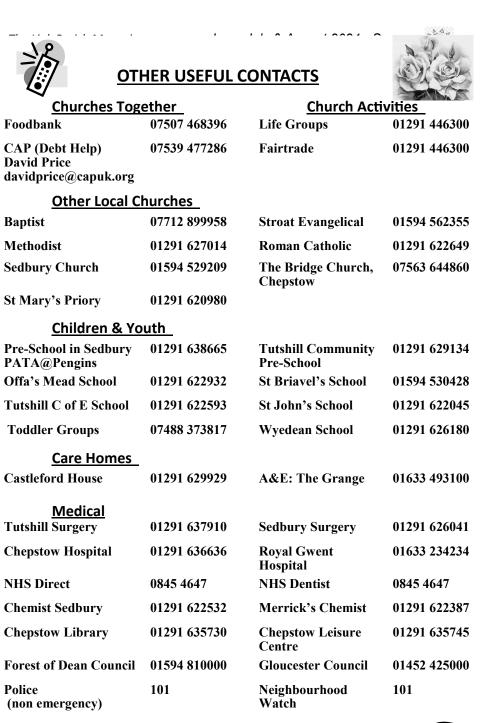






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		11.00am			
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Associate Priest	Revd Canon Tudor Griffiths	07718 906066			
Associate Priest	Revd Anna Griffiths	07718 906066			
Reader	James Parsons	01291 446300			
Children & Families Missioner	Emma Durbin emmad.cyfm@gmail.com	07488 373817			
Church Warden	Robin Riordan rrtpcc@aol.com	07711 173240			
Church Warden	Brian Duerden	01291 623310			
Deputy Warden Tidenham	Cate Phillips	01291 624260			
Deputy Warden Tutshill	James Parsons	01291 446300			
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PCC Treasurer	Paul Coombs	07831 469951			
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tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com					
Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Marion Evans	01291 622252			
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tiden	hamadmin@btinternet.com				
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The Link Editor & and Link Distribution	Tanya White	01291 623169			
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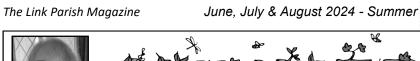


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right to reject any advertisements or articles.

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Tanya White

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

I hope that everyone is keeping well.

Inside this month:

 Vicar David speaks of finishing as Vicar in Tidenham Parish this Summer (pages 4-7)
We welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, 26th May 2024 (pages 30-31)

Parish "Who's Who" pictures (pages 28-29)

Scarecrow Trail - Occupations (see cover) - answers (pages 14-15)

If not paid already, annual subscription of <u>£6 is due</u>

For ease of accounting at this time, Please pay this into the Tidenham Bank Account: Lloyds Bank plc - Chepstow (309189) Branch Account name: Tidenham Parochial Church Branch Sort Code: 30-91-89 Account Number: 00304754 stating "LinkSub" Alternatively give this to your Link Distributor or to me...

(pages 8-9) See what details and events you can discover and enjoy our magazine,

Sedbury Space

 \succ

Love from **Tanya**



PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the **Autumn Link** (September-November 2024) must be with **Tanya by Friday, 2nd August 2024** Email: **tanya.rockymead@gmail.com** or posted to: Tanya White, Rockymead, Coleford Road,

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

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The Link Parish Magazine



Vicar David Writes...

Finishing as Vicar this Summer

It is with very mixed feelings that I am writing this article. Back in March I accepted the offer of a new post and will therefore be leaving my role as Vicar and Priest in Charge of these amazing parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield/ Brockweir this coming summer. The post is a

Revd David Treharne With Kathy, Roseanna and Leo

Diocesan one that will involve me supporting and training curates and their incumbents throughout Gloucester Diocese and also supporting the

training of lay people and developing collaborative

ministry in the Diocese. It is something I feel passionate about so hopefully it will be a good fit.

Whilst I have a real sense of God's call to this role, and I am excited about what it might involve, I feel deeply upset at the prospect of leaving. We love being here and having been here nearly 12 years Kathy, Roseanna and I have deep roots here... and if I were to choose parishes to be a part of it would be these ones... even on the bad days!

My last Sunday will be Sunday 7 July 2024.

I will celebrate Holy Communion at 9am in St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham, 11am in St Luke's, Tutshill and 6pm in St Michael and All Angels' Tidenham Chase.

Please do come along if you are able.

A number of you have asked where we are moving to. Well, we currently still don't know. The new post does not come with a clergy house so we will be buying a house, probably somewhere nearer Gloucester. Please do pray for this situation as the current housing market is not an easy one to navigate.



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What next?

I genuinely think that there is cause for much hope for the future in these parishes. Yes, there are challenges ahead - there are always challenges - but there are a lot of great things for the new Vicar to get their teeth into.

The role of Vicar should attract no shortage of quality candidates and there is no reason for a long vacancy and certainly no question whether the post should be filled. It is a fantastic place to live with fantastic people, a talented and diverse team to work with, eclectic congregations and wonderfully active communities... and God is at work by his Spirit in us, amongst us, around us and despite us!

Parting Words...

Relationship! Relationship! Relationship!

For the whole of my time here I have gone on about relationship and doing relationships well. Our Trinitarian God is a God of relationship (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Relationship is at the heart of the Christian faith and good relationship brings transformation to our individual lives, our communities and our world.

Relationship with God: May the Lord always be at the heart of our worshipping communities. Pray and seek the Lord during the vacancy and beyond. Be open to the leading of God's Spirit (the flow) and ready to do his will. Without the Lord things tend to fall apart. With the Lord the possibilities are endless! Let the endless love of God flow through the whole of life.

Relationship with each other: Live life together in the flow of God's love – our Parish vision! Love one another! Forgive one another and do not neglect to gather together to worship and pray, break bread and search the Scriptures, and to support and encourage one another. Look out for one another's welfare and wellbeing. Work collaboratively! Please do this as my new job is to encourage collaboration around the Diocese!!! This will mean

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working together, communicating with one another, supporting each other, and continuing to allow folks to have a go and make mistakes. It will mean fanning the flame of God's gifting in others. It will mean clergy and laity working together to discern God's will. It will mean supporting the churchwardens, Nicki, Emma and the staff team as well as the PCC. It will mean all God's people taking responsibility yet at the same time keeping check on the inappropriate use of power and putting aside the competitive desire to be right and being in control. It will mean disagreeing well and holding difference in unity. It will mean not reacting and taking offence when one doesn't get one's own way! Choose humility and follow the example of Christ who came to serve not to be served!

Relationship with the wider community: Jesus calls us to go to the ends of the earth with the Good News of God's love and saving grace. Never lose the Christ led outward focus and the importance of connecting Christian faith with ordinary everyday life. The ends of the earth for us might be our homes, our workplaces, our schools or our neighbourhoods. We're called to gather as God's people but also to scatter: to go out to be salt and light, to build bridges not walls with those around us; to love the Lord and our neighbour wherever God places us in the ordinary and the everyday 'stuff' of life.

Finally... thank you.

There are way too many people to thank for me to name them / you! I have had the privilege of having amazing staff, officers, colleagues (ordained and lay), volunteers, friends and supporters in the church and in the wider community. How blessed am I to have been able to journey with you!



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60





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Thank you for welcoming our little family to these communities. Thank you for allowing me to be your Vicar. Thank you for all the conversations, prayers, moments of commitment, baptisms, weddings, confirmations, ordinations and even the opportunities to be alongside you at times of suffering and loss. Thank you for faith, honesty and authenticity. Thank you for



overlooking my weaknesses, my sinfulness and my mistakes. Thank you for your words and actions of love and support. Thank you to everyone who has dared to work with me and despite me. Thank you to everyone who has responded to God's call and taken responsibility. Thank you to those who have invested and continue to invest their time, their talents and their money into Parish life. Thank you for trusting me and helping me to grow in faith. Thank you for journeying with us as a family through some of the darkest times... my Dad's death, Kathy's cancer journey and Covid times to name 3! Thank you for the times of joy and laughter, fun and play. Thank you for friendship, faith, community and all the memories from living life together. Thank you!



Now as we depart and you and we prepare for something new let us keep the faith and continue to live life together in the flow of God's love.

With our love and prayers David, Kathy, Roseanna and Leo



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11, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury NP16 7AG, e-mail: info@sedburyspace.org.uk

SEDBURY SPACE News

We are currently in a phase of transition since our Centre Manager Karen left in March, but rest assured all activities are still all available. We will be recruiting shortly so watch out for that news.

We are pleased to be able to offer support to the Forest of Dean Baby Bank who do an amazing job ensuring items are distributed to those who need them in and around the Forest of Dean.

Donations can be made at Sedbury Space by arrangement or on Tuesday or Thursday mornings- Tel 07522 178639. There is also the option to leave donations in the porch at St Luke's Church. They are particularly in need of pushchairs and prams at the moment.



Our Sunday lunches continue to be extremely popular and a great opportunity to catch up with friends from across the parish and the other activity groups



Our Active Games group recommenced in April and the air hockey was a firm favourite for many as you can see from the photograph. The games on offer are all adaptable to all levels of mobility and can be done from a seated position. It really does get quite competitive!



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For our April Memory café session, we tried out painting, with such great success. Given an outline and a coloured version to copy, everyone did some water colours and they looked fantastic.



The latest new addition to our list of activities is Knit, Natter



and Crochet which on Friday Mornings 10-12 once a month, and it has been extremely popular. From novice to expert, all are welcome and support is available.



<u>Sedbury Space Snippet</u>

From Lee Durbin

I was reading the Sedbury Space "WhatsAPP" Sunday Lunch group today and discovered that the next lunch is going to have a Ploughman's as part of the food on offer. This raises an age-old debate I have been having

with friends, what constitutes a Ploughman's Lunch and was does not?

Bread, yes; Cheese, yes; Pickled Onion, yes; Ham, maybe; Tomatoes, yes; Coleslaw, no; Apple, maybe; Pork Pie, too posh; a boiled egg, no but pickled, yes; Pate, good grief no; Branston Pickle, yes and finally NO to any salad.

Obviously, this just my opinion, it's not like I think there should be a law or anything. After all we are not talking about something as important as people putting other fillings other than jam in a Doughnut.

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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 <u>https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/</u>

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!

ት <u>Illness</u>

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.

한 <u>Churchyards</u>

Our churchyards are very special spaces for remembering departed loved ones. Therefore out of respect for *all* mourners please remember that graveareas *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.

廿 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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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.voutube.com/channel/UCkRiOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w St Briavels & Hewelsfield website: www.stbandhchurches.org.uk



The **Gloucestershire Community Hospital** in Cinderford has a **24-bed** inpatient ward.

This new community hospital, which is part of the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, is replacing the Dilke Memorial Hospital and Lydney Community Hospital. In addition to the inpatient ward, it offers services such as a Minor Injuries and Illness Unit (MIIU), diagnostics including x-ray and ultrasound, therapies, adult and children's outpatient departments, a midwifery team, and a specialist dental service. The hospital is located on Steam Mills Road in Cinderford, making it accessible to the town center by both car and public transport. Parking at the hospital is free for staff and visitors, and the MIIU operates from 8 am to 8 pm and will provide essential healthcare services to the Forest of Dean community.

To book appointments at any Minor Injury or Illness Units or find out which one can best support you, please ring 0300 421 7777.



Tanya's Línk Summer Príze Challenge

In this Wordsearch we are following the Tutshill Scarecrow Trail, with all the Scarecrows to be seen on our Link cover. In the list here sometimes I have only been able to include a short version of their name with other parts of their name shown in (*BRACKETS*). There was not room for all Scarecrows in the puzzle but there are some others in the answer! There are 26 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!



BEEKEEPER	(GUIDE) DOG	PALEANTOLOGIST
BIRD (CATCHER)	FARMER	RAT CATCHER
BUILDER	FISHERMAN	ROMAN (SOLDIER)
BUSKER	GARDENER	SEAMSTRESS
BUTCHER	HOUSE WIFE	SINGER
CHEF	(COURT) JESTER	TEACHER
CHEMIST	LUMBERJACK	WASHER WOMAN
CHIMNEY SWEEP	MILKMAN	WEAVER
COBBLER	MINER	

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> Hunger is widespread in **sub-Saharan Africa**. A short-term solution is to provide food aid, and Barnabas does much of that. But how much better a long-term solution would be... As

a first step, we are enabling 20 Christian pig farmers in Nigeria to enlarge their farming capacities. These farmers lost everything when their homes and food stores were burnt down in anti-Christian attacks. They sought refuge in other Christian villages in a relatively safe area. The farmers had already started small pig



farms in their new locations, reckoning that pigs are safe from attack by Islamist militants who would not want to touch them. Now Barnabas has given them more piglets to rear.



> About 70% of Zimbabweans grow their own food, and the ongoing catastrophic drought hinders their ability to harvest enough to feed their families. Barnabas has recently been able to send 23.5 tonnes of lentils in a shipment from supporters in Australia to Christians in Zimbabwe.

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"Seeing our people in our church excited to learn and discuss makes us feel blessed. This has



brought a huge change in our lives," exclaimed Asmita, a member of a local church in Nepal, who have been built up together by a training ministry fondly nicknamed "Bible college at home". The Link Par<u>ish Magazine</u>

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barnabasfund

<u>Christian News</u> Our Faith in Today's World



> Ukraine: "This was once the school. It's all destroyed now. Everything was bombed," said a Ukrainian Christian when he spoke to a Barnabas project partner in a village just four miles from the front line. Hundreds of Christians were taking shelter in the few remaining buildings left

standing. Ukrainian Christian villagers close to the conflict zones are seeking refuge where they can, having lost everything when they fled their homes. And with the war creating shortages of even the basics, many are facing futures without food, medicine or hope. Churches and Christian communities are helping as much as they can, but they too are poor and struggling.

Our Ukrainian brothers and sisters close to the front line are grateful for support of food, medicine and other aid.



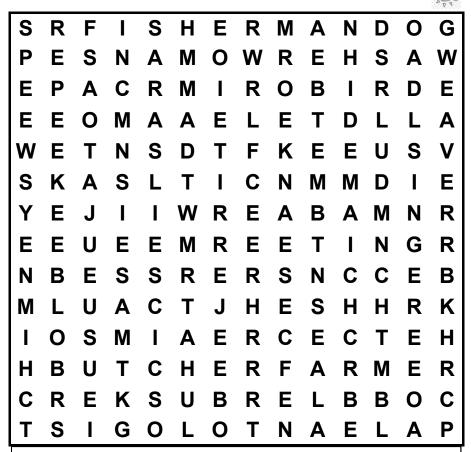


> **Bibles Transported:** Barnabas is funding the transportation of 94,000 Bibles to Christians in Myanmar, part of a project to deliver a total of 200,000 Bibles. The books include hymnals of Christian songs as well as the Scriptures and are being delivered to Karen Christians in impoverished parts of Myanmar. At the time of writing, the first

shipment of 50,000 Bibles is underway. Pray for protection for those carrying out the distribution of the Bibles in Myanmar. Only the most elderly Karen believers can now remember what it was like to live without persecution by their country's military.

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HOW'S THE WEATHER TODATT SNOWY SUNNY CLOUDY CLOUDY RAINY WINDY

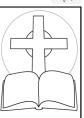
In our Spring Link magazine Wordsearch we were finding words considering some of our many different sorts of **WEATHER** that our **BAROMETER** and **ATMOSPHERE** may indicate as the year unfolds. There were 39 different conditions to find from **SNOW** to **THAW** from **CALM** to **STORM**. When the 39 examples had been discovered the remaining letters displayed the answer to the puzzle: **"WEATHER WATCHING"** *The winner, this time, was* **Cherry Harris of Tutshill. Well done!**

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	TUT	SHILL SC	:AR	ECROW	TRAIL	2024
		<u>0</u>	<u>CCI</u>	upations	5	
Justice	Sec.	Congratula	tior	ns to all th	e creato	rs
1	Guide Dog		18	Seamstress	5	

-	Guide Dog	18	Seamstress
2	Fisherman	19	Busker
5	Bird Catcher	20	Miner
	Washer Woman	21	Roman Soldier
	Scout Leader	22	Navigator at Sea
5	Chimney Sweep	23	Astronaut
7	Beekeeper	24	Butcher
	Powder Monkey (boy)	25	Master of Potions
	Chemist	26	Chef
.0	Court Jester	27	Milkman
1	Gardener	28	Blacksmith
2	Singer	29	Lumberjack
3	Painter/Decorator	30	Weaver
.4	Farmer	31	Teacher
5	Rat Catcher	32	Builder
6	Housewife	33	Paleontologist
7	Cobbler		

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.



²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall,

because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 7: 24-28



Showing how to make use of an old St Luke's music stand... Now a squirrel proof bird feeder at Rockymead.

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tíoenham hístorícal 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

Gloucester Archive Hub

On May 8th 2024, a group of 21 members and visitors had a verv informative behind- the- scenes tour of the Gloucester Archive Hub, 🚃 looking at the archive storerooms and hearing from John Putley about how items are preserved and recorded. This was followed by the

opportunity to look at an excellent collection of various Tidenham documents, including maps, vestry minutes and the oldest dating back to 23rd October 1414

The next event will be to Beachley Barracks for a tour of the site in July or August. Information will be emailed to members when the date is confirmed by the Barracks

2014-2025 TALKS resume on September 24th 2024 and will include speakers Mark Horton, John Putley and the head Curator of Tintern Abbey, Pascal Bidois.

Details will be in the next parish magazine and emailed to members.

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Children, Youth and Families" Missioner - Emma Durbin

As usual, the reoccurring topic of conversation for me over the last few months has been about the weather and not because it's been wonderful!! Which has made it

all the more important to daily find and hold on to a 'Sunshiny moment' in my life, a moment that brings warmth, laughter & happiness.

Well, believe it or not, mixed in with the gritty grey stuff, over the Easter period there were some gloriously 'Sunshiny moments' and many of those stemmed from the Scarecrow Trail.

Despite the 'tearing out of the hair' the night before the Scarecrow is due to

go out (because it's still being made) the sunshiny rewards of hearing laughter, chatter, umming & ahhing outside my living room window brought a huge smile to my face. And believe it or not, despite the weather, 408 guiz sheets were sold which equates to an approx' estimation of 2000+ pairs of

feet wending their way around Tutshill looking for Scarecrows.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to say some Thank you's!!! Thank you to the Scarecrow team volunteers who every year beaver away guietly behind the scenes to make sure that it all runs smoothly. You know who you are!

Thank you to the amazing volunteers who spend time, money and energy on making a Scarecrow(& wonder why on earth they offered to make one) because without you this Trail would not happen.

Thank you to those who hosted and babysat the Scarecrows, who watched them during the high winds out of their windows and pegged them down. Thank you to the staff in Lifestyle Express for being willing to sell the sheets for us and to the Butchers who kindly donated a prize.

And lastly, Thank you to all who bought a Quiz sheet. About £1,200 was raised and will go towards Tidenham Parish Churches maintenance fund, Basecamp Counselling Chepstow & Chepstow MENCAP.

P.S. The most votes for Favourite Scarecrow went to 1. The Rat Catcher, 2. The Farmer, 3. The Chimney Sweep.

And if you fancy bringing some Sunshine to Tutshill next Easter time, how about getting involved?

Contact me by email emmad.cyfm@gmail.com

June, July & August 2024 - Summer News from our Parish Schoo



Tutshill School – 01291 622593

Football Tournaments We have attended another round of the Prostars Football Tournaments this term at Five Acres in Coleford. We took part in a mixed tournament and a girls' tournament. All of the teams that entered played brilliantly.

The children showed determination and perseverance whilst playing some challenging games.

The Year Five team showed outstanding resilience throughout their game and made us very proud. In the girls' tournament, our Year Three team were amazing and came third in their group.

Our Year Four team had the same number of points as another team and so it came down to the number of goals scored in the final game in order to secure them a place in the final! The children played against St. White's in the final and the result was 2-1, making Tutshill the overall champions!

All of the players showed compassion and kindness to the teams they played and we have had two emails from other another school to celebrate this sportsmanship. Well done and thank you to all of the children who took part in all of the tournaments for representing our school so brilliantly.



School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter Wyedean School and Sixth Form Centre is celebrating their

Wyedean School – 01291 636180

50th Anniversary, 1974 - 2024 on Thursday 4th July. If you are interested in attending their after school PE Event, and would like to have a catch up on the sporting field to see if you've still got it! Please sign up!

The Link Parish Magazine



CHASE GARDENING CLUB

It has to be admitted that in the early months of 2024 it felt the rain would never stop and that Spring would never arrive. It was particularly ironic that our first speaker of the year was discussing "The Dry

Garden". Ingrid Millington of Hillview Hardy Plants near Bridgnorth managed to restore some optimism and her talk stimulated lots of discussion.

In March when the rain was slowly slackening, we had an excellent and beautifully illustrated talk and demonstration on the best way to raise fabulous "Dahlias" by Rob Evans from Pheasant Acre Nursery near Bridgend. He managed to convert even non-dahlia lovers; there are so many different types and sizes to choose from and they will flower all



summer long until the first frosts provided they are regularly dead-headed.



Our last meeting of the 2023/2024 season was in April and we enjoyed a return visit from Ian Sadler from Worcestershire introducing us to "Easydendrons", rhododendrons grown on lime tolerant rootstock to suit all garden soils. They come in all colours and sizes so will fit into smaller modern gardens. He brought plants for sale which proved very popular with members.

There are no meetings now until September but our annual Plant and Cake Sale will take place on the 4th May and at the end of June we will be holding the Summer Supper.

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.

Nomen

Institute



Chase WI

Chase WI started 2024 with a talk from the first woman elected as a Forest of Dean

Verder, Sue Middleton. She explained her role as a Forest of Dean verderer which has been in operation since the realm of King John and about "The Forester's Forest.' An excellent talk and of great interest to all our members.



February was a member's meeting, where we enjoyed games organised by some of our members, this was followed by a quiz and tea and biscuits. An outing was organised for April to see My Fair Lady at the Savill theatre in Monmouth.

March was given over to a talk by Alexia Naylor, a member's daughter who with her husband are entomologists and are researching bed bugs!! A very informative talk which members thoroughly enjoyed although, all went home determined to check none had infected our homes!! It seems they are on the increase and can be brought home from holidays abroad in our luggage, not an easy thought.

April brought a lively and interesting talk by Emily Gill who spoke about training Guide Dogs for the Blind. Emily explained how she had trained her own guide dog and how proud she was of him when he was placed with his new owner and the difference he made to his life. This helped her in handing him over, a very "tough" thing to do.

Sadly, this quarter ended with the death of one of our loyal members, Lyn Fletcher. Lyn had been a WI member for many years and had served as a committee member till her death last week. 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. The Link Parish Magazine



CHEPSTOW

Meet the New Head,

Dean Close St John's School 01291 622045

Mr Tom Rainer Dean Close St John's School is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr



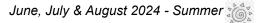
Tom Rainer as the new Head from September 2024. Mr Rainer brings a wealth of experience

and a passion for education that will enrich the school community and advance its educational mission.

Mr Rainer started his career as a professional musician, playing the trumpet in numerous concert venues and West End shows. However, it was his discovery of the joys of teaching that led him to transition into the field of education. Mr Rainer served as Director of Music in two

preparatory schools before assuming senior positions. In addition to his musical interests, Mr Rainer is an avid sports enthusiast, with a particular passion for football and running ultra-marathons for charitable causes.

The appointment panel at Dean Close St John's was highly impressed by Mr Rainer's extensive experience, educational and business qualifications, and his alignment with the Dean Close values and Aims. Speaking about his appointment, Mr Rainer expressed his excitement to join the Dean Close St John's community and to contribute to its continued success. He emphasised his dedication to fostering a supportive learning environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential. He also expressed his delight to move to Chepstow, close to his original home in Pontypridd. Dean Close St John's looks forward to welcoming Mr Rainer as its new Head, bringing new and exciting things to the school.



Tutshill Community Pre-School

Spaces available in

September

community A contraction of the c

War Memorial Hall. Coleford Road. Tutshill. Chepston. NP16 7 01291 629134







Springing into Summer!. We're had a fantastic term so far. Meeting new friends, planting and growing as well as having lots of fantastic outdoor

play We have spaces available for September f 24 year olds. Pop in and meet us

Good rating

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'



The Link Parish Magazine



TUTSHILL W.I.

Since our last report, we have enjoyed a talk on gardens by Ruth Chivers, a highly respected garden designer and writer and more recently, a trip to Teri Chance Boutiques at Lydney where we were provided with refreshments and an opportunity to browse a range of comfortable and colourful clothing – ideal for the summer we are hoping to

have! (Teri also stocks jewelry and accessories (loads of scarves) and handmade children's clothes.)

However, the highlight was undoubtedly our20th Anniversary party, attended by members past and present, which began with a talk and cheese-tasting presented by Simon and Debbie of Forest Deli at Coleford. We then moved on to prosecco and (lots of) cake, and a highly entertaining Bingo game which required quizzing fellow members on hitherto un-recognised characteristics, hobbies and mild misdemeanors. In short, a thoroughly good time was had by all.

On 20 May we will be welcoming Rose Parkhouse of Chepstow Swift Group for a talk on these amazing birds and the topic of our June meeting will be how to take a better selfie on a mobile. The plan for July is for an evening walk, ideally leading to the Rising Sun for a convivial get together before our summer



break, though this is likely to be weather dependent so may be subject to change. Please note: <u>There will be no meeting in August.</u>

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.

The Link Parish Magazine



Rowan

Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

June, July & August 2024 - Summer

Our Guide Dog family is growing! We now have six puppies who belong to our local group. We are very proud of Hunter, who at 12 months old is preparing to go onto formal training at 'big school' in Cardiff in a couple of month's time. Hunter has been showing Umber (4 months) the ropes and Umber is growing up very quickly too. We hope that our other big boy, Rowan (11 months), will

follow Hunter into training later in the summer. Ronnie (8 months) and Bertie (5 months), are both enjoying getting out and about to cafes and pubs. They have 'settle mats' to help them to feel that they have a safe space to relax and enjoy a chew or play quietly with a toy while their humans relax too. Mason is our new baby. At just eight weeks he is gaining confidence in his new home and garden, but soon he will begin to explore the local shops and car parks as he learns to walk on his lead.

They say "You need a village to raise a child", but I think that's true for Puppy Raising too! We are so grateful to all the local businesses and organizations who welcome our pups and provide them with opportunities to develop the skills they will need as Guide Dogs, aiding their visually impaired owners to access the places and public transport that we all need in our everyday lives. But we are also grateful for the support and goodwill of members of the public and local dog owners. Every outing is a training opportunity for our future 'life changers' but they are easily distracted, so please let them settle, and check with their

Puppy Raiser before approaching them, however cute they are! Guide Dogs Cymru are looking for Puppy Raisers to join our incredible team of volunteers. If you're a dog lover looking to give something back, we could be looking for you.

For more information about Puppy Raising please visit our

website <u>guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser</u> or contact Jaye Connelly, the Volunteer Coordinator for Wales <u>Jaye.Connelly@guidedogs.org.uk</u>



Hunter & Umber



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) <u>www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk</u>

ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERT WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE, 7.00pm

CHEPSTOW SCHOOL ARTS HALL

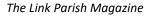
Our Annual Summer Concert will once again be showcasing a light and varied programme for a summer evening – featuring choral music from the 15th and 16th century to the present day. With Chepstow's 500th Anniversary Year in mind, our programme will range across the five centuries and feature items as varied as madrigals, some 18th and 19th century choral gems, some 20th century folk and part songs – and a Mamma Mia medley and some arrangements of well known and less so! – light 20th and 21st century songs and which will make you smile---!

There will be light refreshments and a glass of wine/soft drinks with a chance to socialise at the conclusion of the concert.

Tickets available from Chepstow Bookshop, choir members or on-line – see details below for further information

<u>www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk</u> or tel. 01291 623310 (Marje) or follow us on Facebook & Twitter -- @ChepstowChoral

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June, July & August 2024 - Summer



Our regular participants have reached 50 and is made up of a good spread of people from within the extended parish and beyond.

The first Thursday of the Month remains the same, and so does the cost of just £3.00.

However we are very close to capacity so any new people need to ring George or Beryl at 01291 625551 to check availability.

We had some very sad news. One of our founder helpers, Lyn Fletcher, has died. Lyn has for countless, selfless years served many local organisations. We were proud to have had her as a 20 member of our team.



The Link Parish Magazine

June, July & August 2024 - Summer

save money and reduce food waste.

Try budget recipes

There are plenty of free resources online to help you learn new meals that you can cook on a budget. To find tasty budget recipes and sign up to a free local life skills course run by a church near you, visit capuk.org/lifeskills and take your money saving knowledge to the next level



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** to find out more.



June, July & August 2024 - Summer

CAP

on your weekly food shop David Price

Five ways to save

(07539 477286)

It's almost hard to believe how much all of our shopping bills have gone up in the last couple of years. As food prices remain high, now is a great time to look at ways to try and keep costs down where we can.

Create a food shop budget With food costs constantly changing, it's easy to spend a lot more than you'd like on your weekly shop.

Set a budget limit and do your best to stick within it. Try cheaper alternatives to reduce your costs and avoid putting extra items into your shopping trolley just because they're on offer.

Be aware of yellow labels Big yellow labels in supermarkets can make us think we're getting a real bargain, but are they really good deals or just colourful stickers to tempt us to buy stuff we don't really need?

Yellow label items can be a bargain, but sometimes you can still get the same product cheaper elsewhere or buy a different size of the same product for less. It's worth taking a minute or two to double check.

Check the cost per amount Which sized product is the best to buy? If you look at the less obvious black and white labels, you'll often see a price per weight breakdown. This is super helpful to check as buying in bulk might mean you get more for your money.

Check the best before date There's no point buying food that you won't have time to eat before it goes out of date. Check the best before dates, plan your meals in advance, and don't buy things that you regularly waste in order to

The Link Parish Magazine



While the number of young people grappling with mental health issues has been on the rise, TIC+'s ability to adapt and

respond to their needs remains unwavering. TIC+ has demonstrated resilience and growth to alleviate the mounting pressures we face. Over the past year, we've achieved notable progress, which includes:

> Expansion of the age range for services to include young adults up to the age of 25

> Setting up a new eating difficulties counselling service (TEDS) for young people aged 9 to 25 > Recruitment of new staff, including new counsellors and filling two senior positions of Head of Clinical Operations and Head of Operations Development > Expansion of our training capabilities. > Investing significantly in digital improvements supporting our service

provision.

To find out more about TIC+'s work or to find help for yourself or someone you know, contact us at www.ticplus.org.uk or call 01594 372777

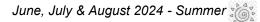
St Luke's Coffee Morning

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 Free

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 HOLDAY Mondays)

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





With the Vicar leaving and a Vacancy looming the following words lifted from an article last year seem particularly relevant

The Body of Christ and its Members... Years ago it was the Vicar and HIS or-

dained assistants who were in public authorised ministry, whilst the rest of God's people were politely asked to join in with various tasks but were not permitted to take much of a role in public worship and Parish ministry.

Praise the Lord that we have recovered the ministry of ALL God's people, all the baptised. All members of the Body of Christ (Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12) playing their part. We now have men and women preaching and teaching, leading worship, interceding, undertaking pastoral care and more, not because the Vicar isn't here this week and shoes need filling, but because it is right and a good thing to share ministry and exercise the gifts of God within the church, the Body of Christ.

It's a massive cultural shift from when I was a child... a shift in the Spirit and of the Spirit of God. A body alive and functioning from head to toe!

We believe in every member ministry. Just as this building is made up of stones and no stone is more important than another.... so also the Church is made up of many members, each with a different part to play... ordained and lay people together.

It is one of the most joyous parts of being the Vicar of Tidenham here that so many people exercise ministry within the Church... gathered in here and scattered out there, up front and behind the scenes. And it is a privilege to share ministry with you. Sharing ministry makes communication a challenge. We will make mistakes and we may find it costly and a struggle at times... but as we serve the Lord and one another and give things a go in faith, we will hopefully grow and learn and glorify God.

We must listen to the promptings of the Spirit to hear what God's call is for each of us in the gathered Church in this place in this generation.

The Link Parish Magazine



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 were blessed to have a team of five gap year students from the UK and Germany

support Rehema Cafe four times a week for almost three months from January to April. The team from Christian charity Go Make a Difference in Tanzania were, as my friend put it, full of the exuberance of youth, and they really bonded well with the Rehema ladies. They had a lot of

fun together and the team visited the homes of a few of the women and shared meals, songs, and stories with them. They also put in a regular appearance at our weekly prayer meetings at my house. We

were sad to see them go. Praise/Prayer point: Give thanks for the gap year team's time in Musoma and pray for them as they move on to their next undertakings in life.



Rehema cafe team with Go Make a Difference in Tanzania gap year team

I was fortunate enough to attend the CMS

people in mission conference in Naivasha, Kenya, recently. It was a privilege to meet and worship together with colleagues from all over the continent of Africa as well as staff from our Nairobi and Oxford offices. It was particularly inspiring to hear the stories of those working in conflict zones, in areas longing for peace, like DR Congo, Sudan and South Sudan. Bisoke Balikenga and Bishop Martin Gordon (DR Congo), Bishop Hassan James (Sudan) and Sam Malish (South Sudan) are just a few inspiring people in mission, following Jesus to the edges so that

more people can experience their world made new. If you're interested in reading the stories of how they, and others, are

bringing the gospel to the edges please follow this link: churchmissionsociety.org/about/people-in-mission/#africa Praise/Prayer point: Give thanks for the conference and our many inspiring colleagues. Please pray for all of those serving in mission, and especially those in conflict areas. June, July & August 2024 - Summer



What is Fairtrade and how does it work?

Many of you will know that Fairtrade is the campaign to make worldwide trade just and fair.

For their products to carry the Fairtrade mark, farmers have to fulfil a list of criteria including reducing their use of pesticides and fertilizers. Through the Fairtrade system, farmers have access to training to help them learn how best to do this and to enhance the environment so helping to mitigate the effects of Climate Change. This can include things like setting up rain harvesting and irrigation for crops, planting native species of trees on and around their farms to help hold the water in the ground and give shade to their crops. The farmers work together in co-operatives helping one another and sharing the training.

When we buy products bearing the Fairtrade mark, we are ensuring that farmers can do the above and so continue to produce good harvests as well as get fair pay.

Who doesn't like a cup of coffee or tea, a banana or some chocolate? These products are in trouble as young people are not keen to farm them because they don't pay, and why should they? Why should we sit in our comfortable homes and expect others to work in unfair conditions to give us the things we like? Let us all give farmers a break and buy Fairtrade.

PS. Remember to be fair to our farmers too by buying local produce as well as Fairtrade. Ref. Micah 6 v8

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

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?' 34



The Link Parish Magazine

When we come together what gifts do you/we bring? We can't all be preachers. We can't all play the piano. We can't all operate the PA desk or give hospitality. But we are all members of the Body with a part to play.

The Parish needs people with gifts in finance and administration, people with Governance skills and people to organise hospitality. We need people who can lug chairs around. We need people to work with our children and young people... called by God to build up the Body of Christ in this place.

The harvest is plentiful but even with such an amazing Body here... the workers are still few. Who amongst us is God raising for the tasks God has called us to undertake as his people?



June, July & August 2024 - Summer

The Link Parish Magazine



<u>Life Groups</u>

Parísh Lífe 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

Monday 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space Nicki <u>nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Tuesday 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies juliaparsons727@gmail.com

Wednesday 10.15am Food for Thought Life Group @ Café on the Hill

Wednesday 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy <u>fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com</u>

Wednesday 7.30pm Life Group Emma <u>emmad.cyfm@gmail.com</u>

Thursday 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead <u>tanya.rockymead@gmail.com</u>

Contact Emma Durbin for details of meetings for the young people. <u>emmad.cyfm@gmail.com</u>

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



Confirmation Joy

Many congratulations to Jen Phillips (right), John Dorrington (second from left) and Shane Weldon (left) who were confirmed at St Luke's Church, Tutshill on Sunday 5 May 2024 by Rachel, Bishop of Gloucester. What a wonderfully uplifting, encouraging, Spirit filled occasion. The 3 candidates shared some of their faith story with courage, authenticity and no shortage of tears amongst those gathered. It was a privilege to be present and share in the joy of their faith, their commitment to Christ and their special place within the Body of Christ in Tidenham Parish.



Jen Phillips Testimony Confirmation 5 May 2024



Most of you will have known me as Emma and Kate's mum, lately Peter's wife and now just Jen which is lovely!

In all my 73 years I would not have believed I'd be standing at my confirmation. We don't always know what we need but God had a plan.

I remember being christened at 5 years old. It was my grandmother who made sure I went to church in my early years. After she died when I was 13 there seemed little room for God in my life until I met and married Peter when I was 19.

We went to Peter's local church with our daughters but I always felt

June, July & August 2024 - Summer 🖓

Híghlíghts from PCC meetings in March ξ Apríl 2024

PCC members:-

- approved the budget for 2024
- approved the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts for 2023
- agreed to use the "Real living wage" from 1 April 2024
- approved to extend the existing contracts of our three staff until 31 August 2025
- > approved the purchase of new Bell ropes for Tidenham Church costing £1465, noting a 50% donation from the bellringers
- approved YCF Missioner Spring and Summer 2024 program
- noted that we now have Smart Meters for all our gas and electricity supplies
- discussed a draft Plan to achieve Net Zero by 2030
- > approved a trial CCTV for the approach to Tutshill church
- discussed ongoing roles at this time of change within our Parish

> Are looking for a PCC Secretary - please contact PCC members for more information on this important role



Found in other churches' notices:

"The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict."

"My joke is easy and my burden is light."

"Tonight, Pastor will preach on Diving Healing." The Link Parish Magazine

a bit of an outsider. It is only since the grandchildren came along that I have become more interested in church life.

We started going along to family services and it was a pleasure to watch the children enjoying and contributing to the services so naturally. We all joined Emma at St Luke's when we could. Peter became a regular worshipper here with Emma during his final years. I could see the positive effect that the church family was having on him. He became calmer about what lay ahead and some of his last words were "God will take care of me." Though Peter and Emma were regulars at Sunday services I only attended sporadically but when I did, the sermons always seemed so personal to me. At the altar, the blessings touched my heart. I was overcome by the whole experience, the music, the singing, everything, and often cried without really knowing why.

It is 7 months ago that the seed was truly planted. When I stood right here to say goodbye to Peter, my rock. Listening to David's compassionate and all-knowing sermon, I hung on his every word. When he said, "If you want to be close to Peter, be closer to God," it was an arrow that went straight to my heart. Of course that is what I wanted, what I needed in my life. God had been there all along. I had just been ignoring the signs. Those same, kind, loving, people who were there on that day for Peter visited Emma in hospital over Christmas and when she came home. They kept watch over us and prayed for us. You took me under your wing, taught me how to be a Christian and, by example, how to love one another, not only in church but also in the community.

You have shown me the love of God collectively and individually. I will live on the hugs for a very long time. I have joined in discussions about Wilderness during Lent. I experienced the emotional Easter week services for the first time. You encouraged me in Food For Thought life group And so, this is where I belong thanks to you. Thank you, everyone for being part of my journey. Shane and John I am so happy to be sharing this special day with you... confirmation class has been the highlight of my week. David, you are my teacher and my inspiration...

I have had a few wildernesses in my life but now I am no longer afraid. Jesus guides me, he walks beside me, he comforts me. He opened his arms wide and embraced me. I feel a new sense of purpose and direction.

When I take my first holy communion, I know I have my family and friends behind me, Jesus beside me and faith in my heart. God will take care of me 25



From the Registers

Holy Matrimony Georgina Dorrington

&



Ben Grahame Thursday, 29th February 2024 St Luke's Church, Tutshill

BELL RINGING



As spring moves into summer, weddings are in the air – and, of course, the joyful sound of wedding bells. One of the nicest things about being a ringer is being able to

contribute to someone's special day. Ringing for weddings can sometimes be restricted by the layout of the church or the location of the 'ringing room'; but at Tidenham we ring from the west end of the nave, so we can ring both before and after the service.

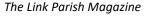
We practice weekly on Tuesday evenings, 7.30–9.00pm, and are usually joined by fellow ringers from Alvington and Lydney. (In fact, some of us frequently attend Alvington's practice on Mondays (also 7.30–9.00pm). Recently, some of us took part in the annual Training Day of the Forest branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association – always a good opportunity to meet others and try out different towers. To say nothing of indulging in a monumental Bellringers' Tea!

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.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service,

'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'



The present environmental and economic challenges, and those of human development and global poverty, "can only be faced with extraordinary Christ-liberated courage."

Setting out a vision for the Church, he said: "The Church transforms society when it takes the risks of renewal in prayer, of reconciliation and of confident declaration of the good news of Jesus Christ."

On taking office, Archbishop Justin announced three personal priorities for his ministry.

The first is a <u>renewal of prayer and Religious life</u> throughout the church.

The second is seeking <u>reconciliation</u> within the church, and supporting the Church in its role as a peacemaker.

The third is <u>encouraging every Christian to share their faith</u> and see themselves as a witness to Jesus Christ.

These priorities are central to everything the Archbishop does.

During his first 18 months in office, Archbishop Justin visited every province of the Anglican Communion – joined by his wife, Caroline – an extraordinary personal pilgrimage that involved 96 days of travel.

He continues to make visits around the Anglican Communion, particularly to encourage Anglicans in places of conflict who are pursuing peace and reconciliation.

In 2017, Archbishop Justin was invited to join <u>UN Secretary-General</u> <u>António Guterres' High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation</u>

= the only faith leader to be on the panel.

Since 2013, Archbishop Justin has made regular visits to dioceses around the southern province of the Church of England. He has taken part in everything from baptisms to baking competitions, visited schools and food banks, and prayed with people in skate parks, shopping centres and hundreds of churches.



From the Registers

Funerals & Burials

Catherine LEWIS (97)

Friday, 1st March 2024 Langstone Crematorium Monday, 4th March 2024 Funeral. St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase Church

Janet CRESWELL (86) Tuesday, 12th March 2024 Funeral. St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase Church

Laurie KILLMARTIN (87) Thursday, 14th March 2024 Funeral, St Luke's Church Tutshill & Forest of Dean Crematorium

> **Cdr John GRATTAN OBE (89)** Saturday, 16th March 2024 Funeral, Forest of Dean Crematorium

Lorraine Ann THOMAS (79) Tuesday, 2nd April 2024 Funeral, St Luke's Church Tutshill Wednesday, 3rd April 2024 Langstone Crematorium

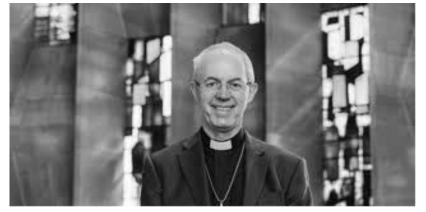
Kathleen Joyce HOARE (96) Thursday, 5th April 2024 Burial of Ashes, St John's Church, Beachley

> **Edward James WHEELER (84)** Tuesday, 16th April 2024 Funeral, Langstone Crematorium

Further register entries will appear in Autumn 2024 edition of the Link

TIDENHAM PARISH WELCOMES THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

On Trinity Sunday 26 May the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby will be visiting the Parish of Tidenham as part of his Bank Holiday Weekend visit to Gloucester Diocese. Archbishop Justin will join with the congregations of the Parish together with partners and representatives from across Parish life for 'Tidenham Parish Praise – A Celebration of Community' at Dean Close, St John's School.



The Most Revd Justin Welby was ordained in 1992 after an 11-year career in the oil industry. He spent his first 15 years serving in Coventry diocese, often in places of significant deprivation.

In 2002 he was made a Canon of Coventry Cathedral, where he jointly led its international reconciliation work. During this time he worked extensively in Africa and the Middle East. Archbishop Justin has had a passion for reconciliation and peace-making ever since.

He was Dean of Liverpool from 2007 to 2011 and Bishop of Durham from 2011 to 2012, before being announced as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury in late 2012.

On 21st March 2013, he was installed as Archbishop of Canterbury in a service at Canterbury Cathedral.

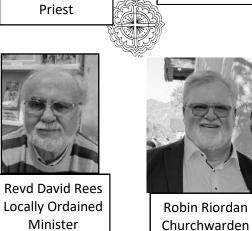
In his sermon he said: "There is every possible reason for optimism about the future of Christian faith in our world and in this country."



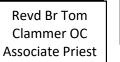
Revd Nicki Bullivant Associate Priest & Wellbeing Chaplain

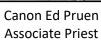


Revd Miri Keen Associate Priest











Prof Brian Duerden CBE Churchwarden The Link Parish Magazine

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