service covering all aspects
of gardening**

**Tree work undertaken
NPTC qualified**

**Mobile:
077620 49438**



MOBILE



HAIRDRESSER

**FOR AN APPOINTMENT
PLEASE TELEPHONE**

**CANDICE
01291 622331**



Ben Williams Fencing Services

Covering all aspects of
fencing and repairs

07927 483085



RPW

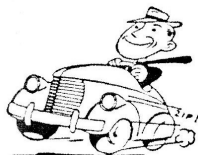
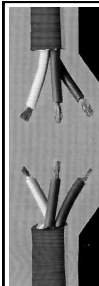
ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

All aspects of
Domestic &
Commercial
Electrical work

Rhys Williams:

079559 92551

rpwelectricalservicesltd@outlook.com



Dean's Auto Repairs Ltd

We offer quality workmanship and our mechanics
have a wealth of experience and knowledge.

We service, repair & MOT all makes of cars.

We offer air conditioning service and full diagnostic
checks.

Call us on 01291 629302

Unit 14 Bulwark Ind Est Bulwark Road Chepstow NP16 5QZ

We care about our customers and their cars



A. & H. JONES

Butcher & Delicatessen
(all our meats and poultry are
locally produced)

Homemade Pies & Sausages

Home Cured Bacon

Homemade Faggots

Steak, Guinness & Mushroom

Pies Fresh Fish

Telephone (01291) 622063

**Coleford Road,
Tutshill, Chepstow**

SENIOR SERVICES

Pressure Washing

Paths, Patios

Fence Painting/Staining

Garden Tidying

Contact: Rob

Tel: 0739 104 6450

Email:

sservicesrb@gmail.com

Reliable, traditional



Professional Assistance	Page
Architects: Axion	56
Good Day Choir	50
Financial Planning: iam Financial	53
Funeral Services: Philip Blatchly	52
Funeral Services: Joanne Hume & Son	51
Gardening Services	
Ben Williams Fencing Services	57
Emma & Graham Williams Gardening Services	56
Senior Services: Pressure Washing plus	57
Home Services	
Chimney Sweep: ChimKnee Sweeps	55
Curtains/Upholstery/Soft furnishings: RL Sunderland	52
Decorating: John Cottrell	55
Electrics: RPW Electrical Services	57
Food Services	
Butcher: A. & H. Jones	57
Catering: Abbey Catering, @ Tintern	56
Dairy: Wallhope Farm, Boughspring	54
Local Pub: The Rising Sun, Woodcroft	55
Personal Services	
Foot Care: Hallux	55
Foot Care: Stepwise Podiatry	54
Hairdresser: Candice	56
Car Services	
Dean's Auto Repairs	57
Motor Services of Chepstow	56



The Tidenham Parochial Church Council (PCC) cannot accept responsibility for the items advertised in this magazine and readers should exercise normal care when following up an advert. The Magazine Editorial Team reserves the right to reject any advertisements or articles.

ADVERTISING IN THE LINK: Roger Martin
01291 627800
e-mail rogermartin340@outlook.com



OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS



Churches Together

Foodbank 07931 911869

Church Activities

Life Groups 07769 335049

Fairtrade 07769 335049

Other Local Churches

Baptist 01291 622987

Methodist 01291 497874

Sedbury Church 01594 529209

St Mary's Priory 01291 620980

Stroat Evangelical 01594 529209

Roman Catholic 01291 622649

**The Bridge Church,
Chepstow 07563 644860**

Children & Youth

Pre-School in Sedbury 01291 638665
PATA@Penguins

Offa's Mead School 01291 622932

Tutshill C of E School 01291 622593

Toddler Groups 07488 373817

Tutshill Community 01291 629134
Pre-School

St Briavel's School 01594 530428

St John's School 01291 622045

Wyedean School 01291 626180

Care Homes

Castleford House 01291 629929

Medical

Tutshill Surgery 01291 637910

Chepstow Hospital 01291 636636

A&E: The Grange 01633 493100

NHS 111

Chemist Sedbury 01291 622532

Chepstow Library 01291 635730

Forest of Dean Council 01594 810000

Police 101
(non emergency)

Sedbury Surgery 01291 626041

Royal Gwent 01633 234234
Hospital

NHS Dentist nhs.uk

Merrick's Chemist 01291 622387

Chepstow Leisure 01291 635745
Centre

Gloucester Council 01452 425000

Neighbourhood 101
Watch





"where the river flows everything will live"

Tidenham Parish Magazine Autumn 2026

Flower & Arts
Festival
St Mary &
St Peter's Church
Tidenham
June 2026



**Pet Service at St Luke's Church,
Tutshill on 2nd August 2026**