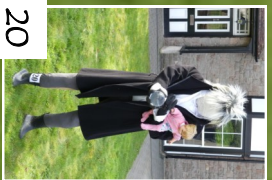




*"where the river flows everything will live"*



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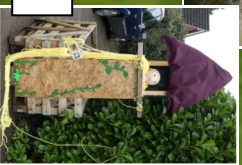
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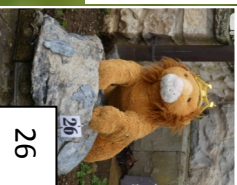
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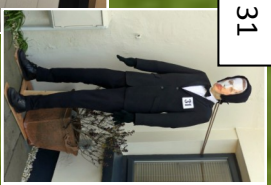
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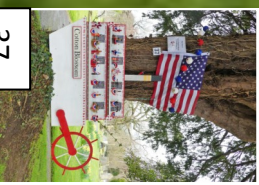


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2023



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Tutshill  
Scarecrow  
Trail 2023



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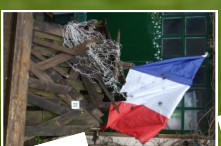
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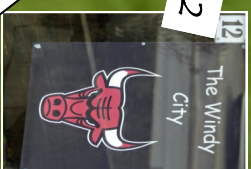
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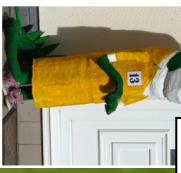
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Which MUSICALS can you identify  
Answers inside



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Tidenham Vicarage, Gloucester Road, Tutshill, Chepstow NP16 7DH

[dtrevd@aol.com](mailto:dtrevd@aol.com)

Associate Priest Revd Brother Tom Clammer OC 01722 683797

Curate Revd Nicki Bullivant 07936 787409

Reader Fiona Gardiner 01291 624868

Reader James Parsons 01291 446300

Children & Families Emma Durbin 07488 373817

Missioner

[emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)

Church Warden Nicholette Flatman 07910 659 322

Church Warden Brian Duerden 01291 623310

Deputy Warden Tidenham Cate Phillips 01291 624260

Deputy Warden Tutshill James Parsons 01291 446300

PCC Secretary Iain Gardiner 01291 624868

PCC Treasurer Paul Coombs 01291 629098

[814yug@gmail.com](mailto:814yug@gmail.com)

Bell Ringers Cate Phillips 01291 624260

Tidenham Choir Roger Martin 01291 627800

Parish Safeguarding Officer Marilyn Henderson 01291 620140

Deputy Safeguarding Officer Marion Evans 01291 622252

Parish Administrator 07541 582687

[tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com)

Pastoral Visit Co-ordinator Julia Parsons 01291 446300

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The Link Editor & and Link Distribution Tanya White 01291 623169

[tanya.rockyhead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockyhead@gmail.com)

The Link Advertising Roger Martin 01291 627800



OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS



Churches Together

Church Activities

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CAP (Debt Help)	07539 477286	Fairtrade	01291 446300
David Price			
<a href="mailto:davidprice@capuk.org">davidprice@capuk.org</a>		Care Home Services	01291 624572

Other Local Churches

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Methodist	01291 627014	Roman Catholic	01291 622649
Sedbury Church	01594 529209	The Bridge Church, Chepstow	07563 644860
St Mary's Priory	01291 620980		

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Offa's Mead School	01291 622932	St John's School	01291 622045
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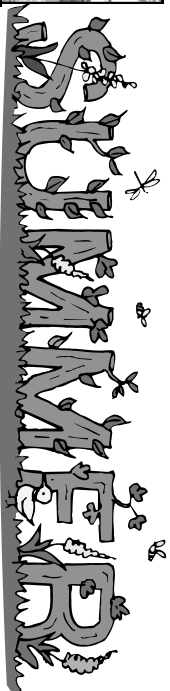




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**Letter from the Editor**  
**Summer Greetings to everyone**  
**and welcome to our Link magazine**

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

**Inside this month:**

- Vicar David speaks of some bits of news (pages 4-6)
- May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church (pages 34-35)
  - Sedbury Space (page 8-9)
  - Banner of Hands (page 11)
  - St Luke's Coffee Morning (page 11)
- Scarecrow Trail - Musicals (see cover) - answers (page 14-15)

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➤ **Parish Lunch**  
(page 20)

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

Love from **Tanya**



All copy for the **Autumn Link** (September-November 2023) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
 Email: [tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)  
 or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, Chepstow, NP16 7BU (01291 623169)

**PLEASE NOTE**



*Vicar David writes...*

*Some Bits of News as we Live Life Together in the Flow of God's Love*

*Revd Royston Grosvenor, former Vicar of Tidenham*



Vicar  
Revd David Treharne

It is with great sadness to write that the former Vicar of Tidenham, my predecessor, Royston died in April 2023. Royston was Vicar here from 1997-2011. I am privileged to have been able to follow Royston as Vicar and benefit from the work he undertook and enabled in this place. We give thanks for Royston's life and ministry and pray for his wife Pat and son David. May we/they know the love of God and the hope of resurrection in Christ Jesus our risen Lord!

**Musical Instruments**

Thanks to a generous donation we are blessed to have a new organ at Tidenham Chasel! It makes a wonderful sound and will be a great aid to our worship.

We are also blessed to have a new digital piano at St Luke's, Tutshill. It too makes a wonderful sound and is part funded in memory of Natasha Scott Falber ... a lovely young Christian and a member of our church family who tragically died in 2013. As we worship through song we'll be joining her worship!

**New People and New Christians...**

If you are new to the worshipping community here then a warm welcome to you. There are several Life Groups in the Parish giving opportunity to meet with others and explore life and faith. Please do speak to any of the members of the staff team in the Parish if you want to know more about the Christian faith or be baptised and/or confirmed. It has been really wonderful to see new faces and to meet people hungry to know God and see their lives and communities impacted for good. It has also been a joy to see an increase in people bringing their children for baptism!



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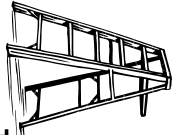


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**Confirmation**

There will be a Parish confirmation on Sunday 9 July 2023 at 3pm in St Luke's Church. At this gathering with the Bishop people will be making promises and committing themselves to follow our Lord. Please pray for them, support them and encourage them on their faith journey.

**Pray, pray, pray...**

In addition to our Parish day of prayer on Sat 27 May and the Tidenham Parish Quiet Day and Retreat at Ty Mawr in July 2023, I would like to encourage all God's people in this place to pray with all your hearts at this time. Why?

✚ Prayer is loving relationship and communication with God. Prayer is like the air we breathe... essential!

✚ Prayer is needed to know God's will and call for our own lives and the life of the church

✚ Prayer is so needed for our communities, nation and the world

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

**AGM results**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 23 April at St Luke's Tutshill. Congratulations to those elected to office at this year's Parish AGM, including: -

- ✚ Nicholette Flatman and Brian Duerden who were re-elected as Churchwardens until the next Annual Church Meeting in 2024.
- ✚ Molly Mayo and James Parsons who were elected to the Forest South Deanery Synod until the Annual Church Meeting in 2026.
- ✚ Emma Phillips, Jain Gardiner and Robin Riordan who were elected to the PCC until the Annual Church Meeting in 2026.



They join our existing PCC members: Paul Coombs, Marilyn Henderson, John Ross Henderson, Polly Morgan and Andrew Palmer. Alongside them as Ex-Officio PCC members are the ordained clergy: Vicar David and Revd. Nicki Bullivant, and our Readers: Fiona Gardiner and James Parsons. Please pray for all those called to serve Christ and his Church on the PCC.

**Annual Report**

The Annual Report for 2022 can be found on the Parish Website (under contact info and downloads). There are some great pictures to accompany the many words which document some of the fantastic work undertaken in and around the Parish.

**Thank you**

Massive thanks to all those who contribute to our life together and work so hard amongst us!

**Life Together...**

You are welcome to join a Life Group (small groups of people from the church meeting together to explore life and faith in different ways).

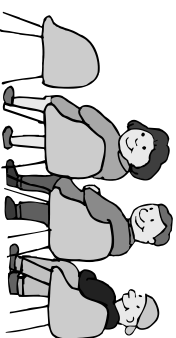
If you're not doing so already consider doing 'community' together: the monthly coffee morning, Parish Lunch, activities at Sedbury Space, the Men's Group, volunteering with our community partners.

May we be a people of worship glorifying God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a people seeking God's heart and God's will; a people of welcome and hospitality; a people who love one another in unity and in our diversity; a people building bridges not walls; a people linking faith and life... and a people of love and compassion.

The Lord bless you and keep you!

DAVID

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**Revd David Teharne**  
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 and Priest in Charge of St Brivels with  
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Cartoon by *Don White*



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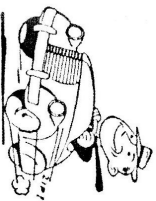
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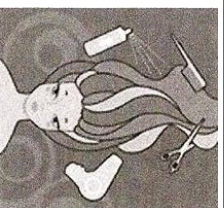
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Thanks for Your Support!

**How much?**  
*Before any projects such as Wellbeing or Children, it costs around £8,000 a month to run the Parish! Direct giving amounts to about £6,500 a month!*

With exciting things going on within the church here, please consider afresh your financial commitment to God's church in this Parish. The former Bishop of Sheffield Jack Nicholls said, "Our generosity is measured not by what we give, but by what we have left when we have given."

We invite all members to give regularly and electronically if possible.

Here are some giving options -

Bank Account - Tidenham Parochial Church

Sort Code 30-91-89

Account Number 00304754

Standing Order & Gift Aid Forms available to download from Website

Parish Treasurer – Paul Coombs

And don't forget that we now have a card reader at St Luke's. With less of us carrying cash around the opportunity to give by credit card is really important.

Once again thank you to all those of you who have given generously and regularly over the last year to help make things happen. Thank you!!

Vicar DAVID



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**SEDBURY SPACE News**



Did you know that we have the most beautiful garden area at the back of Sedbury Space? It is cared for and nurtured by some of our green-fingered volunteers and is kept in top condition. Our mural was painted by local artist Andrew Quelch and is a wonderful reminder of a day trip which took place last year to Slimbridge



**Volunteers**

Could you give some of your time to support us?

We are always grateful for volunteers coming forward whether to offer time on a regular basis or ad-hoc, all help is appreciated. If you would like to start up a new activity or group, we would certainly welcome new ideas or suggestions. Please contact Susan, Centre Manager on 07522 178639



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Susan our Centre Manager is proudly displaying our recent Food Hygiene rating of 5\*. This is thanks to the hard work of our team of volunteers who serve refreshments and/or cook and serve our Sunday lunch provision, and our cleaner Lynn Morgan who keeps the premises in amazing condition for us.

We take our food provision very seriously and the team have all carried out their Food Hygiene level 2 training. We all understand the importance of maintaining good records and hygiene standards and this has paid off for us.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEAM.**



Sue Skinner, walk leader of the Sedbury Walking for Health group presented Sedbury Space with a cheque for £60 from the Forest of Dean Community Walks organisation. This was

part of a FVAF Warm Space Grant in recognition of Sedbury Space providing a regular warm space, hot drinks and companionship for the walking group



### Bullet Point News

#### ✠ Thinking about Baptism/Christening or a Wedding in church?

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

For weddings visit <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

For baptisms/christenings visit <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/>

#### ✠ Is God calling you?

All of us reflect on the purpose of our lives at some point. Part of this reflection can lead us to having a sense of being called to do something particular in or with our lives. May the Holy Spirit lead you to respond to what the Lord may require of you. Please do not hesitate to speak with someone at church about this. It is quite normal and remember, God can use any of us he chooses!

#### ✠ Illness

We would like to remind parishioners (church and non-church folks) that they should not hesitate to contact us in the event of illness and hospitalisation. If nothing else, vital prayers can be offered for those in need.

#### ✠ Churchyards

Our churchyards are very special spaces for remembering departed loved ones. Therefore out of respect for *all* mourners please remember that grave-areas *should conform* to the churchyard regulations. This allows for peaceful use and trouble-free maintenance throughout the churchyard. The Parochial Church Council kindly asks that no extraneous additions (stones, plastic flowers, ornaments and statuary, plants, trees, vases, kerb-edging, etc.) are placed in or around graves. *The planting of trees is a particular issue which may cause damage to other graves and prevent a grave space being reopened in the future.* Thank you.

#### ✠ Legacy

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



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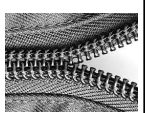
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- Free friendly advice and assistance with a wide range of funeral grants
- All types of Funeral available.
- Female & male funeral directors
- Respect & dignity are at the heart of everything we do
- Memorials & Funeral Plans

**01291 420972 • 07977 092935**

**www.ianwattsandson.com**



### ✚ Parish Contact Website Address

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

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

<https://facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch>

**Parish Facebook Group:** all welcome to join this private group and post comments.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

**YouTube channel:** 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos to assist your devotions. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRIQlVDBT9M9usfhpz7Z2w>  
**St Briavels & Hewelsfield website:** [www.stbandhchurches.org.uk](http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk)

### The Banner is now on display in St Luke's Church.

Many thanks to all those that have taken the time to do their



hands  
 Thanks to Sandra Connick, Molly Mayo, Cherry Harris, Della Rimmer who helped with embroidering some hands.  
 Thanks to Paula Siddall who transferred the Logo on cloth



for Della to skilfully embroider the Logo.

It's not too late if you would like to embroider your own hand or have one to be added to the Banner, please speak to Polly.

[paulinemorgan23@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemorgan23@gmail.com)

### St Luke's Coffee Morning

Welcome tea/coffee and cake morning

This will be held 10.00-12.00

on the LAST MONDAY of each month.

Contact Polly [paulinemorgan23@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemorgan23@gmail.com) or

Revd Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk) for more





**Tanya's Link  
Summer Prize Challenge**

In this Wordsearch we are gardening.  
There are 40 words to locate.

Once you have completed this, gather the remaining letters in order to spell out the answer to the puzzle, please send this to me: Tanya White, at Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BU

e-mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com  
to be in with a chance winning the prize!

<b>BENCH</b>	<b>GREW</b>	<b>SHEARS</b>
<b>BORDER</b>	<b>HERBACEOUS</b>	<b>SHED</b>
<b>BULBS</b>	<b>HOE</b>	<b>SHRUB</b>
<b>BUSH</b>	<b>HOSE</b>	<b>SOW</b>
<b>CAN</b>	<b>LAWN</b>	<b>SPADE</b>
<b>CULTIVATE</b>	<b>MOWING</b>	<b>TAP</b>
<b>CUTTINGS</b>	<b>ORCHARD</b>	<b>TRIM</b>
<b>DIBBLE</b>	<b>PATIO</b>	<b>TROWEL</b>
<b>DIG</b>	<b>PLANT</b>	<b>VEGETABLES</b>
<b>EDGES</b>	<b>POND</b>	<b>WATERING</b>
<b>FEED</b>	<b>RAKE</b>	<b>WEEDING</b>
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>SAND</b>	<b>WHEELBARROW</b>
<b>FORK</b>	<b>SAW</b>	
<b>GREENHOUSE</b>	<b>SEED</b>	



**✚ Barnabas frees another 100 Pakistani Christian families from debt and bonded labour:**

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Barnabas has freed another 100 Christian families from debt and bonded labour in Pakistan's brick kilns.



**✚ Pakistan brick-kiln debt repayment a wonderful Gospel picture:** The Apostle Paul declares in his letter to the church at Colossae that those who belong to Christ know the joy of their sin debt having been paid in full



**✚ A highly significant ruling in Iran:** As well as giving thanks for the release of Homayoun and Sara, we must pray that this ruling will be a precedent that allows more Christians to be released and prevents others from being targeted by the authorities



**✚ Barnabas delivers aid to flood-affected Christians in Chad and Cameroon:** More than 29,000 Christians have received assistance from Barnabas Aid after severe floods overwhelmed areas of southern Chad and Far North Cameroon



**✚ Barnabas-supported Christian school in Bethlehem celebrates 20 years of care:** St Aphrem's is celebrating 20 years of providing a Christian education to poor Christian children in a city where they are a despised minority.



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

#### ✠ Food gives aid reaches around 2,000 Christian families in Jordan



Approximately 2,000 Christian families in Jordan have been reached with food, gives boxes filled with food aid from Barnabas Aid's generous supporters. The recipients include Jordanian Christians and Christian refugees in Jordan from Yemen, Syria and Iraq. More than three million refugees currently live in Jordan, a huge number accounting for a third of the country's population.

Jordan has been badly hit both by the ravages of the pandemic and the ongoing economic crisis. Villages and impoverished urban districts, as well as refugee communities, have not recovered from the effects of Covid and have struggled to make ends meet as prices of goods have soared and unemployment has risen.

The arrival of two 20-foot containers of aid sent from the UK has brought timely relief to Christians in Jordan struggling to provide for their families. The boxes contain dry food items provided by our generous supporters – rice, lentils, chickpeas, flour and salt. These basic items enable families to make nourishing meals. Our project partner in Jordan has been able to make use of the flour supplied through food gives by working with bakeries in areas populated by refugees to provide good quality bread instead of the cheap, inferior bread they would otherwise have to rely on. The aid was most gratefully received as refugees are not allowed to work and the majority of Christian refugees rely solely on aid from churches and NGOs. Jordanian Christians are also struggling to find employment.



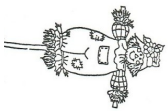
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In our Spring Link magazine, Wordsearch we were finding words considering the time of new beginnings and growth. There were 40 words to locate and well done if you managed to succeed and discovered the "LAST SUPPER"

*I feel encouraged as this time I received 7 correct entries!*

*The winner, this time, was Coral Blandford of Beachley. Well done!*



# TUTSHILL SCARECROW TRAIL 2023

## Musicals

**Congratulations to all the creators**

1	Jungle Book	20	Labyrinth
2	Matilda	21	Hair
3	Beauty & the Beast	22	Encanto
4	Singing in the rain	23	Girl from the North Country
5	Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	24	Mary Poppins
6	Annie	25	Pirates of Penzance
7	Narnia	26	Lion King
8	Little Shop of Horrors	27	Happy Feet
9	Bedknobs & Broomsticks	28	Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang
10	Fiddler on the Roof	29	Moana
11	Les Miserables	30	Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs
12	Chicago	31	Phantom of the Opera
13	Sing	32	Frozen
14	Grease	33	Tangled
15	Wicked	34	Godspell
16	School of Rock	35	Joseph & his Technicolour Dreamcoat
17	Oliver	36	Wizard of Oz
18	Spamalot	37	Showboat
19	Cats		



## NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT

### ROYAL FOREST SHOW

The Community Wellbeing Team, including my Community Builder colleagues, will have a stand at The Royal Forest Show in June with various activities, and providing information.

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Wellbeing have been able to fund a number of local organisations with Warm Space grants, and also provide seed funding to enable organisations to reintroduce or start up lunch clubs.

### TIDENHAM PARISH

Now has a team providing support for parents worried about children and drugs, based at Sedbury Space.

### FOREST OF DEAN COMMUNITY WALKS

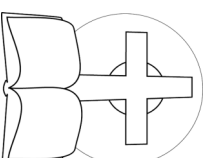
FOD Walks received a Warm Space grant from FVAF for the warm space provision and hot drinks and hospitality provided by local venues for the walkers. The Sedbury walkers presented their cheque to Sedbury Space on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Regards, Richard Skinner

**RICHARD SKINNER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT**

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

[richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk)



*8 The Lord is gracious  
and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.  
9 The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion  
on all he has made.*

*Psalms 145:8-9*



## tidenham historical group

Evening meetings from September to April are held monthly on the last Tuesday at 7.30 in Sedbury Village Hall, King Alfreds Road, Sedbury NP16 7AQ. Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Liz on 01291 621694, Carol on 01291 623736, or e-mail [tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com)



### VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS 2023



“The Waverley”: Following interest generated by a recent talk about passenger vessels from Bristol to Chepstow, we are pleased to say that “Waverley”- the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world- will be on the Bristol Channel from 2<sup>nd</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Friday  
2<sup>nd</sup> June  
7.00pm  
Approx

On Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, The Waverley will be leaving Portishead at 6.15pm and coming up under the 2 Severn bridges, then turning off at Tidenham. Join us on Beachley slipway as we welcome her to our area at the start of her visit to the Bristol Channel, or book a trip.

Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> June  
11am

On 11<sup>th</sup> June, at 11am, there will be a trip on Waverley from Chepstow (well almost!). Coach trip leaving at 11 am from Chepstow to connect with the Waverley at Clevedon for a 12.30 departure up the Severn and under the 2 bridges, turning off at Tidenham (weather and tides permitting), and returning by coach at 6.45pm. **Advanced booking essential. FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS FOR ALL WAVERLEY TRIPS RING 0141 243 2224 OR GO TO: [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)**

### MONTHLY EVENING MEETINGS RESUME ON:

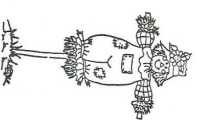
September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in Sedbury Village Hall for a talk by Tony Conder on “Gloucestershire and the Slave Trade”.



Another successful Tutshill Scarecrow Trail completed. A big thank you to everyone that supported this community event by making scarecrows, hosting scarecrows and completing the trail. Special thanks to the owners and staff at the Lifestyle Express shop in Tutshill for selling the forms for us.

### The Top 4 Favourite Scarecrows by public vote :

- 1st place - Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang (28)
- 2nd place - Encanto (22)
- 3rd place - Sing (13)
- 4th place - Moana (29)

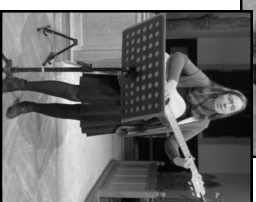


### Folk Club

St Luke's Church  
Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
6 - 8.30pm  
(doors open 5.30pm.)

Coffee & Tea will now be provided. But please bring any further Refreshments...

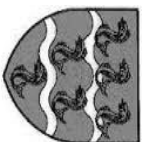
Contact Bill & Tanuja White  
(01291 623169) or  
Steven & Jewwy Shaw  
(07474 608797)





# News from our Parish Schools

## Tutshill School – 01291 622593



It is an absolute pleasure to share with you our recent SIAMS inspection result- we are EXCELLENT!

We were last inspected in 2015 where we were judged to be 'outstanding'. Since then the framework has changed, the bar raised and the outstanding grading removed. A new grading of 'excellent' was added. Since the inspection on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, I have been informed that less than 10% of church schools are judged as excellent. It is a real honour to have the hard work of our staff and leadership team recognised. The inspector spoke with leaders from across the school and those responsible for a range of areas. Each leader spoke with passion and dedication, allowing the inspector to see the inspirational leadership at Tutshill School.

I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank Mrs Howells and Mrs Driver for their role in the leadership of RE and collective worship. Mrs Howells guided and inspired the staff in the run-up and throughout the inspection and offered her knowledge and support to all. I would also like to thank the parents that came to talk with the inspector. It was a joy to know that they felt the vision and the values flow through the school - the golden thread.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the children. Alongside the inspector, I was able to speak with children, watch lessons, look at books and observe collective worship. The children were articulate, spoke with conviction and a sense of love for one another. The school vision clearly allows children to flourish.

**Headteacher Miss J. Lane**



## Wyedean School – 01291 636180

School and Sixth Form Centre  
 Aspire together, achieve together  
 adlocere pariter, perficere pariter

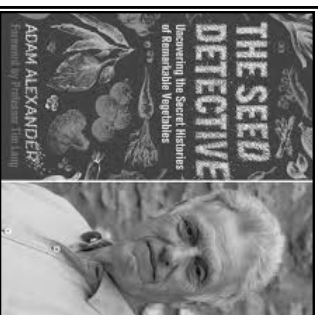
Wyedean School students and staff hold regular non-uniform days, cake sales, Book Events to raise money for local, national and international charities.



## CHASE GARDENING CLUB

Our monthly meetings resumed in February with a talk from Ian Sandler on the always vexed topic of "Pruning". He admitted it is a complicated subject but urged that on the whole it is better to prune imperfectly than to allow trees and shrubs to run riot and take over completely. Mistakes may mean the loss of one season's flowers but with a little TLC, watering and feeding, the plant will recover and be better than ever.

In March we learnt about beardless irises from Alun and Jill Whitehead who held the National Collection of Siberian Irises and have won a Gold Medal for their displays. Unlike bearded irises which are best in May and need full sunshine, the beardless version can, depending on variety, be in flower from Christmas to June and will tolerate shade.



Our final meeting of this season was in April; our intended speaker was stricken with Covid but the indefatigable Pat Knight managed to find a last minute alternative, Adam Alexander, who gave a talk based on his book "The Seed Detective". It concentrates on 14 different vegetables originating from many countries including Ukraine, Syria and Myanmar and was very much enjoyed; we now await his next book due out in 2025!

The annual Plant and Cake Sale will be held in May and in June we plan to visit the Open Gardens at Ross on Wye. Later in June comes the Summer Supper then a lull until the afternoon meetings restart in September.

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





### Chase WI

Our February meeting started as a "member's meeting", which entails mixing, chatting and lots of laughter. Ann our outing organiser invited us to play "Bedlam" a wonderful game similar to a beetle drive. The winner was Kath. It is a lovely way for members to get to know other members and especially good for our 4 new members. Tea, coffee, and biscuits followed, with more time to enjoy a chat.

In March a group of members visited the Savoy cinema in Monmouth to see Evita, produced by Monmouth Amateur Dramatics and performed by a very talented cast. Our March meeting was attended on a very wet and depressing afternoon by Mr Paul Evans, who entertained us with poems, recitations, and humorous stories, cheering all of us greatly and making us forget the weather outside. We were also told about an "open day" being held at Lydney, Gloucestershire Federation of WIs out and about in the county, a group of our members plan to attend.

April's talk was given by a local crafts woman Rachel Stitson, she is based at Lydney Park Estate and teaches mosaic classes. Members were very interested in how she had started her journey and a number are planning on attending one of her workshops in the future.

Several members and some spouses visited Bristol for an organised tour of "Old Bristol". We were shown the nails outside the Corn Exchange where auctions were held and the saying payment "on the nail" was thought to have originated. We also saw the oldest city gate and learnt how the circus was once a harbour and ships used to berth outside the Hippodrome theatre before the planners encased the river Frome below the road. We all then enjoyed a lovely lunch at an Italian restaurant in Corn Street, Bristol.



Members are planning on making cakes for the Great Oak's hospice, it was good to hear that their bereavement coffee mornings are returning after Covid and cakes will be required once again. We are also collecting any unwanted gifts for the hospice to help raise funds.

Our May meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday) with members voting to still hold it on this day followed by a Coronation afternoon tea, with the goodies being supplied by our members, all dressed in red/white/blue.

Our meetings are held at Chase Hall on the second Monday of the month at 2.15pm, new members would be very welcome. If anyone would like to attend and see if it is "for them" we would love to see you.



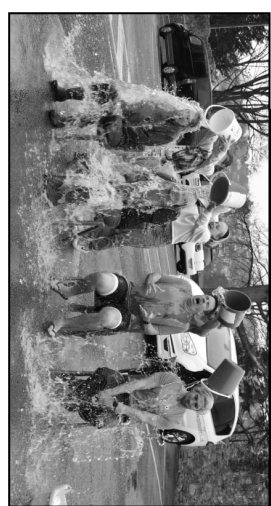
Dean House held an

incredibly popular

**ST JOHN'S** charity day on Friday

CHEPSTOW 21<sup>st</sup> April,

raising funds for our charity of the year, Chepstow



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

Community Fridge - a valuable local project where volunteers distribute surplus food from supermarkets and local shops to those most in need. A magnificent £550 was raised by the end of the day.



On 1st May 2023, the Dean Close School jazz band delivered a captivating performance at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, impressing the audience with their musical talent and creativity. Their rendition of 'Carwash' was a particular highlight of the set list, demonstrating the band's versatility and ability to infuse their unique style into any genre of music.

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

**Offa's Mead - 01291 622932**

Offa's Mead celebrated our King's

Coronation with a celebratory British style picnic (unfortunately the weather was very British) so had to be held inside. The Children spent the day making Crown's, banners & flags to mark the Historical event.

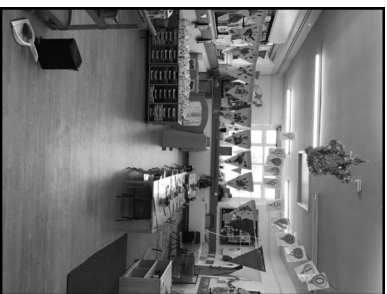




## Tutshill Community Pre-School



We had a wonderful time at Pre-school celebrating the coronation of King Charles the third with a special



coronation afternoon and tea party!

We invited our families to come into pre

-school to make some lovely coronation crafts including a crown and special flags.



We then all went over to the park to play together and share a picnic with coronation cakes made at pre-school and decorated biscuits.



We finished off with a medal giving ceremony

where every child received a special commemorative medal to remember the event!



meals during the holidays, so it's worth checking out what restaurants and cafes near you are offering.

libraries will be taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge this summer – offering activities, competitions and even virtual awards for children to win.

### Get active

Leisure centres are increasingly

### Budget for summer

offering free summer sessions for children, so do contact your local centre to find out what's on. Children also love creating their own obstacle courses, whether in the house or garden. Perhaps you can create a shooting range and use a water gun or hose to blast empty plant pots off a wall? Hopscotch is one of those underappreciated fun summer activities that's a lot of fun.

At Christians Against Poverty (CAP) we see the challenge that parents face over providing for their families whilst keeping their finances afloat. Budgeting is a great way to prepare for the summer holidays. An online search can lead you to useful budgeting tools. If you or someone you know is financially struggling or in debt, please know there's help and hope. Call CAP on 0800 328 0006 (free of charge) or find out more about what we offer at [capuk.org](http://capuk.org).

### Join your library's summer reading challenge

If you haven't already, join your local library – it's free. Books can open a door into another world for both children and adults. As well as having access to hundreds of physical books and audio stories, lots of libraries run storytelling, craft or even Lego sessions. Most

*Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management education, skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.*



## Captivate the kids on a summer budget

David Price

(07539 477286)

Lots of parents will be trying to limit spending money on activities, food and outings this summer. With the cost of food and other essentials having soared over the past year, finding free things to do with the kids is going to be a priority for lots of families this summer. Here are six money saving tips to keep kids entertained this summer.

### Create a theme day

Most of us have heard about theme parks, but how about having a theme day at home? 'Dinosaur day' could involve wearing your favourite dino outfit all day, eating like a T-Rex or stomping and roaring in the park. Maybe a 'fairy' themed day would involve lots of singing, crafting or building homes for garden bugs. Themes can shape the whole day, from what you eat, where you go and what you do. We'll leave it up to you and the kids to choose a theme they love.

### Low cost meals

The school holidays can be a difficult time for many families.

**ten**  
Start as you mean to go on and set the bar for fun from day one. Did you know the first of July is international joke day? Why not gather your best gags together and take turns to tell them at the dinner table? Or perhaps create a small stand up show!

With the sudden break from free school lunches, it places an added burden on parents to budget for extra food. Why not ask the kids to help you create a summer holiday meal plan, working out what to buy and when, so that you can reduce food waste and cost? There are also a number of places that offer cheap or free children's



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

The other day when talking to a friend about the exam pressures on children, she casually fired back "Well, they're all just a load of Snowflakes today, when I was a child....". This got me thinking, what actually is a Snowflake apart from the cold icy one?

Apparently, according to Wikipedia 'Snowflake' is a derogatory slang term for a person, implying that they have an inflated sense of uniqueness, an unwarranted sense of entitlement, or are overly emotional, easily offended and unable to deal with opposing opinions.' Interestingly, the first records of the word being used was in the 1860's when 'snowflake' was used by abolitionists in Missouri to refer to those who opposed the abolition of slavery.

Today, amongst other things, it is used to describe and insult a generation that 'we just don't get it!!' We don't get all the new terms to describe gender and identity. We don't get what tech' platforms are 'in or out' and we certainly don't get why so many of our children and young people have mental health issues. I mean, what have they got to be so anxious about?? They've got it good, in my day.....

But I wonder, did your parents or grandparents ever 'get' you when you were young? And can we, however old we are, really understand what TODAY is like for children and young people. EVERYTHING has changed: Schooling, Social media, the environment, Health, etc. The society and world we grew up in is not the same that our 0-20yr olds are growing up in today.

So what can we do? Don't judge them. One of Jesus' clearest and most difficult instructions is 'Do not judge, or you to will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged' ( Matthew 7). Instead, love them and listen to them (as exasperating and tricky as it can sometimes be.) We are all trying to navigate our way through this world but just because their journey is different and we 'don't get it', it doesn't mean we get to belittle their paths.

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



# The Parish Lunch ...

Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month -  
**No August Parish Lunch**

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 ♣  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
No August Parish Lunch

For info and lifts  
phone  
George or Beryl  
on 01291 625551

12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre



On the 4<sup>th</sup> May we held a Coronation Lunch. 31 guests attended



who were looked after by 8 helpers.

The main meal was Scottish salmon followed by a well stocked cake and scones cake stand.



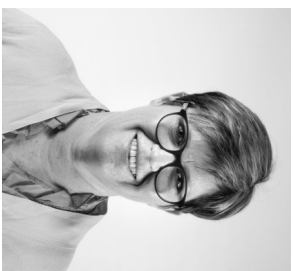
David and Nicky attended.



## 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**



We hit the ground running at the start of the year and have been busy not only with customers, but also getting essential maintenance and repair work done, as well as some renovations, as three years of not doing any upkeep had taken its toll on our outdoor cafe.

2023 is looking brighter and the cafe is doing considerably better than we were doing a year ago, or indeed since way before the global pandemic began, which is a real blessing, although we're not out of the woods just yet.

Currently we work when we have customers which is usually Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, but if there's a demand we'll open when it suits our customers as we can be completely flexible.

Our cafe manager, Grace, had a baby girl almost two months ago. She's back at work, and the baby sleeps in the workshop (where I'm based) so as I type this missive, it is to the sweet sound of a baby sucking her fingers.

Her name is Lightness.

I've said this often before, but living and working here I am reminded time and time again of what a great provider our Father is. Often there are circumstances that seem hopeless or problems that seem insurmountable, but we can take comfort in the knowledge that we can come to him with every need, concern, or worry we have, and no matter how small or large our issue, he knows what is going on in our lives and he provides for us.

Sometimes there are situations that seem quite bleak, but the Lord God is a great, big God and he has a habit of making beautiful things happen and he delivers. He is always with us regardless of what we are going through, and he encourages us to share our physical, spiritual and emotional needs with him.

**Bwana asifiwe.**



## The Farming Future

From an article by Pat Ashworth, printed in the Church Times 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Shortages of coffee and chocolate ahead, climate report warns British staples such as bananas, coffee, and cocoa could become scarce as a consequence of climate breakdown, changing patterns in the growing seasons, and the struggles of farmers to make ends meet, the Fairtrade Foundation (FF) has warned in a report.

The global cost-of-living crisis, the economic challenges of a post-Covid world, and the Ukraine war are also contributing to supply problems, its report, The Endangered Isle, says. It suggests that not all shoppers realise the extent to which extreme or unpredictable weather will make it harder for farmers to grow and sell food in sufficient quantities in the future.

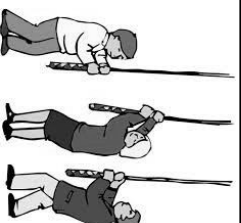
Consumer research commissioned by the FF showed coffee to be the item that most people would struggle to live without. All this shows, the report says, "how heavily we have come to rely on food grown by farmers overseas. It is vital that farmers and workers receive a fair price that will enable them to invest in transitioning to sustainable, climate-resilient ways of production, and to safe-guard the environment, their livelihoods and their harvests."

Research published in October 2022 showed that farmers who benefitted from Fairtrade standards, programmes, pricing, and payments, were more resilient in times of global crisis. "Making the small switch to Fairtrade is a way we can all play our part to protect the future of our planet and the food we love," the report suggests.

**For more information, please speak to Tanya, Julia, Cate or Marilyn.**

This summer's church carnival included a dunking tank, where ball throwers with good aim could make a big splash with the pastor. The tank proved a popular attraction, but things really took off when the pastor put a sign above himself that read, "Goliath."

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## Bell Ringing

We are pleased to report that, for the last several weeks, we have managed to muster ringers for Sunday ringing at Tidenham – and received many appreciative comments for so doing (thank you). This does not mean, however, that we have 'enough' ringers, rather that we're in the position of being able to put a team on the field but with no extras on the substitutes' bench. New recruits most welcome!



On Coronation Day, we gathered to 'ring for the King' between 9.30 and 10.00 a.m., the ringers being: Sarah Adams, Belle Boxall, Vic Duke, Josie Guest, Howard Murphy, Mary Murphy and Cate Phillips. After which we drank a toast to His Majesty. Thank you to Oliver Hinton who photographed us for posterity and to Alex White who recorded our efforts.

Our usual practice session at Tidenham is on Tuesday evening, 7.30–9.00pm. You will be warmly welcomed should you fancy coming along to 'have a go'. For further information, please contact Cate Phillips: 01291 624260

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## Chepstow Choral Society

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

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

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

### SUMMER CELEBRATION CONCERT

WEDNESDAY JULY 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm

CHEPSTOW SCHOOL ARTS HALL

Guest Soloists from Opera Box, Bristol

*A programme combining two highly entertaining pieces – “Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo” (Flanders and Horowitz), and “The Zoo” – a new and original Musical Folly in One Act, with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by Bolton Rowe.*

*“Captain Noah” is a well-known and highly entertaining cantata in popular style of the Old Testament story of Noah and his Ark, with a moral for our times! –and “The Zoo” will provide much enjoyment in the idiom of G&S and is a complete light-hearted piece of fun, utilising chorus and five soloists –the setting is the local zoo where some drama evolves in front of an interested crowd of zoo visitors and onlookers (the CCS Chorus!)*

**COME AND ENJOY A LOVELY LIGHT-HEARTED EVENING –and with drinks and light refreshments afterwards!**

Tickets (£10, students u/18s free) available from Choir members and Chepstow Bookshop. For further information, please see our website – [www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)



### *God speaks to churches through the Holy Spirit.*

Listening to God's Holy Spirit seems to require different kinds of ears and hearing... ears of the heart... spiritual ears. Our spiritual ears can be blocked so that the whispers and shouts of the Holy Spirit are not perceived. A church may have its hearing blocked by a number of things: resistance to change, fear, disunity and personality clashes, hearts that have become distant from Jesus, apathy and indifference, unresolved issues from the past etc... When these kinds of things happen a church might struggle to hear what the Spirit is saying.

#### *What can we do?*

1. Come back to prayer individually and corporately. When the people of God make time and space to pray (corporately and individually) a freshness can occur and the Spirit seems to move.
2. Not only saying Jesus Christ is Lord but living it. Allowing Christ Jesus to reign in us, amongst us and around us and be open and obedience to his will, his word and his ways can open us to the Spirit big time.
3. Listening to one another and to God and being aware and attentive to God, to one another, to atmosphere and to conscience.

As God's people may we live by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit... which sounds a lot like living life together in the flow of God's love! If we can do this there will be life! What is the Spirit saying to the church?

God bless

*David* (your Vicar)





## People of God in the Parish of Tidenham... May we Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

For a church to be vibrant, growing, alive, distinctive yet engaged with the realities of daily life we need to be in tune with God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ who was a shining light, distinctive and holy... yet also fully engaged and connected to the needs of peoples lives. He was divine and human. As God's people we need to be filled and guided by that same Holy Spirit! We need to hear God's voice... hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church here in this amazing part of God's world.

### God speaks to churches

Seven times in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 we read the words "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Notice that God speaks clearly to churches. He speaks to specific congregations and sometimes specific people about specific issues. The messages include positive and challenging words; words of approval for things done well and words of challenge where sin had been accepted or dangerous people who were allowed to hold influence. There are words of promise for faithful believers and words of warning for those who are unfaithful.

What is clear to me is that we learn that God speaks to the heart of a church's condition. To each of the churches he says, "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." What is the condition of the people of God in the Parish of Tidenham? What is God saying to you/me/us?

### God speaks. Are we listening?

God very often takes the initiative to speak. Sadly, we can believe that God has to be coaxed into speaking to us, yet reading the Bible, it is clear the opposite is often true. God speaks from the beginning of creation. He speaks through his Son, Jesus Christ. He speaks through the Scriptures, art, music, creation, dreams, ideas, love... and he speaks through his Holy Spirit. The problem is seemingly not that God is unwilling to speak, but we his people are perhaps not too ready, willing and tuned in to listen. Are we ready to listen?



## "Drug-proof Your Kids" Course

I've been smiling happily watching the families in Tutshill doing the "Scarecrow Trail". It just looks so perfect, parents and children together having fun in the spring sunshine. Its so easy to assume that is normal and will always be so.

I also know that my own children were offered drugs as soon as they went to secondary school. I have had several tenants in Chepstow who regularly took drugs. I had one tenant who would wander down to the train station, to pick up his drugs from the train as it stopped briefly in Chepstow. And, after having worked in Newport with the street people for ten years or so, I am fully aware of the devastation that can come with regular hard drug use.

I don't want to unnecessarily scare you, but sometimes it is so easy to look the other way, so easy to assume that it won't happen here, so easy to be complacent, that we miss the danger signs. To quote Philosopher Edmund Burke – *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing"*

So true in family life as well.

Chepstow is right on "The County Lines" and also of course on the national border. For example, the train line (so picturesque) that comes down from Birmingham, through Gloucester, then on to Newport, Cardiff and Swansea, is a typical example of the "County Lines" problem.

What to do? Many people just decide that the problem is so out of their comfort zone that they elect to do nothing and just "hope for the best". However, there is a better way, and that is to prepare oneself and one's children (grandchildren, nieces and nephews) by learning how to get to know about your child's life a bit better, what to do and how to react and how to protect them if they do start getting involved with drugs, and what opportunities and answers there are, if things do happen get really difficult.

You could do all the research yourself.... or you could decide to go on a "Drug Proof Your Kids" course. It's just six sessions, one a week, it is provided by "Care for the Family", a Christian organisation based in South Wales, and run locally by Mike and Mandy Scott. (And that means that there will be some really good refreshments, some really good laughs, and some really good companionship, along with all the serious learning!)

We are running courses starting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> at Sedbury Hall at 9.15 am, and on Wednesday evenings at St Luke's Church, Tutshill at 7.30pm.

If you are thinking this sounds like a good idea, contact Mike and Mandy on 07986 627066, [scottismikus@gmail.com](mailto:scottismikus@gmail.com), or just have a chat with us after church on Sunday.



## Words from the Eulogy of Charles Lewis

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023



Charles lived a long and fulfilling life. He was of the generation that 'just got on with things' and 'made the best of it'. He was a perfectionist particularly in his work and in his garden which meant he was successful at both.

Here we can celebrate his life and his story.

Ada and Reuben were delighted to become parents of twins in the summer of 1929. A son who they named Charles and a daughter named Avis. Charles enjoyed living on the Chase with his parents keeping cattle, geese and chickens. There was a large and productive vegetable garden which Charles was not allowed to help with initially but as his father grew older he took over the responsibility of maintaining it. The family also made their own cider from the apples on their land, borrowing a local cider press and using huge old barrels from Bristol so that the family had a constant supply of cider. As there was no water supply to their cottage and water had to be fetched from a well down the road, cider was part of their daily diet.

The twins attended Chase school, walking across the common to get there. Following school Charles went on to attend Gloucester Technical College. Here he excelled at Maths and Technical Drawing which suited his liking of order and precision... He enjoyed the freedom of cycling and when he was older he cycled from John O'Groats to Lands End with his friend Ron Evans.

After College he obtained a 5 year apprenticeship at the drawing office with Fairfield's Engineering and Shipbuilding Company. After two years here, having reached the age of 18, he was called up for National Service. He joined the Gloucester Regiment for three months basic training; following this he joined the Royal Engineers and transferred to Chatham Dockyards before sailing to North Africa and the Suez Canal for 18 months. Charles often spoke of the misery of seasickness.

Following his discharge Charles returned to Fairfield's to complete his apprenticeship. It was at Fairfield's that Charles and Sylvia met. After they were married they moved into a flat at Penmoel cottages in

Woodcroft and later were able to buy a plot of land at Tutshill,



### Life Groups

Parish Life Group Meetings  
meeting most weeks

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

- **Sunday** 7.30pm Life Group for Men!  
Online - James Parsons - [jamesdparsons727@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdparsons727@gmail.com)
- **Monday** 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space  
☪ Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk)
- Tuesday** 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies - [juliaparsons727@gmail.com](mailto:juliaparsons727@gmail.com)
- ☪ **Wednesday** 10.15am Food for Thought Life Group @ Café on the Hill - Vicar David - [dtrevd@aol.com](mailto:dtrevd@aol.com)
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy [fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com)
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group Emma [emmamad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmamad.cyfm@gmail.com)
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead [tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)
- Contact Emma Durbin for details of meetings for the young people. [emmamad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmamad.cyfm@gmail.com)

There are many countries which have their independence day during the month of July. These include the United States, Belarus, Venezuela, Argentina, Belgium, the Bahamas, and the Maldives. The national days for France and Canada occur in July as well.

**Fact Gatherings...**

June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere

August is what we call the dog days of summer.





## Highlights from PCC meetings in

March & April 2023



- PCC members: -
- approved the Trustees' report and the Annual Accounts for 2022
- in advance of the Annual Church meeting, approved the revised April 2023 church electoral roll, which now numbers 192 people
- noted that some 35 people from across the parish and beyond had attended the Lent Course
- welcomed the return of the 58 page Annual Report detailing church life activities throughout the parish in 2021 and 2022
- following the Annual Church meeting, agreed parish officers for 2023/ 2024
- welcomed the fact that over 2000 people had taken part in the Easter 2023 Scarecrow Trail!
- as part of Tutshill church reordering, purchased a second hand digital piano, which was installed in April
- following a generous gift-aided donation, purchased a second hand organ for Chase church, which was also installed in April
- received the church architect's reports of his Quinquennial inspections carried out in November / December 2022
- welcomed the full refund received from Royal Mail after they had failed to deliver any of the parish Christmas cards
- made preparations to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, especially the ringing of Tidenham church bells on 6 May  
— see You Tube - [Coronation Bells - YouTube](#)



*Please Notice This*

### **Found in another church's notices:**

*"Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study"*



moving in in 1960 (during their honeymoon in London they had seen South Pacific. They enjoyed it immensely and it was the inspiration for the name of their new home ... Bali Hai!).

Once living here Charles could not be tempted to move anywhere else. The move to a home with its own garden provided Charles with a new challenge, to create a garden from scratch. ... Vegetables were the main focus of attention and he ensured that there was plenty to feed the family. ... The family also remember his homemade banana ice cream and his homemade crisps.

Charles was never keen to go abroad for holidays.... However when invited to Majorca for a holiday he was finally persuaded to give it a try. He so enjoyed this it became a regular holiday destination, keen to share his enjoyment with his family he treated everyone to a holiday there. Later on, Charles was persuaded to travel to New Zealand for his nephew's wedding, even returning for a second visit

It was fashionable to make your own beer and wine at one stage which Charles embraced with demi-johns appearing in cupboards around the house. Foraging for dandelions, elderflowers, elderberries, damsons and even nettles at one point became a regular event. Visitors would be plied with the home made beverages and many of the unsuspecting would come away feeling the worse for wear!

Gardening remained Charles' main passion and he kept it up for as long as he was able. He thoroughly enjoyed his chats over the garden fence with neighbours and used to share gardening tips as well as pass the time of day. He loved chatting to people passing by as he worked in the front garden weeding, planting and pruning any plant that dared to grow more than he wanted. He also used to enjoy walking around to get the paper each morning and would often take quite a long time as he stopped to chat. He kept going for as long as he could but had to accept that he needed help. He managed to be independent for as long as possible and did not like to ask for help. Once he realised that people could and would help he was very grateful for anything they did for him. Charles is remembered fondly by all his family who have many memories to comfort them. Enjoy your own memories too. Charles will be remembered as a kind and courteous gentleman.



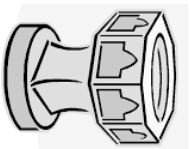
## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

**Reid Jay Theo Pennell**

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill



**Harry Joseph Graham**

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill

### Joseph James French-Styles & George Andrew French-Styles

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

St Luke's Church, Tutshill



*Some words from the funeral of  
Rayston Grosvenor on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 shared by  
Rev Brother Tom Clammer*

Rayston, as you might have expected, left a number of fairly clear instructions about his funeral. These included a complete order of service, there was not to be a eulogy and the preacher was to preach a sermon... this is from a sermon by Rayston at Midnight Mass, in Tidenham Church, approx 1998. 'What is God like?', asked Rayston to his congregation? 'What is God like?', and then he answered, 'he is like his Son.' Tom has never forgotten that sermon. What is God like? He is like his Son.

Rayston looked to Christ. As a man, as a priest, he looked to Christ, and when he saw Christ he knew what God was like. And he wanted us to know that too. And this funeral service that he has so carefully put together just preaches that exact same message. From the lighting of the Paschal Candle, that reminds us that the light never goes out, to the hymns that tell of the kindly Shepherd, and of the risen conquering Son of Easter morning, to the readings themselves, Rayston is still preaching to us even now that if we want to know about God, we need only meet him in his Son. And so it is of no surprise at all that we were asked to break bread together. To meet Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, as Rayston did so regularly, and indeed did, with Father David, for the last time just very shortly before he died.

A gate between this world and the next. A way that leads us home. A hope that speaks to us in grief. What is God like? He is like his Son.

### Take action against modern slavery in the Diocese of Gloucester

The 'Make it slavery-free' campaign invites people to take a pledge to make their community slavery-free. Visit The Clewer Initiative's website for ideas and resources such as posters and pledge materials to display in your church, workplace or community space: [theclerinitiative.org/campaigns/anti-slavery-day-make-it-slavery-free](http://theclerinitiative.org/campaigns/anti-slavery-day-make-it-slavery-free)

#### Events and training

##### Quiet days

13 June, 10am to 4pm Brownshill Monastery, Stroud, GL6 8AL Often in the business of life we rush from one situation to another not giving ourselves the opportunity to recharge and reflect on God's call on our own lives. In the beautiful countryside of Stroud, enjoy a chance to stop and reflect. [gloucester.anglican.org/quiet-day-10-2-2-2-2-2](http://gloucester.anglican.org/quiet-day-10-2-2-2-2-2)

##### Churches Count on Nature at Minchinhampton

10 June, 10:30am to 11:30am Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton GL6 9JH People of all ages are invited to come along to the churchyard to help spot creatures and plants that are living there. Results will contribute to a national database providing vital environmental information.

Taking part in Churches Count on Nature near you? Share with us what you are doing and send in your pictures to [kowen@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kowen@glosdioc.org.uk)

##### Gloucestershire Symphony

Orchestra Summer Concert 17 June, 7.30pm St Barnabas, Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL1 5LJ There's a subtle nod to the Coronation in GSO's Summer Concert programme, which features the beautiful Overture 'Proud Thames' by English composer Elizabeth Maconchy. Tickets £12, under 18s free. [gloucestershiresymphony.org.uk](http://gloucestershiresymphony.org.uk)

##### Young People & Social Justice

21 June, 7:00pm to 9:00pm Cooke Room, St Mary DeCrypt, Southgate St, Gloucester GL1 2DR Explore some of the current issues young people are vocal about, how we can be facilitators for them to take meaningful action, and perhaps most importantly, how we can take the whole church on the journey together. Open to all. [gloucester.anglican.org/young-people-social-justice](http://gloucester.anglican.org/young-people-social-justice)

**More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)**



## From our Diocese: Birds and bugs benefit from diocesan wildlife grant in Dursley

A diocesan environment grant, dedicated to helping local parish churches deliver new environmental initiatives, has enabled St James the Great, Dursley, to establish multiple projects in its urban gardens and grounds.

St James the Great stands in the heart of Dursley town centre and has seen extensive renovation and restoration work. Five years ago, members from the worshipping community formed an Eco Church group with a shared interest in promoting care for the church and local environment.



Gillian Mather, a member of the group, says, “Our initial focus was to achieve the Eco Church Bronze Award. We attended a training event run by the diocesan Environmental Engagement Officer and by working through the issues raised in the scheme’s questionnaire, we were able to direct many of our plans, including promoting the wildlife in our urban churchyard.”

In recent years, the group has introduced several projects including the introduction of ‘No Mow May’, liaison with the local ‘Men’s Shed’ group to help with the manufacture of eight bird nesting boxes, and the construction of a substantial bug hotel.

“The bug hotel is not only encouraging the insect and minibeast population in the churchyard, but it is also a visible point of interest for the worshipping community who use the public footpath close by. It provides a focal point for several of our Churches Count on Nature events, including Guides, Brownies and local primary school events. Most recently, the young people were shown how it is possible to construct their own small insect hotel at home using a tin or flowerpot.”

Visit Caring for God’s Acre website to find out which churches are taking part in your area, or why not go along to your local church and see what nature you can discover in the grounds?

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/view-events](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/view-events)



## From the Registers

### Funerals & Burials

**Charles Henry Seys LEWIS (93)**

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

St Luke’s Church Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium

**John Gregory Newdigate POYNZ (96)**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase Church  
& Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Doris Margaret Rose Susanne BROWN (82)**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Vick family grave St Mary & St Peter’s

**William Neil CHAMPION (80)**

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Daphne Olwyn COLES (89)**

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Forest of Dean Crematorium

**William Glen WOODS (76)**

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

St Luke’s Church Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Margaret HODGE (98)**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase Church

Graveside Service

**Michael John RICHARDS (85)**

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Forest of Dean Crematorium

*Further register entries will appear in Autumn 2023 edition of the Link*



## Tidenham Parish Prayer Diary

*"Love the Lord Jesus everlastingly with all"*

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>04 June</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> Emma, her team, their families &amp; clients Churchwardens &amp; PCC Wydean School Good Parenting</p>	<p><b>05 June</b> Vicar David &amp; family Churchwardens &amp; PCC Our political leaders Joy &amp; Peace within in spite of circumstances</p>	<p><b>06 June</b> Pastoral &amp; visiting teams Baby &amp; Toddler groups Local WI's Integrity</p>	<p><b>07 June</b> Readers Fiona &amp; James &amp; their families Funeral ministry Funeral Directors Excellent bereavement &amp; end of life care</p>	<p><b>08 June</b> Sedbury Space: its staff, volunteers &amp; clients Life Groups Public Cycle Paths &amp; footpaths Physical Activity</p>	<p><b>09 June</b> Give thanks for new Church organs Vicar David &amp; family Foodbanks &amp; all helping to meet our needs Gratitude</p>	<p><b>10 June</b> Associate &amp; Assistant Priests Churchwardens &amp; PCC For those in debt Affordable homes for all</p>
<p><b>11 June</b> Emma, her team, their families &amp; clients Chase Congregation Doctor's Surgeries Medical research</p>	<p><b>12 June</b> Vicar David &amp; family Church Cleaners Refreshment Servers Flower arrangers Gyms we use Forgiveness</p>	<p><b>13 June</b> Pastoral &amp; visiting teams PCC buildings team Emergency groups including SARA Socialising</p>	<p><b>14 June</b> Readers: Fiona &amp; James &amp; their families Men's Life Group &amp; Man Thing Beachley Camp Tolerance</p>	<p><b>15 June</b> Sedbury Space, Susan, Rev Nicki, volunteers &amp; their families Vicar David &amp; family Sedbury Village Hall Love, Joy &amp; Peace</p>	<p><b>16 June</b> Churchwardens &amp; PCC Buildings Team Our current Church building work Tutshill Memorial Hall Harmonious homes</p>	<p><b>17 June</b> Associate &amp; assistant Priests Annabelle (admin) Hanley's Farm shop &amp; activities Discipleship</p>
<p><b>18 June</b> Vicar David &amp; family on David's birthday Emma, her team, their families &amp; clients Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Discipleship</p>	<p><b>19 June</b> Vicar David &amp; family Life Groups Our Post Offices &amp; Banks Good Housing</p>	<p><b>20 June</b> Pastoral &amp; visiting teams Archbishop Welby &amp; Archbishop Cottrell Pope Francis Castleford Care Home Compassion</p>	<p><b>21 June</b> Readers: Fiona &amp; James &amp; their families Life Groups All facing extreme emotional &amp; financial problems Our mental health</p>	<p><b>22 June</b> Sedbury Space: its staff, volunteers &amp; clients Churchwardens &amp; PCC Café on the Hill Nutritious diet</p>	<p><b>23 June</b> Churches Together Life Groups Good interfaith &amp; ecumenical relationships Diversity</p>	<p><b>24 June</b> Associate &amp; Assistant Priests Life group leaders Tidenham Historical Group Laughter</p>
<p><b>25 June</b> Emma, her team, their families &amp; clients St Luke's Congregation Local Chemists &amp; Pharmacies Freedom from stress</p>	<p><b>26 June</b> Vicar David &amp; family Emma, her team, their families &amp; clients All on waiting lists for health appointments Freedom from pain</p>	<p><b>27 June</b> Pastoral &amp; visiting teams Life Groups Food Banks &amp; all helping to meet our needs A healthy diet</p>	<p><b>28 June</b> Readers Fiona &amp; James &amp; their families Heather (CMS) Offa's Mead Academy Education</p>	<p><b>29 June</b> Sedbury Space: its staff, volunteers &amp; clients PCC Finance Team Pubs we use Adequate rest &amp; sleep</p>	<p><b>30 June</b> School Assemblies Bishop Rachel &amp; Bishop Robert All housebound, ill &amp; lonely people Justice</p>	