



*"where the river flows everything will love"*

Tidenham Parish  
Link Magazine  
Autumn 2024



St Mary & St Peter's Church  
Tidenham



Folk Club at St Luke's Church  
See inside

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
GLOUCESTER

Tidenham Parish  
Link Magazine  
Autumn 2024

Inside this time ...

... Last sermon in Tidenham  
Parish from Vicar David

... News from Churchwarden  
Brian Duerden about our future here



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

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

**St Luke's**  
Tutshill  
Sunday: 11.00am

[www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk)

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Associate Priest	Revd Canon Tudor Griffiths	07718 906066
Associate Priest	Revd Anna Griffiths	07504 662539
Reader	James Parsons	01291 446300
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Tanya White

# AUTUMN

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

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

**Inside this month:**

- Vicar David 's last sermon as vicar in Tidenham Parish (pages 4-7)
- Churchwarden Brian Duerden writes on the past and about our future plans (pages 28-30)
  - Sedbury Space (pages 8-9)
- Report from the Friends of St Mary & St Peter's (pages 22-23)
  - Wellbeing Project (pages 24-25)
  - PCC Highlights (page 32)

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

Love from **Tanya**  
**Please note I have included my 2 telephone numbers to reach me**



All copy for the **Winter Link** (December 2024—February 2025) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

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

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**PLEASE NOTE**



Revd David Treharne

*Revd David's last sermon at Tidenham*

I'm so glad to have made the decision over 12 years ago to apply for the post of Vicar and Priest in Charge at Tidenham. It's been quite a time and so much has happened.

- My father dying Nov 2014
- Roseanna growing up and having most of her childhood here
- Kathy's cancer diagnosis and that journey.
- Covid and my 18 months of brain problems.

- I've lived all of my 40's, my best years, here...
- It's been a very good time but also a costly time personally. I can say to you sincerely that I've given my all!
- The privilege of knowing you folks, worshipping with you, sharing mission and ministry with you, sharing laughter and joy, tears and pain... living life together with you. What an honour and what a privilege to have been your vicar and having been involved in so many life events! Thank you for being companions on the journey.

*And what can I leave you with here?*

Recently we have been looking at 2 Corinthians. I think it's been a very timely text to have had. 3 messages in the letter seem particularly poignant to highlight as I leave.

1. *God's ways are not our ways.* When one gets involved with God and enter the Kingdom, things are turned on their head. God's way of measuring success and significance is entirely different to the world's way. This is a central message of 2 Corinthians. Throughout the letter St Paul turns upside down our natural expectations of the way life works, the way we think church should work and the way the Kingdom of God works. When it comes to God's ways and the Kingdom, it's topsy turvy land! God takes what is low, despised, and weak to accomplish his purposes. Just scroll through 2 Corinthians and you'll find it taught that comfort comes through affliction (2 Cor. 1:3-7), sufficiency is through insufficiency (3:1-6), life come through death (4:7-15), blessing comes through suffering (6:3-10), salvation comes through grief (7:2-10), abundance through poverty (8:1-2, 9, 14), and boasting through



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hardship (11:16–30). And then in Chapter 12 is a key principle: God’s “power is made perfect in weakness” (12:9). Weakness is not necessarily seen as good in itself, yet it is God’s chosen means of displaying his grace and glory and power. The Lord fills and uses the empty and broken vessels.

When you think you’re strong and self sufficient and all conquering then you are weak! When you are weak and insufficient and broken then you can discover true strength and the power of God. This is a massive spiritual truth.

Pride and rebellion has been the cause of so much damage to the world, the church and to our lives. We look to ourselves. We rely on ourselves. We make ourselves God! Paul emphasizes the folly of such a philosophy and the need for humility before the Lord and one another. God’s ways are not our ways.

*2. Relationship and Reconciliation.*

One of the main reasons Paul wrote 2 Corinthians was to address relationship issues. 2 Paul addresses the need for the Corinthians to reconcile (with an estranged brother (2 Cor. 2:5–11) as well as with Paul himself (7:2–16)). Indeed, **to fail to reconcile is to be outwitted by Satan (2:11).**

Believers have faced and continue to face divisions across the global church and we will constantly face relational challenges that need to be faced and worked through. The challenges will come from within... our own weaknesses, brokenness and sinfulness. And the challenges will come externally from others and from unholy forces at work seeking to distort, damage and corrupt. **Do not be unaware of the battle against sin, the flesh and the devil in the realm of relationship.**

God’s mission is all around relationship and community. As Trinity, he is relationship and community... and calls us into relationship and community... with him, with one another and with those around us. Relationship and community is the area where God’s reign is most clearly shown in hospitality, reconciliation, forgiveness, in working together in partnership, in listening and speaking well of each other, in attitudes and acts of kindness and generosity, in a smile, in encouragement and blessing, in patience and in humility, in genuineness



and authenticity, in co-operating with the Holy Spirit, in peace and love... and it is the area which is most vulnerable and at risk of going wrong. The Bible is FULL of relational destruction but it is also full of the transformation in relationship through God's intervention in the world! To find harmony, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace when there has been disagreement, dispute, difference and division is a sign of the Kingdom and a sign to the world. May the church of God here be that sign!

3. *Servant leadership.*

In all his writing but especially the Corinthians, Paul gives a powerful example of what it means to be in leadership and have responsibility within the body of Christ.

God's people and above all, Christian leaders are to do what Christ himself did: pour out their lives in self-giving love for the sake of others. We are called to model Christ - through sacrificial love (2 Cor. 4:10-12). "If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation" (1:6).

Not to point to ourselves and big ourselves up (goodness me, how much misuse of power in leadership we have seen through the centuries). NOOOOO! We are to point beyond ourselves to the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We are not to puff ourselves up... we are not to proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (4:5).

Servant leadership is not an option. It is the high calling of all who lead God's people. Leadership and its responsibilities are shared and seek to bring the best out of the whole Body of Christ. It is permission giving. It is humble and open to change and the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is responsible and accountable. It is also imperfect and vulnerable to attack and mistakes.

**Pray for those who have responsibilities amongst us.** Encourage them. Bless them and be kind to them... our priests, churchwardens, officers, PCC members, preachers, worship leaders, pastoral assistants, volunteers etc...

**If I was going to add to 2 Corinthians... from some of what I have I learned these last 12 years it would be :-**

- That God's love and faithfulness is extraordinary and it is faithful.
- That whilst the world has changed a lot since 2012 (Olympic year),



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yet alone 2,000 years ago, the Gospel is still sooo relevant. The power of God in Christ to transform lives is as fresh as ever! God and his love make go in and out of fashion... but his love, his presence, his justice, his truth, his mercy, his joy... is unchanging!

The parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke Ch10: in less than 300 words that sermon is as relevant and powerful today as it was then! If our politics and our communal life was driven by that Scripture alone the world would be very different!

- **Faith in action**, lived out authentically day to day can make a difference to people and our world. And that that faith needs to touch every part of life... not just Sunday! Faith is for the home, our communities, our work places, our retirement, our socialising, our finances, our relationships, our family dynamics, our politics and so on! Live it out! Share the life of God! And that's the conversion... remember... us orientating our decisions and our lives around Christ, rather than always expecting God to orientate himself around us.
- I have learned that I need to learn so much more. Humility. **"Not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less."** CS Lewis.
- 'Relationship' is central to life and faith for the Christian. Relationship with God, relationship with each other as church, relationship with those around us locally and further afield. Relationships give the greatest joys and the bring the biggest heartaches. Archbishop Justin and Bishop Rachel spoke about forgiveness at the service at the end of May. Forgiveness has been the single biggest issue, apart from the wider issue of relationship, that has come up in my ministry here. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel... in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Being the church, a group of people in community led by the Spirit with Jesus at the helm is an awesome thing.
- Finally, but also foundationally, I have also learned time and again that Jesus Christ is Lord of ALL... and following Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life... is the best decision one can ever make and that the presence of his Spirit in our hearts and interactions is utterly essential for life.

**God Bless**      *David*





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**SEDBURY SPACE News**

Unfortunately, there is no news regarding recruitment of a new manager to report.

Our regular One stop Café continues to thrive at Sedbury and Beachley Village hall, weekly on Tuesday 10 am to 12 and a warm welcome is always available.

One Stop Café is regularly supported by our Wellbeing Chaplain, Nicki Bullivant, Richard Skinner the Community Wellbeing Agent, Melanie Benn the FVAF Community Builder. In addition, we also have frequent visits from Forest Sensory Services, Digibus, Gloucestershire Carers Hub. All this is in addition to the warm and friendly team of amazing volunteers who are there every week and not to mention coffee and cake.



*Pictured here to the right is Stephen Moore from Gloucestershire Carers Hub at our One Stop Cafe*



We always welcome ideas from our regulars and we recently held a fundraiser plant sale with bric à brac which raised valuable funds for Sedbury Space.

For our Memory Café in June we welcomed Rikki from Forest of Dean Social Prescribing team who came along and we all enjoyed a session of Movement with Music which was great fun for all. The session was suitable for all as it was seated and plenty of assistance was available.



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Just this week Nicki Bullivant together with Leanne from Two Rivers Housing organised a fantastic free Circus skills session on the field behind Sedbury Space for local children and their parents and they were all given a packed lunch to take home. Around 60 children were able to take part in this and it was such a great success.

Another collaboration with Two Rivers housing taking place this summer is a Holiday Breakfast Club, taking place every Wednesday during the holidays. Accompanied children from the local area have benefitted from breakfast and this week there were around 30 children attending.

We continue to collect for the Forest of Dean Baby bank who are particularly looking for childrens toys at the moment.

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

Sedbury Space Snippet

From Lee Durbin



This summer like so many of us I have watched a lot of Olympics. I have marvelled at the amazing feats of strength, speed and skill.

One of the aspects of the Olympics I have always loved is the passing of the torch. The incredible journey the torch takes passed from one hand to another, I have always found fascinating.

For Paris the torch travelled 100s of miles across France and French Territories up mountains, across seas, under seas, through towns, cities and villages. Passing from one person to another, some famous, some ordinary.

We can't all be sportspeople, nor do some of us want to be but we can all contribute to our community through volunteering, helping out, pitching in. Carrying the torch of human kindness.

At Sedbury Space there have been many who have carried that torch and passed it on. For example, there are some this summer who helped with Breakfast Clubs and Circus Skills workshops. Some have carried the torch for years, since the beginning, some for just a few hours here or there. The thing about the torch is we can never let it go out. We need to grab it when we can, carry it for however long we are able and then pass it on.



**Bullet Point News**

✚ **Thinking about Baptism/Christening or a Wedding in church?**

It has been lovely to have people getting in touch once again about getting their baby christened or perhaps having a wedding in church. Many congratulations if you're at this stage of life!

Please do get in touch with Revd Nicki Bullivant or one of the team.

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

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

✚ **Is God calling you?**

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

✚ **Illness**

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

✚ **Churchyards**

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

✚ **Legacy**

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



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## 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/UCkRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

**St Briavels & Hewelsfield website:** [www.stbandhchurches.org.uk](http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk)



## Poor's Allotments Charity

Poor's Allotments Charity requires somebody to fulfil the roles of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Average 10 – 15 hours per year.

The Charity owns the Poor's Allotments site on the Coleford Road which is managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Its purpose is to provide financial assistance for those in need in the community.

As Honorary Secretary the role involves the arranging of meetings (average two per year), preparing agendas and minutes, liaising with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Trustees.

The Honorary Treasurer role requires keeping accounts spreadsheets, processing of grant applications, setting up online banking transactions and making and receiving other ad hoc payments.

A rate of £20 per hour is payable.

If you are interested in the role please send details of why you think you would be suitable to (or contact for more information)

Carol Hinton –

[clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) by  
30th September 2024.





*Tanya's Link  
Autumn Prize Challenge*

In this Wordsearch we are seeing what our **COOKING** plans and requirements may be to provide for our **CELEBRATIONS!**  
There are 37 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>APRON</b>	<b>KNEAD</b>	<b>SPONGE</b>
<b>BAKE</b>	<b>MARGERINE</b>	<b>STIR</b>
<b>BASE</b>	<b>MEASURE</b>	<b>SUET</b>
<b>BATCH</b>	<b>MILK</b>	<b>SUGAR</b>
<b>BOWL</b>	<b>MIXER</b>	<b>TASTE</b>
<b>BUTTER</b>	<b>OVEN</b>	<b>TEASPOON</b>
<b>CUP</b>	<b>PASTRY</b>	<b>TEMPERATURE</b>
<b>DECORATE</b>	<b>RECIPE</b>	<b>TIMER</b>
<b>FLOUR</b>	<b>RISE</b>	<b>WEIGHING</b>
<b>FREEZER</b>	<b>SALT</b>	<b>WHISK</b>
<b>FRIDGE</b>	<b>SCALES</b>	<b>YEAST</b>
<b>GLOVES</b>	<b>SIEVE</b>	
<b>INGREDIENTS</b>	<b>SIMMER</b>	



Protestors stormed the official residence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hassina in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, after her resignation

➤ **Christians at risk from Bangladesh unrest**

The minority Christian community of Bangladesh is among those at risk from the political unrest that has swept across the country. A Barnabas Aid contact has reported that Christian schools have been attacked, along with homes belonging to Christians and other religious minorities, and Hindu temples. These attacks have been carried out by Islamist extremists who have joined with the anti-government protestors. Our contact reports that leaders of the student protest movement and military

leaders have called on local authorities to provide greater protection for Christians and Hindus from mob violence. The student-led protests began peacefully on 1 July 2024 but turned violent around two weeks later. On 5 August Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country after 15 years in power. The following day it was announced that economist Muhammad Yunus would replace Hasina as leader of an interim government. Christians are a small minority in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, representing less than 1% of the population.

*Ben Williams*  
**Fencing Services**  
Covering all aspects of  
fencing and repairs  
07927 483085

**RPW**  
**ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD**  
All aspects of  
Domestic &  
Commercial  
Electrical work  
Rhys Williams:  
079559 92551  
rpwelectricalservicesltd@outlook.com



**Christian News**

**Our Faith in Today's World**



**The town square in Thakhek, capital of Khammouane Province**

> Six Christians in Khammouane Province, central Laos, have been released after a month's imprisonment, Barnabas Aid contacts have confirmed. The six believers – Pastor Mum and five other church members – were arrested on 22 June at a prayer meeting outside Tahae village and held until 25 July.

"The authorities have warned them," reported our contact, "and said to do only low-key Christian ministry or they will have problems again." There has been an active Christian community of up to 20 people in Tahae village for several years. The six Christians were arrested at the request of the village chief, who had ordered them not to carry on worshipping at the pastor's home or anywhere else in the village. In response the Christians began meeting in a rice field outside the village, but were arrested when they began to construct a small church building. While in prison Pastor Mum was held separately from the other Christians, and had his hands and feet chained. The national and regional authorities in Laos do not appear to be responsible for the arrests. A "Law on the Evangelical Church", in force since December 2019, gives Christians in Laos the right to conduct services, preach throughout Laos and maintain contacts with believers in other countries, but this law is not well enforced in rural areas.



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



In our Summer Link magazine Wordsearch we were following the Tutshill Scarecrow Trail. There were 26 words to locate and once this had been achieved the winning answer to the puzzle was revealed: **"SCOOT LEADER & BLACKSMITH"** *My mistake here was that certainly this was truly a SCOUT LEADER!*

*The winner, this time, was Nicolette Flatman of Beachley. Well done!*







BELL RINGING



With various people indulging in summer holidays, we have not always been able to assemble enough ringers for a practice, so had to cancel. We did, however, muster a full band to ring at Tidenham for David's last Sunday in office; we hope those who heard us enjoyed it. At time of writing some of us are looking forward to a Saturday 'ringing tour' over near Gloucester on 10 August. It is always interesting to visit different towers and try different bells.

We practice weekly on Tuesday evenings, 7.30–9.00pm, and are often joined by fellow ringers from Alvington and Lydney. (In fact, some of us frequently attend Alvington's practice on Mondays (also 7.30–9.00pm).)

At Tidenham we are a friendly band who would be more than happy to welcome anyone interested in coming along to find out more about bellringing. For more information, ring Cate Phillips – 01291 624260.

Folk Club

St Luke's Church  
Saturday  
12<sup>th</sup> October  
2024



6 - 8.30pm  
(doors open 5.30pm)

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



Contact Bill & Tanya White  
(01291 623169)



NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT

**TIDENHAM PARISH COMMUNITY E-MINIBUS**

Tidenham Parish Council are finalising their plans for a community minibus. This has been funded by windfall money for the community from the recent housing developments.

It will be based at Sedbury Village Hall, and available for local groups to take to events and activities in the parish, and a little beyond as well, for example into Chepstow.

**SEDBURY SPACE**

Going from strength to strength. Now so many activities and community support programmes – please check out their noticeboard or webpages to see if something is just the right fit for you.

**SEDBURY SOFT EXERCISE**

Hugely enjoyable. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday afternoon, 2-3.30 at Sedbury Village Hall. The marvellous Andrew who provides the support and the equipment also does a session at The Woolaston Friendship Group. This is usually every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in Woolaston Village Hall.

**HEALTHWALKS**

Healthwalks, officially Forest of Dean Community Walks, are available in Sedbury and St Briavels. From 2.00 in St Briavels every Tuesday from The Assembly Rooms. At 10 from Sheila's Shop in Sedbury every Thursday.

**NEW DROP IN**

I have been invited to start a new Community Agent Drop In at The Rising Sun Community Pub. I will be there from 11 to 12, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday morning.

**RICHARD SKINNER,**  
**COMMUNITY WELLBEING AGENT, FOREST OF DEAN**  
Tel nos 01594 812447/01594 812399 – to leave a message  
07927 051328 - direct Tues-Thurs  
Email: [richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:richard.skinner@fdean.gov.uk)



## Tidenham Historical Group



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

### AUTUMN MONTHLY EVENING MEETINGS

- 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 "Gloucestershire Place Names".  
Dr. Simon Draper, the County Editor, of the Victoria County History
  - 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 "Did Sir Francis Drake come to the River Severn?" Prof. Mark Horton
  - 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 "The Conservation of Tintern Abbey".  
Pascal Bidois, Head Custodian at Tintern Abbey.
- No meeting in December (the end of the month coincides with Christmas and New Year.)

Two photographs taken during a Tidenham Historical Group visit to Beachley Barracks on 17 July 2024.

Left: Inspecting the remains of No. 2 slipway, now overgrown with grass, and its adjoining jetty with the remains of railway lines along which cranes and trains carrying construction materials used to run.



Right: A surviving air-raid shelter, accessed through the concrete structure on the left of the photo.



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

In July this year, the older youth from St. Luke's were blessed to be able to join Bream Church youth on a Volunteering trip to Denmark. Details of the trip were sketchy except that we would all be working in the kitchen at a YWAM (Youth With a Mission) Family camp and were expected to prepare food for 450/ 500 people over 5 days.

So off we flew (11 Young people & 5 leaders). Needless to say, at first, the Danish kitchen team didn't know what had hit them, the occasional gagging at the smell of 500 boiled eggs (which had to be peeled), the hesitant slicing of 50 fresh hot loaves of bread at 7am in the morning. BUT, Gordon Ramsey would have been proud of them all because there was not one single 'No, I can't do that!'. They met every new experience and chore with willingness and a smile on their faces.....which was a miracle in itself considering we were leaving at 6.30am and sometimes not getting back to base until 10pm.

Of course, we were not only in the kitchen, the Young People did have some time to hang out (after the late night karaoke I'm eying up some new singers for the Worship team). We went to the beach, canoeing, and got to some of the YWAM Worship sessions in the evening.

Frogs, Mosquito bites, Ice cream, laughter, hard work and affirming, God filled Christians who just loved and accepted us were some of the main themes for me and my hope is that in the next Link you will be able to hear about it from the young people's point of view.

My prayer (and I hope yours) was that all of those going, plus myself, would experience God, that Faith would be rekindled or restored.

For me it was and I hope it was for everyone else.

Don't get me wrong, there were some tricky & hard moments but overall....I think they'd do it again!!

PS. I'd also like to give a shout out for our other Young People who have had different but fantastic experiences over the Summer.

Hopefully we'll also hear from them next time.

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



# News from our Parish Schools



## Tutshill School – 01291 622593

We have yet again made it to the end of another school year and even the beginning of the new school year. They really do get quicker year-on-year!

There was so much happening last term, both in class and out! As ever, the children enjoyed themselves, made the most of every opportunity and carried themselves well when off site on trips. Walking around the school it was clear to see that the children were ready for their summer break!

Over the year there have been many successes, too many to mention but I just wanted again thank staff, pupils and parents for all they do to enable the school to operate! Without each part, it simply wouldn't work. Thank you for your support, feedback and loyalty towards the school. Our incredibly positive Ofsted report certainly saw what makes us so special!

Miss Lane, Executive Headteacher



## Wyedean

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

## Wyedean School – 01291 636180

Wyedean School and Sixth form centre is an 11-18 school which

provides every child with the very best opportunities to grow both academically and personally.

Our school and sixth form centre are equipped for exceptional learning and our teachers are enthusiastic, experienced and know how to get the best out of our young people. This provision is underpinned by a broad and exciting curriculum offer. We offer an excellent record of academic excellence in our examination results, together with exceptional guidance and well-being support.



Gwennan Jeremiah, Principal



## CHASE GARDENING CLUB

There are no afternoon meetings of the Club between May and September so not a lot to report.

The annual Plant and Cake Sale was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May and grateful thanks are due to all who supported this endeavour: producers, helpers and customers. It has not been an easy growing season with the very wet Spring and lack of sunshine in the early Summer but things eventually improved from mid-July onwards.

Sadly the annual Summer Supper normally held in June had to be cancelled due to a combination of circumstances beyond the control of the Committee. A full refund of money paid in advance will be made at the next meeting in September.

A full programme of speakers has been arranged and will commence on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September with a talk by Alun and Jill Whitehead entitled "Wales from the Valleys to the Mountains and the Gardens".

Everyone is welcome. Meetings are held at Chase School in Rosemary Lane on the third Friday of every month at 2.30pm.

For further information, please contact Bob Elliott on 01291 625659 or Bill Kerr on 01291 621100.



Sadly, this quarter ended with the death of one of Chase WI's loyal members, Lyn Fletcher. Lyn had been a WI member for many years and had served as a committee member till her recent death. Lyn was a power house and I am sure known to so many people, being a local girl and not just for her position in WI but the Parish lunches, the restoration of The Rising Sun Woodcroft and many other organisations. If a volunteer was needed Lyn would be one of the first to offer her services. We are going to miss her so much; she was a great friend to many of the members and we send our love and thoughts to her husband Keith and family.





### Chase WI

Chase WI have enjoyed some interesting speakers this quarter with the talk in May called "Flying Pigs" our members were really confused by this heading.

They then learnt that it was the history of Deborah Flint's journey from Charity organiser to a quieter, gentler self-sufficient lifestyle: planning to grow their own vegetables, keeping chickens and pigs. This did not happen: she started by baking sausage rolls (as her Granny used to make) and using meat from her own pigs and selling them locally in Coleford market, a small shop in St Briavel's and door to door during Covid. The sausage rolls were so successful that she was asked to supply them to Gloucester Services and to their other Services in Tebay in the Lake District. Last year their turnover exceeded a million pounds and are being sold countrywide. They were even asked to make a Lamprey pie for the King's coronation. Our members were all able to sample some of these delicious sausage rolls and she and her husband now employ several local people in their production of the "flying pigs."

In June we had a talk from Jamie's farm a charitable organisation based in Redbrook who run a farm for children who are struggling with school life. It was an excellent talk and members plan on visiting the farm "Open Day" in July.

July we were entertained with a demonstration of Spanish Dancing by Lesley and were delighted with all her costumes, Spanish affects, and her dancing, although none of the members felt they were up to "having a go." She told us her background was as a ballet dancer and we could understand that as she was very balletic, even in her peasant dances but especially in the Flamenco.

In August Poppy Moss is 90 and Barbara Fawcett 80, we celebrated this with a delightful cake and all the members sang happy birthday as unfortunately we do not have a meeting in August when their actual birthdays are.

Our outing this quarter was to Berkeley Castle which was excellent, a 2-hour guided tour for 24 of us (so interesting), a beautiful sunny day followed by lunch in their delightful café.

We are planning a summer lunch at the Anchor in Tintern and members are looking forward to a full programme in the autumn culminating with a Christmas lunch in December.



DEAN CLOSE  
**ST JOHN'S**  
CHEPSTOW

Our Speech Day  
marked a

memorable  
end to an amazing year  
at St John's!

The lovely afternoon

brought together the entire school and

families in celebration.

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



On this special day, we bid farewell to our Year 8 pupils. We wish them all the best and much success in their future endeavours. Each one of them holds a special place in our hearts.



It was also a bittersweet occasion as it was the final Speech Day of our Head, Mr Nick Thrower. We extend our heartfelt thanks for his dedication and leadership. We are certain that the pupils and families at his new school will be very lucky to have him! All the best for the future, Mr Thrower!



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

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

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

David Wayland, Principal.

**Offa's Mead - 01291 622932**



## Tutshill Community Pre-School

### Established

Tutshill Community Pre-School is a well-established setting that welcomes children aged 2 and over. Our charity status means that we're not a profit-making

organisation, and therefore our attention (and that of our voluntary committee) is focused on providing the best nursery for your child.

### Our Goal

Here at Tutshill Community Pre-school we provide a safe, happy and relaxed environment where the children are encouraged to develop their self-confidence, sense of independence and social skills. Numbers are dictated by what is best for the children and, despite having highly-trained staff, our average ratio is 1:6 (1:4 for 2-year-olds).

### Facilities

Our Pre-school is located in the Tidenham War Memorial Hall which acts as the hub for a number of community activities. The main pre-school room is where the children do the majority of their indoor activities; this has just been refurbished as part of an ongoing program of improvement, as has our garden.

We're particularly proud of our outdoor space, which has a covered area, vegetable patch, slide, climbing hill, water play, new sandpit and everyone's favourite, the mud kitchen!

### The Team

Our staff have a variety of qualifications from Introduction to Play, CACHE Level 3 in Child Care & Education, and BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies.



### Our Ethos:

**W.I.L.D - Wonder, Inspiration,  
Love of Learning, Discovery**



## TUTSHILL W.I.

Our last three meetings have all had an outdoor flavour to them: in May we had a most interesting talk on swifts from a member of Chepstow Swift Group, our June meeting saw us all out on the Rec learning how to take better selfies (much hilarity involved!) and in July we gathered at the Memorial Hall at an earlier time to usual for a walk to the Rising Sun at Woodcroft. Despite rain earlier in the day, we were lucky with the weather, and enjoyed strolling up through the fields from Mopla Road, led by Cathy, our President. We paused by the Tutshill tower and then by the entrance to East Cliff while she regaled us with notes on the history of both, and finally called in at Pen Moel where the present owner kindly showed us some of the rooms that are gradually being restored. We then adjourned to the Rising Sun for a very pleasant sociable end to the evening.

As usual, there is no meeting planned for August. The programme for the next three months is:

- > September – Faye Bradbury, Sacred Sounds Alchemy;
- > October – a visit to 'Float in the Forest';
- > November – AGM and Christmas 'Hurrah' Dinner at Café on the Hill.

Many of you have no doubt already admired the revamped bus stop Book Swap. We are most grateful to those volunteers who worked hard to secure a £500 grant from the council and then to facilitate the installation of new shelves. We hope you agree the bus stop is now much more practical and looks much smarter. A community resource our WI can be proud of!

Meetings are usually, though not always, on the third Monday of the month, 8.00pm in Tutshill Memorial Hall; but may take place elsewhere depending on the speaker/topic of the evening.

If you would like to know more about our activities, take a look at our Facebook page, or contact our Secretary, Pat Cannon: secretarytutshillwi@gmail.com / 07795 424694.



Diesel on his first free run

## Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

While human schools have been on holiday Guide Dogs' training programmes have continued.

One of the most significant steps that each puppy takes is their first 'free run'.

Up until that point the puppy has been able to play in the garden and the house, but other than that has only been allowed out and about on the lead. Their first free

run takes place in a secure space with our Puppy Development Advisor Hannah and the puppy raisers.

It's a magical moment as the puppy realises that they can choose to run wherever they like, but that treats and fuss are close at hand if they feel nervous, or just want to share the joy of the moment with their humans.

This is the foundation of vital skills for a working Guide Dog.

Just as we need to relax after a hard day at work, Guide Dogs also need to get some exercise, pursue their own interests and socialise in order to be able to maintain their fitness and concentration. Guide Dog Owners offer them this opportunity through regular free running, sniffing and play with other dogs so Puppy Raisers need to help their pups to have a strong recall and nice manners.

You can play your part in the development of our future Life Changers too. If you see our pups off the lead, please don't be offended if we call them back, we're just practicing important skills, but on every third interaction we'll let them play. If you or your dog would prefer not to 'say hello' let us know and we'll get them back on the lead. It may take a few moments with an excited teenage dog but your patience will be very much appreciated.

**Updates:** We currently have six local pups: Rowan, Ronnie, Bertie, Umber, Mason and Diesel.

Hunter is now happily settled with his foster family near the training centre in Atherton and his initial training is going well.

For more information about Puppy Raising please visit our website [guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser](http://guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser) or contact Jaye Connelly, the Volunteer Coordinator for Wales [Jaye.Connelly@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:Jaye.Connelly@guidedogs.org.uk)



## 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)

### SEPTEMBER 2024 – JULY 2025

**CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY commence their 2024/2025 season on Wednesday September 4th with a first rehearsal at Chepstow School Drama Room, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.**

The Society is planning a season which will focus on recruitment as well as our traditional "3 Concerts during the year – Christmas, Spring and Summer" – like ALL Societies of our ilk, we cannot function without singers –sopranos, altos, tenors and basses!

CCS is also proud to celebrate 25 years this season of being the only Society in our area to offer four-part choral concerts featuring a fully professional orchestra, instrumentalists, and soloists often from RWCMD commencing their professional careers.

#### CONCERT DATES, 2024/2025

**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024 , CHEPSTOW SCHOOL ARTS HALL – our Annual Christmas Programme of carols and Christmas items – this year to include choruses from "Messiah"**

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025, ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW** – a Spring Concert with Professional Orchestra, including a wonderful work by John Rutter of a comprehensive set of folk songs (Sprig of Thyme) with instrumental accompaniment

**JUNE 2025 –date to be confirmed.**

**CCS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!!** If you would like to join a friendly four-part vocal group who perform with first-class musicians, CCS is for you! For further information, please contact Marjorie

(01291 – 623310, [bduerden@doctors.org.uk](mailto:bduerden@doctors.org.uk)) or visit our CCS website ([www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)) and follow us on Facebook & X (Twitter) @ChepstowChoral



# The Parish Lunch ...

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts  
phone  
George or Beryl  
on 01291 625551



Beryl Healey

When Beryl Healey left Jersey to return to Tidenham Parish in the Spring of 2009, she brought with her a desire to form a luncheon club for the benefit of the elderly in the parish and beyond.

At her parish in St Helier she was involved with such a lunch, known as Wednesday Special.

On the 15 October 2009, the first Tidenham Parish Lunch took place.

It's venue was the Christian Centre at Woodcroft.

It's leaders Gareth & Kate took up the challenge and a long term home had been found. The first meal was attended by 15 founder members.

Beryl recalls first menu as being home made soup and bread! And home made it was, by Fiona.

A set price of £2.00 was agreed.

October 2024 is our 15th birthday.

Parish Lunch has grown over the years and from the first 15 guests we now regularly seat 40 plus, with a 2 course meal, hot drinks and chocolate.

Of our founders we still have David Bull and Pat Glendenning to every lunch and guest appearances from time to time from Barbara Jones.

Beryl and her marvelous team are forever loyal and it's with great joy that they prepare each and every Parish Lunch.

The costs to guests has been increased over 15 years and now stands firm at £3.00. Gareth & Kate have remained loyal. Even Gareth's Mum helps and his Dad is the stalwart Car Parking Attendant.

*The next 3 monthly dates can be seen above, together with contact details*



## Feeling the cold?

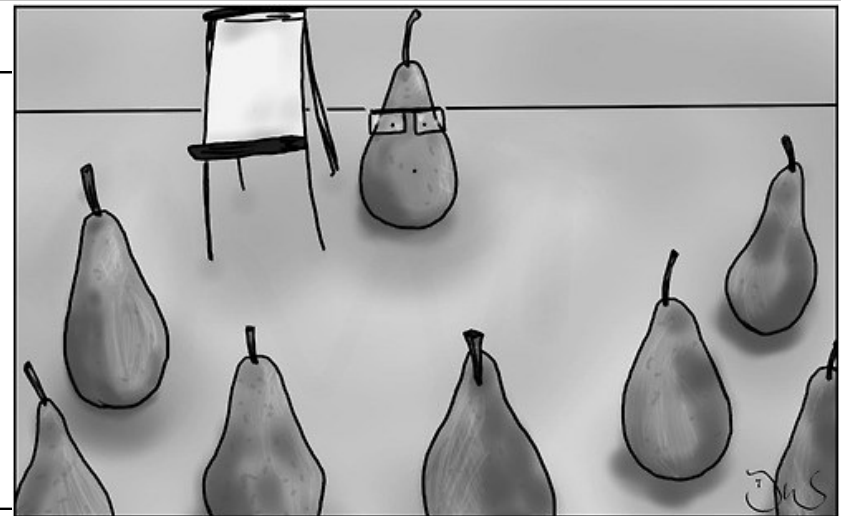
As the colder weather approaches, and with the cost of energy still high, we're all looking for ways to save. According to the Energy Saving Trust, limiting showers to four minutes could save households up to £70 a year, and avoiding using the tumble dryer could reduce costs by up to £75 a year, depending on where in the UK you live. For more advice, visit [energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk).

## Thinking longer term?

Make future Septembers a little bit easier by getting into the habit of saving regularly. Even a small amount adds up and can provide a safety net in case the unexpected happens, or just help you reach your goals. It's UK Savings Week from 9th to 15th September, with a mission to help make saving simple, easy and rewarding, whatever your circumstances. Visit [uksavingsweek.co.uk](http://uksavingsweek.co.uk) for tips.

**Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.**

Cartoon by Dom White



Conference pears





christians  
against  
poverty



### Squash those money worries this September

David Price

(07539 477286)

September is often a month of change. Whether you're sending your kids back to school, heading off to university, or preparing for higher energy bills over the winter, change usually comes with cost. Here are some tips on saving money this September.

#### Starting university?

The freedom that comes with moving away and starting university is exciting, but finances can soon spiral out of control. Visit [capuk.org/budgeting](http://capuk.org/budgeting) for help creating a budget, so that you can make sure there's money allocated for fun and social activities as well as important costs like food and rent.

#### Back to school?

If you're struggling with the cost of school uniform, get in touch with your child's school to find out what support they can offer. Schools are legally required by the

Department for Education (DfE) to make sure their uniforms are affordable for all students. This includes allowing supermarket own-brand options and making second-hand uniforms available. Buying from any store as opposed to a designated shop or school could save parents around £50 on average, says the DfE.

#### Planning for Christmas?

Celebrations like Christmas can be great, but they're never worth getting into unmanageable debt for. 16<sup>th</sup> September marks 100 days until Christmas Day and there's nothing wrong with planning ahead. The closer we get to December, the higher prices will creep for festive 'must-haves' like toys and the latest tech. If you know there's something you want to buy, it's worth starting to shop around now, before prices go up. Make a list and tick things off as you go, helping you avoid impulse buys that you don't really need.



### St Luke's Coffee Morning

Welcome FREE coffee/tea, cake and biscuits  
But to help us pay for Hire of the Hall & support the Wellbeing Chaplain any donations are gratefully received



You are welcome to refills of coffee & tea.

**This will be held 10.00-12.00 on the LAST MONDAY of each month.**

***(EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAY Mondays)***

Contact Polly [paulinemorgan23@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemorgan23@gmail.com) or Revd Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.



#### The Three Kingdom's Way, A Pilgrimage Route

Most people feel the need for pilgrimage at some point in their lives, the urge to get away from the cares and concerns of everyday life, to walk in the landscape with minds focused only on experiencing God's work Pilgrimage has no purpose except to walk and contemplate and develop a spiritual life, but what can be more important than this  
*We recently had a pilgrim staying overnight in St Luke's Church, Tutshill. There may be more pilgrim news in our next Link*

#### Found in other churches' notices:



“Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.”



### ST MARY & ST PETER'S TIDENHAM

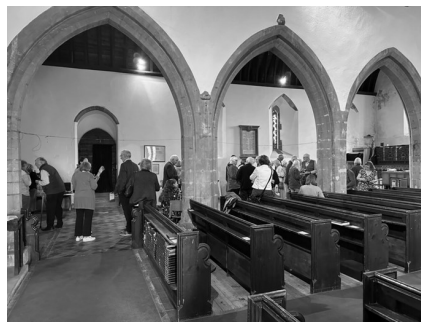
The preparation phase for the re-ordering at Tidenham is proceeding well. The pews have been removed from the North Aisle, water has been laid to the church



and drains laid through the churchyard. Reinforcing has been laid on the grass to improve wheelchair and disabled scooter access and ramps made to access the church, using the wood from the pews that had to be cut.



A cheese and wine event was held to say goodbye to David, Kathy and Rosanna and celebrate the end of the phase, it very well attended and



was an enjoyable evening to show everyone the potential that has been unlocked and to inform people of future work.

We are currently re-plastering where we can and in the last week of August we will have painters in to whitewash. The roof of the North Aisle will be repaired early August and in the last week of August the internal wheelchair access will be created. Those who are observant will notice that the choir door has been re-hung to assist wheelchair access.



### 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**

One Saturday afternoon, Cesi's teenage son, who was delivering a bucket of milk on his bicycle, was cut off by a car halfway down a very steep hill. He was thrown over the handlebars and lost consciousness when he landed on the road. He was admitted to the local clinic and later transferred to the main government hospital (the only hospital in Musoma with an x-ray machine). He was kept in for a few days as the concern was that he had internal injuries, but he has since been given a clean bill of health and returned home.

Then on the Sunday afternoon, Jeska, one of the Rehema women, had been involved in a hit and run while she was using the pedestrian crossing at our local village centre. She was flung to the side of the road and left barely conscious. Luckily a motorbike driver recognised her and ran to tell one of our seamstresses who works in nearby premises. Jeska was taken to hospital to receive treatment. There were concerns around Jeska's spinal health, and worries about internal injuries, but thankfully after a couple of days observation and tests, she has returned home.

A timely reminder that when we experience situations that seem hopeless or problems that seem insurmountable, we can take comfort in the knowledge that our father is the God of Hope. And 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.



**Staff and customers at Rehema**



# Happy Birthday Fairtrade

30 Years of the Fairtrade mark means  
30 years of paying fairly

- 30 years of loving mercy and doing justice for farmers
- 30 years of reducing pesticides and fertilisers
- 30 years of serving Jesus in His people and creation.

- 30 years of people swapping products in their baskets
- 30 years of things labelled with the Fairtrade mark
- 30 years from starting with tea, coffee and chocolate
- 30 years of growing to juice, bananas, flowers and more.

- 30 years, looking ahead into the future of Fairtrade
- 30 years, there is still time to join the story of justice and care
- 30 years more to buy one, two or many Fairtrade things
- 30 years together to make our world beautiful and fair.

Around the world there are celebrations happening including in Chepstow.

Keep a look out for displays and the flag flying, for a Facebook competition and see if you can spot the banana surprise.



Fairtrade Fortnight this year is from 9<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> September

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

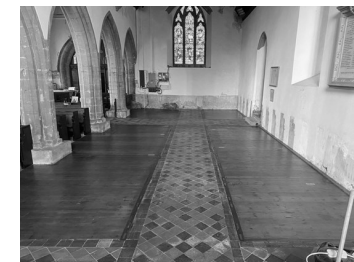
*Dad, I want to ask you a question," said little Josh after his first day of Sunday School.*

*"Of course," said his Dad.*

*"The teacher was reading the Bible, about the Children of Israel building the Temple, the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the Children of Israel making the sacrifices," said Josh.*

*"So what's your question?" his Dad asked.*

*"Well, didn't the grown-ups do anything?!"*



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> September we will commence creating the stud walling and following

that the kitchenette and loo will be inserted. The walls will be paneled with oak paneling and the internal walls plastered.

A new Vestry will be created and that will be oak paneled as well. At the same time, we will improve the heating, hopefully through the whole church (money permitting).

It is our intention to have this all finished in time for Christmas.



In other news we are close to finalising a land swap with Tidenham Manor which will give us the land behind the Church Cottage garage, whilst they take the land above the car park fence. The lawyers are finalising the purchase contract for the Church Cottage building, which will be converted into a Parish Office, together with a kitchen (we were prohibited from having cooking in the church) a further 2 loos and a dry storage room.

Good progress is being made and if you have any questions or would like to join the Friends to assist in this work, please contact [tidenhamfriends@icloud.com](mailto:tidenhamfriends@icloud.com)



### The Wellbeing Project

We, as a worshipping community in the Parish of Tidenham, believe passionately that God in his love has concern, care and compassion for the wellbeing and wholeness of every human being. The Wellbeing Project is a response to this... God's concern, care and compassion for the wellbeing and wholeness of each person and our communities has become ours too.

Our Parish strapline from Ezekiel 47:9 is, "where the river flows everything will live."

Part of the flow of the river is the call to do relationship well: relationship with God, with each other and with the people and community around us. Relationships matter, community matters and in doing relationship and community well, in the flow of God's love, we have seen, and hope to see, lives changed and transformed, and people and communities finding wellbeing, wholeness and life in all its fullness.

COVID, the cost-of-living crisis and the identified needs and challenges of loneliness, lack of belonging and purpose, poverty, rural isolation, border difficulties with local services and the relational, mental, physical health and spiritual challenges of our communities prevent wellbeing and the flow of life.

The Project exists to bring wellbeing and transformation to lives at a point where need(s) meet community and Christian faith.

As a local worshipping community with people in all parts of the Parish we are uniquely placed to connect with those in need, develop relationship, build community and helpful partnerships, sensitively explore the Christian faith and lead and facilitate a holistic response to local need. Through our Wellbeing Chaplain, our Children, Youth and Families Missioner, volunteers and community groups and partners all working together the Wellbeing Project offers a partnership response and importantly an holistic response to address the whole person, addressing emotional, psychological, spiritual, physical, and relational wellbeing need.



### 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
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy [fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com)
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group Emma [emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead [tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)
- Contact Emma Durbin for details of meetings for the young people. [emmad.cyfm@gmail.com](mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com)

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

The time of year that Keats called the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', Autumn is a season famous for its harvest times, turning leaves, cooling temperatures and darkening nights.

#### Fact Gatherings...

We typically think of 'fall' as the North American version of the word 'autumn', but it was in fact in widespread usage in England until relatively recently. Originally a shortening of the phrase *fall of the leaf*, the phrase was common in England in the 17th century. The word autumn entered English from the French *automne* and didn't become common usage until the 18th century.





## Highlights from PCC meetings in May, June & July 2024

PCC members -

- Planned and then later celebrated the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Revd Justin Welby on Trinity Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024, now great positive feedback received
- Formally approved Tidenham re-ordering works
- Vacancy discussions including communication with the Diocese, St Briavels and Hewelsfield; need for postal facility once the vicarage is demolished; all to be kept informed of process developments; development of Statement of Needs for the Vicar role in process
- Archdeacon Hilary will be visiting the parish and leading the All Saints service on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024
- Legal responsibility during the vacancy lies with the Churchwardens aided by the PCC
- Financially, expenditure continues to exceed income and we are all encouraged to review our own abilities to increase our giving
- Diocese has refunded all our expenses concerning the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury
- St Luke's kitchen team set up to enable developments
- Parish Vacancy prayer approved unanimously at July meeting :

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

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

*Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover Your way for the future and see Your Kingdom grow.*

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



To this point we have focused on 3 priorities that address needs, build relationship and community and provide faith sharing opportunities with a view to bringing wellbeing and wholeness. These are:

- our Chaplaincy in Sedbury
- the cost-of-living crisis support across the Parish and
- using St Luke's Church as a Wellbeing Hub to host event such as the babies and toddlers group and pilates.

All activities build relationship and community with a view to the river flowing to bring wellbeing, wholeness, and life in all its fullness. **Rev Nicki Bullivant**

*Our latest Wellbeing Project Initiative:*

**Cancer Cafe**  
A friendly and relaxed place for anyone with a cancer experience to meet and chat with others who truly understand. Patients, carers and family are all welcome.

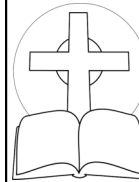
**Venue:**  
Sedbury Space  
11 King Alfreds Road  
Sedbury,  
Chepstow  
NP16 7AG

**Mornings**  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
First Tuesday of each month, from 1st October

**Evenings**  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Third Wednesday of every month, from 16th October

Tea, coffee & biscuits provided!

For more information, contact your keyworker or email [abb.cancercafe@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:abb.cancercafe@wales.nhs.uk)



*<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3: 12-17



### From the Registers

#### Holy Matrimony

**Karyna Kulyk**

**&**

**Guy Toby Wilson**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Becky Osborne**

**&**

**Nathan Aaron Mullings**

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024  
St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham

#### Holy Baptism

**Cadi Sally Spice**

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Freddie Alexander James Currey**

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Stuart William Fisher**

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Emily Grace Morley**

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

**Harry John Morley**

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill

#### Thanksgiving

**Sebastian Lawrence Firth (Tiaan)**

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
St Luke's Church, Tutshill



## Flowers for Worship

Thank you to all the wonderful folk who have contributed to the flowers in St Luke's Church this year. It is so appreciated.

If you would like to be on the 2025 Rota please let me know.

Those already on the Rota, please let me know your holiday dates if known already.

The commitment can be just one turn a year, and entails two posies of flowers on the altar.

However, everyone is welcome to contribute a display at Harvest, Christmas or Easter. Just bring yours to church and find a suitable spot.

The joy is in the sharing and not necessarily the skill. All ages welcome. You may want to choose a week to remember a loved one's anniversary.

NB Church Harvest Service at Tutshill is on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Everyone is welcome to bring flowers/fruit arrangements.

Do get in touch: Margaret Pruen. 01594 842650. 07800 592219.

[mmpruen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mmpruen@yahoo.co.uk).



St Luke's Quiet Day 2024

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

10.00am - 2pm

led by Revd Anna Griffiths

For more details and registration please contact

Cate Phillips: 07596 185918

or Leonie Jones: 07742 977214



community; what we do – both in terms of our eclectic variety of services and church activities and also in the parish as a whole; where do we see ourselves going?; what are the opportunities?; what do we see as the challenges? (the latter two are obviously inter-changeable, opportunities creating challenges and challenges providing opportunities!). Work on the profile will be started by the wardens and PCC, but we are committed to sharing our thoughts as widely as possible and providing opportunities for discussion and input from all our church family. Watch this space!

In the midst of all this, many of you will have noticed the work going on at St Mary and St Peter’s Church, Tidenham, our Parish Church. After 10 years of hard graft by the Friends Association working with the PCC, the re-ordering of the North Aisle has started and is progressing well thanks to Peter Gilchrist and Robert Adams taking on the project management role on behalf of the PCC. The funding has been secured, mostly through the efforts of the Friends but the work is being done on the authority of the PCC who have the responsibility for the building, its fixtures and fittings and its ongoing maintenance, and the payments to contractors are all channelled through the PCC in this “ownership” role. More details of the development are in the article by Sarah-Jane Gilchrist on behalf of the Friends. So, we have plenty to keep us busy! If this all reads like a business or company report, in part it is – but, we must never forget our underlying purpose – to promote and preach the Gospel of Our Lord and to spread God’s love in all that we do.



*Brian Duerden, Churchwarden*



**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**In support of Gloucester Historic Churches Trust**

**Walk from St Briavels’ Church to St Luke’s Church  
(via Hewelsfield, Tidenham Chase & Tidenham Churches)**

**Please sponsor the walkers individually or as a group  
Look out for details. Organiser: James Parsons (07970 489362)  
jamesdparsons727@gmail.com**



## From the Registers

### Funerals & Burials

**Daisy May HOULDING (91) &  
Samuel James William HOULDING (89)**

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

**Nellie Elsie THOMAS (92)**

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

St Luke’s Church, Tutshill

**David John BARBER (88)**

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Monica BOYD-MEANNEY (95)**

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Teresa MITCHELL (95)**

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

**Peter KENYON (93)**

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Forest of Dean Crematorium

**Dorothy Rose BOLLEN (89)**

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

**Kenneth CLARK (85)**

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024

St Mary & St Peter’s Church, Tidenham

**Stuart William Lewis KERSLAKE ( 85) &**

**Ruby Ellen KERSLAKE (82)**

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024

St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase



Prof Brian Duerden  
CBE  
Churchwarden

### What a Summer! – now for the future

Since the last issue of the Link we have had non-stop summer of activity. In that issue we had Vicar David's valedictory message to the parish, followed in this issue with the text of his last sermon. However, before all the events around his departure we had the amazing Trinity Sunday with the Archbishop of Canterbury – a day that will live in the memory of all who had the privilege to be there. The message of encouragement for our congregation and all our friends and colleagues in our wider parish filled us

with enthusiasm for the continuing activity of the parish as we work towards welcoming a new Vicar of Tidenham and Priest in Charge of the three parishes in due course.

For the next month our focus was on David's departure with a very special leaving party on the last Saturday in June followed by his last services with us on July 7<sup>th</sup>, a very moving day in all three of our churches. It meant we could all wish him, Kathy, Roseanna and Leo all the best as they move further into Gloucestershire and he takes up his new responsibilities for overseeing the training of new vicars and curates. Knowing what he has done for us, his guidance will now have a much wider impact across the diocese and he moves on with our thanks and love.

Now, and for the last month, we have been settling into maintaining and managing the parish activities during this vacancy without an incumbent vicar. The responsibility for the parish activities now rests with Robin and myself as Churchwardens and our Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and we know we will have the help and support of our congregations.

We aim to maintain our services throughout the parish with as little disruption as possible, although there may need to be a few minor tweaks and adjustments depending on availability. We are most grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of our associate and licensed priests and lay readers across all three parishes who are pulling together to variously preside, lead and preach so that the services continue seamlessly. Revd Canon Tudor has negotiated with the clerical team and churchwardens to pull the service rota together until the end of this year. Come the autumn, as we see how it is all working, we will address the plans for the first half of next year. However, we must



The Most Revd  
Justin Welby  
on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024



remember that all of this is being done voluntarily and not imply in any way that any one of them has become the "locum vicar". Revd Nicki is still employed by the PCC as our Wellbeing Chaplain and offers a further two days a week voluntarily as Associate Priest. In this role, during the vacancy, she has taken on the leadership of the wider pastoral team and is also the lead contact for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We are grateful to her for adding these to her existing duties with us.

The business of the parish outside the services is being handled by the churchwardens and PCC, continuing as normal but without the presence, advice and support of a vicar. We hope that we will manage this without any of you noticing any errors or omissions! However, on top of the normal business, our thoughts and planning also turn towards our part in the recruitment and appointment of a new vicar, something that must be done jointly across the three parishes of Tidenham, St Briavel's and Hewelsfield, working as a cohesive and integrated team. Our link to the diocese in all of this is Archdeacon Hilary and she has already had an informal meeting with the Churchwardens of the three parishes. She will be coming to the first formal meeting with the three PCCs in the early autumn and that is the formal start of the procedure to recruit and appoint. We also understand that the first preliminary to the process has already happened and that we can plan to proceed with an appointment on essentially the same terms as for Vicar David – vicar of Tidenham and Priest in Charge of the three benefices. That is very reassuring news.

The timetable for an appointment will, inevitably, be at least a year but we hope to have an incumbent in place for the second half of next year. The appointments process, from creating the joint parish profile (effectively the job description) in the autumn, to advertising the post in the New Year, hopefully, then reviewing applications and shortlisting, interviewing and appointing, with a likelihood of an appointee needing to give at least three months' notice, takes up the whole of the year. There is also the parallel issue of providing the new appointee with a vicarage to live in. David was promised a new vicarage, but it is now his successor who will have that benefit. It is hoped that you will see work starting on the vicarage site within the next few weeks as the present house is demolished to be replaced by a purpose-built vicarage and the garden/ grounds used to build several other houses. We are told that the diocese hopes to have the new vicarage available by the end of next summer.

If we are to keep up with this timetable, our work starts now to produce an attractive parish profile that shows what we are about and why a priest should want to come here. Working with our sister parishes we need to say: who we are and where we are as a congregation and a wider parish