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**Tidenham Parish
Link Magazine
Spring 2026**

Inside this month...

**...Parish up-date from
Churchwarden Brian Duerden**

... Parish News of all sorts!

**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	Vacancy	
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
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Deputy Warden Tidenham	Cate Phillips	07596 185918
Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	07970 489362
Deputy Warden Chase	Susanna Jacks	07411 188627
PCC Secretary	Iain Gardiner	07738 095839
PCC Treasurer	Paul Coombs 814yug@gmail.com	07831 469951
Bell Ringers	Cate Phillips	07596 185918
Tidenham Choir	Roger Martin	01291 627800
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 & Link Distribution	Tanya White	01291 623169 07802 874036

tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

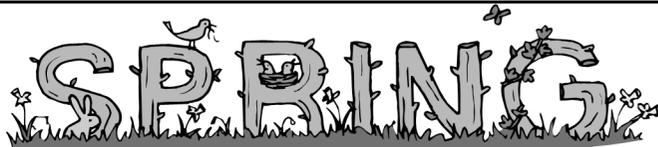
The Link Advertising

Roger Martin

01291 627800



Tanya White



Welcome to our New Link Year magazine
& Happy Easter to everyone.

I hope that everyone is well.

This month:

- Remember that our Link magazine Annual Subscription is now £7.00
- Churchwarden Brian Duerden gives us a Parish up-date (pages 4-6)
 - News from Sedbury Space (pages 12-13)
 - Scarecrow Trail (page 22)
- PCC Highlights from our PCC secretary (page 32)

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

Love from **Tanya**

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



PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Summer Link**
(June, July & August 2026)
must be with **Tanya by Friday, 1st May 2026**

Email: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com

or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road,

Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169 or 07802 874036)



Exciting times for our Parishes



Revd Nicki
Bullivant
Associate Priest &
Wellbeing Chaplain



Prof Brian Duerden
CBE
Churchwarden



Robin Riordan
Churchwarden

I am writing this a few days after our services at the beginning of February to celebrate the final Festival of the Christmas period – the Feast of Candlemas that marks the presentation of Christ in the Temple and His recognition by Simeon and Anna. We have so many lovely memories of the last two months and we owe a huge “Thank you” to all who have worked together so hard to make it so memorable. We had the traditional carol services - the Parish Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham, and the Advent and Epiphany Carol Services and the Candlemas Choral Evensong at St Michael and All Angels, Tidenham Chase – all were uplifting services, a pleasure to be part of and everyone who contributed as musicians, choir and readers deserve our warmest thanks for making these services special. At St Luke’s, Tutshill, we thank our CYFM minister, volunteers and our clergy team for the Nativity Service and then the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We also had carols in Sedbury and at Castleford Care Home and were well entertained by Go2 Theatre in their Christmas Cracker, the Chatelaines and Recorders in their concert, and the Christmas Tree Festival by Tidenham Friends. And then, in the centre of it all, we had our Midnight Mass at St Mary and St Peter, Holy Communion (BCP) on Christmas morning at St Michael and All Angels and welcomed Bishop Robert to lead us in a Family Communion Service at St Luke’s.

Despite the apparently unending days of grey, wet, windy, chilly and generally unpleasant weather of late, the snowdrops at the bottom of Tidenham Lane and the yellow crocuses in our own garden are telling us that we heading for spring and what promises to be a busy and exciting



three months in our parishes. When Robin wrote his winter greetings in the last edition of The Link, he announced that we were about to interview for our vacant position of vicar of Tidenham and priest in charge of St Briavels and Hewelsfield. As you all now know, that interview was successful and we are delighted that Revd Sharon Gleed will be joining us as our priest and leader with her licensing and installation service to be held on Sunday, 3rd May at St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham at 3.00pm. So as well as moving into the next phase of our Christian year with Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent leading to Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter, we are actively starting the detailed planning for the licensing service and the start of Sharon’s ministry in our parishes.



Revd Sharon Gleed

The licensing service will be produced by the Bishop’s office and Bishop Robert will conduct the service. However, within it will be activities and components that we will need to contribute with representatives of all five churches, schools, the local authorities and the local community. The music parts of the service – pre-service music, hymns and songs, an anthem and organ voluntary – will be delivered by our organists, the music group and a choir drawn from the five churches. The choice of music is the privilege of the incoming vicar and we are already in discussion with Sharon about what she would like us to produce.

The service itself will be followed by refreshments (“afternoon tea”) prepared using the new facilities in the North Aisle of the church and the Tony James Memorial Building by the Lych Gate. We will be looking for plenty of volunteers for church cleaning, seating set-up, refreshment setting up, serving and clearing up, and for flower arranging (based on seasonal and local flowers), stewarding in church and for the car parks. As well as extended parking at Tidenham, we are also planning to have some parking at Tutshill with a minibus shuttle service to and from Tidenham.

A small working group has started to plan and outline what is needed, but we will soon be looking outward to recruit the volunteers for the work that needs to be done. So, if you are able, please be ready to respond when the calls go out – or even better, tell the churchwardens or PCC



members in advance, what you would be best able and willing to do. This is a highly inclusive event! – and because we expect a large congregation, we will be asking people to “sign-up” if they are intending to be there on lists in each church over the next few weeks.

Nevertheless, this cannot distract us from our continued Christian worship and fellowship over the coming weeks. Our regular services now head towards Ash Wednesday and into Lent, when there will again be a Lent Course put together jointly by our team of very supportive clergy to whom we are very grateful.

As we move through these weeks we come to Mothering Sunday, Passiontide, then Palm Sunday and the Holy week services, all with vital messages for living our lives as Christians. We look forward to this journey together which, this year, leads us into a new era in the life of our parishes.

Blessings

Brian Duerden

Churchwarden



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.gardiner@btinternet.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.



NEWS Who am I? (Reverend Sharon Glead)

As you can see from the photo, I'm really excited about coming to make our home amongst you and ministering with you in our communities.

I'm married to Edward and we share a love of singing, music, walking and gardening.

We've two adult daughters and a Labrador, Theo who is looking forward to lots of interesting new walks!

I was born in London and moved to Bristol to read English, History, Sociology and Psychology at the University of the West of England (U.W.E.). I gained my teaching qualification and Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Plymouth, returning later to U.W.E. to study for a Masters in Education.

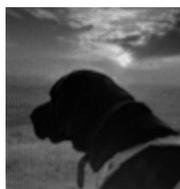


I've taught in a number of schools, including a school for the Deaf, from which I went on to specialise in Early Years Education. Whilst exploring a call to ordained ministry, I studied theology at Trinity College, Bristol, before going to Sarum college, Salisbury to study further. There I specialised in rural ministry and served my curacy in rural North Wiltshire, including being Curate in Charge of 8 Churches.

I'm delighted to be taking the next step in my adventure with God in the beautiful Wye Valley and Forest of Dean and seeing what we can be and do together, as we live in the flow of God's love.

We're really looking forward to getting to know you, learning your stories, and seeing what God is doing and joining in.

Yours in Christ,
Sharon, Edward and Theo too





Folk Club St Luke's Church

Saturday,
14th March 2026
Saturday,

25th April 2026

Saturday, 6th June 2026

6- 8.30pm

(doors open 5.30pm)

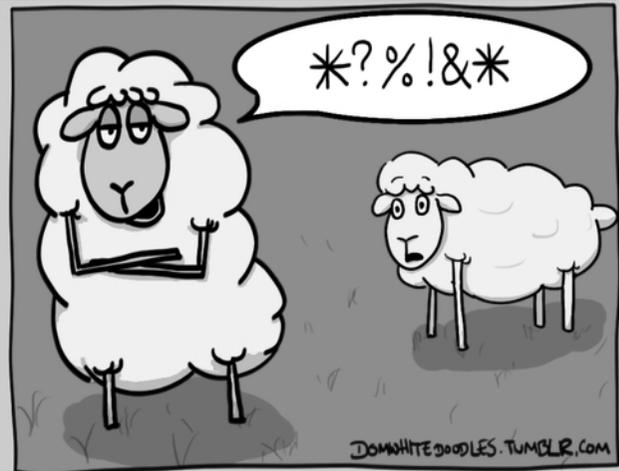
Coffee & Tea will be provided.

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

Contact Bill & Tanya White
(01291 623169)



Cartoon by
Dom White



EXBLEETIVE



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 at wvmim@wvm.org.uk;
or visit our website www.wyevalleymusic.org.uk
or Facebook page @WyeValleyMusic.

So, turn up and take a seat at the Music Memory Café.

Every third Wednesday of the month,
from 10.30am – 12.00pm.
St Briavels Assembly Rooms,
st Street, St Briavels, GL15 6TG.
Entrance free. Parking nearby.

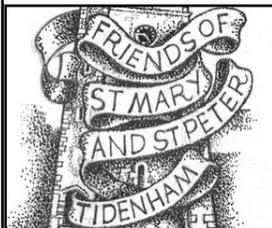
Next dates: Wednesday 18th March;
Wednesday 15th April; Wednesday 20th May 2026.



Music is the best medicine!



Rules for Editing: . Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement



Friends Update

TONY JAMES MEMORIAL BUILDING The New Parish Office

Charity no.
1159658

The Friends purchased the Tony James Memorial Building, the barn outside the Lych Gate next to Church Cottage, in June 2025. Since then a tremendous amount of work has been undertaken which included:

- A complete replacement of the roof timbers and a new roof
 - Very significant insulation on the walls and ceilings
- A new floor which was 34 tonnes of hard core, 5 tons sand, 120mm concrete slab, insulation, underfloor heating and then a 60mm screed on top
- Integrated solar panels on the roof and a battery pack
 - Air source heat pump
 - Internet connected to the Church
- A sitting out paved patio, a new ramp and railings

The aim is to get the building as close the EPC A grade as possible to minimise the running costs whilst making it a comfortable and pleasant place to work. We have built in a kitchen with an industrial oven and dishwasher; there is a disabled toilet and store room as well as the Parish Office.

We are just completing the snagging with little left to do. The last visible element will be the outer doors which will go up to protect the window. We are hoping it will be a great asset for the Parish. In the spring we will be fencing and sowing grass seed and doing some planting to replace the trees we have had to remove.

The building is now officially registered with the Post Office as The Tony James Memorial Building. For those that do not know, Tony James was a long term resident of Tidenham, had been a Church Warden and Trustee to various local charities. He was an accountant and left a legacy which paid for the conversion of the





The front window/entrance and the paved patio area, disabled ramp and railings

building.

The passage/entrance hall, Disabled Toilet and baby changing and kitchen



The Office



Outer door (not yet hung)



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

e-mail:

manager@@sedburyspace.org.uk#

07522 178638

WELCOME TO 2026!!

We ended the year with our regular Christmas community meal which was a great success as you can see.

Our amazing team of volunteers, old and new, created a festive atmosphere and served a delicious meal!



"YOU ASKED AND WE LISTENED"



New Ladies Safe Space Meet Up

Our Wellbeing Chaplain and hub manager were approached with a request of setting up a ladies group meeting providing a safe space to chat and support each other.

Within 48hours we have set this up initially on a monthly basis, meeting up every 3 Thursday of the month.

The first meet-up was a great success and we are looking forward to facilitating its future growth

This year we have created a calendar with professional nature photographs donated for the theme. We have some still for sale at the hub. Please ask the manager for details on purchasing for a small donation



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

MONDAY 9am– Cleaning
 2.00 – 3pm Gentle exercise class (weekly)
 2.00 – 3.30 pm Bible Study Group

TUESDAY 10am – 12pm
 One Stop advice/chat Café
 12.30pm-2.30 Cancer Support Cafe (1st Tuesday of month)

WEDNESDAY 10am-midday
 Drop In Advice/Chat (weekly)
 2 – 3.30pm Memory Café (1st Wednesday of month)
 2- 3.30 pm Games Cafe (2nd Wednesday of month)
 6.30pm-8.30pm Cancer Support Cafe (3rd Wednesday of month)
 2 - 3.30pm Shared Reading Group (last Wednesday of month)

THURSDAY 11am-12pm
 Community Walkers Café
 1.30 – 5.00 Chaplaincy Chatroom
 5 – 5.30 pm Evening Prayer Group
 6.30-7.30pm Ladies Open Drop-in support group (3rd Thursday of month)

FRIDAY 10.30 am – 12.00 pm
 Happy Crafters/Knit, natter and crochet

SATURDAY CLOSED
 UNLESS PRIVATE BOOKING

SUNDAY 12-2PM Sunday lunch club (pre-booked) (last sun of month)

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Sedbury Space Community Hub is a **SAFE PLACE** for whatever help you need with a listening **CONFIDENTIAL** ear

THIRDS
Pudding Club

Using sweet treats to explore memories of past and present!
Sedbury Village Hall

10.00am - midday
Within the 1stop cafe
FEB 17th/24th & MAR 3rd/10th 2026

Over the four sessions we will design a collaborative pudding. To be made and shared at a celebratory event. Date to be confirmed. Different activities each week. Join us for good company, tea/coffee and cake! **NO BOOKING REQUIRED - JUST TURN UP** Questions? Phone Sarah 07598854887

WYLDWOOD Gloucestershire COUNCIL

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC

EVERY MONDAY 2.00-3.30PM
 SPACES NOW AVAILABLE
 £4.00 per person

TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS SERVED

GENTLE SEATED MOVEMENT & STRETCHING TO MUSIC
 WITH OUR TRAINED VOLUNTEER ANDREW
 SING ALONG TO THE MUSIC WHILE YOU KEEP FIT

Raising Funds for: Sedbury Space

Help us raise money!

Donate your Ink Cartridges for reuse today!

Recycle + Charity.co.uk



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.



Meetings on:

Monday, 23 February 2026

Belated celebrations for Valentine

Bring your favourite poems (romantic or funny)

Monday, 30 March 2026

Make something that represents Easter

(Prizes will be given for best Easter efforts)

Monday, 27 April 2026

Spring Flower Competition

(Prizes will be given for Best Spring Flower Display)

Welcome FREE good coffee/tea, cake and biscuits

If you have any concerns or are worried about anything our hosts are on hand to support and can put you in touch with those who can offer further help.

Please come along and visit us...



Contact

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



Chepstow Choral Society

SATURDAY MARCH 21st 2026

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

"GLORIOUS MUSIC FROM VENICE TO VIENNA!"

VIVALDI -- "GLORIA"

T.ALBINONI - -Oboe Concerto Op 9 no 2

F. SCHUBERT --- MASS in G

W.A. MOZART --- Motets

CCS ORCHESTRA

(Leader – Paula Kempton)

MAISIE RAE O'SHEA (Soprano)

MOLLY BEERE (Mezzo-Soprano)

LAURIE STANDISH HAYES (Tenor)

MATTHEW WELCH (Bass)

ANGELA WILLIAMS -- Oboe

GRAHAM BULL -- Musical Director

Tickets £15.00, u/18s and students free, from Choir members, Chepstow Bookshop,

www.eventbrite.co.uk



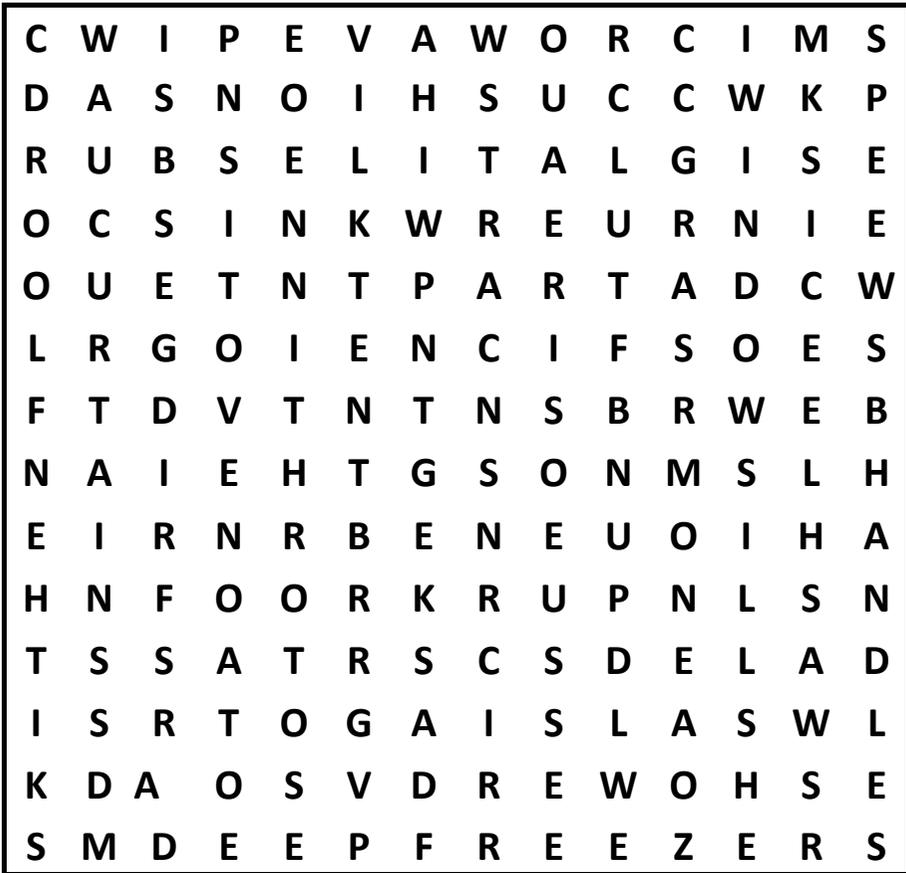
Tanya's Link
 Spring Prize Challenge
 Happy New Link Year to everyone..

This Wordsearch puzzle has words **encouraging**
SPRING CLEANING

Once started, there are many places to **SORT**, like
 the **DEEP FREEZER, CABINETS** and **CORNERS...**
 with items to **DISPOSE**, followed by **DUSTING...**

Remember to **CLEAN** the **OVEN, SKIRTING**
BOARD and **DOORKNOBS**. Even turn the **MATTRESS!** May all be a satisfying
JOB WELL DONE ! Letters not used and taken in order give the answer. 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!

BED	DOORKNOBS	SHOWER
BLINDS	DUSTING	SINK
CABINETS	FANS	SKIRTING BOARD
CARPET	FRIDGE	SORT
CLEAN	HANDLES	SWEEP
CORNERS	KITCHEN FLOOR	TILES
CURTAINS	MATTRESS	VACUUM
CUSHIONS	MICROWAVE	WASH
DEEP FREEZER	OVEN	WINDOWSILLS
DISPOSE	RUG	WIPE



The Winter Link Prize Challenge was to find words from **“The First Nowell”**

There were 37 words to locate before the remaining letters gave the answer:

“SEEK FOR THE KING”

Well done for having a go at the puzzle and for all who spotted my distracting error of including two occurrences of the word **“ONE”**.

I still had six correct entries!

Winner this time is Michael Cave of Tutshill

Good spotting for the next Wordsearch listed!



News from our Parish Schools

New Pre-Prep



DEAN CLOSE
ST JOHN'S
CHEPSTOW

New Pre-Prep Library – Thanks to the Friends of St John's: What was

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

once an unused classroom has been completely transformed into a vibrant new library for our smallest pupils. With preparation work from our maintenance team, new furniture and accessories funded by our parents' association, the Friends of St John's, and creativity and finishing touches, the space is now



truly magical. A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring it all together. The children absolutely LOVE their new library—it's a beautiful place to read, dream, get lost in stories, and even enjoy reading together with the older pupils.

Careers Morning: We held an exciting Careers Morning for our Years 3–8 pupils, welcoming three inspiring guest speakers who shared their unique career journeys. One of our school dads spoke about his career in aviation, from a childhood passion for flying to the Air Force and commercial aviation. We then explored the world of engineering, learning about different disciplines and exciting projects, including a solar-powered car. Finally, our Head reflected on his varied career path from musician to businessman to Headteacher.



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 school at



Offa's Mead
Academy
To make our best better

Offa's Mead - 01291 622932

Offa's Mead our mission is pure and simple: *to provide an excellent education for every child in every classroom, everyday. This is the golden thread that binds us all together – the reason that despite our very different paths to Lift Offa's Mead, we are all part of one family.* David Wayland, Principal.



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together
adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter

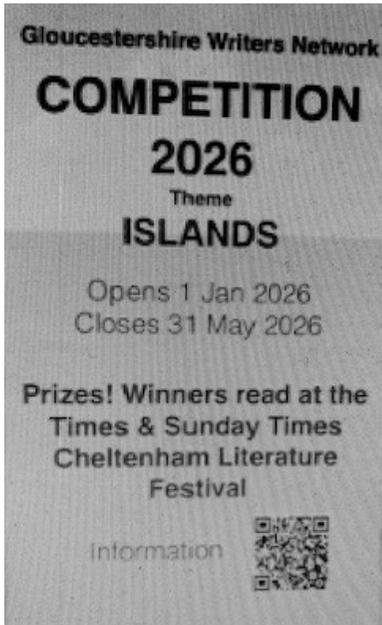
Wyedean School – 01291 636180

Competition!

Gloucestershire Writers' Network prose
and

poetry competition for anyone aged 16 or
over who lives, works or studies in
Gloucestershire and South
Gloucestershire.

The theme this year is 'Islands'. There are
cash prizes for 1st and 2nd prize winners
and the runners up who will all have the
chance to read their work at our Times and
The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature
Festival event in October. Their work will
also be published in our competition
winners' anthology. For further
information, please check out the website
for full details [https://gloswriters.org.uk/
competition/](https://gloswriters.org.uk/competition/) including tips on how to get
started.



Tutshill School
01291 622593

STEM Club:

Our STEM Club is
off to a flying start

this term! Our young innovators have
shown incredible engagement while

tackling real-life problems through hands-on
learning. Budding engineers recently investigated bridge structures,
discovering that triangular truss designs offer the best stability and weight
distribution. Meanwhile, our "forensic scientists" have been mastering
fingerprint analysis; testing various dusting powders and lifting techniques.
It is wonderful to see such collaboration and curiosity





BELL RINGING AT TIDENHAM



As regular readers will be aware, we are always on the lookout for new recruits. Since our last report, we have happily welcomed Nicky Pine who, after mastering the basics with one-to-one sessions in the autumn, now comes to the

general weekly practice where she is making good progress.

Our numbers on practice nights are frequently augmented by ringers from Alvington, Lydney, Mathern and elsewhere (bell ringers are a sociable lot!), and also on Sunday mornings. However, pleased as we are to see them, it would be even better if we could uncover more local talent like Nicky. If you think you might be interested in 'giving it a go' – maybe a one-to-one try-out? – do contact Cate (see below).

Basic information on bell ringing can be found online – check out bellringing.org or ccbr.org.uk – or you could come along to a Tuesday practice and see what you think. Ringing is an enjoyable and satisfying hobby that exercises 'the little grey cells' as well as being fun. It's for young people (10+) and adults of all ages, for those of all faiths and none (churchgoing not compulsory). And, contrary to popular misconception, you don't need to be musical, mathematical or strong; it's much more about technique than strength.

Our regular practice night is Tuesday, 7.30–9.00pm, at St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham – all ages and abilities welcome.

Please check with Cate Phillips (07596 185928) if you are planning to come, as it may be cancelled if there are too few ringers available. Sunday ringing is from 8.30am – visiting ringers always welcome.



The Parish Lunch ...

Thursday, 5th March 2026

Thursday, 16th April 2026

Thursday, 14th May 2026

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts
phone
George or Beryl
on 01291 625551

In 2026 we can confirm that the March Parish Lunch will fall on the first Thursday of the month as usual, but please note the other dates shown above for April & May.



Please contact Beryl or
George for further
information
(01291 625551)



The pastor was preparing pancakes for her young sons when the boys began arguing over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here," she told them,
"he would say,

'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'"

The younger boy turned to his brother and said,
"You be Jesus."



Scarecrow Trail

Animal characters from films

The Scarecrow trail will take place in Tutshill again this year from midday Saturday 28th March till 7pm Sunday 19th April. Entry forms are £3 can be bought at the new Morrison's shop on Beachley Road Tutshill NP16 7DJ. Trail open 9-7pm each day.

If you would like to make a scarecrow we have plenty of gardens enroute it could go into. The theme is Animal characters from films. Please let us know by 7 March which one you are making via email.

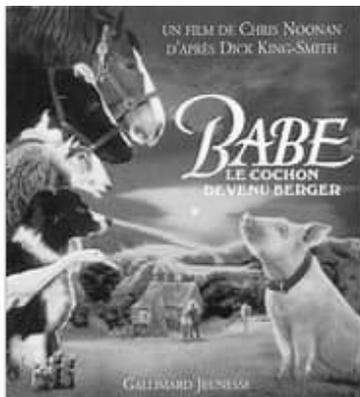
tutshillscarecrow@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

We will also have an online version of the trail so that more people can participate.

Please support the Scarecrow trail. It does raise money for the churches in Tidenham which is great, but it also supports our local community. Community groups enjoy making the scarecrows and we see happy groups and families enjoying guessing the wonderful creations.

So please tell people about it!



We are all excited to see the amazing creations around Tutshill around Easter time. Any questions please email us or speak to Melanie Walton and the Scarecrow committee 2026.

This year we will donate 10% to each of the following charities. Breathe who support young people locally who face challenges by providing valuable support and mentoring. and Guide Dogs for the Blind.



Magnificent Yews

Whilst churchyards contain many different veteran trees, it is the yews that are particularly special.

Globally, veteran and ancient yews are threatened; however, on a world stage the best refuge for these trees is actually the churchyards of England and Wales. It is in these enclosed spaces that over three quarters of Britain's oldest yew trees can be found. Some trees are believed to be several thousand years old.

The yew trees we are referring to are the long lived *Taxus baccata* (often referred to as the Common, English or European Yew) as opposed to others also found in churchyards such as the Irish Yew which is more upright, neat in shape and not nearly as long lived.

Almost every part of the yew is poisonous to stock and wildlife (including humans!). But birds such as blackbirds, waxwings, thrushes, and fieldfares enjoy the fleshy red berries. If you are partial to gathering fungi to eat, it is best to avoid even edible species if you find them growing on a yew tree.

The Common yews tend to grow in a 'normal' tree shape until about 600 years old when they often hollow out and thicken around the base. This hollow cylindrical structure does not weaken the tree, in fact it may even strengthen its structure. Hollow yews are great for sheltering wildlife. Some, such as the attached picture from Much Marcle in Herefordshire, have seats inside, and in past centuries hollow yews were even used as homes by monks in Wales and Ireland!

For more information about our second annual Love your Yew Week initiative, visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-yew-week/ where you will also find an interactive map showing the locations of ancient and veteran yews in churchyards.





Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025



The Nursery Rhyme Christmas Tree Festival was a fantastic event and we are so grateful to all the contributors and volunteers for their hard work in making it such a success. We also have to thank all the visitors who came to see the trees; there were 266 visitors this year. The number of visitors is increasing every year

as the festival is becoming more well known.

Thank you to Beryl and George Healey for marking the Quiz sheets of which there were 70, so no mean task! There were seven correct entries and the winners were decided by a blind draw from the winning sheets. Congratulations to Jacob and Lara Huws.

Little Bo Peep had lost 54 sheep and congratulations to Niamh and Cara Lambert for correctly guessing the number.



4. County Marquees

The money raised from the tree entries, quiz and donations was £471.90 which is fantastic and will

go towards the continued development of St Mary and St Peter's.



Thank you for your continued support.
Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church
Charity No: 1159658



Christmas Tree Festival Quiz 2025

	GROUP	Nursery Rhyme
1	Bellringers	Twinkle, Twinkly Little Star
2	Friends of St Michael & All Angels Church, Tidenham Chase	Incy Wincy Spider
3	Chase WI	Hickory, Dickory Dock
4	County Marquees	I Saw Three Ships
5	Sedbury Community Walks	Hey Diddle Diddle the Cat and the Fiddle
6	1st Sedbury & Tidenham Beavers	Animal Fair
7	1st Sedbury & Tidenham Cubs	Humpty Dumpty
8	Rainbows & Brownies	Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
9	Splash!	The Grand Old Duke of York
10	Sedbury Space Happy Crafters	Jack and Jill went up the Hill
11	Martin Singers	Three Blind Mice
12	Three Friends	Little Bo Peep
13	Tidenham Historical Society	Mary had a Little Lamb
14	Y2 Tutshill School	Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's in the Well
15	Tutshill WI	Sing a Song of Sixpence
16	Tidenham Gardening Club	Oranges and Lemons



Rodney Charles Duncan Moppett
Beloved husband, father, grandad
Man of Kent, Cyclist
1940-2025

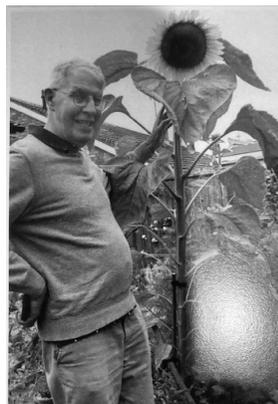
The significance of being either a Man of Kent or a Kentish Man is largely lost now but Rodney wanted it where his ashes will be. It shows where he was born, i.e. east of the River Medway, it is where he belongs, where his heart is.

Rodney was born in the Royal Naval hospital in Gillingham, Kent to a naval father and named after a warship, HMS Rodney so it is unsurprising he had an affinity to the sea from the word go. He spent many a long summer holidays on whichever ship his Dad was working on and preferred staying in the engine room, fascinated by how everything worked rather than going ashore. When he left school he took an apprenticeship at Chatham dockyard to qualify as a marine engineer. From there he joined the Merchant Navy for a period but he preferred working for a variety of shipping companies around the UK and Europe. His final time at sea was as a working passenger then as chief engineer on tall ships which he loved.

Rodney was known as Mr. Fixit. There was nothing he couldn't fix or rebuild, including building a van for holidays from an old damaged van, using bits from newer written off vehicles.

When IT started to be used in the workplace he was fascinated. He gained an IT qualification which led to an appointment training school secretaries. He followed this with an OU degree.

Rodney was a lifelong cyclist, building his winning numerous awards and in 1962 he met Wendy, who shared his cycling passion. Racing, touring and club cycling generally meant that they were often in each other's company. Riding and chatting developed a deep friendship which gently led to love and marriage. Rodney continued to cycle up to a few months before he died.





Rodney's other love was motorcycling and many great holidays were spent with Wendy riding pillion.

Rodney made an impact on other lives. He fought for justice for women in the workplace. His guidance to troubled youngsters kept some of them out of prison. He had a deep faith and recently said "How could I not believe in God when I look around at the beauty of creation."

Rodney was a loving family man and although there were the inevitable ups and downs, their house was always full of laughter. Together there was so much fun. There were two sons, Ben and Sam, of whom Rodney was immensely proud and to whom he gave unwavering support. Both boys talked about their Dad at the celebration of his life and it was obvious how much his gentle encouragement had always meant to them.

In early September, following what was thought to be a nuisance cough, he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and given about a year to live. However, that year became a few weeks and he died at home in Wendy's arms on 4th November 2025. He was the love of Wendy's life and she will always thank God for their life together.



“Heavenly Father, during this vacancy, guard and grow the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavel’s and Hewelsfield, as we serve you together in this period awaiting the arrival of Revd Sharon Gleed, our new 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 equip us all 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.”



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

John ROSSER (93)

Thursday, 27th November 2025

Service at St Luke's, Tutshill

followed by cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Rodney Charles Duncan MOPPETT (85)

Saturday, 28th November 2025

Cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium followed by

Thanksgiving Service at St Luke's, Tutshill

Peter Clive TREVELYAN (83)

Monday, 15th December 2025

Service at St Luke's, Tutshill

followed by cremation at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Robert Ivor JONES (76)

Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Service at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

Followed by burial in the graveyard

Clive JOHNSON (83)

Thursday, 22nd January 2026

Service at St Luke's, Tutshill

Followed by Burial in the Churchyard
at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

William John RAYMOND (Billy) (67)

Thursday, 29th January 2026

Service at Forest of Dean Crematorium

Corinne Ann DUNKERLEY (88)

Monday, 2nd February 2026

Cremation at Langstone Vale Crematorium

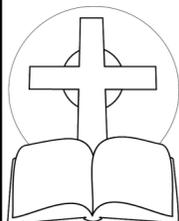
***Further register entries will
appear in Summer 2026 edition of the Link***



Holy Baptism

Arthur John GRAHAM

Sunday, 1st February 2026
St Luke's Church, Tutshill



Acts 10:34-43 Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'



Celebrate Easter together

Palm Sunday 29 March

- 9.00am Holy Communion**
St Mary & St Peter's Church,
Tidenham
- 10.45am procession from Tutshill Memorial Hall**
to
- 11.00am Morning Worship with palms**
St Luke's Church, Tutshill
- 6.00pm Evensong (BCP)**
with dramatised reading of
The Passion
St Michael & All Angels', Tidenham Chase

Holy Week

Wednesday 1 April

- 12noon Healing Eucharist**
St Luke's Church, Tutshill
- 6.00pm 'Journeying through Grief to Hope'**
Service for the Bereaved
St Michael & All Angels',
Tidenham Chase



Maundy Thursday 2 April

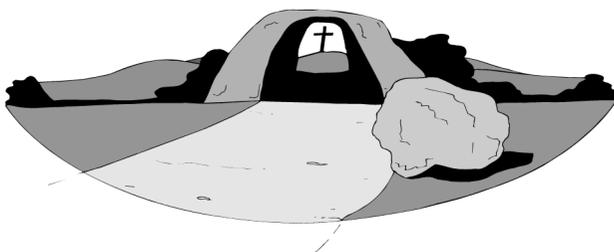
**7.30pm Holy Communion
St Luke's Church, Tutshill**

Good Friday 3 April

**10.00am Family Service
St Luke's Church, Tutshill**
**2.00pm Good Friday Worship
The Last Hour
St Luke's Church, Tutshill**

Easter Sunday 5 April

**9.00am Holy Communion
St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham**
**11.00am Family Communion
St Luke's Church, Tutshill**
**6.00pm BCP Holy Communion
St Michael & All Angels,
Tidenham Chase**





Highlights from PCC meetings in November & December 2025 & February 2026

PCC members:

- welcomed the news that the Bishop will license Revd Sharon Glead as the new Vicar of Tidenham Parish on Sunday 3 May 2026
- noted that the Remembrance Sunday service at Tutshill (155) and the All Souls' service at Chase (72) were both very well attended
- agreed to upgrade the electricity distribution board at Chase church to enable all the heaters to work once again
- agreed the date of the Annual Church meeting – Sunday 17 May 2026 at 12 noon in Tutshill St Luke's church
- thanked the family of the late Guy Rastall for their recently received bequest
- reviewed and agreed the revised Finance Policy, Reserves Policy and Net Zero Policy
- agreed the budget for 2026 and continued to review our ability to meet our parish share for 2026
- agreed local funeral fees for 2026 and local marriage fees for 2026/ 27
- reviewed and reissued the church Hire form for 2026
- agreed a Wi-Fi User Policy for our church buildings, which has been posted on our church notice boards
- thanked Tidenham Parish's Pastoral Visit Co-ordinator, Julia Parsons, for her presentation on the Pastoral Visiting Team's current work across the parish,
- discussed arrangements for the licensing service in Tidenham church at 3pm on Sunday 3 May for our new vicar Revd Sharon Glead, including the need for a thorough spring clean,
- approved revised delegated financial authorities for individuals and groups authorised to spend money on the PCC's behalf,
- agreed the dates and arrangements for the ever popular Easter 2026 Scarecrow Trail in the parish - 28 March – 19 April,
- received the Draft Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2025, which will allow members time to review the document prior to signing it off on 10 March,
- reviewed all the Christmas services and events and discussed arrangements for Lent and Easter services, *and*
- welcomed the fact that Chase church heating was fully reinstated on Friday 6 February.





Wellbeing Walks

A great way to connect with community, form friendships and get moving whilst enjoying the fresh air! Wellbeing walks are free and open to all ages and abilities. Wheelchair and pushchair friendly routes. For more information, contact:

Jane Penny: 07856 679 387
cfmlydney@gmail.com

Jon Harris: 07881 805 952
Jon.harris@salvationarmy.org.uk

Meeting at 10:00am for 10:15am start

.....

Saturday 21st February Half Term Explorers

Starting in Swan Road free car park with a stop at Four Seasons cafe in the park and playground/games time

Saturday 14th March

Start in Station car park walk to HIPS harbourside

Saturday 11th April

Starting at Taurus Crafts with a circular walk around Aylburton - finishing back at Taurus

Saturday 9th May

Start at Holy Trinity Primrose Hill with circular walk in Primrose Hill. Sorry, not wheelchair friendly.





**Revd Canon Yvonne Tulloch
Founder & CEO
AtaLoss CEO Yvonne Tulloch
Named CEO Monthly's Most
Influential CEO 2026
3rd February 2026**

Suddenly widowed in 2008, Yvonne's life went into free fall. She realised how little she and others around her knew about bereavement, its difficulties and needs, and how hard it can be to find understanding support. Since then, Yvonne has focused her attention on ensuring bereaved people of all walks of life find the support that they need. In 2016 Yvonne founded AtaLoss to signpost bereaved people to the range of support services that exist across the UK and mobilise effective

local support. Her main focus is on training church leaders to enhance bereavement support for their communities, As an ordained minister Yvonne has an additional perspective on the issues of bereavement and the needs of bereaved people. She is author of *'Faith Questions in Bereavement'* and leads a national on-line The Bereavement Journey programme several times a year. Yvonne is based in Chichester, West Sussex.

According to Yvonne, we don't get over grief, we learn how to live with it – but people need to be helped in this.

“Grief can affect every aspect of a person's life – not just emotional well-being, but physical and mental health,” she explained.

“Bereavement is one of the most stressful times in life, but for many people, it's devastating.

“Those grieving are so often left feeling isolated, floundering, and confused.

“People don't know what to say to bereaved people, so they steer clear of them – or they assume when they see them that they're coping well, when they've just managed to pull themselves together or are still feeling numb in the early stages.”



This award celebrates leaders whose work brings lasting change to communities. For Yvonne, this recognition reflects a calling shaped by Christian faith, personal experience and a deep commitment to ensuring that no one is left to grieve alone. It also reflects the faithful service of churches, volunteers and facilitators across the UK who actively deliver our mission in their own communities.

Under Yvonne's leadership, AtaLoss has grown into the UK's leading bereavement signposting organisation. Crucially, this work is made real through the agency, commitment and compassion of local churches and volunteers. Across the country, church leaders and lay volunteers deliver *The Bereavement Journey*®, host safe spaces for conversation, and work towards the **Bereavement Friendly Church Charter**, embedding bereavement awareness and care into the life of their congregations.

Today, more than **570 locations** deliver *The Bereavement Journey*® in churches, prisons, workplaces and care homes. Through their willingness to listen, to learn and to walk alongside others, these communities play a vital role in breaking down stigma, addressing isolation and offering hope to those navigating grief.

Reflecting on the award, Yvonne said:

“Breaking down the barriers that prevent people from finding the support they need has always been at the heart of AtaLoss. My Christian faith teaches me that grief should never be carried alone. What gives me the greatest encouragement is seeing churches and volunteers take ownership of this work - opening doors, creating safe spaces, and faithfully walking with those who are grieving.”

The impact of AtaLoss is not driven by one individual alone, but by a shared calling, lived out through the prayer, commitment and practical action of churches and volunteers in communities across the UK.

During this time, the charity began offering its services online. Queen Elizabeth II's death in 2022 was the second breakthrough, with Yvonne speaking to the press about her death lifting the lid off unprocessed loss.

“As this was observed, we were noticed by the media and became spokespeople for grief and death. This has continued, with AtaLoss being turned to frequently for comment on tragedies or grief related items in the news.”

Web Address: <https://www.ataloss.org/>



Caring for Creation together

Over the past 18 months, the Church House team has taken important steps towards caring more faithfully for God's creation. This has included understanding our carbon footprint, strengthening net zero carbon governance, and connecting long-term ambitions with the everyday life of churches, offices, and communities.



The next stage is about turning these plans into practical, visible action. Across the Church of England, one of the main ways this happens is through the Eco Church and Eco Diocese awards. The Diocese of Gloucester achieved Bronze Eco Diocese in 2021 and is now working towards Silver Eco Diocese, aiming to reach it this year. A key part of this process is encouraging more churches, schools and diocesan teams to engage with Eco Church.

Throughout Lent, we will be sharing reflections on the recent move to the new Church House premises, including the challenges and opportunities involved in working towards an Eco Office Silver award for our building. There is much to celebrate in the environmental features built into the refurbishment, as well as opportunities to continue improving.

Each week we'll take a look at one of the five Eco Church categories: worship and teaching, land, buildings, community, and lifestyle. Each week will also include a simple three-level challenge, offering ideas for what can be done with just five minutes, half an hour, or half a day. These are small, practical invitations to pause, notice, and take part in caring for creation, and to discover the joy and encouragement that often comes with it.

Sometimes 'Eco Church' can sound like an extra project, but it is often about noticing and building on what is already happening. Caring for creation shows younger generations that the Church takes its responsibility seriously, and for Christians, it is embedded in worship, teaching, and everyday discipleship.



Here are some tips for getting started:

- **Work together:** A small group of people with varied interests is enough to share ideas, plan actions, and encourage one another.
- **Track progress first:** The Eco Church survey shows what is already in place. Celebrate current achievements and focus on next steps without pressure to do everything at once.

Five-minute challenge:

Be still and thank God for the ways nature supports life.

30-minute challenge:

Take a gratitude walk in a garden or park, noticing five things you see, four you hear, three you feel, two you smell, and one you taste.

Half a day challenge:

Join a friend for a litter pick, taking time to observe the beauty of creation.

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

Riding Lights Theatre Company – Night Falls, St Catharine’s, London Road, Gloucester, GL2 0RR, 18 March

A new passion play that retells the Easter story, blending music and drama alongside space for worship and reflection. <https://www.stcatharine.org.uk/events/riding-lights-theatre-company-night-falls>

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

Living Christ’s mercy, justice and hope, Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BU, 10 March. Join Bishop Rachel for an in-person event for organisations, churches and individuals wanting to deepen their involvement or develop a Christian response to people in prison and those leaving prison.
<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/save-the-date-living-christs-mercy-justice-and-hope/>

Cheltenham Bach Choir: Spring concert, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 14 March. A concert from one of the leading amateur choral societies in south-west England.
<https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/whats-on/>



In Guatemala

In Guatemala, Christian Aid partner CONGCOOP (Séfora) supports Indigenous women to claim their rights and strengthen their livelihoods, including by holding local authorities to account for public services such as land deeds and health care.



Women like Aurelia and Sofia have benefited from this support. In their highland community, changing weather has made farming less reliable. With training from CONGCOOP, Aurelia has adapted her farming practices and now supports other women, including Sofia, to do the same. Together, they also turn raw cacao into products to sell at market, creating an additional source of income.

**“ I feel very fortunate to be part of this group.
I have felt encouraged by Aurelia who involved me...
I am very hopeful.” Sofia**



Let me introduce you to Julian Chapman, retired civil servant and recent chair of the Canterbury Christian Aid Group.

“We went forward with faith” From a cinema screening to public action, Canterbury Christian Aid Group’s journey of justice.

On a stormy November 2025 day in Canterbury, over a hundred people from different walks of life sit in a hushed cinema. The lights go down, and ‘The Tinderbox’ film starts rolling. “The Tinderbox is an excellent film, both educational and a call to action, moved by calls for a just peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. This was a first step into campaigning with the hope of getting more people involved.



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

Two praiseworthy stories from Rehema

Two young girls, Mariam (9) and Christina (8) always come and visit me at Rehema when their grandmother is attending choir practice at the cathedral (next door). It's very exciting and they chatter away, draw pictures and "hang out". Their mother died a few years ago and their father abandoned them, leaving their grandmother to fend for them. During one of their visits, our cook, Mode, asked me if Mariam was sick. I told her that I didn't know but didn't think so. Mode later asked the same question to her grandmother, as just by looking at her she suspected the girl either had sickle cell anaemia or HIV/AIDS. The grandmother confirmed that Mariam did indeed have sickle cell anaemia but confessed that she hadn't taken her for her monthly check up for several months because she had no money for transport to get to the hospital, never mind the treatment or prescribed medicine. The monthly cost is about TSH 40,000 (£13). We told her we would be more than happy to support her with these costs through our Assistance Programme as it is so important for Mariam and her future. She was so relieved and grateful.

Praise/prayer point: Thanks be to God for aligning us with this family, enabling them to get this much needed treatment for Mariam. Pray for her as she fights this terrible disease

Someone you will have heard me mention before is Kenneth, who was named after my late father. Kenneth broke his arm in November last year. The treatment he received was very poor and the arm never healed properly. I saw him some months ago and noticed he was protecting his left arm and doing everything with the good arm. His mother told me the bone had never set properly, and he was favouring his right arm as it was painful to use the left one. I told her if he continued to use only the right arm that would create future problems due to muscle wastage etc. The problem could not be ignored, and I thought medical intervention was needed. She consulted a specialist doctor at the government hospital and corrective surgery was recommended.

Praise/prayer point: We give thanks for the generous donations received to cover the cost of Kenneth's surgery and after-care. Praise God that the 2.5-hour operation was a success. Continue to pray for Kenneth's rehabilitation.



Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising coffee morning. So many people and businesses were incredibly generous and a magnificent £830 has been banked so far. Ruth Evans, Guide Dogs Community Fundraising Manager wrote

"The support you had from family, friends and volunteers was brilliant. I looked up from serving cakes at one point and just went 'WOW', where have all these people come from?

It was packed."

We were so proud of our pups who were joined by other young dogs in training from the wider Monmouthshire area, a Guide Dogs Ambassador Dog and two working Guide Dogs. At one point we think we had ten dogs in the room with lots of humans and plenty of bacon rolls but the pups settled sensibly, only ate their own snacks, and demonstrated the characteristics that Guide Dogs are famous for.

News from our pups

Umbur is a Guide Dog Dad-to-Be expecting his first litter on Valentine's Day.

Diesel is continuing with his training in Cardiff. He is a favourite with the dog technicians at the training centre who enjoy helping him to recharge with a relaxing off lead stroll in the park.



Des

Des was very poorly for a few weeks but is now gaining weight and is a picture of health. He is a very relaxed puppy who loves to trot through the woods and then snooze, especially on the underfloor heating in St Luke's church!

Honorary Chepstow pup **Salsa** has returned to our area. She did very well in training, but as guiding isn't a good fit for her, she has spent a few weeks being 'auntie' to new pup

Dora before moving to her local forever home.



Salsa and Dora

Honorary Chepstow pup Diffy is continuing his training by polishing his foundation skills.

Honorary Chepstow pup Toddy arrived with his puppy raisers at the end of January. He has a lot to live up to as his Puppy Raisers have already raised black Labradors Hunter, Umber and Diesel.

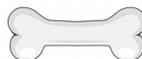


Toddy

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



Update from Miri Keen



Fact Gatherings...

Hot cross buns, marked with a cross, are traditionally eaten on Good Friday to symbolize the crucifixion.

Eggs represent new beginnings and rebirth, making them a fitting symbol for Easter.

Please Notice This



Found in other churches' notices:

"Maundy Thursday service: The ladies of the altar guild will be stripping on the altar."



Fairtrade, It's Not Just Purchases

Thank you to those of you who have stood by the farmers and workers who grow our food, drink and the products we rely on every day.

Choosing Fairtrade isn't just a purchase, it is a powerful way to support fairer pay, safer working conditions, and stronger communities around the world.



For the millions of people that produce our food, the new year doesn't just begin with celebration, it begins with uncertainty. Harvests are increasingly threatened by unpredictable weather, commodity prices swing without warning, and families are forced to make impossible choices just to get by.

Behind every Fairtrade product is someone fighting for a future where their hard work is valued and their children have

opportunities that they never had.

When you choose Fairtrade, you're standing with them. You're helping a farmer weather the next storm, keep their land productive, and build a life defined by dignity rather than struggle. Your everyday choices carry real hope. Together, we can move towards a more just and sustainable world, one Fairtrade choice at a time.

May God bless you in 2026 as you bless those who produce our food.

PS. This is a link for a short video explaining about rising chocolate prices, <https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/get-involved/resources/blog/why-are-chocolate-prices-i>



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.

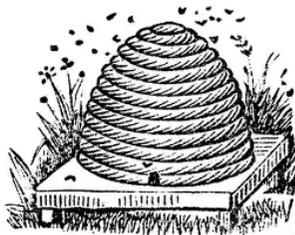
✝ Legacy

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

In November our members enjoyed an interesting talk (with tasters!) from Wye Valley Meadery which is now based in Caldicot but originated on the English side of the Wye. It looks after 180 beehives situated all round the area and



produces honey porter and traditional mead which was historically presented to newly weds during their 'honeymoon' and thought to be an elixir of health, fertility, longevity and good luck. Most members were happy to settle for three out of four!

Our skittles team reached the final of the WI Plate competition against Bisley WI which was played at the Red Lion at Huntley in early December. It proved an interesting evening commencing with an emergency stop en route to permit a wild boar to amble across the carriageway. It must have brought us luck as we won by 6 skittles and tried not to look surprised!

Christmas was soon upon us and a very pleasant Christmas lunch was enjoyed at the Abbey Mill, Tintern. As usual, we took part in the annual Christmas Tree festival at Tidenham Church; our entry, masterminded by Gwen Nicholas & created by members of the Craft Club, was 'Hickory Dickory Dock'. Also in December our dear friend and devoted member, Poppy Moss, was remembered in a service at Chase Church.

Our first meeting of 2026 had Tim Ryan as our entertaining speaker on the history of the 'Severn Princess', the last ferry to run between Aust and Beachley before the opening of the Severn Bridge. Particularly interesting for those of us who can remember the wobbly gangplank and the turntable which enabled 17 cars to fit and cross at a time. After some eventful years in Ireland, the Severn Princess is now back in Chepstow being slowly renovated by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Future plans include a theatre trip to see "Calamity Jane", talks on Great Oaks, Jewels of the Night and the Commonwealth War Graves among other interesting topics.

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 November meeting saw us banish the grey drizzle of November and take to the exotic climes of Marrakech.

Nathalie Mignotte gave us an illustrated talk about the famous

Moroccan garden-Jardin Majorelle. The garden had been designed and created by Jacques Majorelle and

was his lifetimes work over some 40 years. He had developed a unique style combining western and

oriental themes with a particular focus on blue, green, brown and white.

To gain the precise colour blue he required to paint the walls of his house and around the garden he created a bold blue colour which is still known as Majorelle blue. Towards the end of his life the garden fell into disrepair but about 4 years after his death it was bought by Yves St Laurent in 1966 and restored to its former glory.



For the December meeting we held a lively Christmas Social. The afternoon was spent enjoying the delightful array of food which members had brought and attempting the 3 quizzes presented by Bob and Gill. The winning table were certainly accomplished quizzers!

We don't hold a meeting in January but it sees us staying at home and contemplating the seed catalogues ready for the first signs of improving weather when we can start to busy ourselves in the garden and prepare for the new gardening season.

We are a friendly club and welcome visitors and new members. Meetings are held at Chase School on the third Friday of the month at 2:30 pm.

Forthcoming talks – Friday 20th March 'Unusual Fruit and Veg' given by Kevin Alviti

Friday 17th April 'Liliums for your Garden' given by Duncan Coombs

The annual plant sale will be Saturday 2nd May

For any further information please contact Stella Caws 07941 213777 or Bill Kerr 01291 621100



TUTSHILL W.I.

November's AGM, was combined with a splendid Bring & Share supper (and a lot of happy chatter), followed by entertainment from the inimitable Dalziel Ellis, a somewhat unusual poet. December's meeting featured a gift-wrapping demonstration by Eve Cale of 'Gift Wrapped by Eve', with a chance for members to get 'hands-on', and finished with mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz. December also saw the return of the popular Advent calendar

to the bookswap bus shelter and a splendid display of colourful refurbished pompoms on a tree on the Rec (thank you to Craft Group for both). In early January, a handful of us joined a tree-planting session on the Rec to plant a mulberry tree to mark the WI's 2025 110th anniversary, and the January meeting enjoyed an interesting talk by Simon Maddison of Chepstow Archaeological Society on the recently rediscovered Roman river crossing, including findings from a dig in Castleford Meadows the previous week!

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to a talk/mini-demo on Willow Weaving on 16 February, to be followed by a Juggling Workshop in March, a talk on Women in the Police in April and one on Gin in May, and a Shiatsu Workshop in June. We are hoping for a garden visit in July, maybe with picnic, but that of course will depend on the weather ... watch this space!

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 *(please check dates) 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 01291 623736/07712 574471 or e-mail tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com

Spring 2026 Programme

Tuesday
24th February 2026
7.30pm

Tony Conder “**Gloucester and its Tall Ships, from home trade to Hollywood**”.

Tuesday
24th *March 2026
7.30pm

Tim Ryan “**The Severn Princess and the Beachley-Aust Ferry Crossing**”

Tuesday
28th April 2026
7.30pm

Simon Maddison “**The Roman Bridge between Tutshill and Chepstow**”
An up-date on the fascinating archeological finds and theories about the routes leading to and from the bridge

Saturday
20th June 2026
1.30pm-5pm

Gloucestershire Local History Association afternoon school at Tidenham Church.
We are hosting this event in conjunction with the Friends of Tidenham Church and will be asking for volunteers to assist with setting up displays, 1 hour guided walks in the area and a trip to visit the Severn Princess ferry in Chepstow.



How long is Lent?

The length of Lent is often linked to biblical accounts of Jesus' time in the wilderness, covered in three books in the New



Testament: Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 4.

According to these accounts, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert without food before he began to travel, sharing lessons and teachings as a Jewish preacher.

Although the length of Lent is traditionally associated with Jesus' time in the wilderness, this isn't the only time we see the number 40 cropping up in the Bible.

It also features several times throughout Old Testament writings, including when the early Israelite people wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, following their escape from enslavement in Egypt (an event covered in Exodus).

Hang on a minute ... is Lent really 40 days?

So, Lent's inspired by stories of Jesus' 40 days spent in the wilderness. But the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday isn't 40; it's 46. So, what exactly is going on here?

It's time for a (very short) history lesson.

In 325 CE, a group of Christian bishops met to discuss and standardise common Christian practices. At the time, they set the length of Lent to 40 days.

Fast forward to the sixth century, and a Pope named St. Gregory removed the practice of fasting on Sundays, so Lent now begins on Ash Wednesday to take this into account.

So, if you've heard rumours that Sunday's a 'cheat day' for Lent, now you know why.

Author: Kate Avetoomyan



Christian News
Our Faith in Today's World



Suffering and persecuted Christians in northern and Middle Belt Nigeria were reached with emergency food this Christmas

➤ **This Christmas, gifts have blessed thousands of Nigerian Christians:** Praise the Lord that gifts have allowed Barnabas Aid's project partners to provide emergency food to around 5,000 Christian households in northern and central Nigeria.

Among the beneficiaries were the victims of Islamist terrorism and violent crime, many of whom are displaced from their homes. Also included were other vulnerable

people, such as widows and people living with disabilities. Distribution was carried out over Christmas – a much-needed gift to suffering believers in states such as Benue, Kaduna and Plateau in the Middle Belt and Borno in the north-east.

➤ As part of Barnabas Aid's campaign to provide pigs and chickens to marginalised Christian communities worldwide, our project partners in Karen State are developing a sustainable farming project. Pigs and chickens are a vital source of food in a warzone. But as well as this, money raised from the breeding and sale of animals becomes an important source of revenue.





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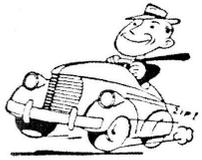
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