

October 2020

Autumn Note from the Editors	2
Foreword	3
Prayer for October	6
Music Notes.....	6
From the Registers.....	6
The Wonder of Winchcombe....	8
Joy.....	10
Ozymandias	14
The Mayflower Story	15
Future Events.....	20
Dame Julian of Norwich	21
Commotio	22
Tower Illumination Request.....	23
Gardening in Lockdown.....	24
St Peter's Charitable Giving:.....	26
Winchcombe Open Gardens.....	29
The Children's Society	30
The Winchcombe Banners:	31
Eco Church – an update.....	33
St Peter's Maintenance Day 14 November 2020	35

Winchcombe Parish Magazine is available at 50p, or £5.00 by annual subscription for ten issues (£15.00 by post). If you would like to subscribe, please contact Sara Collins: email lesandsara.collins@live.co.uk

Views expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the church leadership or other church members.

Autumn Note from the Editors

Dear Readers

It's good to welcome you to our autumn edition of the Parish Magazine and hope that you continue to find our articles thought-provoking, interesting, and entertaining. We have heard that you have been pleased to have the copies of last month's magazine in your hands again (rather than just on-line) and have loved the bumper edition and colour throughout!

We're always glad to have feedback and we would appreciate it even more so that we can gauge whether we can continue in this style, as costs are more expensive now. Our magazine has not increased in price for years so we would like to know if you would like to keep it going in this extended way and in colour and would be prepared to pay more. We don't make a profit; all the contributors and compilers are volunteers, but we do have to pay our way! Please let us know what you think and even how much you might be willing to pay for a copy. Please send feedback to magazine@winchcombeparish.org.uk or phone one of the editors, whose numbers are given on the inside cover.

Happy reading and we hope to hear from you soon!

The Editorial team



Jo Rees

Lynne Horton

Jennie Davies

Cathy Wilcock

The magazine is also available online at St Peter's website
<https://www.winchcombeparish.org.uk/winchcombe-parish/monthly-church-magazine>

Foreword

October – harvest, Covid19 and the ice caps

Did you notice during the hot weather that in the evening you could have the light on and the door open but no moths or flies came in? Harvest festivals used to be held in October and churches were decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables



galore, all from local gardens and fields. Now the harvest is over weeks earlier and churches, if they celebrate harvest, often have only very token decorations. Should thanksgiving for harvest and creation be lightly passed over?

Are we not any longer the sons and daughters of creation and totally dependent on it for our physical well-being?

Earlier harvests and the decline in moth and insect life are part of the change we are living through – it includes the thawing of the polar ice caps, the pollution of the sea with plastic, deforestation, and extremes in weather fluctuation. We are dangerously close to treating our environment with such casual ruthlessness that many scientists are talking about the threat to life on our planet.



The Covid19 pandemic, which has caused and is causing so much suffering and dislocation worldwide, seems to have started in a Chinese market. Some people have responded to it by asking why does God allow it? Similarly, we could ask why does God allow the thawing of the ice caps?

Well, does God allow it? Why mention God? The change that is happening is a consequence of human behaviour. We are free to use our time, energies and skills as we choose. Having the freedom to say 'no' to God and to ignore the clues or directions about human behaviour God has given us is part of the freedom that makes us the people we are. Without that freedom we would no longer be human. But freedom involves responsibility: responsibility about how we use our environment, how we care for each other, how we use our time, skills and energies. We are kidding ourselves if we think God will step in to right the wrongs that humans have caused. There is no evidence to suggest that God does what we can do for ourselves.



The point was almost proved during the early phase of lock down. There was less traffic and people could breathe relatively clear air on previously busy city streets; less noise meant that people heard bird song; community caring and good neighbourliness flourished; the canals in Venice became transparent; almost

unbelievably, a river in India was declared fit for human consumption; churches discovered that with a bit of applied imagination they could be in touch with many more people than usually attend church. If these changes point in the direction of ecological responsibility, the question is raised how can economic responsibility match ecological responsibility?

Give thanks for God in creation and to God for giving us light for our paths. But don't blame God when we should be pointing a finger at ourselves. I am not expecting God to answer the economic conundrum either.

John Sutcliffe

The Front Cover

Our front cover features a painted pebble by an unknown artist.

If you would like to have your photograph on the front of our magazine, please submit it and it may well be chosen particularly if it's a colourful, seasonal picture of Winchcombe!



Our Parish Magazine



We welcome any contributions to our magazine but **please remember to send them to us by the 10th of each month, using "Word"**. Unfortunately, copy submitted after this date will not be able to be included until the following month.

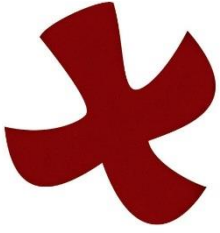
The Editorial Team would welcome any suggestions, ideas or contributions. Contact us at magazine@winchcombeparish.org or speak to one of the team.

www.winchcombeparish.org.uk

Visit our website for weekly bulletin, forthcoming events, church calendar, music at St Peter's and much more.

Selected services at St Peter's can now be heard via <https://myradiostream.com/winchstpeters>

Prayer for October



O Risen Christ,
you breathe your Holy Spirit upon us
like a gentle breeze
and tell us 'Peace be yours'.
Opening ourselves to your peace,
letting it penetrate the harsh and rocky ground
of our hearts,
means preparing ourselves to be bearers of
reconciliation wherever you may place us.
But you know that at times we are at a loss.
So come and lead us to wait in silence,
to let a ray of hope shine through our world.
Amen.

Brother Roger of Taizé

From the Registers

Weddings

Thomas David Smith and Carys Lorna Mary Brown

Funerals

Tracey Jane Stephens

Music Notes



As I write in early September, it is good to be off “furlough” and able to think again about music in St Peter’s.

The guidance from the Government, the bishops and the RSCM is developing almost day by day, but by the time you read this I hope that we will have some choral music, as has recently started to happen in cathedrals and larger churches in England.

The last few months have been a strange and worrying time for many, especially professional musicians who have performance in their DNA and need to play or sing to earn a living. It is easy to dwell on what we have lost – the concerts that never took place, the cathedral visits that were cancelled and overseas trips that could not go ahead – but we must look forward and think what we might be able to achieve with the resources at our disposal, and how we might adapt to the environment in which we now live.

Although “furlough” prevented us from undertaking any official duties, Shelley and I did keep in touch with our friends in the choir, and I know that they are keen to sing again as soon as that is possible. We need to undertake risk assessments and make sure that there is adequate provision for social distancing, track and trace etc.



J S Bach



Charles-Marie Widor



Jean Langlais

I have been able to practise the organ since June and enjoyed the chance to learn some music by Bach, Widor and Langlais. I purposefully set myself a challenge and I will need to do some more work before I dare play the pieces in public, but I hope the time will come.

Sadly, in August we learned of the death of Alan Bee; Alan sang bass and his late wife Marjorie sang soprano and they were both loyal supporters of the choir. On a happier note, Carys Brown (daughter of Fiona and Melvin) was able to marry Tom Smith in church at a small family celebration on 29th August. And we look forward to welcoming Tara Turner's baby (due mid-September) – hopefully a treble in the making!

Andrew Horton – Joint director of music

The Wonder of Winchcombe....

Just a quick “thank you” to all the nice people who have put surplus produce outside their homes – beans, apples, tomatoes – for us lucky passers-by to take home.

A kind thought that is very much appreciated, and yet again, shows us what a lovely community we live in. Please, keep gardening!

Jo Rees





British Bespoke Auctions

www.bespokeauctions.co.uk

Monthly sales of Jewellery, Silver, Collectables, Porcelain, Paintings,
Medals, Coins, Stamps & Furniture



Sapphire & Diamond Ring
SOLD FOR £6200



18ct Gold Coin Bracelet
SOLD FOR £2200



Art Deco Natural Yellow
Sapphire & Diamond Ring
SOLD FOR £2800



19th Century Chinese
Silver Rose Bowl
SOLD FOR £1000

FREE AUCTION VALUATIONS EVERY FRIDAY FROM 9.30 - 4.30 AND 2ND & 3RD
SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11.00 - 3.00

Bespoke House, Gretton Road, Winchcombe, Cheltenham GL545EE
Tel. 01242 603005, please send all emails to admin@bespokeauctions.co.uk

EXPERIENCE
WINCHCOMBE

Experience Winchcombe

Visit our town website for information
on local businesses, community news and events.

The website is run and funded by
Winchcombe Together, a non-profit
association that promotes the town and
supports community initiatives and groups.

www.winchcombe.co.uk

Contact us by email: info@winchcombe.co.uk

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.

Joy

Joy in music, of course, is a "truth universally acknowledged." Nowhere is this more evident than in Ludwig van Beethoven's 9th and final symphony, composed between 1822-1824. The great oeuvre is setting to music the words of Friedrich Schiller, a stimulating friend of Goethe, who wrote his "An die Freude", (Ode to Joy) in 1785.

The symphony had its premiere in Vienna on May 7th, 1824: it was the first time Beethoven had appeared on stage in 12 years. At the end of the performance it is said that the great composer continued conducting, even though the music had ended. The ecstatic audience, well aware of the Maestro's poor health and hearing, in addition to their applause, threw hats and scarves into the air with joy. The symphony was the first to include the human voice, a major turning point for classical music.



In 1985 the "Ode to Joy" was adopted as the Anthem of Europe, and it remains so today, despite all the EU's vicissitudes. Its words refer to joy as the bright spark of divinity, an abiding friendship, and a tried ally to the end. On April 17th this year, members of the National Youth Orchestra all threw open their windows and

front doors to play the great work, inspiring the nation to rejoice in Beethoven's music, which has community and joy at its heart, representing, as it so memorably does, the triumph of universal brotherhood over strife, despair and desperation. The modern hymn, "Sing to God in joy and gladness" is, of course, a newer version of the hallowed words and harmonies.

And joy is not unknown to the Psalms, of course! Psalm 30 encourages:

*"Heaviness may endure for a night
But joy cometh in the morning"...*

Psalm 35 promises:

"My soul shall be joyful in The Lord"...

and Psalm 126 assures us:

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

St. Francis of Assisi's prayer is surely a favourite for many of us, with its gentle plea:

"Lord, let me be an instrument of thy peace; where there is sadness, let me bring joy."

Isaiah 61 says simply:

"My soul rejoices in the Lord",

and, in his Gospel, John repeats Jesus' words:

"Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Finally, in the scriptures St. Paul, writing in the direst of straits, just as we are now, gives much-needed encouragement with the words...

"in all troubles, my joy knows no bounds."

I think we can all do with such depth of belief...

But, for all that we look forward to the return to "normality," and the joy we long for that to bring, it must be admitted that joy cannot be guaranteed, or summoned up just when we need it.

On the contrary, it is a gift. To my mind joy is not dissimilar to grace, that most intangible and inexplicable state, that is impossible to define....neither joy nor grace can be saved up for, (as was the case with Green Shield stamps for those of us of a certain age!). To me, joy and grace are ineffably simple, and yet they run unequivocally deep... Both have a fine character of their own, which we can anticipate, but, as my friend, Lorraine, has pointed out, we can in no way expect:

expectation carries a sense of demand, of what is owed to us, and that is not part of their glittering retinue.

Joy, I believe, springs from a settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of our lives, and the quiet confidence that, ultimately, everything is going to be all right... The joy that Christ came to bring is from outside this world. This joy is like no other kind in history. It is the very joy that Jesus has in God the Father for all eternity, as He says in John 15:11 - *"I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* This side of heaven, I believe we have glimpses, or tasters, of this ultimately indestructible joy; on the other side, we hope that joy will be more than a glimpse, or a taster! As has been said, death is a port, whereby we pass to joy...

Meantime, as we soldier on, joy is still for us one of the fruits of the spirit, along with love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (It always seems odd to me that we do not know the great Virtues as well as The Seven Deadly Sins - I'm sure that says something about our society!). Even in our lockdown state, perhaps particularly in this state, we can take real joy in the phone-call from a mate of long ago; a rainbow; magnolia trees in rampant bloom; apple blossom, the sudden burst of rhubarb and custard-coloured poppies, or the sight of a golden hare in a field of corn.



To conclude, I feel joy is impossible to define; it is easier to acknowledge its presence, and we all have our own experience of what joy means to us, even if we have not experienced it so much of late. The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran, says: *"When the rhythms of life are disrupted, drink in those joys around us."*

And so when the sun turns inside out, as it is now, we are not deprived of joy, though I must add a coda here for all those who have lost someone dear to them; for them joy will be a long way away, and we must pray for these dear folk, their families, and the departed...

To quote Marcus Aurelius, and here I am again indebted to John the Scottish groom: *"What's in the way, is the way?"* We have to face that, and with courage, for without pain, how can we know joy? I am touched by the line: *"The most wasted of days is the one without laughter."* I leave you with three last phrases that I hope will cheer you:

"On our journey, the mere sense of living is joy enough." - Emily Dickinson

"Where there is love, there will be joy." - Mother Teresa, and the slightly unusual:

"Comparison is the thief of joy." - Theodore Roosevelt.

Joy is unique, it is to be savoured, it is never guaranteed, but it is infinitely precious. Positively the final (!) word should perhaps go to The Romantics, who in many ways put joy on the map. Let us hope and pray that one day not too far distant, we can join with Byron and *"Let joy be unconfined."*.... and realise for ourselves what John Keats meant when he wrote: *"In the deep power of joy, we see into the heart of things."* I am convinced that is why we are on this planet...

God bless you all.

And do, please, come back to me on any ideas, thoughts, questions, disagreements(!) etc!

Chris Haslam

Ozymandias

Shelley wrote this sonnet in 1817 in a friendly competition with his friend and fellow poet Horace Smith. Their poems may have been inspired by the planned arrival in London of a statue of Ramesses II, and the thoughts of the inevitable decline of rulers with their pretensions to greatness possibly allude to Napoleon, by then imprisoned on St Helena. Although we might see more modern parallels...

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Peter Bysshe Shelley



The Mayflower Story

'MAYFLOWER400' - COMMEMORATING THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYFLOWER

A WINCHCOMBE OPPORTUNITY - INVITE TO AN ONLINE WEBINAR

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10:30

From Peter O'Sullivan, Winchcombe /
TPeterOSullivan@hotmail.com



We invite you to register for this free online webinar; offered to Winchcombe residents.

If interested, please email me (email address above). Thank you. Peter

The use of your email will comply with data protection, GDPR protocol; to be used only for expressing interest in, and registering for, this opportunity. It will then be deleted.

In 1620, in the reign of King James I, the *Mayflower* sailed from Southampton to North America, with a group of English puritans, accompanied by London merchant adventurers seeking economic opportunities.

The puritans were religious separatists, pilgrims fleeing from persecution and seeking freedom to worship without the Roman Catholic practices and rituals still in continuing use in the Church of England. In 1608 some of the puritans had first migrated to Leiden in Holland where there was greater religious tolerance. In 1620, travelling by way of England, they set sail with other puritans and Merchant Adventurers, and servants, to 'The New World'. Leaving Southampton on 16th September, *Mayflower* was accompanied by the *Speedwell* which ended its journey in Plymouth after taking on water; *Speedwell's* passengers transferred to the *Mayflower*.

After a gruelling ten-week trans-Atlantic crossing, the overcrowded *Mayflower* (with 102 passengers including about thirty children) reached America on November 11th 1620; dropping anchor in what we now know as Cape Cod, New England.

The migrants had planned to land in the summer of 1620, and to establish a settlement in what is now Virginia. Arriving further north in November they faced a harsh winter from which only half of the party survived. Help from indigenous peoples to learn food-gathering and other survival skills saved the colony from complete demise.

Whilst on their journey across The Atlantic, the travellers created, and signed, The *Mayflower* Compact; an agreement to establish a rudimentary form of democracy, in which each member agreed to contribute to the safety and welfare of the planned settlement. An embryonic American Constitution? In 1621 the 'Plimouth' colonists, with indigenous peoples, celebrated their first harvest; this is thought to be the origin of America's Thanksgiving festival.



The *Mayflower* and the Plimouth colony were the beginning of 'The Great Migration'. Between 1620 and 1640 about 20,000 puritans, and others, migrated from England to North America. These are founding influences in the story of America, with historical and topical relevance to America and to the shaping of a different Britain.

THE *MAYFLOWER*400 COMMEMORATION, THE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE & DVD

*Mayflower*400 commemorations (in England, America and Holland) are largely on hold owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, our project has maintained its momentum.

Peter O'Sullivan, who recently moved from near Southampton to Winchcombe, and Adrian Moss (research and digital media lead) have engaged historians, academics, subject-matter experts and descendants of *Mayflower* passengers to create an online and digital experience.

Peter and Adrian are offering to residents of Winchcombe an opportunity, through a free online talk, to engage with, and increase their knowledge of, the back-story and narrative of the *Mayflower* and its relevance to today's 'migration' experiences and geo-politics; and to learn about the making of the *Mayflower*400 digital experience.

Adrian will, in the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* journey, narrate and illustrate this story and back-story. He will draw on extensive research, interviews and *Mayflower* heritage location shoots, including one connection in Winchcombe. He will also offer insights into the making of *The Mayflower*400 digital project and DVD.

Before, during, and after, the webinar, you will have opportunity to ask questions to which Adrian will offer (or agree to seek) answers. You will also be able to purchase, at a special rate, a copy of a DVD box-set created by the project.

Thank you for your interest

Peter O'Sullivan, *Mayflower*400;

TPeterOSullivan@hotmail.com, 07710035722

Adrian Moss, *Mayflower*400 & Director of Focus Business Communications Limited

adrian.moss@focusbiz.co.uk, 0800 246 5657

Winchcombe Garage

- M.O.T Testing
- Servicing & Repairs to all makes of car

BROADWAY ROAD, WINCHCOMBE

Tel: 01242 603299



Chorley's

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

Free & friendly expert advice

Regular art & antiques auctions

Insurance & probate valuations

Unlimited parking, stunning views
& a café with lovely cakes!

01452 344499

enquiries@chorleys.com

www.chorleys.com

PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK GL4 8EU



**gas
safe**
REGISTER
203195

- Repairs
- Servicing
- Installation of Central Heating
- All Gas Appliances
- Plumbing
- Gas Safe Registered

***Local Friendly Central Heating
& Plumbing Engineer***

Tel: 01242 620634

Mobile: 07879 611614

Stephen Arkell



Design, Planning, Building, Decorating
and Renovation Specialist

Tel: 01242 603438

Mobile: 07976 425534

www.cotswoldrenovations.com

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.

ROBERT SHACKLETON

HEATING AND PLUMBING ENGINEER

TEL: 01242 602115

GAS SAFETY REGISTERED 16060 & MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF PLUMBING

CERTIFIED INSTALLER OF SOLAR AND UNVENTED HOT WATER SYSTEMS

WORCESTER BOSCH ACCREDITED INSTALLER

Email: rob.shackleton@btinternet.com

Over 25 years experience working in the Winchcombe area



Sudeley Castle

Join us for a year of action-packed events,
seasonal colours and delicious menus.

Open daily from 10 February 2020.



If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.

Future Events

Please join us at this year's

Annual Parish Meetings

Date: - Sunday, 18th October 2020

Time: - 11.30 am (following the 10.30 service)

Place: - St Peter's Church

At these meetings we will be electing 2 Churchwardens and 5 new members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and 4 Deanery Synod representatives.

If you would like to know more about any of these roles, please speak to Simon Andrews or Rob Stone; nomination forms are in Church.

St Peter's Maintenance Day is scheduled for 14 November 2020. Further details are on page 35.

Sadly, owing to the continuing uncertainty caused by Covid 19 some events have had to be cancelled.

The ***Children's Society*** has had to cancel their annual Charingworth Christmas Concert. However, the Box Collection, which is being co-ordinated by Gill Worthington, is going ahead and Christmas cards will be on sale from the Building Society this year.

The concert by ***Octavo*** scheduled for 4 December 2020 has been cancelled until further notice (watch this space!).

Dame Julian of Norwich

"All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well".....

A well-known quotation, and extremely welcome at this time – but how many of us know its origin? This reassurance came from Dame Julian, or Juliana, an anchorite who lived in Norwich during the Middle Ages.

What is an anchorite, you may ask? Well, it's someone who chooses to withdraw from secular society, to lead a very ascetic, prayer-based life. People still do it, in the twenty first century, for many and varied reasons.

We know nothing of Dame Julian's life before she entered her cell, but at the age of thirty, she became so ill that she was near death. During this time, she received visions, or "shewings" of the Passion of Christ, and she transcribed them into *Revelations of Divine Love*, the first book ever written in English by a woman. What a beacon for the emancipation of women, at a time of St Paul's dictum that "*women should remain silent in the churches*"!

Norwich at that time was suffering greatly, from poverty, famine, and plague, so it was a very difficult time to express a message about God's goodness. Her message was constantly one of hope and trust, that "*all shall be well*".

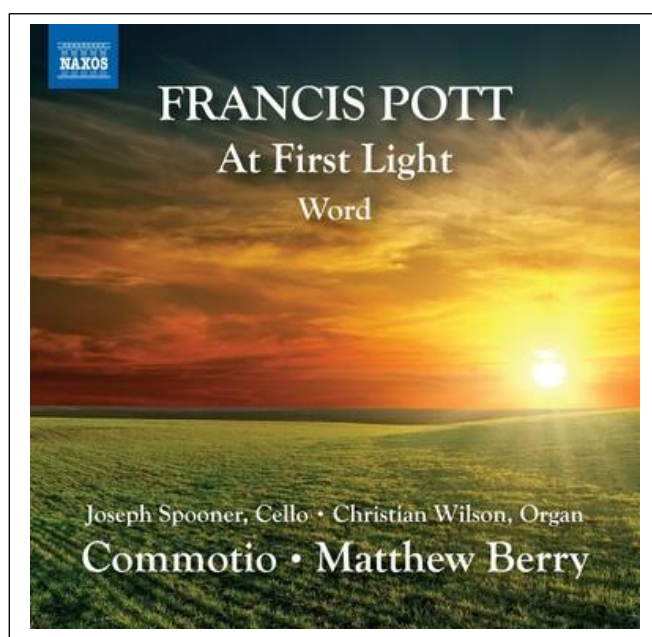
Many centuries on, pilgrims from all over the world visit her shrine in Norwich. Modern writers such as Iris Murdoch, and T S Eliot, reference her - you may recall him using our title quote, in the *Four Quartets*. Her message that everything that exists comes from God, and so is right, must surely give us strength in every difficult time.

Jo Rees

Commotio

Regular attenders of concerts at St Peter's may remember an excellent concert a year or so ago given by the Oxford based choral group Commotio directed by Matthew Berry. Sadly, they are of course unable to perform publicly at the moment, but they have produced a new CD which may be of interest.

This is the group's seventh CD – a project with Francis Pott, Joseph Spooner and Christian Wilson – on the Naxos label released in July. The CD features a cantata 'Word' setting the texts of R S Thomas, and a Requiem for Cello and Choir 'At First Light'.



Every now and then you hear a new work and feel that excitement, the knowledge that here is a piece that is going to become part of the landscape. Rooted in tradition but with a voice of its own, immediately appealing but refusing to reveal everything at first listen, Francis Pott's At First Light – recorded here for the first time by the Oxford-based chamber choir Commotio – is one such piece —

Gramophone Magazine, September 2020

Friends of St Peter's Church Winchcombe

Registered Charity 1046434

Tower Illumination Request

Date(s) requested

Occasion(s):

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email: Telephone:

Donation (£5 minimum per evening) £.....cash or cheque to "Friends of St Peter's Church Winchcombe". Please read below and sign and return this slip with your remittance to St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street, Winchcombe, GL54 5LU, at least two weeks before the requested date.

Please tick as appropriate

☐ *I would like this to be an annual occurrence*

Please contact me to arrange.

☐ *I am a UK taxpayer and assent to the Gift Aid declaration below*

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income Tax/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6 April – 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT or Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signed:..... Date:

Notes:

- In exceptional circumstances the Friends' Committee reserve the right to decline a request.*
- Dates are not exclusive and in the event of more than one request for a particular date the later applicant will, where practicable, be informed and may be offered an alternative.*

Gardening in Lockdown

For many people, gardens have been a sanctuary in this troubled year. Even my 30-year-old son, who had never previously wielded a trowel in anger, has been making something of his unpromising London backyard. For keen gardeners, the lockdown was a blessing. I spend most of my life writing about other people's gardens, but forced for a period into not very premature retirement, I was able to focus fully on mine.

It has been a year in which nature seemed to take flight. Summer nudged spring out of the way, as if too impatient to hang around while early treasures were displayed. Roses opened before the tulips were over, my purple lilac flowered well



before the end of April, and the jewel-like autumn-flowering cyclamen, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, appeared by mid-August. Throughout the year, the garden has been supercharged, almost as if it is determined to push on through summer and into autumn ahead of time.

Being in lockdown and unable to get out to nurseries forced me to husband what I had. While so much else came and went at breakneck speed, the winter-flowering pansies, planted last October, are still flowering thanks to daily deadheading. Most years, they would have been overlooked in my absence and then pulled up to be replaced by summer bedding.

There have been tiny brushes with normality when I have found plants left outside by kind fellow gardeners. Gifts have included a *Cobaea scandens*, now covering an arch with its purple cup and saucer flowers;

seedlings of *Nicotiana sylvestris*, a lovely late summer flowerer that does well even in a shady corner; and a red aloha, with detailed growing instructions on the lollystick label. All have been a reminder of the more regular plant exchanges that are usually a feature of gardening in Winchcombe.



The garden became all the more important when the tightest restrictions were lifted because it was there we were able to meet with friends. Mostly, we've been lucky and eaten out in sunshine, but on one memorable day we sat at separate tables under a gazebo watching the rain pummel the phlox in the nearby border.

Already the bulb catalogues have arrived with their alluringly colourful photographs. I have ordered some 700 bulbs – daffodils, tulips, alliums and dainty cerise *Gladiolus byzantinus* – for a peak on 24 April when I hope to open the garden for the National Garden Scheme. Wallflowers sown in July are now



leafing up nicely, in purple, white, red and gold to match the colour schemes planned for the tulips. I am sowing seeds (two different sorts of ammi, cerinthes, achilleas, echiums and pansies) and taking cuttings of penstemons, pelargoniums and

salvias, both for my garden, but also to sell on the garden open day. That's the joy of gardening. In uncertain times, it offers promise for the future.

Vanessa Berridge

St Peter's Charitable Giving:

John Sutcliffe convenes a group that recommends to the PCC a list of charities to be supported in the forthcoming year, and the proportion of the total sum available to be given to each. This year the PCC agreed to the suggestion that each charity might be the subject of an article in the magazine. This month John writes about USPG.



The USPG -United Society Partners in the Gospel- is the oldest Church of England Missionary Society, founded in 1701.

The Society describes its work as being to enliven faith and rethink mission; to strengthen relationships between churches and countries; to unlock the potential of people; and to champion justice. Under this last heading it has particular concerns about the environment, gender injustice, the future of migrants and the forced displacement of people.

The Society works in: three European countries, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Guyana, 15 African countries and in the Middle East. The following examples are a selection of the Society's involvement:

The dioceses of Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and the two dioceses in Sierra Leone have all suffered from civil war and, more recently, from the effects of Ebola which shattered their economies. The Society supports communities with initiatives for income generation, vocational training, agricultural programmes, self-help groups, and micro-finance. It has a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as children, youth, women and those with HIV.



Church of the Province of Myanmar – Diocese of Mandalay

In Myanmar (previously known as Burma) the current focus is on training volunteer health workers to reach out to remote rural areas of the country, and is particularly involved with isolated and marginalised communities. The health challenges in Myanmar are immense, and in many parts of the country trained volunteers are a community's only access to healthcare. Myanmar, ranked 145th on the United Nation's Human Development Index of 187 countries, still has one of the world's most under-resourced healthcare systems. This is especially so in rural areas – home to 70 per cent of the population – where access to health facilities for ordinary people is extremely rare. USPG has worked in Pakistan ever since the inception of the Church of Pakistan. Its major role in a country often known for strong antipathies between faith communities, has been in supporting leadership development, mainly at the St Thomas Theological College. Currently there are 40 men and women training for a variety of ministries. The women cannot be ordained but serve in Christian Education and other local work.

The Anglican Church in Ghana is growing rapidly and also needs help in the training of priests and lay leaders. USPG is supporting integrated health projects in the Dioceses of Cape Coast and Sunyani. These projects have an integrated strategy for tackling malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea and HIV-prevention. In the Dioceses of Ashanti Mampong and Sekondi, the Society supports projects that aim to tackle poverty through livelihood initiatives. These initiatives include supporting vulnerable groups with financial support for small and medium income generation and cattle farming enterprises.

Life on Sri Lanka's (Ceylon's) tea plantations can be very challenging. The pickers –always women– work in all weathers, on dangerously slippery hillsides, standing among bushes that are home to snakes, leeches and even wild boar. There are often few medical facilities. If a worker is unwell and takes time off to visit a clinic, their wages, which are already low, are reduced. As a result people often go without treatment, which means they suffer more.

The Society is a supporter of the work of the Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM), which was set up by the Church of Ceylon to give backing to tea plantation workers. ECDM is there for all plantation workers, irrespective of religion, caste or ethnicity. In particular, the organisation wants to help empower women and children through grass roots women's groups, nurseries and schools. The Society also backs the church in its advocacy work with plantation communities to seek legal rights for tea workers and their families.

The Magazine could be filled with examples of the Society's work, transforming the lives of very many people. Here you have just a tiny sample. It is work in which, through your giving and the giving of the Church, you are involved.

John Sutcliffe

Winchcombe Open Gardens

Despite the unseasonably wet afternoon it was a happy occasion to eventually present Virtual Open Gardens winners Mary and Barry Roberts with their Garden Centre voucher. Thanks to Major Tom and Mrs Rosemary Hancock for their generous prize donation, and also to Mrs Jules Redgers for her logistical and organisational support.



Rosemary Hancock presenting winners Mary and Barry Roberts with their prize.



Thanks again to Mark Tsakarisianos and the staff of Gotherington Nurseries who judged all the photographic entries.

If you would like to visit the winning garden please see details on the National Garden Scheme website:

The presentation has wrapped-up 2020's event and despite the unusual circumstances it proved to be very popular. It may only be September but many of us are already sowing seeds and planning for next spring and beyond ... so please consider joining in again next summer. Hopefully we will be able to physically visit a wide selection of our wonderful gardens!

Please contact me if you would like to be involved!

Rosie Green

Winchcombe Open Gardens Lead

Mobile: +44 (0)7757 667672

Home email: rosie@rosieandpaul.co.uk

The Children's Society



As with all other charities, the Children's Society has been unable to put on any fund-raising events over the past few months. Planning for the future too, at present, is difficult. The committee is very mindful of the fact that the Society's work with the young and vulnerable must continue. To this end some of us met recently with Roseann Thompson, our Relationship Manager - in a garden, and socially distanced! She gave us a comprehensive update of how Covid 19 has affected the Society, both from a financial point of view, and the increased needs of children and young people. She was also very keen to encourage us to think ahead to when we are able, once again, to fund-raise. In September, there will be revised directives as to ways in which we can safely proceed, together with lots of alternative fund-raising ideas. So we are looking forward to 'thinking outside the box' and hopefully being able to organise events as soon as possible. Watch this space!

Meanwhile, regrettably, we have had to cancel our annual Charingworth Christmas Concert. This will be much missed by many people. The Box Collection, which is being co-ordinated by Gill Worthington, is going ahead. Christmas cards will be on sale from the Building Society this year.

Please keep the work of The Children's Society in mind during these difficult times. Perhaps you could consider giving a donation to their cause in place of attending a coffee morning, buying a raffle ticket, or singing carols.

Thank you.

Margaret Carter (Chairperson)

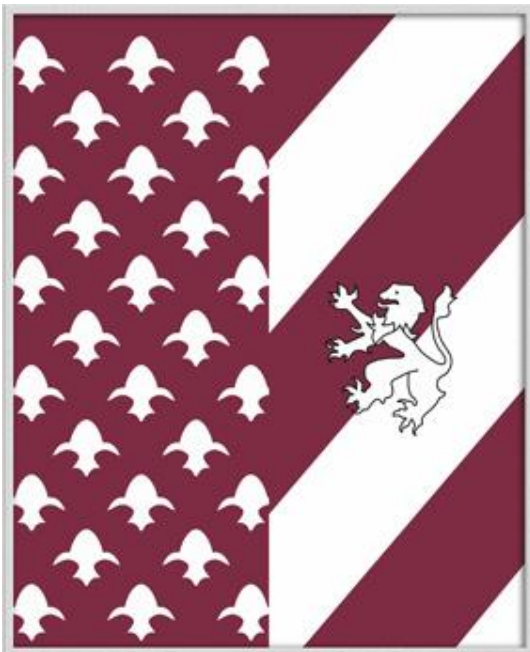
The Winchcombe Banners:

Our spirits were all cheered this summer, when so much was against us, to see the lovely colourful banners adorning North Street and High Street. The four designs are:

Ralph Boteler: Boteler was a military commander and Member of the King's Household under both Henry V and VI. He was made a Knight of the Garter and created Baron Sudeley by King Henry VI, in 1440. Boteler built Sudeley Castle in 1442 on its present site using his spoils from The Hundred Years War with France. St. Mary's Chapel and the Tithe Barn were also built at this time. He also aided the parishioners of Winchcombe to restore their Parish Church, St Peter's. Boteler was appointed Treasurer of the Exchequer and High Treasurer of England in 1443.



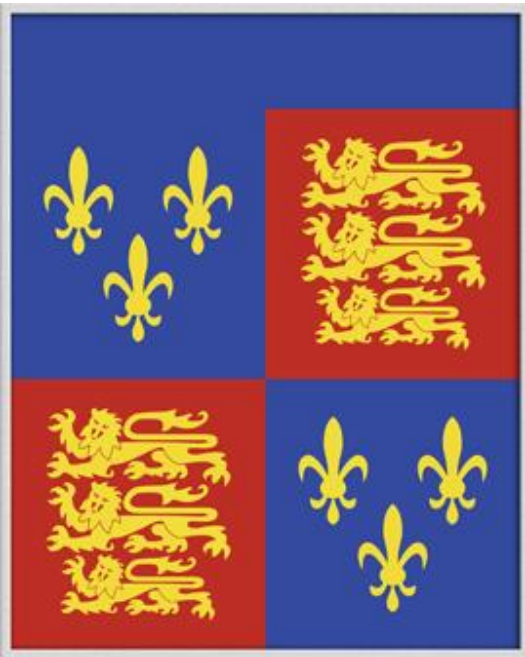
As Boteler was a Lancastrian supporter he was forced to sell Sudeley Castle to the King, Edward IV when the House of York came to power in 1469.



John Brydges: 1st Baron Chandos was an English courtier, Member of Parliament and later peer. He was a prominent figure at the English court during the reigns of Kings Henry VIII, Edward VI and Queen Mary. In his role as Lieutenant of the Tower, he attended Lady Jane Grey on the scaffold at her death. In 1554 Mary I created him Baron Chandos of Sudeley and his descendants held Sudeley Castle for the next hundred years.



The Tudor Rose: A traditional floral heraldic emblem of England and takes its name and origins from the House of Tudor, which united the House of Lancaster and the House of York.



Winchcombe: Adapted by Henry IV from Charles VI of France when Henry claimed the throne for himself from Richard II. The modern design of only three fleur-de-lys, instead of the older ancient design of wallpaper-style flowers, was in reference to the holy trinity and underlined the connection of royalty to divinity. This same coat of arms was used (apart from an eccentric departure by Henry VI) right up to the end of Elizabeth I's reign and was the last English coat of arms before the Union with Scotland and Ireland.

We are indebted to Phil Parker and Winchcombe Town Council, who supply and erect the banners each summer. Yet another aspect of the Wonder of Winchcombe!

Jo Rees

Eco Church – an update

You are certainly forgiven if you have forgotten all about Eco Church at St Peter's! Only very few of you received the printed edition of our April magazine where we introduced the project; for the majority, you will have had the chance to read about Eco Church only in that online edition, with a linked follow-up to the charity behind the Eco Church movement, A Rocha, in our online June magazine. It all feels like a long time ago now!

Like everyone else, our group has been unable to move forward much since lockdown, but we have managed to take the first steps towards creating a wild flower meadow in the churchyard. We had a socially-distanced meeting in the churchyard in August with the very helpful Ian Humphries (in charge of the churchyard grass cutting) at which Lynn (our leader) produced a spray paint like magic from her bag and quickly outlined the agreed space. Since then, that area has been mown and awaits the scarifying necessary before we can sow any wild flower seed. Meanwhile, members of our group are finding out about a possible small grant for this work, and are busy starting to grow plug plants and sleuthing recommended seed suppliers.

Inspiration for our Eco Church grew when some of our members enjoyed a fascinating visit to Elkstone churchyard on 11th August. Already holders of the first, bronze Eco Church award, Elkstone church has a wonderful meadow (you can find this by going to the website below

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14302/page/49509/view/>

Their PCC treasurer gave us a full description of the process – informative and interesting despite its being a chilly, wet day and the meadow, as we knew, although past its best, was still attractive with its seedheads. It has brought in a wealth of

butterflies and other beneficial insects and is greatly appreciated by both local people and visitors.

As we stood under our umbrellas in the rain, we listened eagerly to the story of its creation, in which local primary school children had enthusiastically taken part. The bee/insect hotels made by these pupils and the attractive little outside composting toilet building (invaluable for weddings and community events in particular) were also unmissable. We will aim for the former, but will not need the latter at St Peter's – possibly at Christ Church in the future....?

By the time you read this, our group will have managed to meet and explore our next steps forward.

If you would like to join us, do please contact any one of us – by email or phone (we are all in the parish directory), or of course in person if you see us around or in church – although, behind a mask, I realise that people are not always immediately recognisable! We would love to hear from you.

On behalf of St Peter's Eco Church Group:

Abbie Andrews, Margaret Bearne, Monica Cleasby, Jennie Davies, Lynn Gorman, Margaret Holloway, Natalie Stone

Jennie Davies



St Peter's Maintenance Day 14 November 2020

Although expected to be liable to the current Covid-19 constraints regarding social distancing etc, I would ask that you note in your diaries that the next St Peter's Maintenance Day will be Saturday 14 November 2020.

For those who have attended previous maintenance days, the idea remains roughly the same as previous events noting the last was 12 months ago as the Spring event had to be cancelled. Indeed, many of the tasks will be based on efforts to get on top of the good work previously achieved.

We would expect to gather at 9.00am at St Peter's, but it may be you have to bring your own coffee as we still may not be able to use our kitchen. We will then get on with the selected tasks both inside the church and outside in the churchyard. The aim will be to finish around 1.00pm but clearly if you need to leave earlier, or arrive later, that's fine.



Anyone is welcome; it is a chance for our wider Winchcombe community to look after our town's beautiful church and grounds. Do please feel free to forward this information and ask them to get in touch with me.

Further details will be issued nearer the time and I look forward to seeing volunteer names flood in.

Simon Andrews
Organiser St Peter's Maintenance Day
Email: maintenance@winchcombeparish.org.uk
Mob: 07842 168451

WINCHCOMBE ANTIQUES CENTRE

Open 7 Days A Week

**Antiques Displayed Over Two
Floors**

**15 Antique Dealers Under One
Roof**

**Come and try our Tea Room
with over 20 varieties of tea
and fresh ground coffee**

**Antiques Bought As Well As
Sold**

**Old & Interesting Items
Wanted**

Tel: 01242 300556

Abbey Terrace, Winchcombe, GL54 5LL



If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.

You're in
safe hands
when you
move with



**SALES AND LETTINGS
WINCHCOMBE**

01242 603601

www.adamsestateagents.com

REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE
BRITISH CHIROPODY AND PODIATRY
ASSOCIATION



PETA LEITCH
MSSCh MBChA DIPN RN

CHIROPODIST
SURGERY AND VISITING

*Registered with the
Health Professions Council*

BALLOON COTTAGE, GLOUCESTER STREET,
WINCHCOMBE, GLOS. GL54 5NA

TEL: 01242 603714

FAX: 01242 604221

MOBILE: 0778 099 3331



RT FINANCIAL PLANNERS LTD

RT Financial Planners Limited is a successful, forward-thinking firm of Gloucestershire based, independent financial advisers with offices in Winchcombe and Cirencester.

We offer a wide range of financial services, from straightforward ISAs to much more complex retirement, trust and estate planning.

We are truly independent and can offer comprehensive solutions.
Call Dylan Jenkins or Rob Tiffin to make an appointment for a no-obligation, free initial meeting

Tel: 01242 604066

Note: Tax advice is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

**RT Financial Planners Limited is authorised and regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority**

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.

Bring this
advert with
you and we
will be pleased
to donate 10%
of your bill to
the Church.

£

.....

Auth. sig

Fed up with your hair? Need a new image?

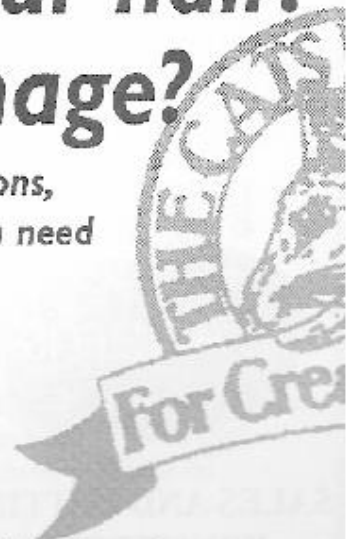
Offering separate ladies and mens salons,
The Cat's Whiskers can offer what you need
for that new look.

01242 604390



**Four Star
Good Salon Guide**

Abbey House on the High Street in Winchcombe
www.cwch.co.uk



Now please send this slip to St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street, Winchcombe.

**We offer a full range
of legal services, for
all of your business
and personal needs**

Local, trusted and dedicated support whenever
you need it, because *you matter to us*.



**Thomson
& Bancks**
SOLICITORS

You matter to us



**Conveyancing
Quality**

tbsolicitors.co.uk



Pershore

01386 562000

Tewkesbury

01684 299633

Cheltenham

01242 235250

Stratford-upon-Avon

01789 295544

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.



BUZZ

ELECTRICAL LTD

We guarantee a professional,
reliable and personal service
for all your electrical needs.

For free no obligation quotations,
Call 01386 423600
email info@buzzelectrical.co.uk
or visit www.buzzelectrical.co.uk



WASHINGTON PRINTING (CHELTENHAM) LTD

16 Enterprise Way, Cheltenham Trade Park, Cheltenham GL51 8LZ

FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING REQUIREMENTS
AT THE LOWEST PRICES

FULL COLOUR, SINGLE, TWO OR THREE COLOUR

Booklets
Leaflets/Posters/Handbills
All Business Stationery
Carbonless Sets/Pads
Community/Parish Magazines

Plus Plain Paper & Envelopes

Delivery Service

All waste materials and chemicals recycled



01242 227164

info@washingtonprinting.co.uk

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.



ALEXANDER BURN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Alexander Burn is an independent family business with three offices in the Cheltenham area.

COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT AND RESPECTFUL

24 hour personal service | Private chapels of rest

HM Coroner and NHS Funeral Director for Gloucestershire

www.alexanderburn.com

Bishops Cleeve
22 Church Road
01242 673300

Cheltenham
436 High Street
01242 245350

Winchcombe
11 North Street
01242 604888

Tewkesbury
23-24 High Street
01684 276200

If you use these services, please tell the advertiser where you saw their advert.