

# Parish Link

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



**CANDLEMAS – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February -  
*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple***

## **February 2024**

**<http://www.churnvalley.org.uk>**

***Facebook site: 'Churn Valley Benefice'***

£1

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## Pastoral Letter – *Revd Dr Janet Anderson-Mackenzie*

As Spring is almost sprung, despite the cold weather we have snowdrops, daffodils and budding trees. You might expect the vicar to start talking about new life and things like that, but this month I actually find myself thinking about grief.

Several of my friends have friends and family who have died recently, and I find myself reflecting on how the twelve years since my mother died have passed so quickly and so slowly at the same time.

Not long after my mother died, a matter of weeks, my Dad (who was estranged from my Mum for many years) asked me if I was over her death. He got quite a short answer from me that it wasn't like that. He asked what he could do to make things easier, I asked him to sort through his belongings and get rid of the junk. He didn't. When he died in 2016 it took my eldest brother hundreds of hours to sort through my Dad's belongings, which began with a fortnight's search, all day, every day, for Dad's will.

In the past few days I have been speaking to the son of a recently deceased hoarder. I was able to sympathise with true empathy.

I was at a talk once where someone quoted Dr Jonas Salk: "Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors." I was really struck by that. What do we want to be our legacy? Memories of hours spent trawling through things? Or instead memories of time well spent, investment in the future generations and so on.

We have our responsibilities. One of my hopes is not to emulate my parents in their acquisition of stuff,



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*"Do it Once, Do it Right"*

but instead to clear things out, even if that means probably starting now to clear things away.

This Spring as we move through Lent towards Easter we hold these two things in our hands, grief and hope. They are important things, and we must balance them in our own lives. When we get to Easter the Christians celebrate that there is new hope in Jesus, new life and joy that Jesus has the power over death. This might make Jesus seem like a superhero, but we remember that the fully human Jesus also wept with those mourning the death of their friend.

When we lived in Wellington I led two funeral services a week and I had to think about the theological puzzle of life and death. Christians believe that each human is created as an individual eternal being. We believe that God places us on earth for only a short time, it must be important, or why would he bother?

Perhaps this little quote has a clue:

*'Grief never ends, but it changes, it's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor lack of faith...it is the price of love'.*

*Janet*

**Thank yous!**

**From the Newton Family**

Some of the churches in the Benefice have been supporting Faith and Ben Newton's ministry in Gloucester for several years now. Here is a bit more about them and what they are doing....

Faith is an Occupational Therapist and is passionate about making schools and churches more inclusive for families with children with additional needs. Ben is a Chartered Psychologist and worked as an Advocate, so is great at helping people use their voice to challenge injustice.

We have two lovely children, Theo aged 7, and Ariella aged 3. They are autistic and we have to battle to get the support they need. This has been a long, exhausting and at times lonely journey. As we've got to know other special needs parents, we've discovered just how many parents are struggling. Many are completely overwhelmed and burnt out.



Using our personal and professional experiences we are seeking to bring hope and change by:

- Supporting parents to advocate for their children, and navigate the complex health, social care and education system. One parent recently said to Faith *'you have told me more in 1 hour, than school have in 6 years'*.
- Advising schools on becoming more inclusive through Occupational Therapy consultation and Faith's book [\*'Inclusive PE for SEND Children'\*](#) that was published this year
- Trying to make church more inclusive for neurodivergent families as we have also found it difficult to find a church community that is accessible to us all – one that isn't too noisy, but is friendly and happy to have kids running around, making noise and eating crisps!
- Providing space for families who don't attend church to explore Christian spirituality

We can do all this because churches like yours support us financially.  
Thank you! Wishing you a Happy New Year.

If you would like to know more please get in touch:

[faithnewton83@gmail.com](mailto:faithnewton83@gmail.com)



## To everyone involved in the *Plough Sunday Service*

Sincere thanks to Ian and Mary Hayward for hosting the special Plough Sunday Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at Slacks Barn in Upper Coberley. Thank you also to Dan who found us the plough for the Service!

Around twenty people enjoyed singing hymns based around the theme of farming. Many thanks to Mark Venn for providing musical accompaniment on his accordion.

Bible readings included the parable of the Sower, and prayers were said asking for God's blessing of the seed and the plough, and for a good harvest this year.

The warm refreshments offered after the service were most welcome, as it was a particularly cold day!



# Benefice News

## Benefice Lent Course dates

The Lent course this year will be held on five consecutive Mondays - the *19th and 26th of February*, and the *4th, 11th and 18th of March*. Rather than having evening sessions, this year we will be holding the studies in the afternoons, from *2:30 till 4:00pm* (this might suit

our normal attendees rather better).

Further details will be given in the 'Week Ahead' pew sheets and posted on the Benefice website, or can be obtained by contacting Mark Venn:

[mark.w.venn@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.w.venn@btinternet.com).

## News from around the Benefice

### Colesbourne – *volunteers sought to help with snowdrop teas*

The first of five Snowdrop garden viewing weekends at Colesbourne Park will be the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> January. Entrance is between 1pm and 4pm. Guided tours will also be available on weekdays for clubs and coach parties. In addition, and new for 2024, is a guided tour for individuals on one day only: *Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February*. Tours must be booked in advance. For more details, or to book, please email the Estate Office, Colesbourne: [estate@colesbourne.net](mailto:estate@colesbourne.net)



The Church will be doing the teas at Colesbourne Park during the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> February. We hope to raise £4,000 once again. Volunteers are needed to bake cakes. Please do get in touch if you are able to help by baking a cake/s: [hwg@colesbourne.net](mailto:hwg@colesbourne.net) Thank you!





# **SUPER SUNDAY SUPPER SERVICE**

**NORTH CERNEY VILLAGE HALL 4-6PM**

**SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY**

**ZACCHAEUS – THE MAN WITHOUT FRIENDS**

CRAFT, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FROM 4 PM  
STORIES, SONGS AND PRAYERS FROM 4.45 PM  
JACKET POTATO SUPPER FROM 5.15 PM

**FREE - ALL WELCOME - COME WHEN YOU CAN**  
**-CHILDREN MUST BRING AN ADULT**

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## **Latest from Stratton**



# *Big* **BREAKFAST** *Bash*

**Stratton CofE Primary School**  
Cooked breakfast served from 9.30 am  
**FREE- ALL WELCOME - Come when you can**

Part of the ministry  
of the  
Church of England  
by Stratton  
Parish Church

**Sunday 18th  
February  
Zacchaeus**

More details?  
Call/text  
07821 474711  
[beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com](mailto:beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com)

Bible stories, Songs,  
Crafts and Games  
and the 3Bs puppet crew







PLEASE NOTE.....



There will be an **Ash Wednesday Service** in St Peter's, Stratton,  
at **7pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** with David.

## St Peter's to host World Day of Prayer in Cirencester this year

**10.30am, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
in St Peter's Church, Stratton, GL7 2LR**

The Christian women of Palestine applied for and were chosen and accepted in 2017 to write for the 2024 service. They had wanted their voices to be heard as they wished for a peaceful solution to the tensions and difficulties of living in the West Bank and Gaza. As we watch with dismay the war and bloodshed happening in the Holy Land, we realise they need our prayers more than ever because, although they may be safe at this moment, they are very much suffering spiritually.

As we approach the season of Lent we pause and reflect on the meaning and life of Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem and was prophesied by Isaiah as bringing peace. His teaching brought hope and healing to many. Indeed, his words in his "Sermon on the Mount" say "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God".

So do come along with Christians from around Cirencester and throughout the world and join together in prayer for the Holy Land and the many other countries currently experiencing war and violence. May we live out the words of St Paul chosen as the theme for this day of prayer:

**"I beg you, bear with one another in love"**



## Rendcomb – remembering recent special services...

Marie Hobbs, Rendcomb College Chaplain, has kindly shared the happy photographs below, which were taken at St Peter's Christingle Service on 15<sup>th</sup> December, and also at the Christmas Day Service.





## Schools' News

### Coberley C of E Primary School – Open the Book volunteers sought

At Coberley CofE Primary school there has been much to celebrate over Christmas. Our fantastic nativity - *The Bossy King* - showed the talent Class 1 can bring to the stage. This was followed by our annual trip to the Everyman Theatre to see *Mother Goose* and, finally, our Christmas service in St Giles church. Our school community came together to celebrate with a service led by the Year 6 children.

Welcoming in the New Year has brought about change with new staff and new roles at school. I am really excited to be taking on the role of Acting Headteacher and

becoming more involved with the community.

This week we have had a team from iSingPOP in school who help children and families engage in collective worship both in school, at home and in church. The children have been busy rehearsing songs ready for a concert that will be held at St Giles Church on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm in memory of Sylvie Pierce. Sylvie showed the school kindness and generosity for many years, taking part in our Open the Book worship every Thursday and teaching the children through her love of singing.





I would like to take this opportunity to ask, on behalf of Reverend Pooley and Duncan McGaw, for volunteers to join our *Open the Book* team. If you live in the parish or know of anyone who would be interested in joining, it involves coming into school for an hour on Thursday mornings and helping to deliver Bible stories to

the children. If you are interested, please do contact Mrs George in the school office on:

01242 870366 or email  
[admin@coberley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@coberley.gloucs.sch.uk)

Many thanks.

**Elizabeth Black –  
Acting Headteacher**

## North Cerney Primary Academy

### Nativity

Bibury and North Cerney School children came together to perform with the School Nativity at Cirencester Baptist Church. The children were amazing, and it was wonderful to see their joy and enthusiasm. Observing the children from both schools working together so well was such a delight for us all. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them.



## Whole School Cookery Day

The children made Alplermagronen (Swiss Alpine Mac and Cheese Potato Gratin) with a side serving of apple sauce and 'Swiss Salad'. The food they produced was delicious and carbohydrate heavy, as it was Alpine food. The cooking linked to our Key Stage 2 Geography topic this term.



## Stratton C of E Primary School



Happy New Year from everyone at Stratton C of E School! Despite the cold weather, we are all back from our Christmas break with enthusiasm and excitement for the term ahead.





Our school council are meeting regularly and have come up with some great ideas. They want to create a community garden near the school which everyone can enjoy. They are hoping this will promote wellbeing and encourage bio-diversity. They have been busy writing to our local councillor to find a small piece of land to plant some wild follower seeds and are excited to be working together for the benefit of the community.

Years 4, 5 and 6 are looking forward to our trip to the Young Voices Concert, Resorts World Arena, Birmingham on Wednesday 24th January. The Young Voices experience is not simply a children's choir concert; they are the largest children's choir

concerts in the world. Choirs will perform alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir to capacity audiences of family and friends. We have been enthusiastically practicing the songs and dances ready for this new venture for Stratton.

This term in our collective worship we are reflecting on the value of friendship. We have listened to the Parable of the Good Samaritan and shared our thoughts on what makes a good friend. The children have responded thoughtfully about being kind and how it makes us feel when we are kind to someone. In school we call it gaining Ruby power if you are a kind and generous friend, and we definitely have lots of that!

## From the Benefice Registers

### Funerals:

21 <sup>st</sup> November '23	Sylvia Thelma Pierce	St John's, Elkstone, then Burial in Churchyard
24 <sup>th</sup> November '23	Barbara Campbell	St James, Colesbourne, then Burial in Churchyard
22 <sup>nd</sup> December '23	Rosemary Frances Witts	North Wiltshire Crematorium
18 <sup>th</sup> January '24	Ashley John Barrett- Winter	St Mary's, Cowley, then Burial in Churchyard

### Baptisms:

2 <sup>nd</sup> December '23	Magot Frances Moseley	All Saints, North Cerney
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# Caring for our Environment

## Let's make Gloucestershire Greener....



If you own a parcel of land, however **BIG** or **SMALL**, you could play a **CRITICAL** part in this **GREEN REVOLUTION**. Your land could become a thriving green space, a haven for wildlife, and a symbol of commitment to our **ENVIRONMENT**.

**PLANTING TREES** has never been more important. Trees are not only the lungs of our planet, helping to **IMPROVE** our air quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change, but they also create a **HEALTHIER, HAPPIER ENVIRONMENT** for us to live in.

### SCAN HERE

To explore the Greener Gloucestershire **CLIMATE DASHBOARD** your interactive tool to monitor our collective actions, stay updated on our climate change action plan, and discover ways to contribute towards a greener future.

*Scan me*



## Let's declutter sustainably!

### Declutter your wardrobe:

Still wearing it? ---- Keep

Needs attention? ---- Fix

Doesn't fit? ---- Charity shop / swap

Hate it? ---- Move it on....



### Find 10 things to pass on:

- Books
- Clothes
- Kitchenware
- Tools
- Gadgets
- Toys



For more ideas, see:

[www.greeningtetbury.org](http://www.greeningtetbury.org)

 **Greening Tetbury**

## Community News and Events

### Citizens' Advice – on debt problems



**I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?**

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there is support available.

The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**; this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, **make a list of your debts and write down the details of each**. This could include who you owe the money to (this person or company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number

and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, e.g. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you are sorting them out.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you are looking at money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you are entitled to, including support with your energy and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, plus further advice on dealing with debts, on the Citizens Advice website –

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers. You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact *Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts* on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or email us using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) ).







O R I G I N

— HEALTH —

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We are located at Cirencester Leisure Centre. Call Tracey for all appointments on:  
**01285 238240.** [www.cirencesterphysiotherapycentre.co.uk/footcare-centre](http://www.cirencesterphysiotherapycentre.co.uk/footcare-centre)



## Snowdrops at Cotswold Farm Garden this February

SUPPORTING [NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME](#) (NGS) & [A ROCHA](#)

Open Weekend: 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February (11:00am – 3:00pm)

Also open Mondays in February:  
5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> (11:00am – 3:00pm)

---

A beautiful Cotswolds Arts & Crafts garden in a stunning location, overlooking a quiet valley on descending levels with a terrace designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. An established **snowdrop** collection with over 80 varieties, named and naturalised, in the borders and along the woodland paths. A **winter step garden** with scents and textures leads down to the magical **bog garden** with streams and waterfalls.

**£7.50 Entrance** (cash or contactless)

**Children FREE**

**Soup & Roll, Tea, Coffee & Cakes**

**Snowdrop bulbs for sale**

**Directions:** 5 Miles North West of Cirencester on the A417

**Address:** *Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS*

**Telephone:** 01285 821837



**Additional Open Garden Weekends in 2024:**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

**31<sup>st</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September**



## New Funeral Director in Elkstone

### Introducing Molly Bashall Undertaker and 4th generation Farmer...

Bashall & Hobbs

Independent Undertaker

I like the term 'Undertaker'. It dates back long before the professionalization and medicalisation of death and dying, when both happened in our own homes, or the homes of those we loved. The local 'Undertaker' wasn't someone with a fleet of shiny black cars, but someone in the community who would come and carry out the age-old practice of 'laying out' and helping families 'Undertake' the logistics of getting the person who has died to their final resting place.



For at least 200 years, my ancestral roots have been firmly anchored in the Cotswold landscape (predominantly the Churn Valley and Coln River.) The profundity of a family funeral, aged 17, triggered the journey into my vocation.

Empathetic communication, humility and practical application help me always find what is best for my clients.

I am closely supported by my husband Hugo, and we are excited to be able to provide a rural and peaceful location for families to come to. We pride ourselves on our flexibility and don't offer any 'one size fits all' products or packages. My role is to listen carefully and work in partnership with families to curate a fitting farewell. Every funeral should be as unique as the person it is for.

To learn more about the services we provide, please take a look at our website. Even better, give us a call and drop by for a cup of tea!

<https://www.bashallandhobbsfunerals.com>

e: [Bashallandhobbs@gmail.com](mailto:Bashallandhobbs@gmail.com)

T: 07935 521132

***Rendcomb Surgery Patients' Support Group***

**Invite you to see the  
SNOWDROPS**

at

**Covertside, Perrott's Brook,  
Cirencester, GL7 7BW**  
*(by kind permission of Lyn Sales)*

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024**

**10.30am - 12.30pm**

**By ticket only**

**(Available from Rendcomb Surgery)**

**01285 831891**

**£10 to include tea/coffee & biscuits**

***All proceeds for the benefit of Rendcomb Surgery patients***



**Date for your diary - support the North Cerney Scamper!**

North Cerney Memorial  
Village Hall

## **North Cerney Scamper**

Fundraising fun-run on  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 @ 10am

Run, walk or scamper a 5k or 10k trail race  
through the beautiful Churn valley.

Tickets available via race-nation:

<https://rb.gy/sxgrn5>

or more details on the village hall website

Volunteers appreciated, contact  
[jessicacatherinejames@gmail.com](mailto:jessicacatherinejames@gmail.com)







## Tuesday Group – Judith Wood...



Welcome to the Stratton Tuesday Group!

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Stratton Village Hall. There are no meetings in January or August. We are always pleased to welcome new members and offer fellowship and friendship. Our objective is to be a link between St Peter's and the local community and to provide an opportunity to meet together for talks and activities.

Our first meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** when we will be entertained by Chris O'Grady who will talk about his travels walking to Rome and a pair of underpants!! So this promises to be a particularly lively evening!

**On 5<sup>th</sup> March** Tim Bird will be showing us how to 'Stay stronger for life'. We would all like to discover the secret to this, so hope you will be able to join us on this Tuesday in early spring.

Next, **on 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, we will be taken down Memory Lane by Mr Boskett - by Steam, Train and Horse....!

We do hope that you will be able to join us on these evenings in 2024 where you will be made most welcome, and can meet old and new friends.

In July the Group likes to go on a summer outing. So if you have any ideas regarding where we might go this Summer please do not hesitate to have a word with Judith Wood.

We also have a small sales table at the Tuesday meetings. So if you wish to donate an item please bring it along on the evening. All sales go to help the church restoration fund.

**We look forward to meeting everyone on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at Stratton Village Hall, 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Entrance is £3.00 pp.**

For further information please contact Judith Wood on: 01285 652713 or Gill Keen on: 01285 652069.

## Winstone and District WI- *Moira Cima*

The year got off to an inspiring start this January, with Robert Bryant giving us some great suggestions for Spring planting in our gardens, and ideas for plants that will give us a colourful or scented lift next winter.

In February we'll be joined by Fergus from [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](#), who will tell us more about the work of this local charity. The GWT's aim is to help us to 'preserve, recreate and reconnect with Gloucestershire's wild places'. Did you know that five per cent of Gloucestershire households are members of GWT, one of the highest membership

rates of all the Wildlife Trusts in the UK?

If you want to come along and find out about the work of the GWT, and how they achieve this remarkable success, all are welcome on *Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February*.

We meet in Winstone Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm. If you'd like more information then please do call our secretary, Chris, on: 01285 821261.



## Scrubditch Care Farm - *Emma Costley-White*

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Coffee mornings** – As we go to press...our first coffee morning of 2024 is on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** - 10.30am - midday, in the Ark. The February coffee morning will be on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**.

**Our Christmas Fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> December was a HUGE SUCCESS!**  
- We had a great turn out for the

Fair in freezing conditions (-4!). It was a wonderful event....and Santa was a big hit! We raised nearly £2,000.00. Thank you to all our supporters.

**Wreath making Workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> November** - The wreath making workshop was, once again, a great evening! We had some lovely feedback and look forward to running another one this year.

**Our Tuesday sessions** - From 11am to 1pm we welcome people living with dementia, Alzheimer's and any other serious health limiting conditions, along with their Carers, to come and spend a couple of hours with our friendly team. Enjoy feeding the animals; a walk in the woodland, followed by lovely cakes and a cuppa in the Ark. For more information please email Janet at:

[info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](mailto:info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)

**Pig News** - Dee dee has farrowed – on New Year's Eve of all nights....all on her own! We have four lovely piglets – 2 boars and 2 gilts all growing at an alarming rate as she's feeding them so well!

Jimmy looks fantastic! He's nine months old now, and we are hoping to sell him as a stud boar. We have 3 gilts left from Mabel's litter who should be going off soon.

**Sheep News** - The ewes are all looking fit and well, and we are hoping to get them scanned at the end of January.

**Hens & Ducks** - The hens are laying a few more, but duck eggs are very sparse....and this cold won't improve things much!

**Upcoming Events** - We have lots of events to look forward to this year. Our Open Farm is in April, our plant sale in May. Please see below.....

**Dates for the diary:**

Term dates: 7<sup>th</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: Coffee morning.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April (tbc): Open Farm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May: Plant Sale

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June: National Open Farm Sunday

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June: Big Health Check Day at Oxtalls Centre Gloucester

**Bookings for student sessions are being taken now.**

*Email us at:*

[info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](mailto:info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)

**Don't forget to follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter and look at our website:**

[www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk](http://www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk)





## Applications invited by the *Stratton Educational Foundation*

Applications are invited once again by the Trustees for grants in aid of persons under the age of 25 years who, or whose parents, are resident in the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Stratton with Baunton, and who require financial help towards the cost of preparing for a profession or trade or in furthering their education, or in providing group facilities for recreation and social and physical training. Individual applicants might wish to apply for a grant to help with the cost of textbooks or equipment, for example, which they need for a college course. For further details and an application form please contact Mrs C Bramley: [corinna.bramley2@gmail.com](mailto:corinna.bramley2@gmail.com)



*Completed applications should be returned by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

## News from the Diocese

### Archbishop of Canterbury to visit Diocese

This May, we will be welcoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to our Diocese as part of the Big Mission Weekend in May. From *Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May*, the Archbishop will be visiting various locations across the Diocese followed by a special

service in the Cathedral on the Sunday afternoon.

Read more at:

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/the-big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-24-to-26-may-2024>

### Explore Gloucester Cathedral in new virtual tour

It is now possible to take a virtual tour of Gloucester Cathedral to explore its most-loved spaces and delve into its past in the more hidden areas:

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/visit/virtual-tour>

Using modern technology, this new way of viewing the entire Cathedral has opened up this 1,000-year-old sacred space to everyone, anywhere in the world. The virtual tour is available on the Cathedral's website, allowing users to journey through almost every corner of this remarkable building. Take a look around the Nave, the Cloisters and the Lady Chapel before delving into other historic areas such as the medieval Library, iconic Tower and subterranean Crypt.

Created by local company, *Virtual360tours*, the virtual tour will allow everyone to navigate through these areas at their own pace, from wherever they are in the world.

To read more about this new facility see:

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/explore-gloucester-cathedral-from-anywhere-in-new-virtual-tour](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/explore-gloucester-cathedral-from-anywhere-in-new-virtual-tour)

*With thanks to the February 2024 edition of [The Messenger](#), from the Diocese of Gloucester, for the news items above*

## What do hedgehogs, nesting birds and polar bears have in common?

**Answer: They are all celebrated during February!**

### **HEDGEHOG DAY: 2<sup>nd</sup> February:**

The earliest traceable practice of the belief that hedgehogs can predict the coming of spring goes back to the Ancient Romans, who relied on them - not groundhogs which are a completely different creature - to determine if spring was coming soon. Later, Germans did a similar thing with local [badgers](#), while in America groundhogs offer a similar prediction. Hedgehogs are definitely a gardener's friend, because they eat beetles, caterpillars, worms and other invertebrates you might not want. They also help to keep your crops and plants in great health. You can encourage hedgehogs into your garden and keep them and your garden happy throughout the year.



**NEST BOX WEEK – 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February:** Organised by the [British Trust for Ornithology](#). National Nest Box Week encourages people to help the birds by putting up nest boxes. With the nesting season about to start, garden birds will be starting to prepare for their busiest time of year. The main nesting season runs from March to August but, rather aptly, birds are traditionally thought to have paired up by Valentine's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> February, hence the start of Nest Box Week. As well as feeding birds, the Trust says that it is important they have a suitable shelter and site for breeding. With natural habitats such as trees and hedgerows being lost to development and the increase in urban housing, some garden birds can struggle to find a safe shelter to rear their young, hence providing a nest box in your garden can be a positive benefit.

### **WORLD POLAR BEAR DAY –**

**17<sup>th</sup> February:** This day was founded to coincide with the time when polar bear mothers and cubs are snug in their dens. This year the focus is on raising funds to help protect mother and cub polar bears, giving them the best possible chance of survival. On average, only about half of all cubs reach adulthood, with even lower survival rates in the most vulnerable populations. This is what the [WWF \(World Wide Fund for Nature\)](#) says: 'While climate change remains the greatest threat to the polar bear's survival, that is not all that the predator is up against. The oil and gas industry is turning its eyes to the arctic, and with it comes the potential risks of habitat destruction from oil exploration work. Contact with oil spills can reduce the insulating effect of a bear's fur requiring them to use more energy to get warm and can poison them if ingested. Polar bears can also be exposed to toxic chemicals such as pesticides through their prey, which can affect a bear's biological functioning and ability to reproduce. Melting sea ice from climate change has increased human-polar bear conflicts when hungry polar bears search for food in the summer. Fortunately, people are learning to adapt to the polar bear's presence and to take preventative measures to reduce the risk of conflict.'



Source: Association for Church Editors – with thanks.



# Crossword

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW97 (December 23/January 2024)

### ACROSS:

1	ZEAL	10	RICH	17	DART	23	MAIL
5	IRON	12	JUST	18	MYTH	24	DENT
7	OVERACT	14	APOSTLES	19	FRAGRANT		
8	TEXTBOOK	16	ARGUMENT	22	UNLADEN		

### DOWN:

1	ZEST	6	NOAH	18	MAIM
2	LOFT	9	EQUERRY	19	FULL
3	LEMONADE	11	CHEVRON	20	RIND
4	DARK	13	TRUTHFUL	21	TEST
5	ITERATED	15	OUTWARDS		

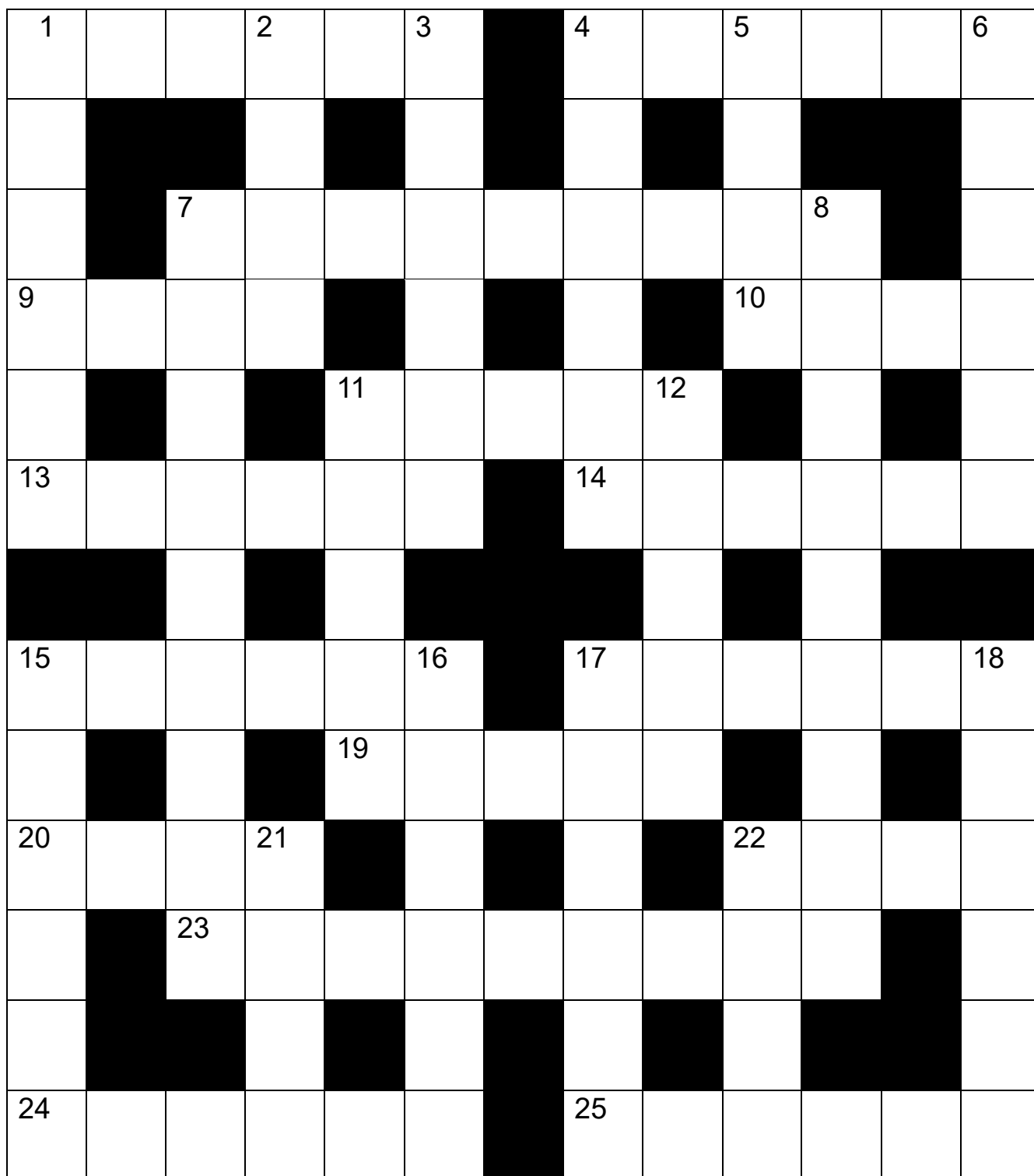
## FEBRUARY CROSSWORD: BW98 - *by Ben Woods*

### CLUES ACROSS:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 WOUND (6);           | 15 LOOK ASKANCE (6); |
| 4 IDEA (6);            | 17 RECLUSE (6);      |
| 7 ACCORD (9);          | 19 CHANCED (5);      |
| 9 SORT (4);            | 20 SIGN (4);         |
| 10 SIDE OF ROAD (4);   | 22 RECOGNISE (4);    |
| 11 MEADOW (5);         | 23 FEELING (9);      |
| 13 LENGTH OF TIME (6); | 24 SURVIVED (6);     |
| 14 FESTIVAL (6);       | 25 FINE-TUNES (6).   |

### CLUES DOWN:

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 PART OF SHOE (6);       | 11 DISCOVERED (5);          |
| 2 ENCOURAGE (4);          | 12 CONFUSED (5);            |
| 3 WHAT YOU WINK WITH (6); | 15 SPADE (6);               |
| 4 LITHE (6);              | 16 TIPPED (6);              |
| 5 ARMoured VEHICLE (4);   | 17 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR (6); |
| 6 FIGURE (6);             | 18 DRYING CLOTHS (6);       |
| 7 HOLES (9); –            | 21 FOLLOWING (4);           |
| 8 DECLARATION (9);        | 22 JOINT (4).               |



## Football Verse Search Puzzle - *by Ralph Hewitt*

Ralph Hewitt is a member of the Methodist Church. He not only loves doing puzzles he creates them for fun. The 'word search' grid below contains the names of 28 Football Clubs. If you find all 28 you will also notice that the unused letters in the grid spell out a relevant verse from the *Good News Bible* (1976). You might even manage to identify the verse. Good luck!

S	L	O	A	L	L	I	V	N	O	T	S	A	Y	S
B	I	E	U	R	Y	N	H	C	M	R	S	U	R	D
U	N	T	I	O	S	C	E	A	E	U	N	S	U	E
R	O	T	R	C	I	E	H	W	N	L	R	A	B	E
N	T	K	I	W	E	N	N	D	C	R	T	G	A	L
L	T	C	R	J	E	S	E	A	E	A	B	I	R	O
E	I	O	O	T	U	R	T	A	L	O	S	W	C	O
Y	N	Y	L	V	L	V	L	E	U	H	R	T	E	P
T	G	E	E	A	E	M	E	R	R	E	T	D	L	R
R	H	N	N	O	A	N	N	N	X	N	E	O	O	E
C	A	D	I	D	V	M	T	H	T	R	A	W	N	V
A	M	I	R	D	O	I	A	R	B	U	R	L	A	I
D	S	I	T	U	A	M	L	Y	Y	T	S	H	I	L
E	D	G	T	H	R	E	T	S	E	H	C	N	A	M
O	A	H	U	D	D	E	R	S	F	I	E	L	D	L

**Football Club Answers:** HUDDERSFIELD, BOURNEMOUTH, READING, NOTTINGHAM, CHELTENHAM, LUTON, ASTON VILLA, ARSENAL, MANCHESTER, NORWICH, REAL MADRID, BURNLEY, NEWCASTLE, SUNDERLAND, LEICESTER, LIVERPOOL, BARCELONIA, MILAN, JUVENTUS, WREXHAM, COVENTRY, DERBY, YEOVIL, RAITH, CELTIC, YORK, BURY, LEEDS. *The Hidden Bible Verse* is from Philippians 3:14 (Good News Bible, The Bible Societies 1976): *SO I RAN STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE GOAL*



# Services in February

## KEY TO MINISTERS:



### CVB Licensed Ministers:

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

T: 01285 655199; e: [dlkminns@gmail.com](mailto:dlkminns@gmail.com)

**JA-M** = Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie (Associate Priest) (*Part-time - 3 days a week. Working days = Sunday, Monday and Tuesday*).

T: 07821 474711; e: [janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk](mailto:janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk)

**MG** = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 e: [mgreen282@btinternet.com](mailto:mgreen282@btinternet.com)

**MV** = Mr Mark Venn (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831209 e: [mark.w.venn@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.w.venn@btinternet.com)

### Additional Ministers:

**JM** = Revd Jan Moore T: 01285 640077; [therevjan@gmail.com](mailto:therevjan@gmail.com)

**CP** = Revd Cliff Pooley T: 01242 243981; [cliff.pooley@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.pooley@btinternet.com)

**Chaplain, Rendcomb College:** Marie Hobbs: [Chaplain@rendcombcollege.org.uk](mailto:Chaplain@rendcombcollege.org.uk)

## February Services

### Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [CW] (JA-M)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd Canon Margaret Bettis)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [CW] (DM)

### Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC (JA-M)
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### Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>		Service at Cowley
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MP (MV)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>		Service at Cowley
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (JA-M)

### Parish Church of St James, Colesbourne

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (MV)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Matins (MV)

### Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (MV – by ext'n)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Service at Coberley</i>

### Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MW (MV)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (JA-M)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MW (Geoff Gait-Carr)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Service at Rendcomb</i>

### Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	<i>Super Sunday Supper Service</i> in Village Hall! (DM & JA-M)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Matins (MG)

### Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb

Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Service at Elkstone</i>
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	MW (Marie Hobbs)

### Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	HC (DM)
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Celtic Worship (MV)
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	<b><i>Ash Wednesday Service</i></b> (DM)
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	<i>Big Breakfast Bash</i> – All Age – in Stratton School Hall (DM)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HC (DM)

# Directory

<b>The Rector</b>	The Revd David Minns	01285 655199 dlkminns@gmail.com
<b>Associate Priests</b>	The Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie	07821 474711 janet.cv@anderson-mackenzie.co.uk
	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
	The Revd Cliff Pooley	01242 243981 cliff.pooley@btinternet.com
<b>Readers</b>	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
<b>Chaplain, Rendcomb College</b>	Marie Hobbs	Chaplain@rendcombcollege.org.uk
<b>Benefice Administrator</b>	Corinna Bramley	beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Bagendon Alison Saunders	01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk
	Ghislaine Venn	01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton Deborah Clarke	dasabin@icloud.com
	Mark Doell	mt.doell@gmail.com
	Coberley & Cowley (vacancy)	
	Colesbourne Sir Henry Elwes	01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
	Elkstone Geoff Gait-Carr	07737 621120 jeffcarr53.jc@gmail.com
	North Barry Koch	01285 831017 barry.koch2022@outlook.com
	Cerney Mark Tufnell	01285 831246 mark@calmsden.com
	Rendcomb Carol Bailey	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Alex Brealy	01285 831213 brealya@rendcombcollege.org.uk
	Stratton Beth Hamid	01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com
	Patrick Coleman	01285 644557 patrick.coleman@live.co.uk
<b>PCC Secretaries</b>	Bagendon Caryl Barefoot	carylbarefoot@icloud.com
	Baunton John Milner	01285 643731 john.milner@btinternet.com
	Coberley & Cowley Gill Clark	01242 285719 gill@hillbarnworld.co.uk
	Colesbourne vacancy	
	Elkstone vacancy	
	Rendcomb Carol Bailey (temporary)	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Stratton Jill Ashton	jillashton13@gmail.com



## DIRECTORY CONTINUED....

<b>PCC Treasurers</b>	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
	Baunton	John Milner	01285 643731 john.milner@btinternet.com
	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
	Coberley	Steve Bunker	07901 173432 steve@thebunkers.uk
	Colesbourne	Sir Henry Elwes (temporary)	01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
	Cowley	Steve Bunker	07901 173432 steve@thebunkers.uk
	Elkstone	(vacancy)	
	Rendcomb	Annabel Purcell	01285 831686 annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk
	Stratton	Steve Bunker	07901 173432 steve@thebunkers.uk
<b>Organists</b>	Bagendon	Tony Hymas	01285 831728
	Stratton	Robin Baggs	07796 812945 rebags1@gmail.com
<b>Pastoral Emergency in</b>	Stratton	Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	North Cerney	Elmore Crump	01285 831275
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	North Cerney	Judy Carter	01285 831425
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b>	Bagendon	Ghislaine Venn	01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Cowley & Coberley	Susan Hamilton	07703 165500 Susan@hamiltonbig.com
	Colesbourne	Marie Owen	marieowen@doctors.org.uk
	Elkstone	Geoff Gait-Carr	07737 621120 jeffcarr53.jc@gmail.com
	North Cerney	Sue Clegg	suzannelegg37@gmail.com
	Rendcomb		
	Stratton	Jane Trotter	01285 655156 janeyt.ciren@hotmail.com
	North Cerney	Anne Norman	01285 831237
	Stratton	Lesley Pollock	01285 653145 lesleyalm@btinternet.com
<b>The Tuesday Group Magazine Editors</b>	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com
	Parish Link	Corinna Bramley	01285 641523 editor.parishlink@gmail.com

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**Or do you have some news you would like included?**

Please forward any items for inclusion in the March 2024 edition by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to the Editor - Corinna: [editor.parishlink@gmail.com](mailto:editor.parishlink@gmail.com)