

The Messenger

MAY 2024

The Parish of Dursley



**Price 60p each
£6 Annually**

The Ewelme Benefice

The parish of Dursley and the parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

Web Site – www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

RECTOR

We are currently in a Vacancy.

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CONTENTS

A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers

Welcome to our May edition.

We hope you are all enjoying the longer evenings and maybe some sunshine, at last.

Look out for the choir plant stall and the new season of Coffee, Cake and Music. Also see page 3 for the announcement of the new Rector for our Benefice.

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the 'Messenger'. If anyone else feels they could contribute, please don't hesitate to contact us.

From

Valerie and Judith (editors)

Painting on the Front Cover by Ann Orchard, with memories of her Mum.

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2024 ISSUE

IS SUNDAY 12th MAY 2024

[Just a reminder please send items for the magazine to dursley.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:dursley.messenger@gmail.com)

Tony King our Reader writes...



Dear Friends

So we have followed our Lord Jesus through the solemnity and sadness of Holy Week and the anticipation and joyfulness of Holy Saturday and Easter Day. Now the Church's calendar gives us forty days of Eastertide celebration (to match the 40 days of Lent) followed by nine days of Ascensontide before we come to the feasts of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Of course, every Sunday is a feast of the Resurrection, even those of a more sombre hue, but the Sundays of Eastertide, combining with spring-time new life all around us, do seem rather special.

So we have three Principal Feasts – Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday – during May this year,

Ascensontide is a time of waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit and some Protestant denominations observe it as another period of fasting like Lent.

Despite the nine-day difference, Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked – as the risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh, the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit, sent by God to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ had entrusted to it.

Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. Held on the 50th day after Easter Day, Pentecost (the name comes from the Greek word 'pentekoste' which means fiftieth) was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season; only later, in the medieval West, did it become a new festival season of its own.

Although Easter was the preferred time for baptism in the early Church, the season of Pentecost was also used for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost reflect this baptismal theme, with Christ's disciples being born again both of water and the Spirit. Indeed, the old name for Pentecost, 'Whitsun' - derived from 'White Sunday' - is perhaps linked to the white robes worn by those being baptised.

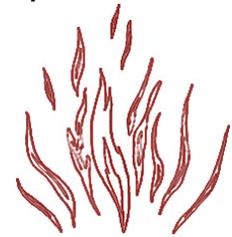
And so to Trinity Sunday - ever a difficulty for those preaching on that day! The Sunday after Pentecost came to be kept in the West as

`Trinity Sunday, although it was not prescribed as a universal feast until the 1330s. In a sense, every feast is a festival of the Trinity, because the whole Trinity is at work in every moment of creation, redemption and sanctification; but Trinity Sunday provides a particular occasion to reflect on the revelation of God's self as Trinity.

'Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.'



Tony King

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, text from which is included in this letter, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.

IMPORTANT ANNOUCEMENT.

"We have received a communication from the Lord Chancellor's office, saying:

You will be pleased to know that the Lord Chancellor has approved the appointment of Reverend Juliet Jensen as Rector of Dursley, Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield and known as the Ewelme Benefice in the Diocese of Gloucester.

We have also been informed by the Archdeacon's office that the licensing will take place in the afternoon on Sunday 1st September.

Thank you all so much for your prayers, and for your patience, as we have gone through the process of appointing a new rector. I hope you are all looking forward to this next period in the life of our Benefice."



May Thoughts from The Benefice Office...by Clare White

I recently read this beautiful poem by Sara Teasdale.

May Day

*A delicate fabric of bird song
Floats in the air,
The smell of wet wild earth
Is everywhere.*

*Red small leaves of the maple
Are clenched like a hand,
Like girls at their first communion
The pear trees stand.*

*Oh I must pass nothing by
Without loving it much,
The raindrop try with my lips,
The grass with my touch;*

*For how can I be sure
I shall see again
The world on the first of May
Shining after the rain?*



This poem brings to my mind perfectly my view of the start of the month of May and all that late spring has to offer.

The country lanes are lined with cow parsley and locally our world seems very beautiful. What a contrast to those parts of the world who are struggling with famine and conflict, or the devastation of ecological systems.

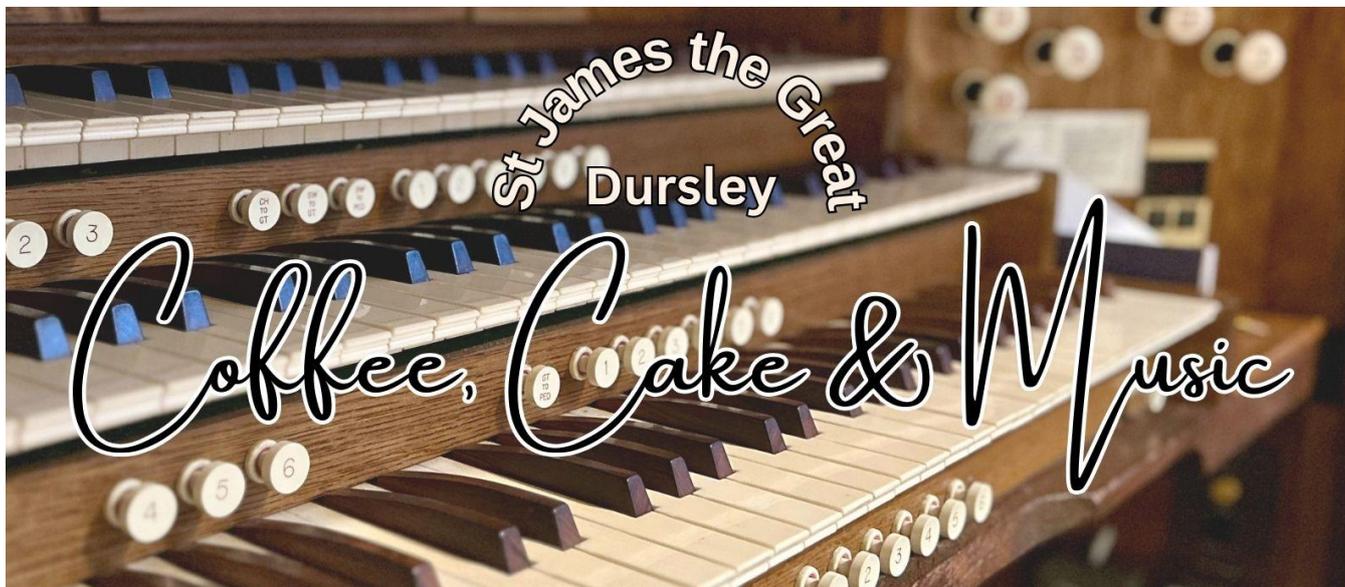
'No mow May' will be happening in our churchyard and we will see many native flowers popping their heads up through the grass. This will help promote the many invertebrates needed to sustain our delicate ecology. It is our responsibility to protect our environment and leave a better legacy for future generations.

We are truly blessed to know such beauty and thank God for what we have.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:23

(9th May there will be a coffee morning for the charity ARocha, a Christian eco charity and 1st June Count on Nature will be happening at St James)



April 27th - Paul Bailey

(St Helen's, Alveston)

May 25th - Nick Sherwood

(St Monica's, Bristol)

June 29th - Nigel Nash

(Bristol)

July 27th - Stephen Power

(Brecon Cathedral)

August 31st - Andrew Millington

(Exeter)

September 28th - Anthony Burns-Cox

(Romsey)

October 26th - Nigel Davies

(St James The Great, Dursley)

The coffee and
homemade cake
will be served
from 10.30am
The Music
begins at 11am
and lasts for 30-
40 minutes.

There is no charge, but a retiring collection will be taken, the
proceeds of which will go to the work of St James' church.

Ewelme Benefice



QUIET DAY

11th May 2024
10am-2pm

Nympsfeld Village Hall

A day to rest and draw nearer to God
in Stillness, Silence and Prayer
St Bartholomew's will be open for
quiet reflection.

A soup, bread and cheese lunch will be
provided.

Cost: Donations

Please sign up at the back of church or
contact the Parish Office

on ewelmeparishoffice@gmail.com
Rev'd Jane

All are welcome

St James Choir

Plant & Produce Stall

at St James Church, Dursley

Saturday 25th May 2024

9.30am on the
church lawn if dry, in church
if it's raining

Donations of
plants and produce
would be welcome



Christian Aid Week 12-18 May, 2024

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs).

These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

This Christian Aid Week – from 12-18 May – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transforms lives.

Envelopes for donations will be in May Messenger and can be handed in at Inches Fabrics in Parsonage Street or left at the Parish Office, or left in St James church, where there will also be spare envelopes. Or you can give online via

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503>

Bereavement Café

With the support of the Cruse Bereavement Service, a new Bereavement Café is beginning in Cam and Wotton-Under-Edge. It is an informal drop-in café for anyone who has been bereaved in the last few years, and who would benefit from a chat, and some support as well as talking with others. There will be tea coffee and biscuits on offer. Two Cruse-trained volunteers will always be present and what you say will remain confidential.

It takes place at the Council Offices in Cam on the second Monday of the month, and at The Keepers, Wotton-Under-Edge on the 4th Monday of the month.

The dates are as follows

Cam Council Offices: 10.30am-12.00

May 13; June 10; July 8; August 12; September 9.

The Keepers, Wotton-Under-Edge: 11.30am -1.00pm

June 24; July 22; September 23. (The other two Mondays are Bank Holidays)

We would be delighted to see you!

If you want further information please speak to David Vonberg



PASTORAL CARE

Please let Chris Raffle - left
(01453 545684 or 07517 380772), or
Revd Jane Wood - right (07983 623525)
know of those who need to be contacted or are in
hospital and we will get in touch.



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Hollies



Blooming Great for the Bees & the Bugs!

I have been thinking about dandelions as well as other flowers, and their important role for the health and survival of bees and other insects.

Why are bees and other insects important to our well-being?

According to the Woodland Trust, a healthy bee and general insect population is crucial to our physical, and environmental health.

As well as pollinating the plants which are grown as crops to feed us and our livestock, they also pollinate wildflowers and trees, which in turn support other insects, as well as bats, birds, and mammals.

The Woodland Trust goes on to say that bee populations, and in turn insect populations are dropping drastically, and this trend is a threat to maintaining healthy ecosystems which we rely on.

Climate change, loss of natural habits due to development (including paving over gardens), disease, invasive species are among the reasons for the reduction in populations.

Apparently, there has been a staggering 97% loss of wildflower meadow in the UK, since the 1930s!

How can I help the bees and insects?

Stop using pesticides

-  Provide shelter such as hanging a 'bee hotel'. Like other creatures, bees need shelter. Hang a ready-made bee home such as those you can buy in the pet or garden shop. A sunny spot is preferable. Take it down in October and give it a little clean, ready to bring it out again next spring.

-  Grow bee and insect friendly flowers – further suggestions on the following page. Try to avoid pulling up all the dandelions, as bees love these flowers.



Wild Marjoram



Yellow Rattle



Comfrey



Vipers Bugloss



English Bluebell



Wild Carrot



Field Scabious



Catmint



Angelica

In his on-line article in the BBC Wildlife Magazine, wildlife gardening expert David Goulson says that dandelions are an important food source for many insects including bumblebees, solitary bees, honeybees, hoverflies, and beetles. This has made me think twice before trying (usually unsuccessfully) to dig up the dandelions that appear very frequently in our garden.



Ivy



Bird's-Foot Trefoil



Dogrose

Dave Goulson goes on to list his 'Top Ten' wildflowers to encourage in your garden to aid pollinating insects including bees. Illustrations of these plants (there are seventeen) are on this page. Some of them such as 'Viper's Bugloss' have great names!



Dandelion



Single Variety Dahlia



Common Knapweed



Wild Cherry



Meadow Cranesbill

References

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/how-to/wildlife-gardening/top-plants-pollinators-garden>

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Plant-For-Pollinators>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2023/04/why-are-bees-important>

Bug Hotel Up-Date

Our splendid bug hotel recently received a gentle roof refurbishment. The roof needed a little reinforcing with extra turf and some new plants. Adrian kindly built a wooden frame to support this and some new plants both on the roof, as well as in the surrounding grass have been planted.

Very quickly, there seems to have been some new growth and hopefully there will be some new occupants in the spring. Look out for the additional insect and bee hotel coming soon.



The Bug Hotel receiving a little maintenance.

Dates for your diary:

**Next Bring & Take/Free-Cycle Event
in St James to be held
Saturday, 11th May, A.M**

**St James Count on Nature Event
Saturday 1st June
10.00 – 13.00**

**A Free Nature Event – Come & explore the
wildlife and biodiversity projects
happening in the church tower &
churchyard. Get tips on how you can do
similar at home.**

If you would like to join and support St
James Eco Church group, please email.
Gill.mather@btinternet.com
Everyone Welcome 😊

Chris Pengelly Gardening Services

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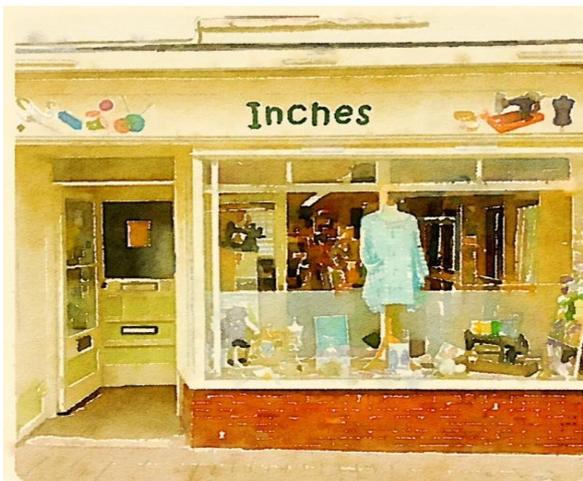
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Bellringing *by Frank Byrne*

Saturday 13 April was the AGM for the whole of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell ringers. These two Dioceses are split, for ease of administration, into 12 geographical areas, each containing the churches within that area that contain bells. These areas are called Branches. Dursley is within the Wotton-under-Edge Branch. In addition to the AGM, two ringing competitions are held, one on 6 bells (The Croome Trophy) and one on 8 bells (The Penn Trophy) on that day.

This year's AGM was hosted by the Stroud Branch who were also responsible for arranging the two competitions, the service (at Leonards Stanley) and the AGM and tea (at Kings Stanley), which we should mention, is a feast.

In the Croome Trophy 6 bell competition held at Minchinhampton, the bands represent individual towers within a branch, these being the winners of the individual branch striking competitions. Five or six bell methods may be rung; call changes are also permitted at the discretion of the Ringing Master.

Just 10 out of the possible 12 Branches took part, placings as follows:

- 1 Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury Branch
- 2 Cirencester, Cirencester Branch
- 3 Purton, Swindon Branch
- 4 Cheltenham Minster, Cheltenham Branch
- 5 Coalpit Heath, Bristol Rural Branch
- 6 Dursley, Wotton under Edge Branch**
- 7 Colerne, Chippenham Branch
- 8 Barnwood, Gloucester Branch
- 9 Woodchester, Stroud Branch
- 10 Longborough, North Cotswold Branch

The Dursley band rang Cambridge Surprise Minor and was:

- 1 Elizabeth Byrne
- 2 Anne Pope
- 3 Lizzie Adkins
- 4 John Taylor
- 5 Andrew Ward
- 6 Philip Pope (Conductor)

The bands taking part in the Penn Trophy 8 bell competition held at Bisley, are drawn from around each branch, with no one tower contributing more than five ringers. The results are therefore by Branches.

Just 8 out of a possible 12 Branches took part, placings as follows:

- 1 Swindon
- 2 Tewkesbury.
- 3 Stroud
- 4 Cirencester
- 5 Bristol Rural
- 6 Chippenham
- 7 Cheltenham
- 8 Wotton under Edge

The Wotton-under-Edge Branch band rang Cambridge Surprise Major and was (tower they are members of):

- 1 Gillian Carey (North Nibley)
- 2 Anne Pope (Dursley)
- 3 Elizabeth Byrne (Dursley)
- 4 Lizzie Adkins (Dursley)
- 5 John Taylor (Dursley)
- 6 David Clarke (Chipping Sodbury)
- 7 Philip Pope (Dursley)
- 8 Andrew Ward (Unattached to any particular tower)

Having not had great success in the ringing competitions in the morning, we fared much better in the church quiz held in the evening in the Parish Centre, organised and run by Chris and Richard Morgan. We beat the other 9 teams to take the top prize, in a contest which had us and a team from the choir very closely matched all the way through. Our team was Liz and Frank Byrne, Anne and Phil Pope, John Taylor and Joy Bell.

Liz Byrne recommends.....



Book now to witness a choral masterpiece!

There's just one last chance for a choral thrill before we all head off into the sunshine (hopefully!!) for our jolly holidays! The summer recess will soon be upon us but we have a barnstormer of a concert to send you on your way!

Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' is bursting with brilliant choruses ('Blessed are the men who fear him', 'Thanks be to God', 'He watching over Israel' 'Go, return upon thy way') and heart wrenching solo arias ('If with all your hearts', 'Lord God of Abraham', 'It is Enough', 'O rest in the Lord', 'For the mountains shall depart'), quartets and trios ('Lift thine eyes').

Gloucester Choral Society will be joined by a fantastic quartet of soloists, including former lay clerk Alex Jones (bass), who returns to Gloucester Cathedral as Elijah. Under the baton of our distinguished Musical Director, Adrian Partington, accompanied by our flamboyant organist and Assistant MD, Jonathan Hope, this will be a concert to remember!

Saturday 4th May 2024, 7pm
Gloucester Cathedral

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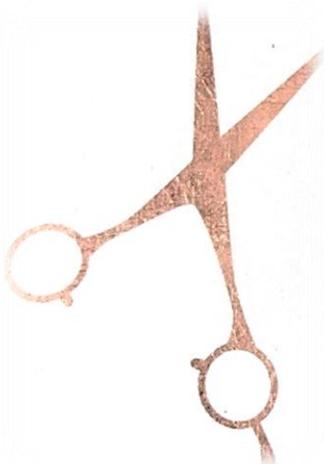


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May 2024

(Joining Zoom details on Ewelme Benefice website)

Wednesday 1st May

Office Closed

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 2nd May

Office Closed

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

Sunday 5th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

- 10am Parish Holy Communion at St James, Dursley

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday – Office Closed

Wednesday 8th May

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 9th May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James
- 10.45am Coffee morning in aid of Arocha eco charity at St James
- 7pm Benefice Ascension Day Communion Service at St James

Saturday 11th May

- 9am Bring and Take event at St James
- 9.30am 200th Anniversary Peal attempt at St James
- 10-2pm Quiet Day at Nympsfield Village Hall

Sunday 12th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

- 8am Said Holy Communion at St James, Dursley
- 10am Service of The Word at St James

Wednesday 15th May

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 16th May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James
- 11am Pastoral Prayer Group in The Parish Centre

Saturday 18th May

- 7.30pm Dursley Male Voice Choir Concert in St James

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost Sunday

- 10am Parish Holy Communion at St James
- 11.30am APCM at St James

Wednesday 22nd May

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 23rd May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

Saturday 25th May

- 9.30am Choir Plant & Produce stall on the lawn at St James
- 10.30am Coffee, Cake & Music with Nick Sherwood (St Monica's, Bristol) at St James

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

- 10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Uley
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong at St James

Monday 27th May

Bank Holiday – Office closed

Wednesday 29th May

- 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 6pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 30th May

- 9am Morning Prayer in St James
- 10am Holy Communion at St James

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The Shrines at Walsingham – a personal reflection



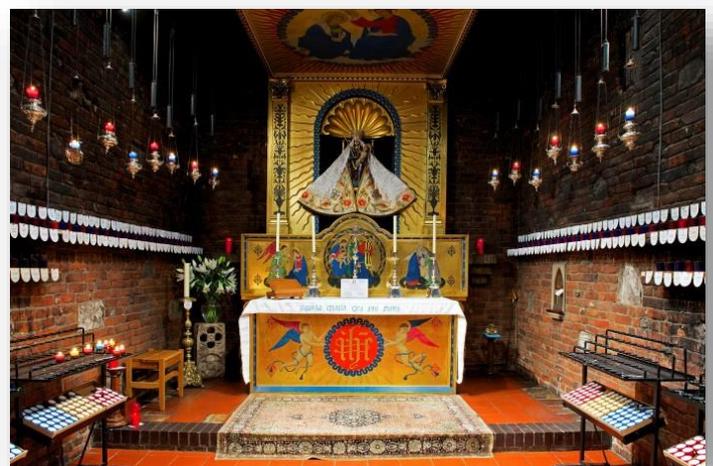
Before coming to Dursley Ann and I lived in Coulsdon, a small town on the outskirts of Greater London. We attended St Andrew's Church, an early twentieth century building, built during the time when the London suburbs were extending outwards, following railway links. Coulsdon was ideal as three lines ran through the valley – two lines to Brighton and one to Tattenham Corner – this last built to provide transport to the Epsom Downs Derby race track. St Andrew's was very much a middle of the road Anglican church, though in years past it had been higher up the candle with incense used from



Parish Church of St Andrew,

time to time. I was licensed there as a Reader in 1986. In the early 1990s John, our treasurer, started organising Parish Pilgrimages to Walsingham. He was an interesting character, certainly very close to being an Anglo-Catholic. I was never quite sure why he came to us – he lived outside the parish anyway and there was a really high church, St Michael and all Angels, in Croydon, that he could have attended. Ann and I decided to try one of the pilgrimages. We left Coulsdon at 8am in a small coach on a Saturday morning in February for the trip, arriving in Walsingham at about 2pm. It was all very novel to me, though Ann had experienced high church practices as she grew up. We stayed in the Hospice – small pokey bedrooms with shared bathrooms – and ate in the Refectory. The Hospice and the Refectory was run by the nuns.

I found the Shrine Church almost overwhelming. The scent of incense hung around it, even though there wasn't a service taking place. Soon after arrival we went there and held the First Visit Service in the Holy House, led by John. The whole weekend was pretty much structured - Saturday afternoon was free (a chance to get to see the place and walk to see the snowdrops). In the evening there was a service



The Holy House in the Shrine Church

in the Holy House, followed by Benediction and confessions in one of the three Confessionals. On Sunday morning there was the Parish Mass in the village church, St Mary's. After lunch we did the Stations of the Cross (outside if the weather permitted), followed by a Service of Sprinkling at the Holy Well, a Final Visit to the Holy House and departure at 5pm.

We went with John for 2 or 3 years – then I had a phone call on the Friday before our next visit. John had had an accident at home, couldn't lead the pilgrimage so would I do it! I led that one, and John took back his role, though with me doing more, for another couple of years.

Then our lady curate was priested and John moved to an Anglo-Catholic church in North London. I decided to continue running the pilgrimages which we did for a few more years before it became obvious that our increasingly elderly pilgrims needed more help than Ann or I could manage.

It was a hard decision – we had both come to love our annual visits to Walsingham, but we found ourselves spending too much time sorting out the problems. It culminated with Ann spending nearly all the weekend with a dementia sufferer and missing most of the activities.

On the rare occasions that we have been on holiday in Norfolk we have made a day pilgrimage to the Shrine and found an echo of what we had experienced during our earlier trips but, without the deep immersion in the life of the Shrine and Hospice, it was not as satisfying.



Service in the Shrine Church, Walsingham

It remains a happy memory of times of spiritual refreshment in an amazing place.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us and for all pilgrims to your Shrine in Walsingham

Tony King



Stations of the Cross



When Rob Marrow is not singing in St James' Choir and enjoying life in his motorhome, let alone working, he has taken time to give his mind to what stimulates him.

Do you have a favourite author or book?

George Orwell's 'Down & Out in Paris & London', it shows that with the support from people you never knew, being prepared to work and a large slice of luck, it might be tough but you can survive and prosper.

What are you reading at present?

The Caravan & Motorhome 2024 Directory choosing where to take Bruno, our Motorhome on its next trip.

I generally only read when on holiday and enjoy an enlightening life story but definitely not a 'celebrity's bio'!

Is there a book which you feel you should have read?

The majority of my O Level English Literature tomes.

I do have a problem with those who say "You have to read"

Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?

'With a little luck' by Paul McCartney and Wings.

Music has that ability to give you time to escape for a while and put the trials and tribulations of daily life in some sort of perspective.

Do you have a favourite piece of music?

1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky, specifically the finale, the reason is explained in the answer to the next question.

Do you play a musical instrument. If not what would you like to have learnt?

Coming from a musical family (my father was a peripatetic woodwind music teacher and my mother played the piano and church organ), it felt natural to learn to play a musical instrument. Always the rebel I chose the trumpet, which progressed to the Eb Bass (Tuba). I was a member of the Gloucestershire Youth Concert Band, the first UK youth concert band to embark on a Tour of Canada and America.

We played 11 concerts in 14 days in Montreal, Boston, New York, Toronto and back to Montreal. Staying in the same hotel on the same night as Bob Dylan, he was playing a Gig in Montreal.

I was also fortunate to play in The Youth Proms, blasting out the 'cannons firing' in Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Boom!

What is your favourite film?

A couple top my list, although one is specifically a mini series. We have family links with Norway and 'The Heroes of Telemark' with Kirk Douglas has always been a favourite. But also 'Band of Brothers'. It is not the war content but of the true stories of how groups of men came together, supported each other and conquered evil.

Do you have a favourite play?

No! Not a great theatre goer but I did once have to endure a version of Romeo and Juliet at the RSC which was adapted to cover the subject of euthanasia!

What about a favourite television series?

Growing up, Blue Peter with Valeria Singleton, Peter Purves and John Noakes. I still have a full collection of the Annuals.

Also any family related dramas, two of which I recall were 'The Brothers' and 'Howard's Way' which we would watch as a family on a Sunday evening.

If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it?

The first Banksy, I like art which is not only thought provoking but situated in a location which has context and meaning.

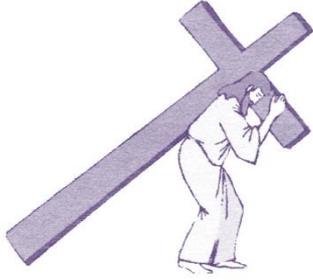
Some may call it graffiti but I really enjoy street art, for example around the Stokes Croft area of Bristol.

Do you have special building which means a lot to you and if so why? The Baseball Ground, Derby where I first watched The Rams at the age of 8. I will be at Pride Park on 27th April to hopefully see the team clinch promotion back to The Championship.

Is there a place (town, village, a county?) where you have felt happiest Both the Maternity Ward, Gloucester Royal at the birth of our daughter Rebekah and Bagneux Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Northern France where my Great Grandfather, Arthur William Leese is buried. They 'bookend' 5 generations of my family, it was so special just lying on the grass at the cemetery, looking skyward and having a 'conversation' with my Great Grandfather. It was equally special saying "Hello" to Scamp.

You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite? Napoleon Bonaparte, Arthur William Leese (Great Grandfather), Nelson Mandela, George Thomas 1st Viscount Tonyandy and Brian Clough.

I wouldn't necessarily have to contribute to the evening but would listen to them debate, using their different personalities to convince each other that their opinions were right. Would my Great Grandfather speak for me?



Stations of the cross by David Vonberg

Inspired by the "Stations of the Cross" evening at St James' Church, led movingly by Tony King during Holy Week, I spent a morning later that week in Clifton Roman Catholic Cathedral, Bristol meditating on the stations of the cross there. It had been over twenty years since I was there last.

They are totally different in every way from the marvellous depictions of the stations of the cross from Turvey Abbey which we used in Holy Week here. The cathedral stations are affixed permanently to the walls. They are partly three dimensional and made of concrete. The sculptures accentuate the hands and faces of the people. They are modern and quite caricatured, and because of that they can make one stop and look and imagine. Of all the stations the one that really struck home was the final station – resurrection. It is made up of two hands with the mark of the nails clearly visible. They are breaking bread, which took me straight to the Emmaus Road story in St Luke's Gospel. It was that action which opened the eyes of the two people who walked that road.

The stations are really quite shocking, but I found as I photographed each one after I had reflected in it, that the images remained with me as I journeyed through the rest of Holy Week and Easter.

If you are ever in Bristol and you have some time to spare, you may want to visit them and ponder awhile.

Also on the subject of Holy Week services in St James, Jennifer Kendrick wishes to say 'A big thankyou to Tony King and all involved in the Nails of the Cross Service at St. James Church on Good Friday.

A more than usually moving occasion with its powerful simplicity and lasting impression. From the worship leader, original readings by distinguished members of the congregation, to the organ accompaniment of traditional hymns, the hammering in of the nails and draping of the cross with purple cloth and crown of thorns, the tolling of the bell: The electric atmosphere had nothing to do with the heaters desperately trying to warm the cold church, but more to do with the reverence of the place and occasion.

The slamming of the mighty door at the end followed by a silent exit, was a dramatic reminder of a powerful source and how, together we can make a difference.

Revd Janet introduced his service and it has never failed to move me to tears and make a lasting impression. An excellent job Tony.....Judith.

**Big Mission Weekend, with the Archbishop of Canterbury
Over the May Bank Holiday, Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, the
Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd
Justin Welby, will be coming to the Diocese
to join in with our mission and vision.**

Friday 24 May

Archbishop Justin will start by having breakfast with farmers in the North Cotswolds. They will have some big conversations about issues affecting farmers, environmental considerations and care for creation.

He'll then meet children at two of our Gloucestershire schools, answering their questions and joining in with singing and worship on an environmental theme.

After lunch, he'll visit a church where the community have set up a thriving café and shop and get to know some of the team who volunteer there, as well as being trained up to make a delicious latte.

At 5pm, Archbishop Justin will be joining Evening Prayer at St John Baptist Church in Cirencester. All are welcome to this service.

Dinner will be at The Grace Network, which supports social enterprises that reinvest profits into their local communities. Guests will have the chance to put their questions to the Archbishop and find out more about how his faith has shaped the person he is today.

Saturday 25 May

The day begins with a service of morning prayer and a Messy Church session in Gloucester. The Archbishop will have a go at some crafts, singing and chatting with the children and families who worship here.

He'll set off on a prayer walk through Gloucester, stopping for an ice cream on the way to chat to some local Christian business owners and see how their faith plays out in their business. He will be popping into a not-for-profit community café, before getting a steam-punk angle on Gloucester's Tall Ships Festival.



At 1pm to 3.30pm, the Archbishop will be involved in a community fun day run by Sportily, full of lots of sports and activities, at Longford Skate Park. Come along for a coffee and an ice cream and practise your map-reading skills in our treasure hunt.

As a diocese, we believe that people deserve to live in homes that are safe, stable, sustainable, social and satisfying. The Archbishop will find out more about how the Diocese is locally supporting better housing provision.

Young people in Cheltenham have invited the Archbishop to come and join in their regular worship session and then he will end the day with a meal with partners from across the diocese. Bishop Rachel will interview Archbishop Justin and there will be a question-and-answer session about Christian faith and mission.

Sunday 26 May

Archbishop Justin will travel to Tidenham in the Forest of Dean to join in worship, which is open to the local community.

The weekend ends with a celebration diocesan Eucharist (Holy Communion) service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm. Please do come and join us for this joyful service of celebration and thankfulness.

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury

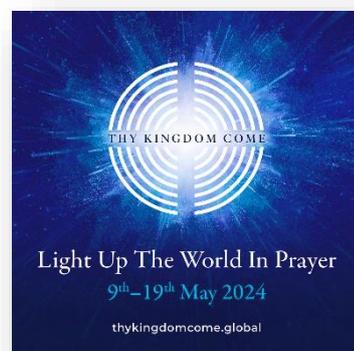
Light up the world in prayer: Thy Kingdom Come, 9–19 May

New resources and tools are available for the Church of England's annual 11-day prayer initiative. How will you be joining in this year?

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Every person, household and church in the Diocese of Gloucester are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

Last year, Churches Together in Lydney invited people to drop-in prayer sessions. Christ Church School in Cheltenham created a dedicated prayer space for children during SATS week. St Catherine's Gloucester led a prayer walk around the area, praying for every street in the parish, St Michael and All Angels in Bishop's Cleeve put on a Prayer Breakfast, while Trinity Cheltenham provided resources on their social media channels to inspire people to 'Pray for 5'.

There are so many ways to take part. Download the Journal and other resources to join in as a church, group or individually.





Church Seasons in May....

by Revd Canon Richard Morgan

April this year fell entirely in the season of Easter. This May includes the end of the Easter season, Ascensiontide, Pentecost/Whitsun, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. A lot of seasons of the Church's year packed into one month! Easter celebrates Jesus risen from the dead. Ascension celebrates his going up to the right hand of the Father, i.e. being the one through whom God reigns and rules. Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church. Trinity acknowledges and rejoices in God revealed through Jesus and the Spirit as Three in One. Corpus Christi, a smaller festival, celebrates Christ's presence in the Holy Communion, in bread and wine and us!

In the Book of Common Prayer Calendar, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost were different seasons – forty days of Easter and then Ascensiontide. The modern Church Calendar counts fifty days of Easter, concluding with Pentecost. Calendars aren't that important. Paul wasn't very happy about Christians keeping some days as special, but he accepted that some people would do this. We need to remember that Christ's death brings us God's forgiveness always, that the risen and Ascended Christ is with us as Lord and Saviour every day, that God's Spirit always dwells in us, that God is, of course, eternally Trinity, so that we can share God's life as children of God the Father through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Still, calendars help us concentrate specially on the different aspects of Christian truth. And we may ask if the different calendars can teach us anything.

The old calendar follows the pattern of events described in the Book of Acts. The new calendar stresses that Jesus' Ascension and sending the Holy Spirit are all parts, aspects of the rising of Jesus as its purpose and necessary results. Resurrection and Ascension both mean going up. Resurrection stresses 'rising from' - in this case, from the dead. The Ascension of Jesus stresses where he went up to – to God, to share God's authority and to share his new life with us. The Resurrection, Ascension and the giving of the Spirit are the purpose of Jesus' sharing our life and dying for us. He shared our human life and death so that we could become God's children, sharing God's life, God's Spirit, through him. The Book of Acts spreads Resurrection, Ascension and giving the Spirit over fifty days, but John's gospel seems to place all on Easter Day. Maybe Jesus going up in Acts is about a particular experience of this by the disciples, which marked the end of his eating with them, and Pentecost was a particular

startling experience of the Holy Spirit which got them going on their mission to spread the good news of Jesus. The new calendar both spaces out our thoughts on the aspects of Jesus' Going Up, and reminds us they are part of one event. Indeed, they are inseparable parts of Jesus' whole incarnation to save us by his forgiving death and rising.

And that event of our salvation shows God as Triune. God is One, and yet we relate to God through Jesus and the Spirit as our Father, Brother and inspiration, our life and strength. If God shows himself truly and relates to us truly in this threefold way, God is indeed Three in One. How that works, as it were, is beyond our full grasp, but we can know it is so. Trinity Sunday comes fittingly to complete the celebration of Easter.

And so does Corpus Christi, for it celebrates the crucified and exalted Christ with us in his body and blood, his incarnate life, by the Holy Communion. Corpus Christi particularly celebrates Christ's presence through the bread and wine, but they, as Christ's body and blood, vehicles of his life, feed and keep us as the body of Christ, sharers in the Divine life as children of the Father through the death and life of the Son, by the power of the Spirit.

So here's a short poem/hymn on this,
centring on the Spirit and the Trinity.

Spirit of the Father,
Share the Father's love:
Show us our Creator,
God who reigns above.
Spirit of Christ Jesus,
Spirit of the Son,
Make Christ present in us,
With him make us one.
So, through you, Blest Spirit,
May we ever see,
And be joined in love with
God the Trinity.
Joined in Jesus' body,
Children through the Son,
Living by You, Spirit
Of the Three in One.

'It started with a Kiss'.....by Jean Ind

I have always thought of Saint James as our family Church, from when my parents Amelia and Clifford Hopkins were married there in 1931. We have had their funerals there, Dad 1971, Mum 1976, both are in the Garden of Remembrance with other family members. I was christened and confirmed and also married there in 1956 and then my sons and daughter were also christened and married in Saint James plus most of my grandchildren and great grandchildren. Twenty eight years ago, when I lost my husband Michael, I turned to the church more as I felt the most comfort there and at peace there and in the last two years, my son Paul has had cancer twice but for the grace of God and all the prayers he's slowly getting better.



It is with great sadness that I lost my eldest son David on February the 14th and I would like to tell you about his funeral on March the 22nd.



He left his home in Saint Georges Road in his beloved American truck driven by his son Leslie with brother Paul by his side, followed by his other son Aaron in his fire truck. Lee from Clutterbuck's led the procession to Saint James, followed by family and friends, 20 to 30 American cars, 14 motorbikes, 40 walkers and people lined the streets, giving him a clap as he went by. In the church there were 500 plus, people standing outside, Austin Meares, a member of Saint James, told me there has never been so many in the church for a funeral.

It showed how well liked he was thought of. I am so proud to call him my son. His dad would have been so proud as well. The service was taken by the Reverend Canon Richard Morgan and we would like to thank him on behalf of all the family. He was a great help in his care and love at this sad time, also Lee from Clutterbuck's was very understanding and caring. David left Saint James on his final journey to his favourite song, American Trilogy by Elvis Presley. His son Leslie drove David with brother Mark and sister Kay to the crematorium. My favourite song, 'I Believe' was played while pictures of David's life were shown. David was born and christened in 1957, married in 1990, died in 2024. Full circle of his life, together now with his best friend, his dad Michael. God bless them both.

Photos by Hollie Ind.

Poem for David

Missing you always.
You never said I'm leaving.
You never said goodbye.
You were gone before we knew it.
And only God knows why.
In life I loved you dearly.
In death I love you still.
In my heart I hold a place that only you can fill.
It broke my heart to lose you, but you did not go alone.
A part of me went with you the day God took you home.
On a lighter note, I would like you to meet my never-ending grandchildren, great grandchildren, Great, great grandchildren, step grandchildren and our beautiful grandchildren born angels.
To my delight, I am looking forward to four more this year. One great, great, granddaughter, and three great grandchildren. As you can imagine, I start Christmas shopping in January and to think this all 'Started with a Kiss'.

Thank you for sharing this part of my life,

Jean Ind.

Grandchildren.

Lizzie

Leslie.

Lisa.

Aaron.

Michael.

Adam.

Terry.

Vicky.

Luke.

Dean.

Tiffany.

Natasha.

Holly.

Great, great grandchildren.

Rory.

Regan.

Roman.

Step grandchildren.

Corrine.

Harriot.

Naomi.

Joe.

Lewis.

Bella.

Born angels.

Amelia.

George.

Destiny.

Great grandchildren.

Kirsty.

Mollie.

Serena.

Carlie.

Andy.

Ernie.

Kelsey.

Aysha.

Tom.

Reggie.

Leo.

Ruby.

Rory.

Nora.

Tommie

Ronnie.

Bea

Cassius.

Percius

Taylor.

Macenzie.

Elijah.

Arther

Ralph.

Plus, four more to be born this year.

JUST A THOUGHT *from Jennifer Kendrick*



I wonder if you have ever looked at a barbed wire fence with a modicum of interest.

Not beautiful in the conventional sense, but a work of art, just the same.

Not loud or vengeful, but quietly effective and gently affirming.

Not often tall and threatening, but perfectly attuned for best effect in harmony with surroundings.

Not totally obstructive but a reminder that forethought is required at this location.

Possibly forgiving, but only if given respect and understanding.

Stern and unrelenting if treated with disregard and rough handling.

Proactive in standing firm in the face of adversity however harsh that might be.



I am constantly visiting the past in an attempt to make sense of the present and find it increasingly difficult to reconcile man's inhumanity to man as greed and anger, perceived poverty and actual persecution, social media scandals and selfish actions take precedence over the well being of the world.

I acknowledge we have been on the brink of destruction before and managed to escape annihilation in Britain by the skin of our teeth, but this time the world is on fire and time is running out. Please pay attention to that barbed wire fence and note the way you can safely see through it, and over it, making advances without fear or favour, not necessarily getting involved but, at least aware of the opposite side and being considerate. None of us are owed a standard of living without making some effort to contribute to the nurture of others

whoever they are. Be prepared to weather storms trusting in firm foundations of faith. Just like that barbed wire fence, stay strong. Use discretion, act fairly and with a focus on a favourable future for all, animal, vegetable and mineral.. Then, we, and all nature, species, habitats under ground and overground, high in the sky and deep in the seas, just might survive. Everybody and every action matters.

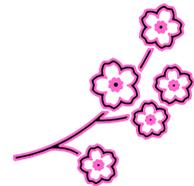


May Acrostics..... *by Sally Hayward*

Moving on from
April, May begins
Yester years remain in our thought's today

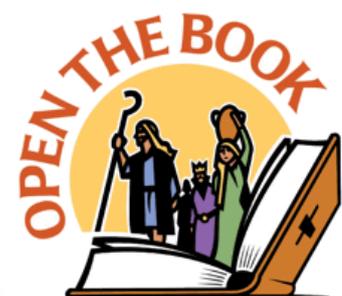


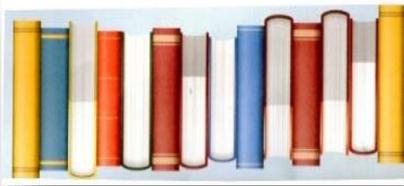
May we are
Almost halfway through another
Year already



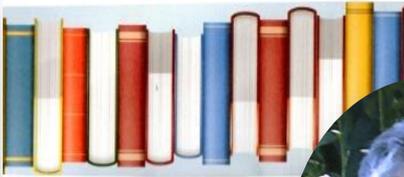
May 2nd election
And we make our decision who to choose for the council.
Your choice will be the right one I am sure.

On Sunday 21st April, the service of the word celebrated the Open the Book with a story about Jesus calming the storm when they were in the boat which also celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Royal Lifeboat Institution.





ST JAMES BOOK STALL



The **FREE BOOKS** stall had a good month in April and we have now been given £1,500 this year so far.

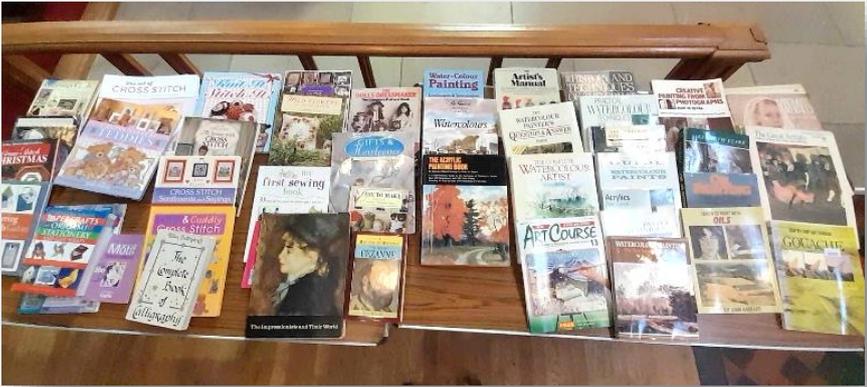


How about improving your creative skills this summer. We have a large selection of quality Art and Craft books. Come and check them out – they are **ALL ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

If you have any books you wish to donate, please bring them along. They can be left in church any morning.

We hold the stall every Saturday morning between 9.00am and 12.00pm and have over 2,000 books to give away. No charge and no catches but you can leave a donation if you wish.

With so many books to put out and pack away every week we would appreciate any help you can give us. Nothing heavy, just taking books out of or putting into boxes.



We set up on Friday in St James church every Friday at 4.00pm and pack away on Saturdays at 12.00pm.

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Years Mind in May

Betty Evans 2020, Joan Smith 2023, Philip Bazeley 2016,
Margaret Atkinson 2022
James Houghton, Marjorie Selman 2016, Dave Fittall 2021
Gwen Thomas 2020, Kathleen Woodward 2003
Florence Tavender 1999, Cicely Weaving 2022,
Emily Houghton 2001, Bryan Auger 2011, Kathleen Foster 2021
Aaron Woollam 1981, Joyce Staddon 2006, Marian Harrold 2010
Doreen Beardsley 2017, Ojars Zamkevics 2008,
James Exell 1999, Kathleen Miles 2017, Eric Averiss 2021
Mary Joseph 2005, Gillian Davis 2022, Eric Hinder 2000
Terry Hodge 2014, Ursula Woodward 2000, Sydney Walker 2003
Pixie McVicar 2020, Tom Ryan 2003, Arthur Skinner 1998
Barbara Halford 2019.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.



We share our thoughts and prayers with the families of those who mourn the loss of those they love.

FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY

May 5th and 12th

High Altar	Marion Paisey
Tanner Chapel	Anne Shipton
Lady Chapel	Sandra Longstreth

May 19th & 26th

High Altar	Kate Sant
Tanner Chapel	Chris Raffle
Lady Chapel	Ann Orchard



PENTECOST (May 19th)

Pulpit	Valerie Meares
Font	Sarah Hodge
Nave Pillar	Glenys Muir
Hymnbook chest	Cynthia Martin
Porch	Sheila Gardner

100 CLUB

100 club draws for April 2024.

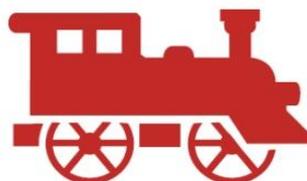
1st - 120 - Margaret Lloyd

2nd - 160 - Peggy Norris

3rd - 144 - Clare White

Many Thanks from Sarah.

**DURSLEY C_{of}E
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Mrs Toni Holford-Wright – Principal

Dursley CofE Academy,
School Road,
Dursley,
GL11 4NZ

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For more information

Contact Barbara Weldon

07816 533206

email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com

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St James Church is open each day
between 9.30am and 12 noon.

Useful Telephone Numbers

TO BOOK THE PARISH CENTRE.

Clare White Tel: 549280

E-mail: ewelmebenefice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS

Elizabeth Byrne Tel: 543536.

100 CLUB

Sarah Hodge Tel: 545155



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