

Parish Link

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



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October 2021

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Please forward any items for inclusion in the November 2021 edition of
Parish Link to the Editor, Corinna, by 15th October:
editor.parishlink@gmail.com Thank you.

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Pastoral Letter - from *the Revd Jan Moore*

Dear Readers,

How are you all doing? I'm sitting to write this letter in the shade of my garden, enjoying what might be the tail end of a little Indian Summer at the beginning of September. Yet it's so frustrating for everyone who needed it in the school holidays.

But there we are - we can't control the weather. So, we spare a thought for the farmers whose livelihood constantly grapples with its increasingly erratic behaviours.

At least our schools and colleges have returned to a routine, and we pray that near normal life in the education sector can be sustained through the winter.

In this *Parish Link* there is a Recruitment Advertisement aimed at increasing the team who visit Stratton Primary School on Thursday mornings to deliver a programme called *Open the Book*. Please look out for the Ad on page 11 which gives further details, and pass them on, or come and join us yourself.

The Initiative called *Open the Book* (OTB) of Bible Stories has now celebrated 20 years in schools. In more recent times it has been able to support a published list of Christian Values, which are part of the curriculum in Christian Foundation Schools, and to inform the curriculum in non-Christian foundation Schools. We would, no doubt, all recognise the list of Christian Values as Values of Goodness (Godliness) which Jesus taught and lived. These values form a framework for our adult lives too.

Values such as: Friendship, Respect, Responsibility, Forgiveness, Truth, Perseverance, Compassion, Hope, Humility, Justice, Love, Peace, Service, Thankfulness, Trust & Wisdom.

In due course there will be a celebration/thanksgiving for the amazing Service, Hope, Friendship, Perseverance, Love and Wisdom shown by Gill Keen who has led OTB for 18 years in Stratton, but who is now retiring from the Leadership, although continuing to be on the team. At that celebration we will also give thanks for others who are also now taking a well-earned retirement: namely Chris Keen, Muriel Paine and Ann Roper and we will be remembering the loss of Geoff Roffe. This

group of witnesses have enriched the lives of countless numbers of children. Thank you to them all.

What is notable about the Christian Values is that they emanate from Bible Stories which reminds us that The Bible has clearly given us the values in the first place! We didn't just dream up these values in the 21st century as a bunch of good ideas for wise living! We have inherited them from 2000 years of Christian history. So, when we mourn the demise of a wholesome society, as we often do, I am reminded that the lack of attention to these values in a greedy and fearful world is, in fact, a lack of attention to the way of Jesus: an ignorance or rejection of what it means to be Christlike.

Jesus triggered a New Testament to fulfil the Old Testament. Jesus was God's human, yet divine, clone sent into the world by God 2021 years ago. Jesus was in the world to reunite us with our creator; to call us back to godliness; to continue to be our umbilical link with God for all time.

At a large Christian gathering which I attended about 40 years ago, an Archdeacon said: *"If the Christian Church fails to be the Mission Church which keeps Christ alive and kicking, it may well meet its own demise, in order to allow God to give rise to a more effective new thing!"* What a waste it would be if the Christian story, experienced by the Church, were to come to an end. What a waste of 2000 years of witness, growth in understanding, scholarship, effort, energy, skills, sacrifice and love.

Thank God, then, that *Open the Book* looks forward with intense Hope in the youngest generation, by seeking to show them where Society, at its best, takes its Value System from.

And as schools go back to the work of forming young hearts and minds, we pray that those same young hearts and minds will one day teach their children how to live by Christian Values and know where they come from. But more than that, let us hope that, as adults, we are constantly open to re-learning from our children, about some of these Values which we may have forgotten.

It is Harvest Time for farmers whilst Christian Mission & Ministry seeks to continue support for God's work of nourishing souls in readiness for many Harvests to come. We all grapple with erratic behaviours!! But God directs and saves all things, through Jesus Christ. God bless everyone.

Rev'd Jan

Benefice News and events

Churn Valley Community Choir - singing at last!

As we go to print, the Choir has enjoyed its first three rehearsals. We are delighted with how many people have joined us so far and Fiona Brown, our Choir leader, has been impressed with the quality of the voices.

Please do come and join us:

Tuesdays 7.15pm - 8.45pm

North Cerney Village Hall (parking opposite)

Cost: £5 per week

Please email churnvalleychoir@gmail.com for further details.



Benefice All Souls' Service at St Peter's, Stratton

An All-Souls' Service for the benefice is due to be held at St Peter's Church, Stratton, on *Sunday 31st October* starting at 3.30pm. If you, or someone you know, has lost a loved one and would like to take a moment to remember them communally in church, do come along to the Service.



You are also invited to give the name of the person you would like to be remembered during the service *in advance*. **Please confirm any names by Monday 25th October** either in writing to Corinna, the Benefice Administrator: e: beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com; post:

Mrs C Bramley,
Benefice Administrator,
10 Vale Road, Stratton,
GL7 2JJ.

Or by telephone to David at Stratton Rectory: 01285 655199.

Please sponsor Rowing Super-Marathon achievement!

Below, Mark Venn describes the major rowing challenge he took on in September to raise money for two initiatives which help disadvantaged young people. Any sponsorship to help Mark reach his fundraising target would be much appreciated.

Last year some may recall that I rowed a marathon (42,195 meters) on a rowing machine in aid of the *Sue Ryder Hospice*. Earlier this year I got to know Andy Triggs-Hodge, a triple Olympic gold medallist with the GB coxless four. He persuaded me to participate in his initiative, the Centurion Challenge, raising money to encourage youngsters from disadvantaged communities into sport (particularly rowing). This would

involve rowing 100,000 meters in a single day. The target was achieved on Sunday 12th September at Gloucester Rowing Club, with a mix of water rowing and a rowing machine. The final meters were completed in a coxed four in which I was joined by my four children (Susie is lying down in the bow coxing and can't be seen in the photograph on the right!).



Money raised will be shared between Andy's charity ([London Youth Rowing](#)) and Gloucester's own young people's outreach. More information (and a "support Mark" button) can be found at:

<https://www.gloucester-rowing.org/centurion-challenge>

CVB Hardship Fund resource reminder

Just a reminder that this Fund is still in place, and we are continuing to respond to genuine requests for help. Although the fund was set up in the middle of a lockdown, and life for the majority is seeing a return to normality, there remains a real need in our community. Please contact

the Revd David Minns in the strictest confidence if you or someone you know has a real need to alleviate hardship.

David: 01285 655199; e: dlkminns@gmail.com

If you would like to support the fund you can do so using one of the following methods:

Benefice Hardship Fund

<http://easydonate.org/COWLE2>

Text / SMS donations

To donate £1, text COWLE2 to 70201
To donate £3, text COWLE2 to 70331
To donate £5, text COWLE2 to 70970
To donate £10, text COWLE2 to 70191



An update from the Revd Arthur and Margaret



We have fond memories of serving in the parishes of the CVB and are thankful for you giving us such a grand farewell at the end of May.

Our new community in the Derbyshire Dales sits on top of a hill at 750-foot altitude with fine views all around. The house is modern and spacious, and our neighbours are friendly, as are most northerners. It's great being so much closer to our daughter and grandsons. We are

enjoying exploring local footpaths through wildflower meadows and fields with hedgerows and the local parish church is only a five-minute walk away.

We recently spent a week in Scotland visiting my brother. So, we are counting our blessings and praying for God's kingdom to come quickly! The picture above was taken in the grounds of Chatsworth House. Do please look us up if ever you are in the area.

News from around the Benefice

Update from Baunton - *Amanda Woodd*

Work continues on the re-ordering of the church and Thames Water has just connected the water in preparation for the installation of our kitchenette. (There was also, separately, a damaged gas pipe and a water leak which closed the middle of the village, but that's another story: see "[The Gas Man Cometh](#)" by Flanders & Swann...!). The arrival of the loo and its housing is delayed by Brexit paperwork, but we look forward to getting them installed in due course.

Our Harvest service will be led by the Revd Jan on *Sunday 3rd October* at 9.30am and all are most welcome to join us. Come and see the church decorated with flowers and enjoy tea and coffee after the service!

Coberley's latest - *Amanda Morgans*

On Sunday 12th September, the Revd Cliff Pooley led the annual Harvest Service at St Giles. The church was beautifully decorated, and our thanks must go to the flower arranging team: Anne, Margaret, Mary, Janet, Georgina, Penny, Jo T, Amy and Jo A.

Following the service, Anne very kindly delivered the generous harvest donations to [Open Door](#) who were extremely grateful as they send out 50-80 food parcels a week.

As this magazine goes to print, Coberley is looking forward to a bring-and-share Harvest Supper on *Saturday 25th September*, kindly hosted by Ian and Mary Hayward at Slacks Barn, Upper Coberley.

Report on Elkstone's Full Peal attempt! - *Simon Ridley*

The *Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)* was founded 40 years ago to provide financial assistance to Churches wishing to restore (and later improve) their church buildings. The first grant of £100 was made to Elkstone in 1981 and more recently the Trust made a significant contribution towards the restoration of the bells in St John the Evangelist, Elkstone.

Elkstone's bells were cast between 1657 and 1977 and hang in a medieval oak bell frame of historic significance. By 2019 the fittings had deteriorated to such an extent the bells were in danger of becoming unsafe to ring. Thanks to a significant local donation and generous grants, including £5000 from the *GHCT*, the bells were removed from the tower and taken to *Whites of Appleton* Bell hangers where they were tuned and fitted with brand new change ringing fittings. The bells were returned to the tower and rehung in the strengthened frame in August 2020 but have not been heard as much as we would like due to the cessation of ringing during Covid.

However, on Saturday 11th September the bells were given an extended work out when a team consisting of ringers from Gloucestershire and Worcestershire successfully rang 5040 continuous changes, in 2 hours and 45 minutes - a "full peal". No hesitation, repetition, or deviation! The peal was rung to celebrate 40 years of the *GHCT* and was enjoyed by cyclists and walkers taking part in the annual Ride and Stride.

An official record of the performance can be found at:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1459741>

The photograph below shows the band members after the full peal.

They are, from left to right:

*Malcolm Taylor, Simon Edwards, Hilda Ridley,
Quentin Jackson, Darran Ricks and Simon Ridley.*



St Peter's Church, Stratton

Harvest at St Peter's

Sunday 3rd October

Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 9.30am

A time to thank God for the beauty of his Creation and the many blessings that we enjoy and to pray for those in the world who are not so fortunate. Gifts of dried and tinned goods welcome for our local Foodbank and for the Haven at Gloucester.

Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables to decorate the church will also be much appreciated and can be left in church on the Friday or Saturday morning beforehand.



Team members wanted for "Open the Book" at Stratton Primary School which is usually lots of fun!

Open the Book is a Weekly School Assembly which shares Bible Stories reinforcing Christian School Values.

It is delivered by a small team who narrate, act, dress up, use backdrop and sound technology, offer scenery and songs, and involve the children.

We need new people to join the team. How about you?

If you fancy dressing up, acting, painting the odd bit of scenery, can play piano/guitar or can manage a bit of technology AND can be available on Thursday mornings from 8.45-10.30am, we would love to hear from you.

There is minimal preparation involved and no words have to be learnt! All done during the morning itself...

Please contact:

Revd Jan Moore

therevjan@gmail.com 01285 640077



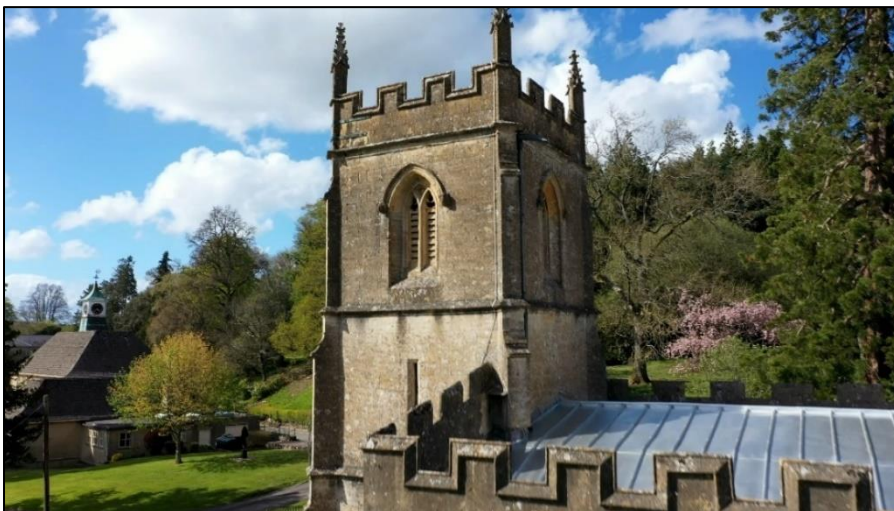
Update from Rendcomb - *Ruth Edy*

At the end of July, Gloucestershire Academy of Music held their Beauchamp Early Music Week at Rendcomb College. They had a good week and nice weather, and on their final day Bob Edy gave them a talk about the College's founder and a brief history of the church. During a conversation afterwards in St Peter's, I discovered that [St Monica's Trust](#) in Bristol was started by another benefactor in the Wills family, Dame Monica Wills.

During the summer we've had a display in church for visitors, but especially for walkers, with information about the Monarch's Way and the Macmillan Way, together with information about local walks in the Churn Valley. We had several visitors to the church on September 11th, the day of the Ride and Stride event organised by the *Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)*. They included a group of keen cyclists, one of whom is the new area organiser for fund-raising for GHCT.

Very often I bump into Old Rendcombians revisiting the village. One day in the summer I encountered the eldest daughter of David Essenhigh on a nostalgic visit. Susan had grown up in the village and been confirmed and married in St Peter's. It was lovely to be able to say, 'welcome back!' and 'come again!' I do feel that places belong to people from the past who lived here, as much as the current residents! David Essenhigh was a grounds man at the College for many years, and a cricket coach to the boys, as well as a formidable cricketer in his own right.

Stop press! Sunday 26th September at 11am is the date of our *Harvest Thanksgiving Service* which will be led by the College Chaplain, Bob Edy. We have noted that Bagendon Church will be serving cream teas in a marquee near St Margaret's Church on that afternoon, from 3-5pm!



**St Peter's Church,
Rendcomb, with its
new terne-coated
steel repaired roof.**

Articles on Cowley and Coberley continued

Online studies of the history of Coberley and Cowley: Part 2 By Alan Jordan

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

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

Coberley Church and its Rectors

The Revd William Hicks was succeeded in August 1866 by the **Revd Charles Henry Wilson** who was born in Beetham, Westmoreland ^{xv} in 1818. He was a curate in Heysham, Lancashire in 1851 and in Lansdown, Cheltenham in 1861.

Charles Wilson served as Rector of the United benefice of Coberley with Colesbourne from 1871 until 1912 ^{xvi}. In the 1870s he occasionally made notes in the burial register. For example, he registered the burial of Edward Williams, aged 90, on 15th January 1870 and noted that he was "*the oldest man in the parish*" (a record that was beaten by the Revd Charles Henry Wilson himself, who died in February 1912, aged 94!). The "*first funeral in the new church* ^{xvii}", that of Henry Smith, was recorded on 24th August 1871 and "*the first funeral under the new act* ^{xviii}" on 20th October 1880. The latter was of William Doughty, with a marginal note "*dissenter*". Coberley parish registers suggest that Charles Henry Wilson ceased to officiate at burials after January 1902, when his curate W M Magrath took over. Charles Henry Wilson did not marry. His sister, Elizabeth Ann Wilson, lived with him in Coberley from 1866 until her death in April 1901, aged 85.

The next Rector, the **Revd William Bernard Atherton**, took up his post in October 1912. He was born in Taynton, Gloucestershire in 1867. In 1901 he was a Royal Navy chaplain living in Portsmouth. In 1903 - in the Parish of Saint Andrew, Jamaica - he married Eva Whitworth. She had been born in Olney,



Memorial in St Giles Church, Coberley ^{xix}.

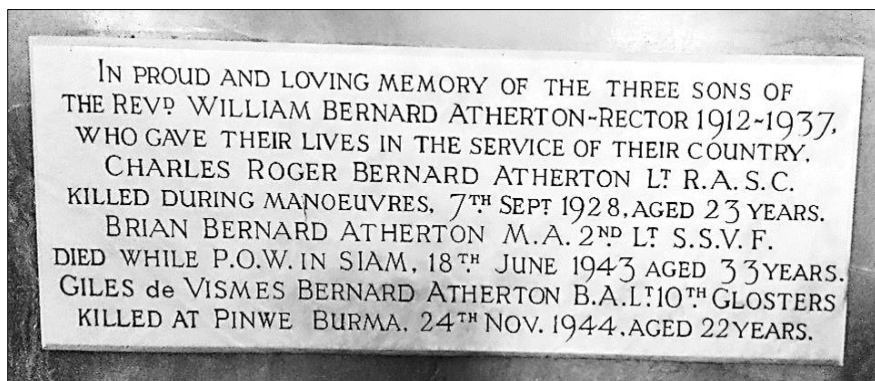
Buckinghamshire in 1876. In 1911

Eva was living in Southsea, Hampshire, while he was away on duty.

William Bernard Atherton died in Coberley in July 1937, aged 70.

William and Eva had three children: Charles Roger Bernard Atherton (1905 - 1928), Brian Bernard Atherton (1910 - 1943) and Giles de Vismes Bernard Atherton (1922 - 1944), all of whom served in the Army and all of whom died on duty.

Eva Atherton died in Barrington Lodge Nursing Home in Charlton Kings and was buried in Coberley in October 1963, aged 87.



A family Memorial stone in St Giles Church, Coberley

The **Revd George Beresford Verity** (pictured right ^{xxii}) followed as the next Rector of Coberley in November 1937 and continued until January 1941^{xx}. He was born in Fulham, London in 1888. Like his predecessor he married in the parish of Saint Andrew, Jamaica, at Half Way Tree. His wife was Dorothy Blair Wortley who had been born in Spanish Town, Jamaica in 1892. They married on 29th August 1916. He was Tutor at the Theological College in Half Way Tree at the time ^{xxi}.





Dorothy Blair Verity ^{xxii}

The couple made several return trips between England and Jamaica. On returning in 1928 he gave their intended address in England as “*Colesbourne Rectory*”, at a time when the Revd William Bernard Atherton was Rector at Coberley. In 1935 he was described as “*the curate in charge*” of Colesbourne Rectory ^{xxiii}. He signed the Coberley burial register as Rector for the first time in November 1937 and consistently from September 1939 until January 1941. In the 1939 Register, however,

George B and Dorothy B Verity were living at the Colesbourne Rectory. The Revd George Beresford Verity died in Sidmouth, Devon in April 1976, aged 88. His wife Dorothy died there in January of the same year, aged 84.



Late wartime or post war photograph of Hugh Verity ^{xxv}

They had one son, Hugh Beresford Verity, who was born at the Rectory, Half Way Tree, Jamaica, in April 1918.

He had a distinguished career in the RAF, working with the Special Operations Executive in France in the Second World War, dropping off and picking up agents and members of the Resistance and extracting Allied prisoners.

He was decorated for gallantry five times ^{xxiv}. He reached the rank of Group Captain before retiring from the RAF in June 1965.

He died in Hounslow in November 2001, aged 83.

Sources:

- i Called the 1939 Register.
- ii Available on-line from 1813 to 1986.
- iii Available on-line from 1912 to 1974.
- iv british-history.ac.uk.
- v cotswolds.info.
- xv Now in Cumbria.
- xvi British History Online.

xvii - With the exception of the porch and tower the church was largely rebuilt between 1868 and 1871 to designs by John Middleton of Cheltenham, and while some parts of the old building, like the chapel, appear to have been faithfully reproduced that was not generally so in the chancel and nave, between which a chancel arch was inserted - *British History Online*.

xviii - The Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880 (7th September 1880).

xix - These two photographs are from War Memorials OnLine - see: warmemorialsonline.org.uk

xx - Coberley parish burial registers.

xxi - Newspaper cutting relating to the Half Way Tree Church in Jamaica.

xxii - Photographs from Gabriel Stokes of Dublin family tree on: ancestry.co.uk

xxiii - Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire.

xxiv - Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Order and Bar, Légion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre avec palme.

xxv - Wikipedia

To be continued...

Cowley Church and its Rectors

From 1871, after the Revd William Henry Butler had moved to Putney, the Rector of Cowley was the **Revd William Wren Liddell**, born in 1823 in Boldon, Durham. He lived at the rectory with a housekeeper and one general servant until his death in 1892. He is buried in Cowley churchyard^{vii}.

He was the younger brother of Canon Henry George Liddell (1811 - 1898) whose daughter, Alice, was the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland.

Their father Revd Henry George Liddell (1787-1872), was born in Ravensworth Castle, Lamesley, Co Durham (see right ^{viii}), the younger son of Sir Henry Liddell, 5th Baronet (1749 -1791).



A house called *Hetton Lawn*, in Charlton Kings, was built for the Liddell family in 1862 and the daughters of Henry Liddell, Dean of Christ Church College in Oxford, were sent to live there when their mother was expecting her fourth child.



Left:
Photographs of
Hetton Lawn in
Cudnall Street
(formerly The
Old London
Road), Charlton
Kings,
Cheltenham.

The girls, Alice, Lorina and Edith, stayed with their grandparents, governess and two maiden aunts, and while there received a visit from their father's close friend - Lewis Carroll.

Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Revd Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, stayed at the house for four days in the 1860s. He published *Alice in Wonderland* in 1863.



Alice Liddell, aged 7, photographed by Charles Dodgson in 1860 ^x.



The house still features the giant, ornately framed mirror that is said to have inspired the idea behind the second volume of his stories: *Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There*, published in 1871.

The grand mirror, which at the time was in the drawing room, is 6ft by 5ft and the gilded frame features interwoven branches, foliage, birds, dogs and other figures. It is now placed on the upstairs landing ^{viii}.

Henry George Liddell was living at *Hetton Lawn* at the time of the 1871 census. He was listed there as a “*clergyman without care of souls*”. He was a widower with two daughters Charlotte (born in 1815) and Amelia (born in 1818) and one son, Henry George Liddell (born in 1811). The latter, listed as Dean of Christ Church Oxford, was there with his wife Lorina (born in 1826) and children including Alice P[leasance] Liddell (born in 1852). Henry George’s household had 10 servants - a butler, footman, page boy, cook, 3 ladies’ maids, 2 housemaids and 1 kitchen maid.



Henry George Liddell (1811 - 1898) in an 1891 portrait ^{xi}

Henry George Liddell was an Oxford "character" in later years. He figures in contemporary undergraduate doggerel: (*continued on page 20...*)



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8TH JAN 2022 - 9.30AM - 2.00PM

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CIRENCESTER, GL7 1TN**

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for further information



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beautiful River Garden

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01285 832150

We look forward to welcoming you.



*I am the Dean, this is Mrs Liddell.
She plays first, I, second fiddle.
She is the Broad,
I am the High -
We are the University^{xii}.*

The next Rector of Cowley was the **Revd John Hardinge Leigh Giffard**, born in 1854 in Huntley Witney, Hampshire. His father, the Revd G O Giffard, and his sisters were living in Deane, Hampshire in 1891, but I have been unable to find John himself. (He was there with the family in 1881.) From 1894 to 1931 he was living at Cowley Rectory^{xiii}.

Sources:

- vii - Survey of St Mary the Virgin, Cowley, churchyard headstones by the Revd Arthur and Mrs Margaret Champion (media.acny.uk).
- viii - Photograph of a postcard, from Royalty and Peerage family tree on ancestry.
- viii - Information from *The Daily Mail On-Line*, March 2014, when the house was for sale.
- x - V&A - The Real Alice in Wonderland (exhibition - March 2021) (vam.ac.uk).
- xi - Wikipedia
- xii - Wikipedia
- xiii - Gloucestershire Electoral Registers.

To be continued...

News from the Diocese

Prisons Week - A Week of Prayer : 10th- 16th October

What does the Church do to help prisoners and those released from prison?

Prisons Week [<https://prisonsweek.org>] is when Christians join in prayer for all prisons and prisoners. As Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons in England and Wales and a member of the All-Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System, Bishop Rachel supports chaplains in prisons, as well as developing relationships and being involved with people and issues across the breadth of the Criminal Justice System.

She heads up a Prison Team including Bishop Libby Lane (Derby), who supports work with young offenders, and Bishop Michael Igrave (Lichfield) who supports men in prison. They also work closely with Helen Dearnley, HMPPS Anglican Chaplaincy Advisor.

Bishop Rachel is a Patron of both the Prison Fellowship, and the Welcome Directory, President of the Nelson Trust and also an Ambassador for the Christian charity *Restored*. She heads up a campaign called *Fighting for Women's Justice* and believes the women's justice system needs to change. It costs approximately £47k per year to keep a woman in prison, but Women's Centres can provide a holistic trauma-informed approach to rehabilitation for about 4k a year. Much research shows this is the most effective way to stop reoffending. On release from prison, many women find it difficult to secure suitable accommodation for themselves with their children and so the whole family suffers.

So, Bishop Rachel uses her voice in the House of Lords to speak out for the transfer of more funds to holistic rehabilitation schemes like Women's Centres, rather than keeping women in prison.

With thanks to the October 2021 edition of The Messenger, from the Diocese of Gloucester, for the above 'News from the Diocese'.

Photograph of the month - *Pauline Farman*



**Fascinating Fungi on top of an old tree stump
in Bagendon churchyard!
*photographed by Pauline Farman***

Thought for the month

In praise of volunteers and welcoming churches

Ruth Edy's Letter below was published in the 27/8/21 edition of *'The Church Times'*, in a slightly abbreviated form. She writes in response to Canon Angela Tilby's column in the 13.8.21 edition of the same publication - *'Door to the Kingdom kept open'* - in which the latter praises the sense of welcome and worship she felt when entering the *'hidden treasure of Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell'*, during the course of a weekend walk with friends. Canon Angela went on to argue passionately for the retention of parish churches: *'Without the parish church, we lose our roots and even more of our relevance,'* and highlighted the *'Save the Parish'* campaign, launched on 3rd August, which seeks to ensure that parishes remain central to the Church of England's mission.

Ruth's Letter....

Sir - I really appreciated Canon Angela Tilby's column [Comment, 13 August] and her insight into the importance of welcome and worship in the parish church. I would love to invite her (or any of your columnists or readers!) to come walking in our part of the Cotswolds and visit the parish church of St Peter's, Rendcomb - one of nine churches in the Churn Valley Benefice.

She would find an attractive and informative display of photos in the porch, along with a box for donations for the weekly collection for Cirencester Foodbank. Inside the church she would be able to see weekly notices with details of services and

events in the benefice, a new display welcoming walkers (especially those walking the Monarch's Way or the Macmillan Way, both long distance trails which go through the parish of Rendcomb) and a photographic - and written - account of the recent repair work, costing about £40,000, completed on the church roof - and how it was funded. All this the work of volunteers in the small congregation, done during the last 18 months whilst dealing with Covid, family pressures and their own working lives...

Unsung heroes - all of them!

Ruth Edy

Community News and Events

The Tuesday Group

The Group's next meeting will take place on *Tuesday 5th October in Stratton Village Hall - 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start*. This month the speaker will be Liz Davenport, who will give a talk on the intriguing [Woodchester Mansion](#) - an unfinished, Gothic revival mansion house in Woodchester Park, near Nympsfield. Everyone is most welcome to come along to this social evening. The usual entrance fee is £2, which includes light refreshments.

Judith Wood, Gill Keen and Cwy England

Bags of Joy appeal reminder

Christmas may seem a long way off, but it will be upon us very soon.....



Over the last couple of years, the Churn Valley Benefice has filled shoeboxes with gifts for disadvantaged children and needy families across the area, as well as Mums and families supported by the *Stroud Women's Refuge* and women in Gloucester Women's Prison. This year, we will be making this collection using carrier bags - so no need to search for, and cover, a shoebox! Below is some guidance about suitable items to look for - for the different age ranges etc.

For Children - Age range: New-born - 14 years.

Soft toys; small games; ball; skipping rope; books (new or in very good condition); stationery; crayons; colouring books; gloves; woolly hat; toiletries (soap, flannel, nail brush, etc.); jigsaw-puzzles; felt-tips; bags of sweets. What would *you* give to a youngster on Christmas morning? No promotional products and no weapons.

Mums (*Women's Refuge*) *Imagine having to flee from the very place where you should feel safest.*

Toiletries (new only); chocolates/sweets; biscuits. Again, what would you like to receive on Christmas morning?

Women (*Gloucester Women's Prison*) *We all make mistakes and compassion is better than condemnation.*

Toiletries (new only); chocolates/sweets; biscuits. No sharp objects or

packaging and no foil coverings (remember some chocolate and biscuits have foil wrappers). What would *you* like to receive on Christmas morning?

Please note that the cut-off date for donations is 30th November

For further information, or collection, please contact me -
Pauline Farman on: 01285 831891
or: paulinefarman19@btinternet.com

Thank you.

*Spread the
Love*

Get active this winter at Chedworth Tennis Club

TENNIS FOR ALL ABILITIES IN CHEDWORTH

WINTER MEMBERSHIP NOW OPEN

New Members Welcome

We have two floodlit courts and run club sessions and a regular programme of coaching and training sessions. There are holiday camps and an after school coaching programme which are open to non-members too.



To find out more about us you are welcome to come and try some of our sessions before joining.

For more info please get in touch with our Membership Secretary carolinebaker75@gmail.com **07733 322176**

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC

Winstone and District WI - *Moira Cima*

It feels like we're back in full swing again! While we've made the most of meeting online over the past year and a half, our second meeting back in the village hall demonstrated the benefits of meeting face to face. Our speaker, Alison Hewitt, encouraged us to address the question, "*What is Public Art?*", and prompted a lively discussion, opening our eyes to embracing "public" art as not only sculpture and commemorative statues, but fountains, graffiti and street theatre. We all left feeling that we would walk around our towns

and cities with much more awareness of the efforts made by others to add visual stimulus to our civic places. Alison encouraged us to, "Look up!" more.



On Tuesday 12th October Sue Davies will be giving us an illustrated talk on her journey "*In the steps of Scott and Shackleton*". This will start at 7.30pm and visitors are very welcome (£4.50). Please contact our Secretary on 01285 821261 if you'd like to know more.

Date of interest in October...

Did you know that *World Polio Day* is observed on **24th of October** each year? The aim of the day is to promote more awareness about polio, and to take measures towards fully eradicating the disease going forward. Every year many organisations, like *Rotary International*, get involved in *World Polio Day* to raise awareness of polio eradication and to thank the healthcare workers who have played such a huge part in striving towards achieving this important global goal.

Scrubditch Care Farm - *Emma Costley White*

Next Community Coffee Morning! Friday 22nd October from 10am - 12 noon. Do come along and have a natter over a cuppa with delicious cakes and enjoy the stunning view!



AUTUMN QUIZ TIME: Saturday 16th October (not 15th as previously advertised) in **North Cerney Village Hall.**

For those of you who haven't been before, this quiz consists of multiple-choice questions which are put up on the big screen on the stage. It's great fun and inclusive!

It's only £5 per person. You can get a team together or come and join others when you get there. There will be a raffle of course too.

Bring your own picnic and drinks. **Start time: 7.30pm**

Please book through the website:

www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk


Frampton Country Fair It was such a lovely day at Frampton on 12th September - really hot and lots of people passing by! It's a stunning location and


lovely to see all the traditional breeds there. We were honoured to have the Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Victoria Prentice, visit our stand with Siobhan Baillie, MP for Stroud. Siobhan used to volunteer at the Care Farm, and it was great to catch up with her again.

Great Fundraising Feat! David Farnhill from Coln St Aldwyn's Children's Group, successfully completed three consecutive marathons recently, raising a good deal of money in the process. His efforts were cheered on and celebrated at a Breakout Party on Saturday evening in the heart of the village. The atmosphere was excellent, and people were very generous. We are one of the lucky charity recipients, and the money goes towards funding the children's holiday activities we offer at the Care Farm - the next one being during October Half Term (please see the website for further details).

Have you seen our Vegetable shed at the entrance to SCF? We have set up a small shed at the entrance and are putting vegetables in there regularly for sale. There's an honesty box for cash or you can pay by

Autumn Quiz Night






He looks excited:
but why?
**Because the quiz is back LIVE
at the Village Hall, North
Cerney.
Saturday 16th October**

In aid of the **WONDERFUL** *Scrubditch Care Farm* come along to a fun, no Phd necessary quiz. It's a visual quiz, projected onto a large screen. And the answers multiple-choice so no need to worry about leaving answers blank.

£5 per person. Bring your own supper and drinks and make a real night of it.

Doors open 7pm. Quiz 7.30pm

Book your table:
scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk
07966 255 631



BACS. We will try to keep it topped up during the week. So, if you are passing do stop and have a look.

Sheep News We will have lambs ready to go off to the butcher in October. If you would like a ½ or whole lamb for the freezer do get in touch: emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Pig News Lucky is putting on weight suddenly and looking pregnant at last - only another three weeks to go by our reckoning! Mabel, Nemo and Tigger are being scanned again at the end of the month. Tigger is blissfully happy with Rollo and so we are keeping everything crossed. Who knows we may end up with 2 gilts and 2 sows farrowing for the next four months!

Eggs We have some hen, bantam and duck eggs for sale. The weather is playing havoc with regular laying! Most of our duck eggs go to *Jolly Nice*. Ring/text Emma on 07966 255 631 if you would like a regular order.

‘Growing Well Together’ As we move towards Autumn and Winter, people can start to feel their wellbeing and health dipping. If you know anyone who is struggling, feeling depressed, isolated and in need of a confidence boost, please get in touch. We meet every Tuesday afternoon, and no referral is needed. You can use our contacts on the website: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or email Gerry: gerry@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk for more information. Our **dementia sessions** also take place on Tuesdays from 11am - 1pm. Both sessions are very informal and are an opportunity to get out in the fresh air with likeminded people in small groups. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about these sessions: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Talks via ZOOM If you know a group that would like to hear one of our talks, they last about 40 minutes, and we give a fun, informative overview of the Care Farm. To find out more e: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dates for the diary

Saturday 16th October, 7.30pm: Autumn Quiz - North Cerney Village Hall
Friday 22nd October, 10am-12pm: Community Coffee Morning
October Half Term: Children’s holiday activities (please see website)
Monday 1st November - Friday 17th December: Second half of term
Saturday 4th December, 10am - 2pm: Christmas Fair. Stall enquiries to: emma@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk / 01285 895790.

From the Benefice Registers

Funerals:

23 rd July '21	John Rees	St Mary Magdalene, Baunton then Cheltenham crem.
26 th July '21	Jean Carr	St Peter's, Stratton then Cheltenham crem.
26 th July '21	William 'Bill' Parker	Cheltenham crem.
3 rd Aug '21	Charles James Melville Irwin	Stratton Cemetery – (interment of ashes)
16 th Aug '21	Vivien Landon	St James, Colesbourne (interment of ashes)
17 th Aug '21	Carol Jane Pratt	Cheltenham crem. then St Mary Magdalene, Baunton
18 th Aug '21	John Fairfax Gardner Thomson	North Wiltshire crem. then St Peter's, Stratton
2 nd Sept '21	Peter Howells	St Peter's, Stratton then burial Stratton cemetery
6 th Sept '21	Pauline Ann Lea	St Peter's, Stratton then burial Stratton cemetery
10 th Sept '21	Jack Kenneth Walton	St Giles, Elkstone then burial in churchyard
10 th Sept '21	Lorraine Margaret Wyndow	St Peter's, Stratton then Kingsdown crem. Swindon

Weddings:

31 st July '21	Guy Edward Simmonds and Nicola Elizabeth Simpson	St Mary's, Cowley
31 st July '21	Adam Luke Mansell and Ami Florence Lucker	All Saints, North Cerney
31 st July '21	Jack Jones and Claire Smith	St Giles, Coberley
14 th Aug '21	Ian Mats Erik Hansson and Faye Marie Townshend	St Giles, Coberley
14 th Aug '21	James Graham Richard Bennett and Alice Rose Wilcock	St Peter's, Stratton
11 th Sept '21	Peter Lovely and Jane Frances Cummings	St Mary's, Cowley

18 th Sept' 21	Luke Alexander William Siese and Laura Jane Soutter	St Peter's, Stratton
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Baptisms:

25 th July '21	Wilfred David James Eagles	All Saints, North Cerney
1 st August '21	Ottillie-Mae Saunders	All Saints, North Cerney
8 th August '21	Albert Frederick Evans	St Peter's, Stratton
8 th August '21	River Rose Axton	St Mary's, Cowley
15 th August '21	Grace Summer Dealtry	St Mary's, Cowley
22 nd August '21	Emmi Mary Lay Smith	St Peter's, Stratton
5 th September '21	Arthur Bastian Morgan-Giles	St Mary's, Cowley
12 th September '21	Thea Grace Pena-Medhurst	St Mary's, Cowley

Poem - *by Pauline Farman*

Bullet-find

Last week I found some bullets which created quite a stir;
I brought them home then e-mailed our local PC Officer.
"Don't touch them!" was his first response, but as I'd brought them home,
It was a bit too late for that, so he suggested 101.
The call-handler was really kind, asking exactly what they were,
I read the label on the box and her response was very clear:
"They ARE bullets." "Well, yes, I know; that's why I'm ringing you,
I'm hoping that you'll tell me what you'd like me now to do!"
"We'll send someone to fetch them, just leave them where they are."
And then she asked my date of birth which I thought a bit bizarre.
Maybe she thought I'd lost the plot or was, perhaps, a terror threat,
But, "Happy Birthday" she wished me and that was really that.
Gloucester Police were busy that night so rang to say,
"Please drop them into Cirencester, if you can on Saturday."
Well this, of course, I duly did, the response being just the same,
But at least they're now disposed of - Y'know, litter-picking isn't TAME!

Pauline Farman - June, 2021

Crossword

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW74 (August/September 2021)

ACROSS:

1	ARDOUR	10	GONG	15	SKINNY	22	FAIL
4	SNAILS	11	BERRY	17	ASTRAY	23	CATHEDRAL
7	SENSATION	13	ROOTED	19	SAINT	24	RICHES
9	WOOS	14	NESTLE	20	EVIL	25	SPREAD

DOWN:

1	ANSWER	7	SOPORIFIC	17	ANODES
2	ODES	8	NOCTURNAL	18	YELLED
3	RISKED	11	BEANS	21	LATH
4	SATURN	12	YEAST	22	FAIR
5	AGOG	15	SKEWER		
6	SINGLE	16	YACHTS		

OCTOBER CROSSWORD: BW75 - *by Ben Woods*

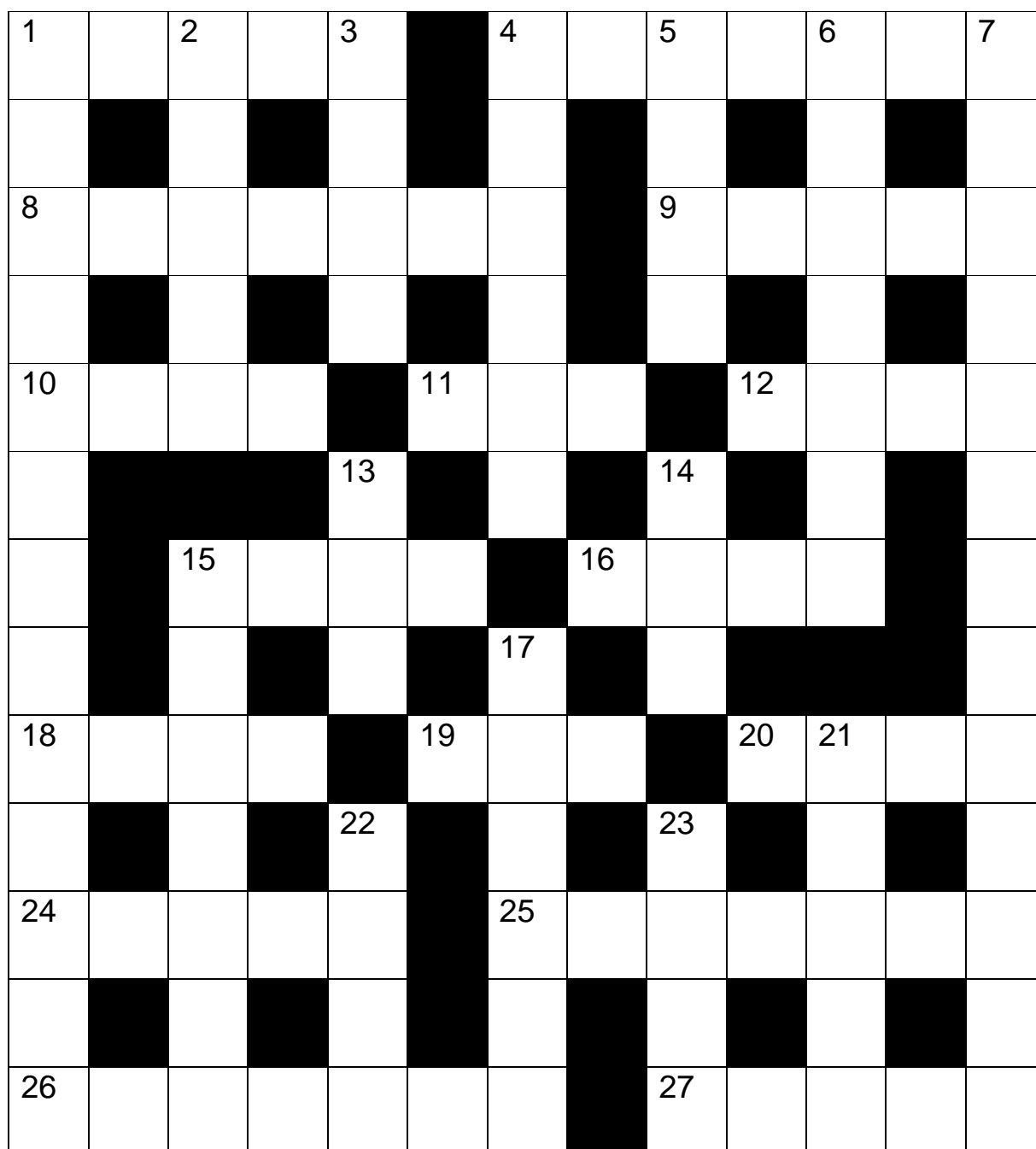
CLUES ACROSS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 DOT (5);
 4 GETS TO GRIPS WITH (7);
 8 ANIMALS IN A WARREN (7);
 9 HOLD BACK ON (5);
 10 MUNICIPALITY (4);
 11 YOUNG FOX (3);
 12 SOUND OF A HAPPY CAT (4);
 15 DESTROY (4);</p> | <p>16 COMPETENT (4);
 18 BAY (4);
 19 MALE SWAN (3);
 20 NEW ZEALAND BIRD (4);
 24 BIG (5);
 25 PARTICULAR (7);
 26 CEDED (7);
 27 POOL (5).</p> |
|---|--|

CLUES DOWN:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 PURPOSEFULLY (13);
 2 JOINT (5);
 3 INTERWEAVE (4);
 4 HANKIE (6);
 5 BARREL (4);
 6 FREE TIME (7);
 7 OUTWARDLY (13);</p> | <p>13 CHEST BONE (3);
 14 RECEDE (3);
 15 GO BACKWARDS (7);
 17 BALANCED (6);
 21 FOOL (5);
 22 NOURISH (4);
 23 ADORN (4).</p> |
|---|---|





News from our NHS Trust - *Anne Davies*

The recent *Open day* at the Trust revealed how the hospital is investing £101m over the coming two years (2021/23) in modernising buildings, transforming services, and providing better patient care at Cheltenham General and Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals. This is aimed at establishing centres of excellence for emergency and planned care and will be used to construct new buildings, provide cutting edge technology, develop pioneering clinical practice, digital transformation, and green initiatives. The investment will help to: improve outcomes for patients with the right care, in the right place, at the right time; reduce waiting times; ensure that fewer operations are cancelled; enhance safe staffing levels

and attract and retain the very best staff. One innovation on show was a portable Xray machine and the staff using it were very enthusiastic about how this was dramatically changing their work.

The contribution of art, led by an art manager, (a 12-month post part funded by Charities and by Patient Experience) was explored. We were shown how this work and activity is enhancing the staff and patient experience to support the medical treatment given and thus improve patient welfare. The idea goes back to Florence Nightingale who once wrote: *“variety of form and brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery”*. One such project, Mindful Photography, designed to support those whose mental health and overall wellbeing has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, was shown at Gloucester Cathedral. Some comments on the impact of this project were quoted and included: *“A Spa Day in lockdown”* (Staff); *“I have felt less lonely and have even made friends”* (Patient); *“Best friends forever”* (Inclusion Glos.).

At the end of the event, we were shown a video of a special song consisting of contributions from children across Gloucestershire to say ‘thank you’ to frontline workers. This was incredibly uplifting. You can view it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgVk2dkR6SI>

Finally, we must not forget that Covid-19 is still with us. The figures as at 14th September are 3 patients in ICU and 24 confirmed patients in other inpatient beds.

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

Services in October

Key to Ministers: CVB Licensed Ministers:

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

T: 01285 655199 E: dlkminns@gmail.com

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

T: 01285 831391 E: bobody21@gmail.com

MG = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 E: mgreen282@btinternet.com

RE = Mrs Ruth Edy (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831391 E: ruth_edy6@hotmail.com

MV = Mr Mark Venn (Licensed Reader)

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



Additional Ministers: JM = Revd Jan Moore

T: 01285 640077

therevjan@gmail.com

CP = Revd Cliff Pooley

T: 01242 243981

cliff.pooley@btinternet.com

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

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	Matins [BCP] (MG)
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (MV by extension)
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	HC [CW] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	Harvest HC (JM)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	3 rd		<i>See Cowley</i>
Sunday	10 th	11.00am	MP (MV)
Sunday	17 th		<i>See Cowley</i>
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	HC [CW] (DM)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	3 rd	10.00am	Matins (Christopher Hall)
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	17 th	9.30am	Matins (CP)
Sunday	24 th	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	10 th		<i>See Coberley</i>
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	HC (CP)
Sunday	24 th		<i>See Coberley</i>
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	10 th	10.00am	MP (RE)
Sunday	17 th	11.00am	Harvest Festival Service (MV)
Sunday	24 th		<i>Service at Rendcomb</i>
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	3 rd	11.00am	HC (JM)
Sunday	10 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	17 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	31 st	11.00am	United Benefice Service (DM)

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	10 th		<i>Service at Elkstone</i>
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	HC (MV by extension)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	3 rd	9.30am	Harvest Festival Service (DM)
Sunday	10 th	9.30am	Morning Worship (MV)
Sunday	17 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	24 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	31 st		<i>Benefice Service North Cerney</i>
		3.30pm	Benefice All Souls' Service (DM)

Light Relief - Ben Woods

The Verger

Amos was the verger at his parish church but could not read or write. A new vicar came and wanted the verger to do other work which needed him to use these skills, so Amos had to go. He thought "*What am I going to do? I know. I am good at cleaning and other domestic work. I shall do that.*" He set up a business which was very successful. Eventually the time came for him to sell the business and retire. He reminded his solicitor "*You will have to read the contract to me, and I will sign it with an X.*" The solicitor responded saying: "*You have done amazingly well in your life. What might you have achieved if you could read and write?*" Amos replied: "*If I could read and write I would still be a verger.*"

With apologies, of course, to all our vergers who carry out such invaluable work in the churches across the CVB!

Thank you to Ben Woods for sharing this story.



CVB Website: <http://www.churnvalley.org.uk>



Facebook site: 'Churn Valley Benefice'

CVB YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8tFvSwMNjxmX1IK5sb59UA>

PCC Secretaries contd

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

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	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
	The Revd Cliff Pooley	01242 243981 cliff.pooley@btinternet.com
Additional Minister	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
Readers	Mrs Ruth Edy	01285 831391 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com
	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
Benefice Administrator	Corinna Bramley	beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Bagendon	Alison Saunders 01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk Ghislaine Venn 01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton	Deborah Clarke baunton.churchwarden@gmail.com
	Coberley & Cowley	Michael Dykes 01452 559951 michaeldykesis@hotmail.com
	Colesbourne	Sir Henry Elwes 01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
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		Mark Tufnell 01285 831246 mark@calmsden.com
	Rendcomb	Carol Bailey 01285 831836 wrensorchtwo@gmail.com
		Alex Breal 01285 831213 brealya@rendcombcollege.org.uk
	Stratton	Beth Hamid 01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com
PCC Secretaries	Bagendon	Caryl Barefoot carylbarefoot@icloud.com
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	Coberley & Cowley	Gill Clark 01242 285719 gill@hillbarnworld.co.uk
	Colesbourne	Lady Carolyn Elwes 01242 870262 snowdrop.cde@outlook.com
	Elkstone	<i>Vacancy</i>