

Parish Link

The Parish Magazine for the Benefice of
Bagendon, Baunton, Coberley and Cowley, Colesbourne,
Elkstone, North Cerney, Rendcomb and Stratton



December 2021 - January 2022

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Pastoral Letter - from *the Revd David Minns*

“Hark, the herald angels sing ‘glory to the new born King’, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled”.

I’m really looking forward to singing again those wonderful hymns and songs of Christmas - they often seem to be able to sum up in just a few words the essence of Christmas, telling the story of how God came to the world with a Saviour. Humans have got themselves into a mess, drifting far from God’s heart of love and care, creating what is often a mean and self-centred world. Into this world breaks hope - and what could be a more potent symbol of hope than a tiny baby, full of potential? This baby would grow up to be the man Jesus, who showed us the way back to God and died on a cross to make that possible. God and sinners reconciled indeed.

Our newly formed Churn Valley Community Choir has been practising Christmas songs too, learning *‘Have yourself a merry little Christmas’*. A lovely tune that contains the lyrics *‘someday soon we all will be together if the fates allow – until then we’ll have to muddle through somehow’*. I was struck by those words and how true they ring today, so I looked the song up and discovered that they are the early lyrics to what was a melancholy wartime song written in 1943. Judy Garland had most of the original lyrics changed before she sang it in the 1944 musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* because she found them too depressing. Later Frank Sinatra had them changed still further, altering the *‘muddle through’* line to *‘So hang a shining star upon the highest bough’* to cheer the song up some more. And somewhere the original line *‘if the Lord allows’* was changed to *‘if the fates allow’* to make it less religious.

And yet that sentiment about making the best of difficult circumstances at Christmas - *‘until then we’ll have to muddle through somehow,’* still seems appropriate for the times we are living in. Last year’s Christmas celebrations were heavily restricted, with families who would normally gather together for a few days kept apart by regulations and the fear of harming the health of loved ones. For many of us a new Christmas tradition started - the *‘Zoom’* Christmas gathering. I suspect that there will be quite a few families keeping up that tradition this year too.

Most of us have Christmas traditions formed over the years; usually fond memories of family gatherings, presents and food and the Queen on the TV, crackers and silly hats. Often, we smile at thoughts of relatives who

have now died but who live on in our hearts and in faded photos, holding wine glasses aloft as they wish us a happy Christmas.

In our house our Christmas decorations include a torn and battered cardboard and shiny paper holly wreath made by our son at nursery over 30 years ago; it comes out every year. And my parents have a similar one made by me! A shiny paper covered star within a painted and glitter cardboard circle. It gives a clue to my age to mention that I christened it after my favourite pop star of the time - 'Ringo'!

Your family Christmas traditions may include a trip to church at some point over the holidays - a Carol Service or Nativity, or Midnight Mass or Christmas Day family service. You'll find all of those services on offer in our churches this year and you'd be most welcome if those haven't been part of your family tradition in the past. Maybe this might be a good year to start!

Christmases change according to where we are in life - our life circumstances - and it is right to add new traditions. That Zoom call may well be connecting us with family members we would not usually have seen.

The one unchanging thing about Christmas is the timeless message that God sent his only son into the world, to take on human form as a vulnerable baby and to turn our hearts back to God. Though for many the message may be blurred by the distractions of flying snowmen, jolly bearded gentlemen and repeats of *Only Fools and Horses*, still the story shines through in those glorious carols - of angels announcing Good News to shepherds and a stable where the Son of God lies, that precious gift from God to the world.

That message of hope, that God has not forgotten us but has gone to great lengths to come to us, seems to be more important than ever in these strange days.

I do hope to see you at one of our Christmas services and into the New Year. But whatever your Christmas tradition may be, please do 'have yourself a merry little Christmas'. And here's to the hope of an even better year ahead.

David



Thank you!

To Liz at *The Plough* in Stratton - Muriel Paine



Many members of St Peter's community are very grateful to the lovely Liz at the Plough Inn. Despite recently breaking her shoulder, Liz has continued to host St Peter's *Pop In at the Plough*, including the monthly lunch.

We are very blessed to have such a caring lady as well as excellent staff at *The Plough*.

To Ben Woods

Many, myself included, were greatly saddened to hear that Ben Woods passed away in early November at Cheltenham General Hospital. Ben was a long standing, valued and much-loved member of the congregation of St Peter's Church, Stratton.

His name will also be familiar to readers of *Parish Link* as the skilled compiler, over many years, of the monthly Crossword in the magazine! On behalf *Parish Link* I would like to say a huge thank you to Ben for all his conscientious and reliable input over the years. He has been a great friend to the magazine.



Ben's family is planning a Thanksgiving Service for him on Monday 31st January at 1.30pm in St Peter's Church, Stratton. After the Service it is hoped that a longer tribute to Ben can be published in this magazine.

Benefice News and events

Wednesday Prayer Group

Do come along to this friendly group which meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7pm in Stratton Rectory (GL7 2LJ). Revd David will be very pleased to welcome you. If you have any questions about the group, please call David on: 01285 655199.

A Christmas invitation from the Churn Valley Community Choir

You are warmly invited to our *Informal Concert*
on *Tuesday 14th December at 7.15pm*
in *North Cerney Village Hall*.

Come and hear us sing our favourite songs
and enjoy Christmas Songs and Carols to sing along to.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

Celtic Worship at Stratton

For some time now, the service on the second Sunday in the month at Stratton (9.30am) has been one of Celtic Worship. The services are generally reflective and follow different liturgies from the Iona Community. They are normally led by Mark Venn. If you like this form of service, or would like to try it, please come along to the service on 12th December or to one in the New Year.



Please note: Restricted Numbers at Bagendon's Carol Service

Due to the current Covid infection rates it will be necessary, this year, to reduce the number of people attending this occasion. Those hoping to come along will need to reserve places in advance and will be able to do so by contacting asaunders@ames1.me.uk **AFTER 5th DECEMBER**. All applications will be taken in rotation, and we apologise in advance for any disappointment that may be caused. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to accommodate anyone turning up on the night (19th December) who is not on the reserved list.

The Church Wardens.

News from Churches Together in Cirencester

Christmas Nativity Trail in Cirencester

There will be twelve stations in shops around the town centre, each containing a display of stars and a key Bible verse illustrated by primary school children and church children's groups. The children at Stratton School will be taking part so do take the opportunity to join in when you are in town and see their artwork. Paper copies of the explanatory trail leaflet will be available from Cirencester Town Council Information Office at Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester GL7 2PP. The trail details can also be obtained via a QR code from www.ctinc.org.uk. As this magazine goes to print, it is planned that all will be in place by 1st December.



Carols and Tableau in Cirencester Market Place - Sat 18th December



It is hoped that members from all the different denominations in our town will come together in this outreach event to bring the true meaning of Christmas amidst the hustle and bustle of festive preparations. The Tableau will be in place from 11.00am to 3.00pm and the Carol Singing will start at 2.00pm, led by Cirencester Baptist Music Group. Volunteers are needed to guard the Tableau for an hour, and also others to sing and act as marshals. Do please contact Gill Keen at St Peter's on 01285 6722069, or email peterlangman533@btinternet.com if you are able to help.

Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January 2022

The theme for 2022 is "One Day". People are being encouraged to pick one day in history and to explore the events which took place on that day. Locally, it is hoped there will be a joint service in Cirencester Parish Church to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). More details about this will be available in the New Year in our Weekly News Bulletin. For general information about "One Day" and HMD 2022 see:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

News from around the Benefice

Christmas in Baunton



Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 19th December at 4.30pm
With the Revd David Minns



Coberley's Crib and Carol Service

A red banner with white snowflake patterns. In the upper right corner, there is a white line-art illustration of a church with a tower. The text is centered on the banner.

**Celebrate the festive
season at
Coberley Church's**

**CRIB AND
CAROL SERVICE**

4PM CHRISTMAS EVE

**The magic of the Christmas story
is brought to life through readings
and carols at this family friendly
service. Children get to join in
recreating the scene of Jesus' birth
in the stable at Bethlehem.**

**Come along and join in with Christmas carols and stories with your local
community. No need to book.**

Christmas in St John's, Elkstone



**Sunday 12th December
at 3.30 p.m.**

CRIB & CRAFT SERVICE

The children will be invited to make nativity scenes and to sing and act!

**Sunday 19th December
at 3.30 p.m.**

CAROLS & LESSONS

Please get in touch if you would like to read at this service:

cliff.pooley@btinternet.com

**Friday 24th December
at 11.30 p.m.**

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION



On Saturday
13th
November,
Revd David led
a service for
the dedication
of a new bench
in the
Churchyard at
St John's,
Elkstone, in
memory of
Trevor and
Lindy Price.

Colesbourne: Amusing anecdotes from past PCC Minutes....

The Colesbourne PCC Minute book of 1864 records that the wife of Henry Smith of Colesbourne was ill and that the PCC decided to give her 3lbs of mutton, one shilling (5 pence) per week for beer, and a bottle of gin per week for six months until she was better. There is no further note to say if this medicine cured or killed her but there is hope for all of us if such an offer was to be repeated today!

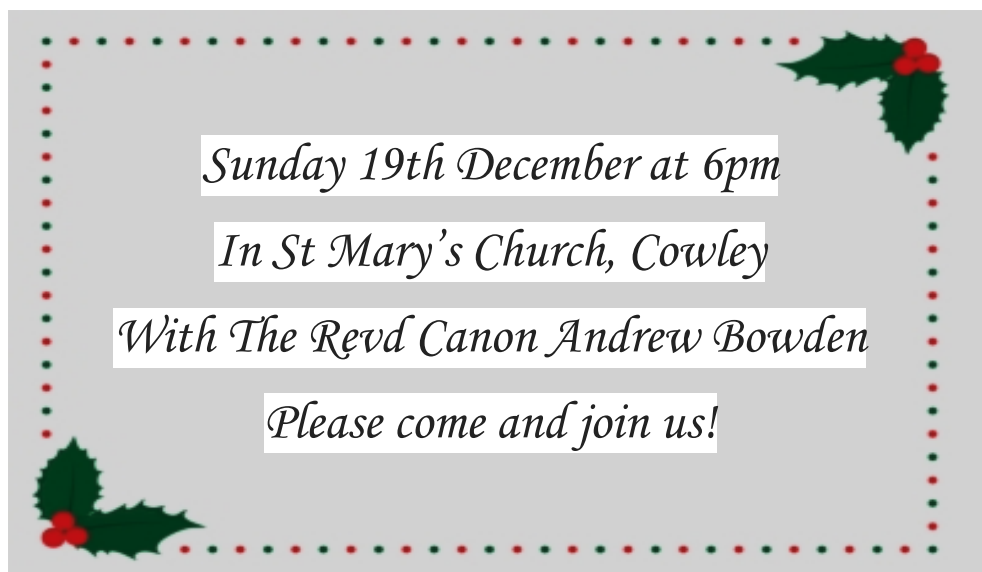
There is also an entry in 1871 to confirm that the Patron of the living John Elwes had appointed Charles Wilson as Rector but only on condition that he agreed to step down if any of John's sons wished to take up the post. Now there is a thought as we have a vacancy now, but none did, and Wilson served for 41 years!

Sir Henry Elwes.

In other News...

There will be a **Carol Service** for all to enjoy
in St James, Colesbourne, on *Sunday 19th December at 9.30am*
with the Revd Cliff Pooley

Cowley looks forward to Village Carol Service...



Update from Rendcomb - *Ruth Edy*

There have been a couple of significant 'Rendcomb' events in the last few weeks. On Tuesday, October 26th there was a Thanksgiving Service

for the life of David Essenhigh, who had lived in the village and worked at Rendcomb College from 1968-2002. There were some lovely tributes from David's family - he was obviously a very special man, once described by the late Christopher Martin Jenkins as: "*the jockey-sized all-rounder who spoke with a lovely Wiltshire burr and was utterly devoted to the (cricket) players in his care*".

Then on Friday November 5th, on a sunny autumn day, Charlotte Clements was married to Kyle Barnes in St Peter's Church. Charlotte, or Charlie, had been head girl at Rendcomb College in 2011 and had always planned to come back to Rendcomb church to be married!

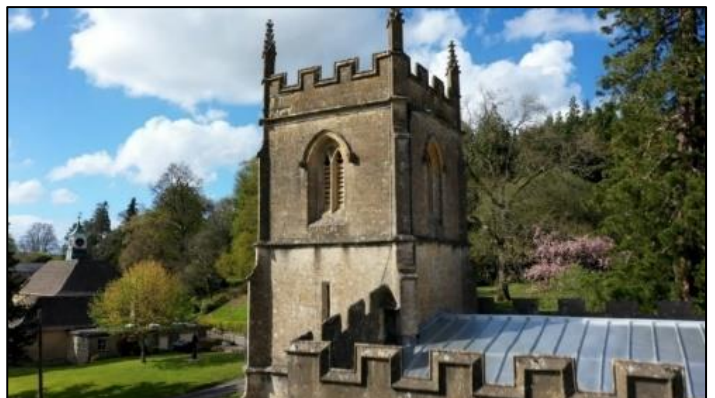
On November 11th at 11am, the whole College community stopped and stood in silence to remember those who had died in wars and those who had suffered as a result of the fighting. The Chaplain, the Revd Bob Edy, led the Act of Remembrance from the balcony above the main entrance and one of the students played the last post. This can be viewed on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/YV1UnBJSxk> - or on the College website. The student playing the bugle was especially pleased to have recently acquired the authentic military bugle at a sale in aid of the *British Legion*. Knowing that, made the occasion particularly memorable.

Some real progress has been made on maintenance and repair work inside and outside of the church. This includes finding experts and getting quotes - all part of the process, as we all know!

The church submitted an entry to Ecclesiastical Insurance's Good News competition. We don't expect to win any prizes, but our newspaper-style good news story was included on Ecclesiastical's website, along with many heart-warming stories about what churches have been doing in their communities during lockdown. It's worth a visit to the website!

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/competition/#Inspiration>

Looking ahead, we have a Christingle evening on *Friday December 17th* at 6pm and a service on Christmas Day at 11am (but not on Sunday, December 26th). In the New Year there will be a communion service on the fourth Sunday - *January 23rd, 2022*.



Special services on offer at Stratton...

Sunday 12th December at 3.30pm

Carol Service

Wednesday 15th December at 7.00pm

Rotary Carol Service (all welcome)

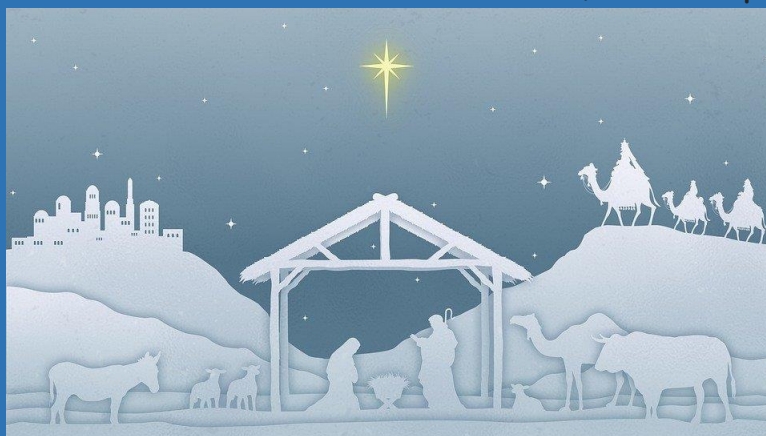
Then on Friday 24th December at 3pm

A NATIVITY SERVICE

with the Revd David

Dressing up encouraged! Sheep, donkeys, Shepherds and Kings all needed

The Service will start outside the Church (weather permitting)



Christmassy refreshments to enjoy after the Service!

Later on **Christmas Eve** at 11.15pm:

Midnight Holy Communion

Saturday 25th December at 11am:

All Age Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December at 11am:

United Benefice Service of Holy Communion

Please note in the New Year....

On Sunday 16th January at 3.30pm:

A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all the family

Where are the snows of yesteryear?

**By the Revd Philip J Morse
Methodist Minister (now retired and a Stratton resident)**

It is frequently said that, for somebody recently bereaved of a loved one, the hardest time to bear is Christmas. My experience in the ministry tells me that this claim is fundamentally quite correct. The empty chair, the smile not seen, the voice not heard, the Christmas card no longer sent... Where are the snows of yesteryear?

Taken as a literal albeit rhetorical question, we have often asked it as Christmas approaches, even though most of us cannot remember experiencing a snowbound Christmas Day. The weather around the festival must have been particularly bad in South Wales at the beginning of the twentieth century for Dylan Thomas to have composed his wonderful "*A Child's Christmas in Wales*"... "*It was always snowing at Christmas. December, in my memory, is white as Lapland, though there were no reindeers.*" Of course, there was that terrible winter of 1962-63 that broke upon us *after* Christmas with snow hard upon the ground for three months. Where are the snows of yesteryear? Even those melted away into memory and imagination. Snow does that.

Where are the snows of yesteryear? That question hovers in our consciousness, suggesting a quotation from a poem or poet that we cannot put a finger on. We even suspect that it is metaphorical rather than literal or meteorological. We would be right. It is a line in a poem by the French poet, François Villon. Standing on the threshold between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, he wrote his poem in 1450 and entitled it "*Ballade des dames du temps jadis*". He is looking back not only to the Middle Ages but also to Classical times and listing ladies of beauty, courage, fame, and infamy, and asking, "Where are they now?" Where are the snows of yesteryear?

François Villon is writing in medieval French, so how do we derive the English quotation? That is all down to Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the Pre-Raphaelite artist and poet. He translated Villon's great poem, in significant and somewhat gothic circumstances. He entitled his translation "*The Ballad of Dead Ladies*", a rather gross handling of the subject, I have always thought, but entirely befitting the aforementioned circumstances. "Temps jadis" implies "former days", "days gone by",

analogous to Marcel Proust's "temps perdu". Rossetti redeems the situation with his translation of the famous line, "*Où sont les neiges d'antan?*" as "*Where are the snows of yesteryear?*" As Shakespeare was responsible for introducing into the English language new words and phrases that we all now take for granted, it is claimed that Rossetti was the originator of "yesteryear", a word that generates nostalgia and wistful reminiscence by the bucket-load.

When Rossetti's wife died of an overdose in 1862, in a moment of melodramatic angst, he placed the manuscript notebook of his poems in her coffin which was buried in Highgate Cemetery. Some years later, rather scandalously, he requested that the coffin be exhumed so that he could recover the notebook. He was not present when the deed was enacted, but he published the collection under the simple title of "*Poems*" in 1870. His translation of Villon was amongst them. Amongst the ladies of yesteryear was Dante's Beatrix. A year after his wife's death, Rossetti painted from memory his late wife as "[*Beata Beatrix*](#)". Where are the snows of yesteryear? Where indeed?

It is certainly a most moving metaphor which speaks of the fragility and ephemerality of life. Shelley had covered similar ground before Rossetti with "[*Ozymandias*](#)" and Marcel Proust would do something similar at much greater length with his "[*temps perdu*](#)". I seem to remember that when I was a boy there was a public house in Cirencester named "The Cradle and Coffin". I do not know whether the landlord had ever come across Villon, Shelley, Rossetti, or Proust, but rather ironically now even "The Cradle and Coffin" has disappeared with the snows of yesteryear.

The hardest time to bear is Christmas? Yes, I think it is. What can one say? The pain will never go away, even though one gradually learns to live with it. Once the New Year has come, at least one can observe that the sad event happened *last* year, not *this* year, but even that is of limited comfort. The Christian, perhaps, can say a little more.

Let us therefore go to that hardest place - not to the place of our own sorrow, but to a Christmas of yesteryear - the very *first* Christmas. Where are the snows of yesteryear? They are on the ground before us. My father, who served in the RAF in the Holy Land during the war, could attest to the harshness of the winters. Here are some shepherds trudging down the hillside into Bethlehem. That thin, plaintive cry of a new-born baby tells them that they have almost found what they are looking for. There is the Christ-child, lying in a manger. Why should he not be? The

shepherds took him a lamb, so it is said. Take him your sadness. He is the Son of God. He can bear it.

Where are the snows of yesteryear? They have melted with the spring. The summer will follow. The baby grows into a toddler, a boy, a man. The baby of Bethlehem becomes the Christ upon the cross, the Risen Lord of an Easter morning, and "*the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*" (1 Corinthians 15. 20 - 22). All this is latent within the baby of Bethlehem.

The snows of yesteryear have melted. Of course they have. But in the future, in God's eternal future, are the summer days where the Community of the Resurrection, the Communion of Saints, awaits us. That is what generations of Christians before us trusted in as they lived, and when they died. Look upon the face of the Christ-child, and then let us trust likewise.

Articles on Cowley and Coberley continued

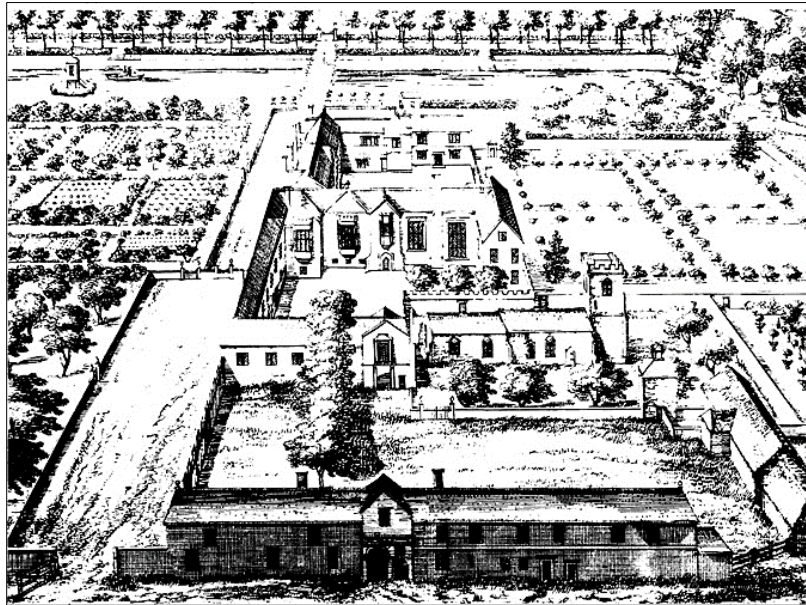
Online studies of the history of Coberley and Cowley: Part 4 By Alan Jordan

To follow is the fourth excerpt from Alan Jordan's online research findings about the history of Coberley and Cowley, which he conducted during the Covid lockdown of early 2021. [*The key sources he used included: the national censuses, which took place every ten years from 1841 to 1911, and the mini-census made in September 1939; Coberley parish records of births, marriages and death; Gloucestershire electoral registers; British History Online and Coberley Tourist Information.*]

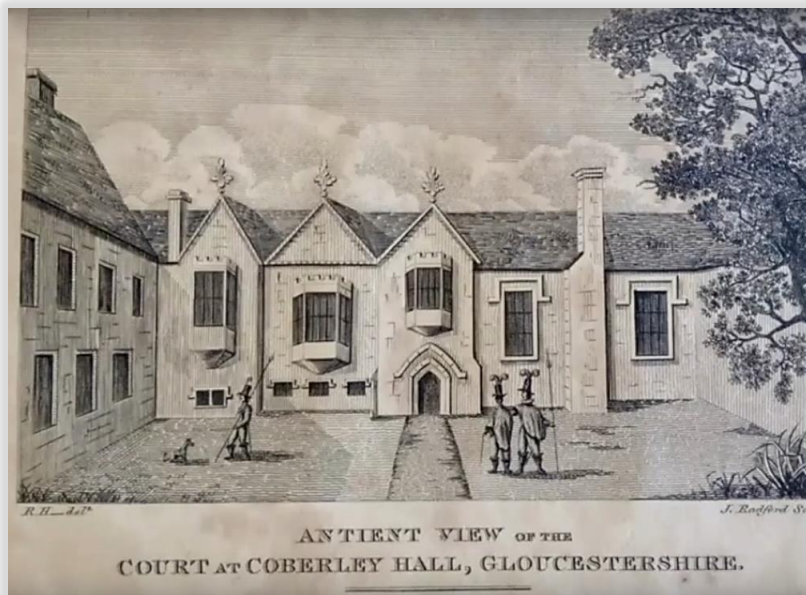
Many thanks to Alan for allowing us to publish his findings in *Parish Link*.

Coberley Court

Next to Coberley Church stood the medieval manor-house, later incorporated in **Coberley Court**, which was demolished in 1790^{xxxix}. The church is accessed through Coberley Court. The farmhouse north of the church, which had also formed part of Coberley Court, was rebuilt soon afterwards.



Above: Coberley Court and the parish church in the early 18th century.^{xl}



The Court at Coberley Hall.^{xli} (This is recognisable in the drawing above.)



Present day Coberley Court and the entrance door to the church.^{xlii}



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Contd from page 17

From 1841 to 1901 Coberley Court was occupied by farmers and their families^{xliii}, but in the 1911 census its occupants were **William Henry Morley**, a retired orange grower, born in 1866 in London, his wife Sarah, born in 1865 in Wolvey, Warwickshire, and their six children. They had two servants (a cook and a nurse). They lived in Ontario, California from 1888 to at least 1900^{xliv}.

Coberley Court has seen some royal visitors in its time. On 17th October 1278 Edward I was in Coberley; Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII, stayed at Coberley Court on 4th August 1502 and Charles I on the nights of 6th November 1643 and 12th July 1644.^{xlv}

Next time: Coberley Mill.

Sources: ^{xxxix} British History Online; ^{xl} British History Online; ^{xli} Appears in Revd Arthur Champion's *Walks in the CVB*; ^{xlii} cotswolds.info; ^{xliii} National censuses; ^{xliv} US Federal Census for 1900; ^{xlv} British History Online.

Cowley Manor

As you may recall, the excerpt which appeared in the November edition of *Parish Link*, explained the connection of James Horlick with Cowley Manor. Sir James died in London in May 1921, aged 77. He was succeeded in the baronetcy by his son Sir Ernest Burford Horlick, who

died in 1934, aged 46. Sir James Horlick, his wife Margaret Adelaide Horlick and his son Sir Ernest are all buried in Cowley churchyard^{xxii}.

In 1928 the estate was broken up and the house, together with some land, was purchased by Sidney Allen, and was then passed to Cyril Heber-Percy by 1937.

Cyril Hugh Reginald Heber-Percy was born on 18th December 1905. He married Anne Garland on 18th October 1933. Educated at Harrow he fought in the Second World War, where he was wounded. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) and the Military Cross (M.C.) and gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Welsh Guards^{xxiii}.

The Electoral Register for 1937 lists Cyril Hugh Reginald Heber-Percy and Anne Heber-Percy living at Cowley Manor. In the 1939 register, Cyril Heber-Percy was living with his mother Gladys in London. His wife Anne was born in 1914 and in the 1939 Register her address was given as Manor Farm, Cowley. She was listed as of private means and as a nursing auxiliary. At the same address were a children's nurse, a nursery maid, a cook, a housemaid and a kitchen maid.

Cyril and Anne Heber-Percy divorced in 1944. They both married again.

Cyril Heber-Percy married Diana Radclyffe in Marylebone in 1944 (divorced in 1959) and Pamela Armstrong-Lushington-Tulloch in Westminster 1959. He died in High Wycombe in 1989, aged 83.

Anne Heber-Percy married Francis Byrne Warman in 1944. They were divorced in 1948. He was previously married to Jane Child (in 1930) - they divorced in 1934. He went to New York in 1938 and on his return in 1939 was arrested onboard '*Samaria*' upon her arrival in Liverpool. He was tried at Bow Street on 29th August 1939 and sentenced to 12 months hard labour for fraudulently obtaining money (£2,600) from Sir Horace Bayer^{xxv}. He married for a third time in 1956, to Mary GC Stephenson; they were divorced in 1958.

During the Second World War, Cowley Manor was leased to Cheltenham Ladies' College. Gloucestershire County Council bought the house in

1946, and by 1978 was using it as a conference centre and for social events. It was later used as a nursing home^{xxvi}. After the War, Cowley Manor fell into something of a decline with most of the original fittings and fixtures in the house and garden ripped out or allowed to disintegrate by the local council. It was bought by **Peter and Jessica Frankopan** in 1999 and over the next three years was restored and rebuilt^{xxvii} and



Peter Frankopan^{xxix}

converted into a boutique hotel. Peter Frankopan is a British historian, writer and hotelier^{xxviii}. He is Professor of Global History at Oxford University, where he is Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford and Stavros Niarchos Foundation Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research. He is also Associate Director of the Programme for Silk Roads Studies at King's College, Cambridge. He was born in Yugoslavia

in 1951 and married Jessica Sainsbury, daughter of Sir Tim Sainsbury, in 1997.

Sources: ^{xxii} Survey of St Mary the Virgin, Cowley, churchyard headstones by the Revd Arthur and Mrs Margaret Champion (media.acny.uk); ^{xxiii} thepeerage.com; ^{xxv} Information from the Hearn family tree on ancestry.co.uk quoting an unspecified newspaper report. Horace Bayer had been Knight Sherriff of Londonderry from 1914 to 1923. ^{xxvi} historicengland.org.uk; ^{xxvii} Our Story - Cowley Manor web site; ^{xxvii} Wikipedia; ^{xxviii} Photograph from Wikipedia.

From the Benefice Registers

Funerals:

20 th October '21	Christopher Reeves	Ashes burial, Colesbourne
26 th October '21	David Essenhigh	Chelt Crem. then St Peter's, Rendcomb
27 th October '21	Frederic Bradley	St Margaret's, Bagendon
4 th November '21	Mildred Freda Cripps	St John's, Elkstone then Burial in churchyard
15 th November '21	Joanne Howard	St Peter's, Stratton then Burial in Stratton cemetery
18 th November '21	Lillian Holder	Ashes burial, Colesbourne

Weddings:

28 th October '21	Jonathan Peter Wade and Charlotte Clare Rix	St Mary, Cowley
5 th November '21	Kyle Barnes and Charlotte Rhiannon Clements	St Peter's, Rendcomb
6 th November '21	Benjamin Jones and Lauren Georgia Walsh	All Saints, North Cerney

Taking care of our Environment - Sue Hudson

As I write, we are in the second week of COP26 and there is world-wide interest. At the forefront are serious consequences of climate change. There is plenty of information available about this, (not least, the report that will emerge from the conference), and I don't intend to go into the detail here. However, I do want to highlight suffering and hardship which is the consequence; just one example is Ecuador where poor harvests, due to variations in climate, are threatening lives.

At last, big and necessary change is on the horizon. It is to be hoped that the undertakings regarding carbon emissions and help for the developing world will be sufficient. The Diocesan website link - <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/how-can-we-all-make-a-difference/> - is really helpful here, especially for ideas about prayer and adding our voice, as it can seem bewildering to know how to make a difference. Revd Arthur's "green note" - "What can I do now? Act Now!" (copies are in all our churches) is also really useful.

Change to lifestyles is difficult. Or put another way, the real challenge is to be dependent on God's ways, rather than our own. Altering one thing at home, getting used to it, and then changing another, is likely to be more effective in the long term than trying to change lots of things all at once. If your family is anything like mine, we are each better at some things than others, and so have ways of picking up on each other! Locally, the large Tesco in Cirencester (and other large Tesco branches), now have facilities for recycling drop off, as follows:

- *Plastics* - food and pet food pouches, any plastic bag, crisp packets, plastic wrappers, any plastic film - in large cages outside the store entrance.
- *Empty make-up* - compacts, palettes, mascaras, liners, lip products, plastic tubes and bottles (not glass, wood, brushes or polish) - in a large box behind the check outs.
- *Water filters, inkjet printer cartridges, batteries and energy saving lightbulbs* - in a large yellow container behind the check outs.

Future generations depend on the outcomes of COP26. The responsibilities of those in power will be to follow through on the pledges made and so prayer needs to be ongoing. All of our actions, however small, make a difference.

Schools' News

Coberley C of E Primary School



It has been a lovely, action packed and successful term at Coberley. We welcomed two new members of staff, nine children and a school dog, Ned. We have continued to offer Google Classroom as a daily provision and it has enabled us to move education away from traditional Victorian learning to an exciting digital age, enabling children to work independently whilst learning traditional skills.

We have enjoyed returning to an open school and have had Class trips to [We The Curious](#) and the *Cotswold Wildlife* park in addition to rugby

clubs and weekly swimming. In keeping with our creativity value, we have recruited additional staff to teach music across the school, outdoor learning and drama; it has also enabled us to focus on wellbeing and mental health.

The younger children recently enjoyed a family tree day, inviting parents and grandparents to build a family tree together as a community. We also reintroduced house competitions and the buddy system to work collaboratively across the school.

In recent weeks, we have been inundated with requests for places for September. If you would like to visit, please contact Mrs George in the school office.

Andrew Milner, Headteacher - Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Community News and Events

The Tuesday Group - *Judith Wood*

Dan Bannister gave us a wonderful talk on Tuesday 2nd November about the history of how Slimbridge Village came to commemorate the ending of the Second World War with Wire Soldiers. He also showed us some interesting video and photos relating to the memorials.

We hope that everyone will be able to join us on **Tuesday 7th December** when we are having a **Dickensian Themed Christmas talk** by Phil Collins and Mike Bottomley. There will also be festive nibbles and drinks.

There is no meeting planned in January, but we hope you will all be able to come along on **Tuesday 1st February** when we are anticipating an interesting talk by Meg Blumson on the history of Project Black Jack in Cirencester.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 7th December at Stratton Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, to start the Christmas Festivities.

Admission: £2.00. Everyone is welcome.



Winstone and District WI - *Moira Cima*

November was our Annual Meeting, at which a new committee is formed, we take stock of what's happened over the previous year and look forward to new ventures in the year ahead. 2021 has been amazingly vibrant, active and sociable, despite the continuing restrictions in the first few months. Now, we are looking ahead with anticipation to a new year of talks, outings, walks and more. We have an enthusiastic committee, with Barbara Luck voted in as our new president, and we wish her all the very best in her new role.

We had our first Bursary Draw in November. Education is one of the main purposes of the WI, and so we have been accumulating a small fund in order to subsidize one of our members to take a course of their choosing.

We've also re-started our crafts group, meeting once a month in a different home each time. On 1st December at 2pm some of us will be having a go at making our own Christmas wreaths, and anyone is welcome to join us, whether a WI

member or not. Please give our secretary a call if you'd like to join us for a creative afternoon and some lively chat!



At our December meeting, to get us into the festive spirit, we will have a talk from Lynda Warren on "The history of pantomime" (Oh yes, we will!). That will be on Tuesday 14th, starting at 7.30pm.

Then on Tuesday 11th January Sue Davies's talk is entitled "In the steps of Scott and Shackleton". Sue has visited Antarctica and will be giving us her first-hand experiences of the route first taken by these great explorers.

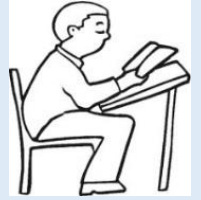
Please do come and join us for either of these talks or at our crafts afternoon. You can get more information from our Secretary, Chris, on 01285 821261 - and you will be given a warm welcome.

Moira Cima

moira@take2-music.co.uk

Stratton Educational Foundation

Applications are invited once again by the Trustees for grants in aid of persons under the age of 25 years who, or whose parents, are resident in the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Stratton with Baunton, and who require financial help towards the cost of preparing for a profession or trade or in furthering their education, or in providing group facilities for recreation and social and physical training. Individual applicants might wish to apply for a grant to help with the cost of textbooks or equipment, for example, which they need for a college course.



Please contact: Mrs C Bramley: e: corinna.bramley2@gmail.com

Completed applications should be returned by 25th January 2022.

Scrubditch Care Farm - Emma Costley White

CHRISTMAS FAIR - Saturday 4th December 10am - 2pm

Do come along to our Christmas Fair - plenty of parking, and it's free entry! Lots of wonderful festive treats, produce and refreshments. You can buy your Christmas trees, wreaths, plants, bunting, food and more!

Sheep News - Dennis (the ram!) has gone out with 22 of our ewes, and there are plenty of orange bottoms out there already. We will wait another week, then change the 'raddle' paint colour to green in case there are any ewes that didn't cycle the first time.

Pig News - Our weaners went off to the butchers and we have some lovely sausages and boned rolled joints of pork for sale.

Eggs - We have some hen, bantam and duck eggs for sale, although the weather is playing havoc with regular egg laying! Ring/text Emma on 07966 255 631 if you would like a regular order each week/fortnightly.

Corporate Volunteering - If you would like to find out more about corporate volunteering / 'giving back' days do get in touch with us via: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

'Growing Well Together' - With the change of the clocks and Winter approaching, people can start to feel their wellbeing and health dipping; if you know anyone who is struggling, feeling depressed, isolated or in need of a confidence boost, please get in touch. We meet every Tuesday afternoon, and no referral is needed. You can use our contacts on the

website: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or email Gerry - gerry@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk - for more information. Our **dementia sessions** run every Tuesday morning from 11am to 1pm. Both sessions are very informal and are an opportunity to get out in the fresh air with likeminded people in small groups. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about these sessions: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or see: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Talks via ZOOM - If you know a group that would like to hear about the work we do here, our talks last about 40 minutes, and we give a fun, informative overview of the Care Farm. Get in touch either via the website www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or e: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dates for the diary:

Christmas Fair: Saturday 4th December 10am- 2pm

End of term: 17th December

New term starts: 3rd January 2022

Spring Quiz: March 2022

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter and look at our website www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk



A Poem for Christmas - *Linda Wilks*

Christmas Commercial

Tinsel - crisp and shiny,
Climbing up the walls,
Plastic Santas and angels,
Cluttering up our halls.

Mince pies at the ready,
And cheese board on the side.
Turkey stuffed and basted,
The centre piece of pride.

Kids, wide eyed and excited,
Squawking their demands -
'I want this' and 'I want that',
Money pouring through our hands!

Christmas Eve comes around
And people celebrate
With drink and food and wine
Determined to inebriate!

Money, presents, food and drink
The Christmas break and time off work!
Is that all that matters here?
If 'yes', it seems so bleak.

But saving graces still remain,
To be with family and friend.
The long-remembered babe awaits,
Our homage, prayers and knee to bend.

Wipe away the trimmings,
Calm the clanging horde
Forget the cards and presents,
Just think about our Lord.

Linda Wilks Oct 2009.

Crossword

As noted on page 6 of this magazine, the very sad news came through earlier this month that Ben Woods, the regular compiler of our monthly Crossword, passed away in early November. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this very sad time.

Ben compiled the magazine's Crossword for many years, and we thank him sincerely for his numerous, interesting contributions, which have brought challenge and pleasure to many readers of *Parish Link*.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW76 (November 2021)

ACROSS:

1	BAGUETTE	10	DODO	17	SULTAN	23	ELITE
7	RICKS	11	STOLID	18	HURT	24	CLUSTERS
8	PROGRAMME	13	SCENTS	20	NUT		
9	IMP	14	STATIC	22	SORROWFUL		

DOWN:

1	BIPED	6	ASEPTIC	16	BARREL
2	GEORDIE	7	REALITY	17	STAIN
3	EARN	12	UTILISE	19	TALES
4	TOMATO	13	STUNNED	21	POTS
5	ACRID	15	TRUFFLE		

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022 CROSSWORD: BW77

by Ben Woods

CLUES ACROSS:

4 FORBIDDEN (6);

5 ASSISTANT (4);

7 VERY OLD (7);

10 FRIGHTEN (5);

11 GUESS (7);

12 COUPLES (5);

14 COMMANDED (7);

15 SEPARATE (5);

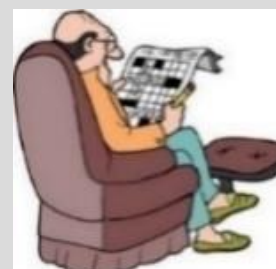
16 EXPELS (7);

20 HUGE (5);

21 SOOTHING (7);

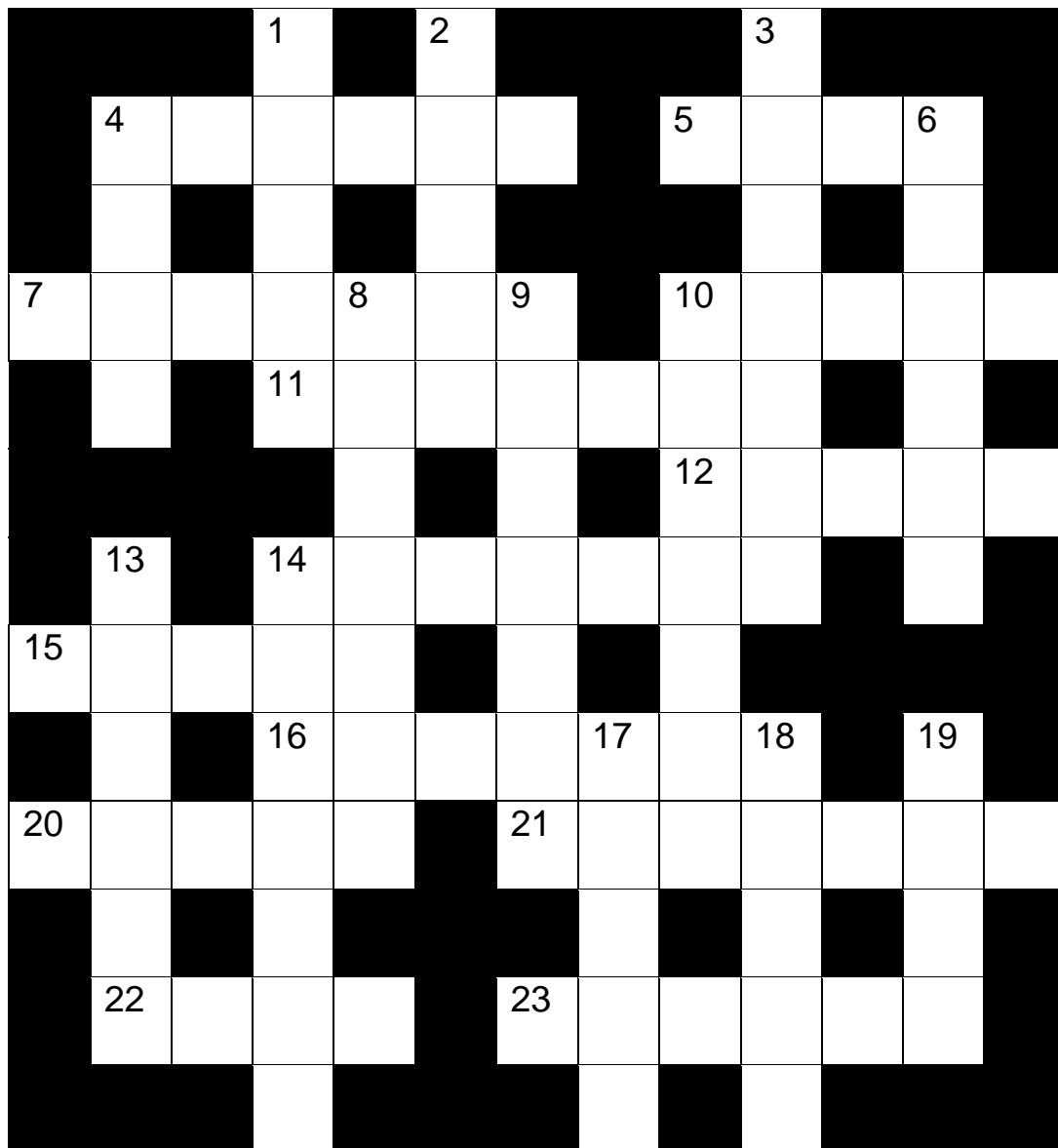
22 HOLLOW (4);

23 MEAL (6).



CLUES DOWN:

- 1 OPPONENTS (5);
- 2 MADAGASCAN PRIMATE (5);
- 3 HOODWINK (7);
- 4 CURVE (4);
- 6 MISTAKES (6);
- 8 GROUP OF FOUR (7);
- 9 SOVEREIGN (7);
- 10 FEATURES (7);
- 13 OUT OF DANGER (6);
- 14 DECREES (7);
- 17 REFURBISH (5);
- 18 WANDER (5);
- 19 FAIR (4).



Thank you Ben.

Services in December 21 and January 22

Key to Ministers: CVB Licensed Ministers:

DM = Revd David Minns (Rector) (*Day off: Friday*)

T: 01285 655199 E: dlkminns@gmail.com

BE = Revd Bob Edy (*Chaplain, Rendcomb College*)

T: 01285 831391 E: bobody21@gmail.com

MG = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 E: mgreen282@btinternet.com

RE = Mrs Ruth Edy (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831391 E: ruth_edy6@hotmail.com

MV = Mr Mark Venn (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831209 E: mark.w.venn@btinternet.com

Additional Ministers: **JM** = Revd Jan Moore

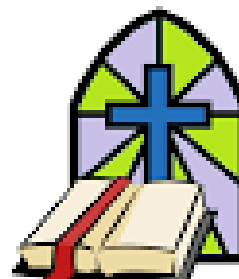
T: 01285 640077

therevjan@gmail.com

CP = Revd Cliff Pooley

T: 01242 243981

cliff.pooley@btinternet.com



There will usually be a Service of either *Holy Communion* or *Morning Prayer* at St Peter's, Stratton, at 10am on a Wednesday morning.

December Services

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	5 th	9.30am	Matins [BCP] (MG)
Sunday	12 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (JM)
Sunday	19 th	6.00pm	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i> (DM)
Saturday	25 th	9.30am	<i>Christmas Day Service</i> (DM)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton</i> (DM)

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	5 th	9.30am	HC (JM)
Sunday	19 th	4.30pm	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i> (DM)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton</i> (DM)

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	5 th		See Cowley
Sunday	12 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer with Baptism (Revd Canon Michael Irving)
Sunday	19 th		See Cowley
Friday	24 th	4.00pm	<i>Crib & Carol Service</i> (CP)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton</i> (DM)

Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	5 th	10.00am	Matins (Christopher Hall)
Sunday	12 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	19 th	9.30am	<i>Carol Service</i> (CP)
Saturday	25 th	9.30am	<i>Christmas Day HC</i> (CP)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton</i> (DM)

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	5 th	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	12 th		See Coberley
Sunday	19 th	6.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i> (Revd Canon Andrew Bowden)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton (DM)</i>

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	5 th	11.00am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	12 th	3.30pm	<i>Crib and Craft Service</i> (Geoff Gait-Carr)
Sunday	19 th	3.30pm	<i>Carols and Lessons</i> (CP)
Friday	24 th	11.30pm	<i>Midnight HC</i> (MV - by ext.)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton (DM)</i>

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	5 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	12 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	19 th		<i>No Service</i>
Saturday	25 th	11.00am	<i>Christmas Day HC</i> (MV by ext)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton (DM)</i>

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	12 th	10.00am	Service at Elkstone
Friday	17 th	6.00pm	<i>Christingle</i> - followed by festive food in Village Hall (bring & share)
Saturday	25 th	11.00am	<i>Christmas Day Service</i> (BE)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Stratton (DM)</i>

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	5 th	9.30am	HC (DM)
Sunday	12 th	9.30am	Celtic Worship (MV)
		3.30pm	<i>Carol Service</i> (DM)
Wednesday	15 th	7.00pm	<i>Rotary Carol Service</i> (All welcome)
Sunday	19 th		<i>No Service</i>
Friday	24 th	3.00pm	<i>Nativity</i> (DM)
		11.15pm	<i>Midnight HC</i> (DM)
Saturday	25 th	11.00am	<i>All Age Christmas HC</i> (DM)
Sunday	26 th	11.00am	BENEFICE SERVICE (DM)

January 2022 Services

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Roger Scoones)
Sunday	16 th	9.30am	HC [BCP]
Sunday	23 rd	9.30am	HC [CW] (DM)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	HC (MV by ext.)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	2 nd		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	9 th	11.00am	MP
Sunday	16 th		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	23 rd	9.30am	HC [BCP] (MV)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Giles, Colesbourne

Sunday	2 nd	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	HC [BCP]
Sunday	16 th	9.30am	Matins (MV)
Sunday	23 rd	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	2 nd	11.00am	MP (MV)
Sunday	9 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	16 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	23 rd		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	2 nd	11.00am	<i>Christingle</i>
Sunday	9 th	10.00am	Morning Worship (RE)
Sunday	16 th	11.00am	HC (MV)
Sunday	23 rd		<i>Service at Rendcomb</i>
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	BENEFICE SERVICE (DM)

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	2 nd		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	9 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	16 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	9 th		<i>Service at Elkstone</i>
Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	HC (BE)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	2 nd	9.30am	HC (JM)
Sunday	9 th	9.30am	Celtic Worship (MV)
Sunday	16 th	3.30pm	<i>Christingle (DM)</i>
Sunday	23 rd	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	30 th	11.00am	<i>Benefice Service Elkstone</i>

News from our NHS Trust - Anne Davies

The Trust is again extremely busy with activity in urgent and emergency care more redolent of winter months. Whilst some routine surgery has been cancelled the priority remains to ensure that patients who are clinically urgent continue to be operated upon. The rise in COVID-19 related hospital admissions means visiting restrictions are again in place. The majority of those admitted with COVID-19 are either unvaccinated or have waning antibody levels pending their booster vaccination. Those who have been vaccinated are however showing less severe symptoms. The long ambulance delays that are being seen are in large part due to lack of available beds for patients needing admission. As I write 193 patients are ready for discharge but 160 of those need post discharge social care which is proving difficult and 82 have been waiting more than ten days which is exposing them to greater risk.

Since my last news from the trust, several governors have been gathering information to support our argument that what happened at the recent governor election was very wrong. We feel that apologies are not enough and that our constitution needs to be reviewed. We want young people below 18 to have the opportunity to ensure that their voices are heard. This will be going to formal committee this month for discussion, and I hope to be able to report positive moves forward in the new year.

Young people however are not the only ones who need to be heard and, as we start a new trust year, I would ask you all to consider becoming a member of the trust because those at the top need to hear from those they serve.

Whilst I do my utmost, as your elected representative, to fully represent you I know that I can only do so based on the feedback I receive. As a member you can be involved as much or as little as you like, from simply receiving newsletters and voting papers to joining our events and having your say on our services. It is free to become a member and you can opt out any time. You also become eligible to get NHS discounts! Details are on the [trust's website](https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/support-our-trust/join-our-foundation-trust/): <https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/support-our-trust/join-our-foundation-trust/>

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor Cotswolds) anne.davies11@nhs.net

PCC Secretaries contd

	Rendcomb	Carol Bailey (temporary)	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Stratton	Linda Wilks	wilks1960hlv@gmail.com
PCC Treasurers	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
	Baunton	Lynn Rutt	rutt.stortford@btinternet.com
	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
	Coberley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Colesbourne	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Cowley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Elkstone	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Rendcomb	Annabel Purcell	01285 831686 annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk
	Stratton	Alan Lowe	01285 657014 talanlowe@aol.com
Organists	Bagendon	Tony Hymas	01285 831728
	Stratton	Robin Baggs	07796 812945 rebaggs1@gmail.com
Pastoral Emergency in	Stratton	Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	North Cerney	Elmore Crump	01285 831275
Bell Ringers	North Cerney	Judy Carter	01285 831425
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Rendcomb	Alex Breal	01285 831213 brealya@rendcombcollege.org.uk
Safeguarding/Child Protection	Stratton	Keith Abraham	01285 643320
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Upper Churn	Vacancy	
	Benefice	Beth Hamid	01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com
Flower Arranging	North Cerney	Anne Norman	01285 831237
	Stratton	Lesley Pollock	01285 653145 lesleyalm@btinternet.com
The Tuesday Group	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
Magazine Editors	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com
	Parish Link	Corinna Bramley	01285 641523 editor.parishlink@gmail.com

Directory

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Associate Priests	The Revd Bob Edy	01285 831391 bobedy21@gmail.com
	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
	The Revd Cliff Pooley	01242 243981 cliff.pooley@btinternet.com
Additional Minister	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
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