

## ***November 2020***

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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.

## ***Note from the Editors***

Hello again!

It's well and truly autumn now with the onset of longer, darker nights and misty days. For many of us with comfortable homes and warm fires, it can be quite a cosy time and one which invites contemplation. If we have a theme this month, it will be *remembrance*; many of our contributors look back to the past to learn lessons for our future as well as drawing attention to the futility of war and the loss of life. For many of us too, it can be the time when we think about those we knew and loved, and who are no longer with us.

John Paul Hoskins urges us to think about the present, too, in his article on GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers), and to consider those who have left their own homes because of crises in their own countries. We have articles from our other charitable concerns, whose income is decimated because fund-raising in the usual ways has not been possible due to the pandemic.

All is not doom and gloom though! The purple crocus planters ensure that signs of spring are not too far away!

We hope that you enjoy the articles!

The Editorial team



*Jo Rees*

*Lynne Horton*

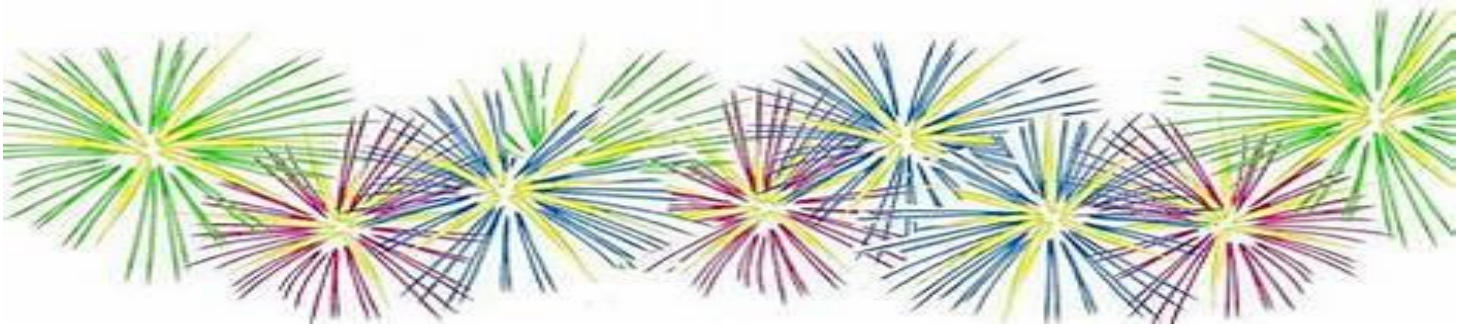
*Jennie Davies*

*Cathy Wilcock*

The magazine is also available online at St Peter's website

<https://www.winchcombeparish.org.uk/winchcombe-parish/monthly-church-magazine>

## ***Foreword***



**Remember, remember  
the fifth of November;  
Gunpowder, treason and plot!**

**I see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be  
forgot.**

November really is a month for remembering isn't it? Not only do we have Guy Fawkes' Night on the fifth, but we start with All Saints' Day on the first, All Souls' Day on the second, before coming to Remembrance Day on the eleventh. Though our big celebration of Remembrance will be on the nearest Sunday, the eighth this year, we will be unable to meet at the memorial in the usual way (see below for details).

We shall remember the saints of the past and of the present on the first of the month. We shall remember all those who have died, especially those we knew, on the second. We might give a



thought to Guido Fawkes and the failed plot on the fifth but the fireworks will certainly help us remember the gunpowder! And on the eighth, and possibly on the eleventh too, we shall remember all

those who gave their lives in world wars and in the smaller, but just as deadly, conflicts that have taken place since.

Over the last couple of years we seem to have been hearing some voices suggesting that it may be time for us to stop our annual remembrance of war; that, seventy five



years we seem to have been hearing some voices suggesting that it may be time for us to stop our annual remembrance of war; that, seventy five

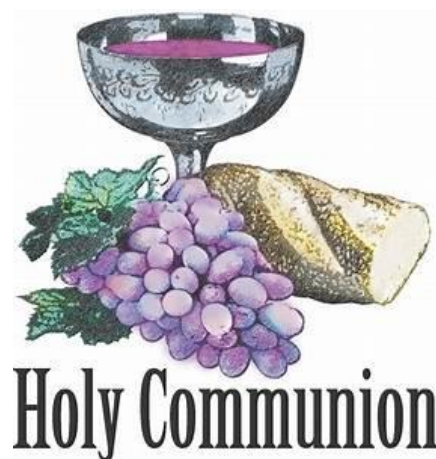
years after the end of the second world war and with the number of veterans dwindling, it's time to call a halt. I find this really odd as, in recent years, more and more people have actually been taking part, including many, many young people.



But I also find this idea, however well meant, quite misguided. Let me explain why. Remembrance Day is not just a day for veterans or for those who were alive at the times we remember. It's not a time to *recall* those events but to *remember* them; they're not the same thing. I cannot recall the events of the second world war as I was not born until 1950, but that does not mean I cannot remember. Remembering, literally putting the pieces back together, is about bringing the events of the past into the present and it is only by doing this that we are able to learn from those events.

Despite the old rhyme, the events of the gunpowder plot may be pretty distant and largely irrelevant to us today, meaning our remembrance of them has just become an excuse for fireworks and fun. But the same cannot be said of the sacrifice of so many young people in warfare in the two world wars and since. It is essential to remember that suffering and sacrifice if we are ever to find a better way of resolving international disputes.

For we who follow Jesus Christ, this idea of remembering is, of course, nothing new; it is what we do every time we share Holy Communion together. But there's more; bringing the events of the Last Supper into our present also brings us into the story. We become participants, not just observers.



**Holy Communion**

And this story is not just about sacrifice; it is above all about resurrection. We have become part of the ongoing story of God's transformation of the world! Right now that may be hard to see but God's work continues, maybe slowly but absolutely surely, and we are part of that. So remember, remember, remember !

Rev. Mike Holloway



There will be no service at the memorial this year. Radio Winchcombe will broadcast the service from St Peter's live at 10.30 am, which will include a two minutes' silence.

## **From the Registers**

### **Weddings**

Mark Bird & Michelle Stephens

### **Funerals**

Edward Andrews

Kenneth Pike

Florence Bate

Alan Bee

Clive Geary

Joan Holgate

Joan Brooks

Rita James



## ***The Front Cover***

We thank Lynne Horton for the wonderful photograph of poppies on the front cover.

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!



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## ***Our Parish Magazine***



We welcome any contributions to our magazine but **please remember to send them to us by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:magazine@winchcombeparish.org) or speak to one of the team. Their phone numbers are on the inside cover.

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**[www.winchcombeparish.org.uk](http://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 November***

This month's prayer has been composed by  
Sue Pestell for us.



Gracious Lord, as we approach this time of remembrance,  
turn our eyes to look on the lives of the saints and remind us of  
your grace and the hope of your Kingdom;

help us to remember your comforting presence as we think of  
those loved ones who have died, and all that they meant to us;  
assist us to seek peace and justice, as we honour those who  
have given their lives for our freedom.

Sovereign Lord, as we look forward to the victorious feast of  
Christ the King.

may we also look forward to that day when you will come in  
glory to make all things new.

Amen



Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,  
as indeed you are doing.

I Thessalonians 5.11

## ***Music Notes***



We are still working out what these uncertain times mean for music in church. There are guidelines

published by the House of Bishops and the Royal School of Church Music but these can only inform our local decision making. The organ can be played and choirs can sing but the size of choirs necessarily varies from a large cathedral to a small parish church. Comments on social media suggest that about six singers are often felt to be comfortable, but, so far, we have been cautious and usually employed just a solo singer (thank you Shelley and Mike). Hopefully, we will be able to add to that before too long; after all, as Martin Luther said:

The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.

And, of course, now we would include women.

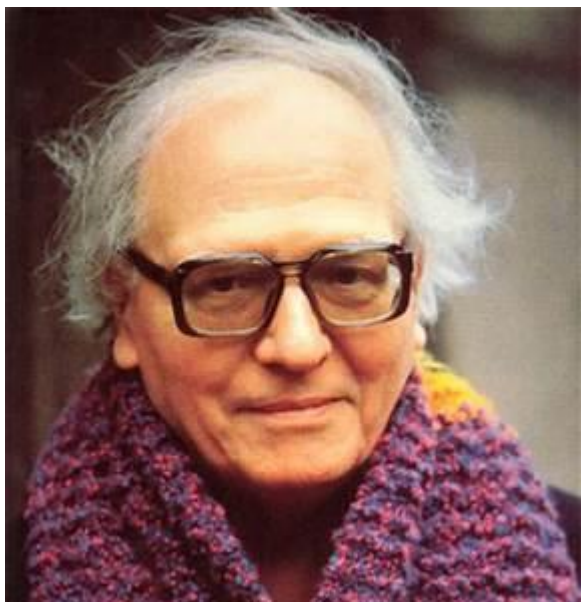
I have played the organ before, after, and sometimes during, the evening services. I am also grateful to Jane Wain for playing her flute and allowing me an occasional evening off! Sometimes the Readers have left the choice of music to me; sometimes they have had quite specific ideas as to what they wanted me to play.

One time when I made the choice was October 4th when we had celebrated Harvest in the morning; I decided to play the Pastorale from Guilmant's first organ symphony. A pastorale is in compound time (each musical beat is divided into three) and evokes a rural or country scene. Guilmant worked in Paris as a teacher and organist, holding the post at La Trinité from 1871 to 1901.



*Felix-Alexandre Guilmant*  
1837 -1911





Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992

Thirty years later, Olivier Messiaen was appointed to the same church, a post he held until his death in 1992.

The following week, my instructions were a little more specific and indeed did include some Messiaen. As luck would have it, Cliff initially suggested a piece from the only volume of Messiaen's organ music that I didn't have in my library, but we happily settled on another – *Le Banquet Céleste*. This was

Messiaen's first published organ piece based on the slow movement of an unpublished orchestral work. The title page bears the text *Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them* – John 6 v56 – and under a very slow-moving keyboard part we hear the pedal *like drops of water* representing Christ's blood.

Messiaen is definitely a *marmite* composer – you either love him or not. But his music is imbued with his strong faith and unique harmonies based on his theory of *modes of limited transposition* – musical scales with specific rules relating to their symmetry and repetition. He was also a keen ornithologist and from an early age incorporated birdsong into his works. The tone colours he asks for are very specific to the instrument at La Trinité, so a little ingenuity can be required to approximate to the sounds that he intended.

November is a time of remembrance – at the feast of All Saints we remember those who do not have their own special feast day but whose sainthood is known only to God. All Souls the day following may take different forms but is an opportunity to remember all who have died. Next the infamous Guy Fawkes, and then Remembrance Sunday, this year on 8th November, reminding us of those who have died in conflict and our

responsibility to maintain the peace they fought so hard to achieve.

Finally, we congratulate Tara and Glenn on the arrival of Oliver, who seems to be striving very successfully to deny his parents any sleep at night!

Andrew Horton – Joint Director of Music

## **Local Appeals**



Information needed!

Please could the person who is co-ordinating the collection of knitted blankets let Penny Kain (609025 ) know who they are as I need the room!

## **Cleeve Hill Golf Club**

Cleeve Hill Golf Club needs our help! You don't need to be a golfer (was it W C Fields, who said it was a good walk spoiled?) to have enjoyed a drink, coffee, or spot of lunch, in the friendly club house up on Cleeve Common. But now Tewkesbury Borough Council say it is no longer financially sustainable, and golf will no longer be played on the Common for the first time in almost 130 years. There is a petition online, with a rapidly growing number of signatures, to save the Golf Club. Just google "Save Cleeve Hill Golf Course" and it will take you through to the petition, it just takes a moment. Jo Rees





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## ***Woolstone Church – St Martin de Tours***

While we are all familiar with our own St Peter's, and probably also with Christ Church at Gretton, and the smaller places of worship at Stanley Pontlage and Sudeley, slightly further afield is Woolstone.



It's well worth a visit. Woolstone is a tiny hamlet which is a satellite of Gotherington, along with equally small Oxenton. Gotherington strangely has no church of its own, and the churches of the two hamlets are much larger than might seem commensurate with their population.

Woolstone found itself drawn into the bloody Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, when two of the defeated Lancastrian soldiers fled to Woolstone and sought sanctuary in the church. The Yorkists sadly cared nothing for this, and killed them – after which the local people refused to worship there, until a service of reconsecration had been held. You can see a commemoration cross of this event.

But that is not Woolstone church's biggest claim to fame, perhaps. Take a careful look at the tower, and you may be wondering if you have perhaps imbibed “not wisely, but too well” the previous night. No, you are fine, it's the tower that isn't – it leans at an angle greater than that of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

So much so, that in the 1970s some Italian engineers (from Pisa, I wonder?) were called in. They inserted steel rods set in concrete under the tower, to a depth of forty feet, and it seems to have worked. The lean was due to the underlying clay shifting, and not to any lack of skill from the long ago builders.

So do go and have a look - you can amble there along the lane, perhaps, from the very pleasant local hostelry in Gotherington.

Jo Rees



## ***Remember, Remember***

By the time you read this it will be that time of year again, when in better times we might wrap up warmly for a cold November evening of fun with sociable eating and drinking in the garden or at an organised event: November 5th, Bonfire Night



In my memory, atop the jolly bonfire there resided a collection of old clothes and rags roughly resembling a human figure and known as *The Guy*. *Penny for the Guy* children would demand as they displayed their creative

efforts on street corners. Not quite busking, but a useful supplement to pocket money none the less. Unfortunately for me, my parents disapproved!

More latterly I also remember that the Guy was sometimes made to resemble a real person who happened to have fallen out of favour. Such a practice seems unthinkable now in the light of hate crime and social media abuses.

We all know who the original Guy was and what he did to become such a pariah but the fact that he was actually a real man who suffered greatly for his beliefs as a result of religious intolerance, has long been conveniently ignored. There is in fact far more to the well-worn story that Guy Fawkes placed gunpowder under the House of Parliament as part of a plot to kill King James 1st on November 5th 1605, was discovered, tortured and sentenced to death.

Guy Fawkes was born in 1570 into a well to do Protestant family. While still a child, his widowed mother married a recusant Catholic and the family converted. The nature of recusancy meant that his stepfather refused to attend Anglican services and was loyal to the Pope.

Ever since the Reformation under Henry VIII, Protestant England had become politically vulnerable to the great Catholic



countries of Europe, notably Spain and its allies, culminating in the threat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. There were many plots to overthrow the Tudors and return the country to the *true faith*. In response, Catholicism was heavily restricted, despised and persecuted by the state. In 1558 the Recusancy Acts imposed fines, property confiscation, imprisonment and even death on Catholics.

Thus the young Guy Fawkes became a fervent Catholic and spent many years as a mercenary in Spain fighting the Protestant Dutch in their bid for independence during the 80 Years War (1568-1648).

Fawkes is described as pleasant of approach and cheerful of manner, opposed to quarrels and strife, loyal to his friends.

'A man highly skilled in matters of war.' 'A tall, powerfully built man with thick reddish brown hair, a flowing moustache and a bushy beard.' 'A man of action capable of intelligent argument as well as physical endurance.'



*Robert Catesby, unknown artist, 1794*

The gunpowder plot was not initiated by Fawkes but by Robert Catesby, a well-educated, well connected recusant Catholic of considerable charisma. In 1604 he gathered a group of like-minded friends who began to hatch a plot to blow up Parliament House during the state opening of Parliament when the king would be present. Fawkes was introduced by one of their number. He suited their plans as he had been abroad

for some time and was therefore unknown in England. Right from the start the authorities were hot on the trail but it was carelessness which led to their downfall.

For fear that fellow Catholics would be killed, Lord Monteagle was warned in an anonymous letter to avoid attending the opening of Parliament. The conspirators thought this was a hoax and went ahead anyway. When the letter came to the attention of the King, a search revealed Guy Fawkes in the cellar with the gunpowder. His task had been to light a long fuse then escape to a boat on the river, thence abroad. Meanwhile, other conspirators would start a revolt in the Midlands, capture James' young daughter, Elizabeth, and install her as a puppet queen. How badly things turned out for them.



*William Parker, Baron  
Monteagle, c 1615*

Fawkes was brutally tortured. Despite resistance, by November 8th he had revealed all. The shaky signature on his confession reveals how badly he fared.

Arrests and trials followed. Eight were convicted of high treason. Four, including Catesby, were killed in a shootout with troops thus escaping the gruesome death of being hung, drawn and quartered. Fawkes was the last to mount the scaffold, and whether by accident or with a little help, he slipped, fell and broke his neck. So it ended.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1605 Londoners were encouraged to light fires and celebrate their king's lucky escape. Thereafter an Act of Parliament which stood until 1859 designated November 5th as a day of national thanksgiving with fireworks being introduced from the 1650s onwards and after 1673 it became customary to burn an effigy of the Pope. Fawkes was one of thirteen conspirators yet his is the name which survives. A brave, God-fearing man who stood up and fought for his beliefs. A man of his time. A man to be properly remembered.

Lynne Horton

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## ***Winchcombe Museum is back!***



We are delighted to see the newly renovated Museum up and running – on **Saturdays only** at the moment, with a different exhibition each week. These are the November ones:

**7 Nov** -17th Century Winchcombe

**21 Nov** -Sue Birtwistle paintings and prints

**28 Nov** -Alastair Robinson photographs





## ***Planting Purple Crocus corms: Purple4Polio***

Enthusiastic members from Winchcombe Rotary Club and St Peter's Church were ready with their gardening tools to start planting 2,500 crocus corms one day, early in October.



The planting will hopefully produce a swathe of purple crocuses in the early spring 2021. The siting is just on the left going through the wrought iron gates.

You may ask: **Why Purple?**

Over the years Rotary has helped to fund the fight against global polio, and the purple crocuses are there to remind us all in Winchcombe that the fight still continues.

We were delighted with the heavy rains over the days before planting as this ensured that the ground was receptive to the new residents. We now await the outcome for 2021 but in the meantime would like to express our thanks to the Winchcombe Rotarians for their support.

Another team of Winchcombe Rotarians also planted 1,500 more crocus corms in Brook Close. Look out for the purple plants in spring and remember **Purple4Polio !**



## ***Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love on Radio Winchcombe***

Jo Rees introduced Julian of Norwich in her article in October's Parish Magazine. By co-incidence I have written ten programmes about Julian's episodes Revelations of Divine Love which will be broadcast by Radio Winchcombe (107.1 FM) starting this December as dramatic presentations of Julian's sixteen visions.

Rev Rachel Murray will play Julian, a fourteenth century woman totally dedicated to God, whose visions evoke memories from the past that echo through the centuries.

Chris Haslam plays a modern-day theologian who draws out her faith in a way that Christians today can relate to with very little effort.

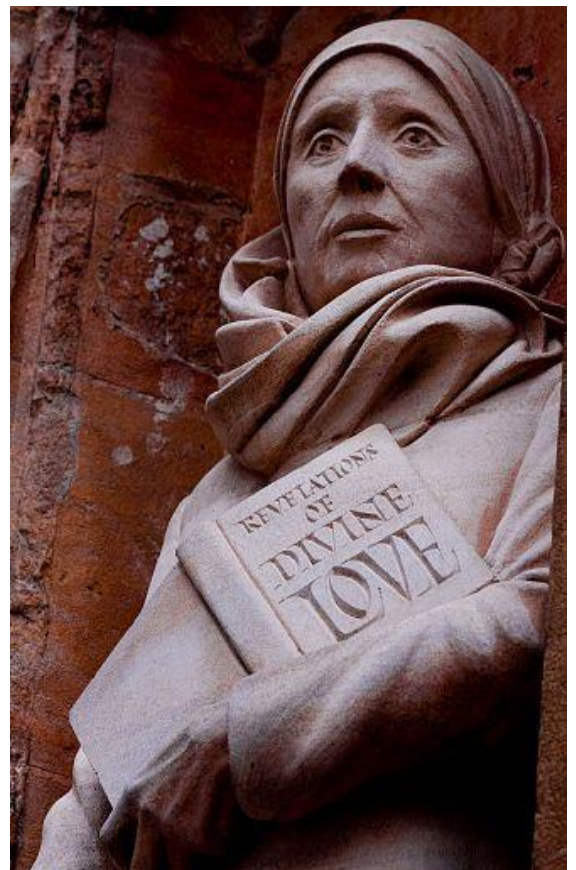
God continues to speak to us. Our faith is not passive. We are asked to listen to the wonderful message of divine love. Julian did, and bravely asked God for understanding.

Let us celebrate Advent this year as God's people by seeking hope in Julian's Revelations, which celebrate light shining in the dark, and embrace peace, love, and joy.

Broadcast times will follow in the weekly church bulletins in the second half of November.

I hope you enjoy this unique series which comes to you with the support of all four churches in Winchcombe as a Churches Together production.

Rob Stone



*The statue of Julian of Norwich on the West Front of [Norwich Cathedral](#), made by the sculptor David Holgate in 2014.*



## ***All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance***

Sunday 1 November is *All Saints' Day*, when the Church celebrates the great heroes of the Christian faith. These are the men and women whose lives revealed the grace of God at work within them. We give thanks for them and are encouraged by their example. We will celebrate All Saints' Day at St Peter's in our 10.30am parish communion service.

The following day is *All Souls' Day*, when we also remember and give thanks for those we have known more personally. These are our friends and family, those who have loved us and whom we have loved, so that in that love something of God has been revealed to us. In previous years there has been an *In Memoriam* service at the Methodist Church, to which the families of all those who have died in the previous year have been particularly invited. The current situation makes this impossible this year. Instead, there will be a communion service for All Souls on the previous evening, Sunday 1 November at St Peter's. Do come, whether or not you are remembering someone who has died recently.

Sunday 8 November is *Remembrance Sunday*. Again, the current unusual situation means that there will be no service at the War Memorial this year. Wreaths will be laid there informally during the course of the day. Each of the churches will be marking Remembrance Sunday in their own way. At St. Peter's, the parish communion at 10.30 am will include the Act of Remembrance and two minutes' silence. Rev J.P. Hoskins



*The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs, Fra Angelico, 1423-1424, The National Gallery*

**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*

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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.*

## St Peter's Charitable Giving: GARAS

This month John Paul Hoskins writes about GARAS - Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers



The Bible commands us to *love your neighbour as yourself*. In fact the Old Testament says this only once but it frequently commands us to *love the stranger in your midst*. The ancient Israelites remembered that they had once been wanderers themselves. They established six cities of refuge for those whose lives were in danger. Medieval cathedrals offered this same right of sanctuary, most famously at Durham with its *Sanctuary Kocker*. The infant Jesus was a refugee in Egypt. In his later ministry he was particularly concerned with the plight of the poor and marginalised. At the last judgement, Christ tells us that he will welcome into his kingdom those who are blessed by God, for *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me*.



Bishop Rachel is a patron of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers which offers support for those seeking asylum here in Gloucestershire. This includes welcoming them when they arrive, advocating for them in their daily struggles, supporting

them if they face being sent back, and helping them adjust to their long-term future if they are recognised as refugees.

The GARAS drop-in centre in Gloucester offers a safe space for its clients, many of whom have suffered indignities on their journey. It provides information and advice about health and education, and signposts people towards other sources of help.



GARAS offers practical support such as food and bedding for those in urgent need, and counselling for those who have experienced trauma, abuse and bereavement.

Some definitions are in order: An **asylum seeker** is someone who is fleeing persecution in their homeland, has arrived in another country and has applied for the right to be a refugee. A **refugee** is then someone whose asylum application has been successful and is therefore allowed to stay. A failed asylum seeker is someone who has had their application turned down and is awaiting return to their country of origin. An **illegal immigrant** is someone who arrives in another country without informing the authorities. An **economic migrant** is someone who has arrived in a new country to work.

Asylum seekers just want to be safe. They have the right to apply for asylum in the UK, and so there is no such thing as an 'illegal' or 'bogus' asylum seeker. They do not come here for economic purposes. The UK is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and therefore guarantees the right of anyone to apply for asylum. Most refugees in the world have no choice in their destination and go only to a neighbouring country. The UK system is tough, and recent legislation has made applying for asylum much tougher. Asylum seekers do not get large handouts from the state. In fact, they receive 30% less than those on benefits and are not allowed to work. They are much more likely to be the victims of crime than its perpetrators. In short, refugees make a significant contribution to our common life.

For more information about GARAS, see [www.garas.org.uk](http://www.garas.org.uk). Its director, Adele Owen, said recently: *The need to support refugees continues as it always did. The work of GARAS must continue to help people find somewhere safe to sleep, somewhere safe to live, and somewhere good to start again.*





***Churches Together in Winchcombe*** (CTW) has remained active throughout the pandemic. The clergy and laity of all four churches have met together via Zoom once a month. We have been able to support and encourage each other, work together on projects, plan for the future and share each individual church's plans and activities too.

Rev Rachel and Rob Davies worked hard to produce a radio version of **Way of the Cross** for Winchcombe Radio which was well received and Robert Stone has penned a series of ten minute dramatized programmes about the **Revelations of Dame Julian of Norwich** (for more details see page 20).

Encounter had created and delivered small craft-filled bags to all the young families they had contact with and these were well received. As an extension of this idea CTW agreed to finance small gifts to as many as possible who had been isolated during lockdown. An ecumenical group created and delivered 200 **Goody Bags** containing a plant, chocolates and sweets and either soap or tea/coffee sachets were given to those using Co-op deliveries or known to Be Social or shielding – either handed to them when they attended the surgery or delivered if they gave permission for their contact details to be released.

Robert Stone brought to our attention a charity venture called **Hope Beyond** that was willing to offer grants of up to 80% for church based projects to try to alleviate the loneliness, fear and isolation issues brought to the fore by the experience and restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic. We have done a

lot of groundwork talking to Tewkesbury BC, Town Council, the Medical Centre, Be Social and WAM and are at a stage where we hope to pilot a simple project that might be able to meet some needs. Again – look out for further details as we move forward with baby steps.

Last year CTW organised a large **Macmillan Coffee Morning** in the Methodist Church, with helpers from all four churches. This year such an event was not possible and so a series of smaller garden events limited to six people was run by a couple of members of the Methodist Church and several members of St Nicholas. All the events raised a staggering £1,100! Thank you all for your amazing support!



The Royal British Legion has decided that **Remembrance Sunday** will not be marked this year as a community event on Abbey Terrace. Instead each church will mark this separately and those laying wreaths are to be encouraged to lay these individually and informally during the Sunday. Rev JP will hold a short act of remembrance at 11.00 on the 11th at the War Memorial but a crowd is to be dissuaded from gathering.

We are planning activities for the Christmas period! We have various ideas about what can be done while being well aware of what can't! Christmas is not cancelled!

Next year, if it is possible, it is the turn of the Methodist Church to host the **World Day of Prayer** on the first Friday in March and material for this is already available and is being shared amongst the churches. As members of the churches and members of the community – please look out for the part you can play.

Janet Dufton

## ***The Children's Society***



For many of us, Christmas will be different this year, and long-held traditions and gatherings will not be able to take place. So a new approach is called for. We are very grateful to Radio

Winchcombe, which has stepped in to help us to preserve the annual Charingworth Christmas Concert. On Friday 4th December between 7.00 and 9.00pm a 'pot-pourri' of past concerts – music, readings and carols – will be broadcast for us all to share. This will be repeated at a later date (to be confirmed) and will also be available on the 'listen again' facility. We hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear again some favourite items. Throughout the programme, details will be given as to the best way in which you can donate to *The Children's Society* in lieu of buying a ticket.

Would you like to purchase a home-made mince pie or two, to help you to set the festive scene? If so, please contact Rosemary Arkell (01242 603003) to place your order before Monday 30th November. They will be delivered in time for the concert. You will have to supply your own mulled wine and Christmas tree!

A reminder too, that Christmas cards will be on sale at the Building Society.

This year has seen more demand than ever for practical, emotional and financial support from the Children's Society. Please give what you can to enable their work to continue.



Thank you. Margaret Carter and the Committee.

## ***Having Enough: a personal view***

The whole question of what constitutes *having enough* has been brought home to us all in our battle against the evil Covid. What does it mean to *have enough*? How do we gauge what enough means? Many folk have risen, and are still rising, to this challenge in altruistic ways, but the idea of sharing everything out so each of us does have enough is utterly idealistic, and thus impracticable....or is it?

I heard recently on the radio that some magnate had increased his already obscene wealth by £8 billion in a mere six minutes on the Stock Exchange. Apparently that made him, with £160 billion, the 12th most valuable man on the planet! How desperate that our world measures a person's worth in monetary terms! How can anyone's value be calculated in such a way? Who decides? What a sorry picture of our 21st century that is!

I have been surprised to realise how often in conversation we use the word *enough*: *enough is enough, soon enough, enough said, strangely enough, that's enough* and *funnily enough* (the phrase I like saying!). The one use of the word *enough* that may resonate with us most is to do with time: do we ever have enough time?



*Peter Schaffer, Playwright.  
1926 -2016*

*Enough* means different things to different folk, of course, but it always seems to me, that when it comes to pain, some people are afflicted with much more than *enough*. Some suffer more tragedy, lose more friends, have so much more with which to cope; there is no question here of people having their quota of pain, and then being able to sit back, knowing that this pain has been *enough*. In his eviscerating play, *Equus*, Peter Shaffer writes: *To go through*



*life, and call it yours – your life – you first have to get your own pain, pain that's unique to you. You can't just dip into the common bin and say, That's enough. A savage fact, and true....*

We have all had more than enough of wretched Covid, of course. We have probably had more than enough of a government that is proving hopelessly inadequate, (though it would be unfair not to realise the magnitude of their challenge). But the execrable menace is not going away just yet, it appears, so we just have to get on with life as best we can, fully realising that there is rapidly emerging a new understanding of what *enough* really means – and how we must make do with that awhile....

Sadly, it seems to me that the leaders of The Church of England have missed a trick here, perhaps a whole hand. There are some exceptions, like the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, (with a mighty challenge in his own diocese) who also, as the Bishop of Readers, has encouraged and equipped his task force with words of genuine encouragement "...in doing God's work of renewal.... as we all re-examine our foundations". But there has not been the most warming sense of encouragement conveyed to us all – and surely encouragement is never out of place. (I should add that a certain vicar has held services in his church every week since lockdown, and, when summoned by his Bishop, was able to defend his actions so convincingly that this Bishop now consults his 'rebel priest' regularly!) I cannot imagine Jesus resting from his labours....



For Christians, our faith should be enough, and it usually is – Richard, Bishop of Chichester in the 13th century, wrote: "Show us the Father, and it is enough for us." But it would be quite wrong to see that faith as a passive panacea for all we experience in life; on the contrary, we are, of necessity,

challenged almost every day in that faith; the Christian journey is beset with mires, ditches, obstacles, hurdles, barriers and stumbling blocks of every kind. But we must press on, while we have time, energy and conviction enough. That is a privilege. I leave the last word to Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary to the United Nations, but killed all too early in a plane crash: *You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible you have something to contribute.*

Chris Haslam

### **Autumn Fires by Robert Louis Stevenson**

In the other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!



Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) is probably better known for his novels, *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped* but was a prolific poet too. Though I don't advocate bonfires for getting rid of leaves, I like his sentiment of joy with autumn and particularly the way he celebrates 'brightness' in all seasons. Many poems set in autumn are full of melancholy!

Cathryn Wilcock

# 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.

Please gather at the West door at 9.30am at St Peter's, with your own coffee and snack. 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.

Simon Andrews

Organiser St Peter's Maintenance Day

Email: [maintenance@winchcombeparish.org.uk](mailto:maintenance@winchcombeparish.org.uk)

Mob: 07842 168451





## **Foam Free Churches : the evils of oasis!**

Every so often, you learn something that stops you dead in your tracks, and this is one of those times. It's very satisfying to get your hands on a chunk of Oasis, to carve into suitable pieces, and push flower stems into with a rewarding crisp crunch..but..

### ***Floral foam is plastic and not biodegradable***

Floral foam very easily crumbles into microscopic fragments, adding to the global problem of microplastics. Wherever it lands, it will exist for an indefinite period of time.

The new so-called enhanced foam does NOT biodegrade to compost, but only to very tiny particles of plastic. It has a formulation which is designed for modern landfills (high 60 degree temperatures) and which attracts microbes that break the foam down into tiny particles made up of methane, CO<sub>2</sub>, and organic matter. Methane is the simplest member of the paraffin series of hydrocarbons, and is among the most potent of the greenhouse gases.



Water containing floral foam should never be poured down the sink or drain. Floral foam is used wet, and wastewater discarded into the sink flows into the rivers and sea. Studies have shown that microplastics discarded into the sewerage system can bypass sewage treatment processes, so are rereleased into the sea or back to farmland for use as fertiliser.

If you MUST use floral foam (only as a last resort):

- Use a washing up bowl in which to soak the foam,
- Pour remaining water on to soil or turf outside the building, away from any drain or path
- Wear gloves to protect hands, and glasses to protect eyes
- Cut wet rather than dry, and keep away from children.

With thanks to Lynn Gorman

## ***Where the Squirrels Lived***

Sleep was difficult always. The hunger, the constant damp, the discomfort. Jack also had an irrational fear of rats, not good in this place. He remembered ratting in his grandfather's big barn, the terriers rushing in hunting them out and a whole bunch of them suddenly scurrying about in all directions. Jack was only a kid but his younger cousin had whooped about in excitement while Jack had tried to be brave but had in fact been really scared they would attack his ankles. Perhaps he was still trying to appear brave, perhaps that had been the reason he'd volunteered. He hadn't waited to be called up, as soon as he was eighteen, off he'd gone to sign up. Perhaps it was the



camaraderie, all the lads of the village were keen to get over to France to fight the Hun, to come home heroes.



So here he was. To say it wasn't what he expected was the understatement of the century.

The mud, the dirt, the hunger, the noise, the confusion and the rats. He checked his watch; not much point trying to sleep now, they were due to start the assault before dawn. Even the Germans couldn't aim their guns at them in the dark. He shifted his position, trying to get some feeling into his numbed limbs. He could try and find someone who was brewing some tea. He wasn't on watch and it wasn't safe to steal a look over the top to see if there was anything happening but if he leaned back against the wall of the trench they were near enough for him to see the tops of the trees of High Wood, their goal, set on rising ground, just a dark smudge against the low clouds. The Germans were there somewhere on the other side, dug in with their machine guns. The wood was in a poor state already from previous forays made by the men who had gone before him.

Jack could imagine how it should look, there should be greenery under the trees, not just mud, there should be birds in the trees. The men, the noise, the planes overhead all contributed to making this wood dead and empty.

Jack managed to find a couple of men making tea and let the warmth of the liquid do its work. Their minds were too full for much conversation. It wasn't long before they were all mustering, readying for a push. How different now to when it had all begun, before most of the French had left for Verdun, when there still seemed to be hope, hope of actually surviving. Jack felt his nerves stretched with anticipation; he was ready. The past few months had all been leading to this moment. Then the word came down the line to stand down. No one told them why, they never did. The attack would begin late morning. Great, thought Jack, the Hun will have full daylight to see who to aim at. He went in search of some food.

The attack was delayed again but there was plenty of shelling and in the lull, Jack could hear the planes overhead, hopefully theirs, observers sending back some current information



perhaps. Or perhaps not. His not to reason why, just do... It was all about taking orders.

Again they were all gathered ready to go over. There had been two more false starts, again no one told them why but dusk was approaching now, safer maybe thought Jack. There was an eerie stillness about the men around him, all crowded together, yet alone with their thoughts, faces drawn, eyes wide, more fully aware in what might be the last few moments of their lives. The whistle blew and they were off. It was lighter out in the open and immediately the firing started, the noise, the stumbling over the rough, muddy ground, trying to avoid the shell holes.



As he ran Jack knew the only reason he was still alive was because the bullets had hit some others in front of him and he tried not to think about that, to not be grateful for their deaths. He tried to focus but his limbs felt like lead, he was hungry and



tired from the long tense wait. A movement in the trees ahead distracted him. A rat, they were everywhere! Then he saw its tail, its bushy red tail. A squirrel! It seemed so incongruous in this place that Jack's headlong rush slowed as he turned to check

his eyes weren't deceiving him. Next to him a lad stumbled, Jack helped him up, checked he hadn't been hit, then the ground in front of them exploded. The two of them were thrown to the ground as the shelling continued and they heard the retreat sound. They stumbled back into the trenches with the rest of the men who had survived. There were precious few of them. The battalion had been cut to ribbons. Jack knew he was lucky to be alive. Saved by a squirrel ! He would have been right in the middle of where that mortar shell had landed.

Their unit was sent to join another that had been depleted, more reserves were called up, another assault was due. Jack survived that one too but not in one piece this time. A chunk was gouged out of his thigh by a branch flying at him when a mortar blew up a tree. He was sent home. They saved his leg but he would always have a limp, a limp that prevented him from going back to the front. He returned to the family farm, eventually inheriting it from his grandfather. There was a small patch of woodland which everyone said should be felled to give more land to cultivate. Jack was adamant, he would protect his wood with his last breath. It was where the squirrels lived.



Ursula Cootes

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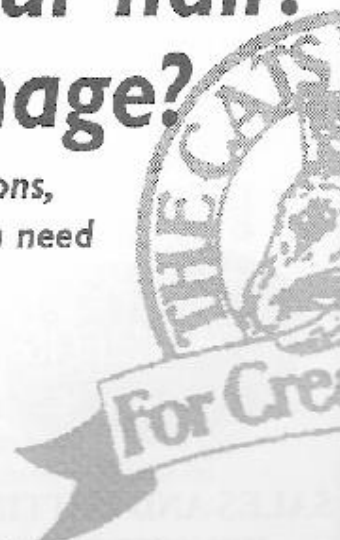
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