

Parish Life Magazine

Parish of Cirencester
with
Watermoor and St Lawrence

New Life in Jesus

He is Risen!

April 2020

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak the magazine is only available online

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

Useful contacts:

Vicar of Cirencester: Revd Canon Graham Morris

vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Tel 01285 659317 Office 239655 Vicarage

The Vicar is very happy for you to contact him directly
for matters of concern pastorally or spiritually.

Associate Priest

Assistant Curate (NSM)

Revd Katie Richardson

revkatie@cirenparish.co.uk

Revd Julian Wilson

fr.julian17@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Ros Dolton

rosdolton@gmail.com

Peter Flaherty

peterflaherty@cirenparish.co.uk

Organist and Choirmaster

Hugo Kennard

hugo@cirenparish.co.uk

Howard Gray (PCC Secretary)

howardgray@cirenparish.co.uk

Sarah Marshall and Emily Winstanley (Parish Administration)

The Parish Office, Corner Stone, 3 Dollar Street, Cirencester,

GL7 2JA 01285 659317

Email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Website: www.cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Magazine articles (submitted by 16th day of previous month)

cirparmag4@gmail.com

For other officers please see the website's 'who's who'

Lead Article



It was to the stone masons' yard that the new Cathedral dean made his first visit, and many younger and older stonemasons were at work. The dean watched them for a few minutes, and eventually started wandering and chatting to the workers. "What are you doing"? he asked a particularly energetic young man, who was chipping away at the side of a block of stone. "I'm trying to get a smooth side so that it will fit to that wall over there" he said, indicating an area of repair. Passing on, the same question was asked of an older woman, doing pretty much the same thing, and she responded that she was building the wall. The third youngster on the other side of the yard was also asked, and looked up with a smile, "I'm building a cathedral," he said!

Each of the answers was true, but signifies something of the individual's world view. How do we see our involvement in the building of God's kingdom? Whatever task we are doing, we are called to do it for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

We may say that we are teachers, office workers, retired, gardeners, bus drivers etc. etc. and that may be our vision, but as Christians our ultimate aim is to build the kingdom of God. Building God's kingdom is not about converting the world - as wonderful as that would be - but about sharing the character of Christ in compassion, care, kindness, forgiveness, tolerance, grace and suchlike. It's about countering the common culture of hurry, intolerance and anger with Christ's alternatives. It's a busy life, and we can sail through it without seeing the bigger picture, and so with the help of Ignatius Loyola, we can end our day checking our effectiveness in building the kingdom.

Give thanksgiving.

Begin by giving God thanks for all the things you're grateful for today, both the good and the difficult, and see where you have grown through the latter.

Ask for the Spirit to search you.

To find moments in the day which did not go so well. However, before doing so, ask God to fill you with his Spirit so that the Spirit can lead you through this difficult soul-searching. Otherwise, it's easy to hide in denial, wallow in self-pity, or seethe in self-loathing.

Review and recognise failures.

Look back at the day and ask the Lord to point out the moments of failure in big ways or small. Take a sobering look at the mistakes of the day.

Ask for - and give - forgiveness and healing.

If there is sin, ask God to forgive you and set you straight again. If it is not sin but simply a mistake, ask for healing of any harm that might have been done. Also, ask for help to get over it and move on. And ask for wisdom to discern how you might better handle such tricky moments in the future. Discern hurt and pain, offer the wounds to God for his healing and forgive those who hurt you as a discipline, whether you feel forgiving or not, and renounce and give to God and anger, bitterness or resentment.

Pray about the next day.

As you continue to build the kingdom, seek God's Grace for all your different situations.

See your part in the greater mission of the church - it may not feel a very big part, or even a very important part, but remember, no-one else can do it but you! Be effective, be visionary; build the kingdom.

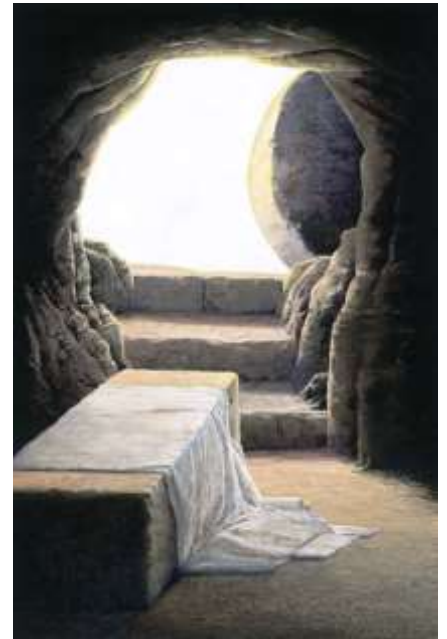
Rock on Christian brothers and sisters!

Revd. Paul Springate



Matthew 28

All four gospels are agreed that women went first to the tomb of the first day of the week and discovered the tomb to be empty. The plausibility of Mark's account that they went to complete the embalmment of the body has long been questioned. Indeed, Mark himself has the women question the viability of it. Matthew suggests that the women simply came to visit the tomb. The desire to visit the last resting place of a friend is a powerful motive in almost any culture. No other motive need be postulated. However, there developed a tradition in Judaism whereby the tomb was watched for three days to stay with the dead person until the soul left the body.



When this became a traditional and habitual practice is disputed. But recent evidence seems to suggest that the practice went back to the 1st century CE and continued up to the Byzantine era. Maybe the women, then, go to watch over the tomb. Matthew's account seems to suggest, also, that they went as soon as the Sabbath was over (a literal translation of the Greek is: "late on the Sabbath towards the dawning of the first day of the week") that is at the first opportunity. They therefore form the counter witness to the false witness of the guards who had specifically been placed to watch over the tomb – not in mourning nor in fulfilment of traditional burial procedure, but for reasons of security. If so, it seems possible that they may have even witnessed the earthquake and the descent of the angel and the rolling away of the stone.

Another major difference in Matthew's account from that of Mark is that just as the women were leaving the tomb, in a mixture of fear and joy, to go and tell the disciples the great news, Jesus himself appears to them. In marked contrast to other resurrection stories they instantly recognize him and throw themselves at his feet grabbing him round the legs in worship and love. Jesus tells them not to fear but to go and tell. Jesus gives them the same message that the young man gave to the women in Mark's gospel.

When they do go back to Galilee Jesus meets them on the top of a mountain: Some of the 11 are still in doubt; they wait to hear his teaching. But it is not teaching that they receive: Jesus asserts his authority as Lord. What they receive is an ordination: the mission field has no boundaries; their task is to baptize; those baptized are to be taught to obey every command of Jesus. They are to live lives which are like houses built on the rock. It is a renewed warning to all readers of the gospel. Jesus's teaching as reported in this gospel is not for approval or analysis. It is not directed at the mind but at the will. It is passed on to us as an imperative not an option. And the risen Jesus is not limited in his presence to Galilee or even Palestine. He remains Emmanuel/God-with-us until the end of time.

If Mark leaves us bewildered and fearful of how the resurrection is going to impact upon us as Jesus's disciples, sending us back to first principles and urging us to revisit old haunts with faith instead of fear, Matthew announces the triumph of Jesus with a fanfare of trumpets and a ring of assurance: in the words of the last verse of Edmond Budry's great hymn:

Craindrais-je encore? Il vit à jamais,
Celui que j'adore, le Prince de paix;
Il est ma victoire, mon puissant soutien,
Ma vie et ma gloire : non, je ne crains rien!
À toi la gloire, O Ressuscité!
À toi la victoire pour l'éternité!

He lives for ever, what then should I fear?
Prince of peace triumphant, him whom I adore,
My supporting conqueror, hero ever near,
He's my life, my glory, no I shall not fear!
To you all glory, risen Lord for aye
Yours the saving victory through eternity.

([Edmond L. Budry](#), *Chants Évangéliques* (Lausanne, Suisse: 1885) trans RJG).

Bob Gardiner

Applications for Church Grants Open for 2020



The first round of Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust's grant applications are open now, until the 30th of April 2020.

With our region having over 620 historic churches, chapels and meeting houses, the Trust's grants are of vital importance to help these buildings stay alive as active centres of community life and landmarks of the wonderful architectural heritage of this area. The Trust raises funds and provides £150,000 in grants for churches annually in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis, the Trust's Grants Chairman, says:

“At GHCT we are very open-minded and we very rarely say no to a project. We have a simple application process and we make decisions quickly. We understand the importance of these grants to the local people and getting their churches back on track. We are often the first successful application in smaller local projects and we know our grants can be that first big encouragement”

One example of where the Trust has helped recently is at Holy Trinity, Stapleton.

Sitting at the top of Bell Hill, in Stapleton, with its 170 foot spire, Holy Trinity dominates the skyline of north-east Bristol. For over 100 years, roof repairs had been done as and when necessary, leaving the roof with a patchwork of worn and leaky slates in urgent need of repair.

In order to preserve the fine interior, with its beautiful stained-glass windows and other architecturally significant features, the church has raised nearly £200,000 over four years. Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust has contributed a total of £21,500 to the project.

This is what the Appeal Chair, Delia Beake, had to say about the Trust's contribution:

“When our Church Roof Appeal started in 2015 we approached a lot of smaller charities without a great deal of success until Gloucester Historic Churches entered the frame. This was such an important moment; the Trust recognised what we were trying to do and lent us their support, the impact of which has not only motivated us further but, after substantial donations, has enabled us to complete three phases of the Roof Repair Project .

Their recent donation towards the last phase has pushed us over the 50% target we needed to approach larger grant making bodies. This has opened up new lines of funding. GHCT has always shown faith in us to see the project through to completion and with their help we are confident we will achieve it by the spring of 2021”.

If you have a historic building in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire or North Bristol requiring repair or renovation you can apply for a grant by downloading the form from the website: www.ghct.org.uk/grants/apply





Curry night at the Rajdoot

Canon Graham's curry night was great fun. There were just six of us but we had a lively evening with plenty of good conversation, lots of laughter and some flavourful curries, and were attentively waited on by the Rajdoot staff. The restaurant soon filled up with racegoers from the Cheltenham Festival who added to the 'feel good' atmosphere of the evening.

Do come along and join us next time!

Fiona Hawes



07592 744 781

Caring in Crisis

Towards the end of January this year, in the Parish Church, besides enjoying the fun of various people's gifts, we launched the You Matter Hub, a single phone number to obtain pastoral help for yourself or another. Created by Canon Howard, it was limited to Holy Trinity's congregation until we launched it parish wide last January.

We have many groups inside the parish to offer pastoral care, from the Mothers' Union to baptismal families and Pastoral Visitors and Shepherds, each with their own particular constituency and responsibility. The Hub gives one phone number to access these - and other outside, secular - resources. It is a mobile number where you leave a message, and the phone is checked for messages twice a day, and when the message is collected, it will be passed to the appropriate group to help.

This is a number for the pastoral care of the church family initially as our resources are limited, but do use it if there is a need for you or others, and as the Coronavirus continues its merry way through our world, it may be the place to ask for some support.

Paul Springate

St Aldhelm



Day

Malmesbury Abbey
Mon. 6th April 2020
10:00am to 4pm

**Ever wondered what it was like
to be a monk or nun in the 7th Century?**

*Come to an entertaining, informative, enjoyable day of
workshops immersed in the world of St Aldhelm:*

- Sing the monastic hour services
- Learn about St Aldhelm's times and Riddles
- Explore your creativity inspired by his life & work.

Tickets £15

Information & Registration

Abbey Bookshop /

events@malmesburyabbey.com

9.30 am REGISTRATION, COFFEE, LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

9:45 am WELCOME

10:00am (prompt start please): HOLY WEEK CHANT EXPERIENCE

We begin with hear-and-respond repetitions, a brief look at Gregorian notation, then recite a short yet complete Monastic service for the Third Hour.

After a refreshment break at 11am we work with music in honour of St Aldhelm and with music for Holy Week, giving an insight into the historical traditions used in the original Malmesbury Abbey services.

We conclude with the midday Office of Sext at 12:45pm.

TUTOR: John Rowlands-Pritchard is an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music for his work teaching the chant. He has recently worked for Glastonbury Abbey, Worcester Three Choirs Festival, Benslow Music, Sarum College, Two Moors Festival, with the Benedictine monks of Silverstream Priory Co.Meath Ireland, Dorchester Arts, and Ledbury Poetry Festival.

1pm to 2pm LUNCH BREAK- OPTIONS FOR LUNCH:

- Lunch can be ordered ahead of time from the Abbey Cafe menu.
- Bring your own packed lunch to eat in the Abbey.
- Go out into the town to one of the many eateries.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

2:00 pm Opening Chant

2:15 pm Short Introduction to Historical Context

2:30 pm The Aldhelm Riddles A presentation on Aldhelm the poet, exploring some of the Riddles and encouraging contemporary poetic interpretation of the form. **LEADER:** Olive Malcolm has an MA Honours degree in English Language and Literature from the University of St Andrews and taught English for a number of years.

3:00 pm Creative Session inspired by St Aldhelm's Riddles

Participants will be guided through options to explore their own creativity in riddles, poetry, prose, or colour or in contemplation using the Abbey spaces and Labyrinth. **LEADER:** Anne Cox has a degree in Creative Arts for Health and has worked with hospices, refugee centres and the Alzheimer's Society.

3:30 pm Plenary

3:45 pm Closing Chant

4:00 pm Close

Please fill in your details and give your payment to the Abbey Bookshop or e mail Anne Cox at events@malmesburyabbey.com

PLACES LIMITED, EARLY BOOKING ADVISED

MUSIC FOR A
Summer Evening

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2020 7.00 PM

**Cirencester Baptist Church,
Chesterton Lane, GL7 1YE**

..... featuring

**The Hill and Valley Singers
& The Minpins Children's Choir**

..... with special guests

**Giles Francis (Violin)
Kate Hicks Beach (Mezzo-Soprano)
Clemency Rubinstein (Flute)**

TICKETS £10

**IN ADVANCE & ON THE DOOR
(CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE)**

**This is a charity concert in aid of the Duntisbourne Churches
& Parkinson's UK (Cirencester & Stroud Branch)**

FRAGILE FLOWER

Oh! fragile flower, that bends with every breeze,

Oh! fragile flower, so pale among the leaves,

Oh! fragile flower, I see your fragility,

For I am God, so turn your head,

Receive your strength from me.

Oh! fading star, that once shone clear and bright,

Oh! fading star, that now dreads the dark of night,

Oh! fading star, I see your faltering glow,

For I am God, the Lord of light,

Let my light surround you now.

Oh! wounded child, who's been through so much pain,

Oh! wounded child, who's cries seemed all in vain,

Oh! wounded child, I bore your wounds on Calvary's tree,

For I am God, your healing Lord,

Come, bring those wounds to me.

Oh! struggling Church, confused and bound by fear,

Oh! struggling Church, too proud to shed a tear,

Oh! struggling Church, enough of Satan's lies,

For I am God, my Son's your head,

Come, look into his eyes.

Oh! weeping world, desperate to find the way,

Oh! weeping world, so quickly led astray,

Oh! weeping world, I see your anguish and your strife,

For I am God, your maker,

Come to Jesus... my way of life.

J.R.M.

He is Risen - Halleluiah

Calling all singers !

Come and join our fun and friendly 4-part choir!

The Hill and Valley Singers

(formerly the Chedworth Singers)



There are no auditions and it's not essential to read music. Just bring your enthusiasm, commitment and enjoyment of singing. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

We meet on **Thursdays 7.30-9.00 pm**, at St Andrew's School, Chedworth GL54 4AJ

Rehearsals start on **March 5th, 2020** in preparation for our next concert on June 6th.

Musical Director - Shirley Jee
Accompanist - Rachel Emmerson

For more information contact our
Chairman, Neil Irving, 01285 720403



Via email

Hike for Home-Start Cotswolds

Join us for a morning circular walk, above the beautiful Windrush Valley, in aid of family support charity Home-Start Cotswolds.

9.30am Wednesday 20th May 2020

The walk starts and finishes at Stone Barn, near Upper Windrush GL54 3RF.

Walkers will be given a map of the route and refreshments afterwards. You might also like to stay for a delicious two-course lunch prepared by the chefs at Stone Barn. Dogs (on leads) are welcome.

Walk and refreshments £15

Walk, lunch and coffee £30

For tickets, please visit our website and book online: www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk

Lunch places are limited, so please book now to avoid disappointment.

Venue and lunch generously donated by Felicity and Mark Henriques (www.crippsanddoo.com/stone-barn/).

For any further details, please email us at office@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk or call 01285 888391.

All proceeds will be used to support families with young children across the Cotswolds who are going through a difficult time.
Thank you for your support!



Produced by Maria Helle Cirencester



M.G.

Thank you to everyone who came to our March meeting and we are particularly grateful to our speaker, Chris David Storer, for his very engaging and entertaining talk on the acting profession and his own career as a stage and television actor. Thank you, Chris!

As things stand, we are very much intending to go ahead with our April meeting but we will obviously let you know if anything changes between now and then; this will very much depend on advice and guidance circulated to parishes by Gloucester Diocese. The situation is clearly fluid.

Our next MG meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 April 2020**; arrival from 7.45pm, for 8.15pm start, as usual. The venue will be the upstairs function room at [Somewhere Else](#), 65 Castle Street, Cirencester, GL7 1QD.

Our speaker will be **Steve Kaufmann**, chair of local charity, Home-Start Cotswolds (please click [here](#) to find out more

Looking ahead to future meetings:

5 May 2020 - Canon Graham Morris (talk on Ghana).

2 June 2020 - June meal (details TBC).

7 July 2020 - Meg Blumsom (Project Blackjack).

4 August 2020 - No meeting.

8 September 2020 - Cllr Patrick Coleman, Mayor of Cirencester (***please note this is the second Tuesday of the month***).

6 October 2020 - speaker details TBC.

3 November 2020 - speaker details TBC.

1 December 2020 - December meal (details TBC).

If you would like further information about our upcoming meetings, or have any general queries about the Men's Group, please contact David Henson by email davidhenson47@gmail.com or on 07790 313249.

Please forward this email to anybody else who might be interested in getting involved with the MG – and feel free to bring a friend or two along to any of our monthly meetings. New people are always most welcome!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

The Cirencester Parish Men's Group (MG) meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month. The idea is simple: we have a monthly meeting, open to all men in the Cirencester Parish area, with thought-provoking speakers and ample space to chat about whatever is important to us over a drink or two – along with the occasional meals out and other events.



Dear Members & Friends,

Mothers' Union is a powerhouse of prayer. Every day members stop for mid-day prayers. We pray for all our members, their families and friends, that God will be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging and leading them, sheltering and strengthen them. This means with over 4 million members in 84 countries prayers are being said virtually every minute of every day! What an outpouring of prayer. As Christians we put our faith into action by acts great and small, giving those in need a helping hand, enabling them to have the confidence and skills that will transform their lives. At home and abroad we provide parenting groups, literacy and financial education. We protest against gender based violence and promote peace through reconciliation. We are driven by our faith, working with people of all faiths and none.

We usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Watermoor Church Hall at 2.30pm. Our meetings start with a short act of worship, followed by notices then we usually have a guest speaker. All are welcome to come to our meetings, members or not.

However, taking into consideration that the Corona virus is sweeping the country the committee have decided to cancel/postpone the following meetings/events.

Wednesday April 1st our usual monthly meeting

Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday Cake Stall in Watermoor Church Hall after the 10am service, postponed until later in the year.

Friday April 24th Pudding Party in Watermoor Church Hall, postponed until later in the year.

Should it be necessary to cancel further meetings or events notices will be posted in the weekly pew leaflet and in next month's magazine letter.

Keep well and safe.

With love and prayers

Kathie Cottey

Dates in May

Wednesday May 6th 2.30pm Watermoor Church Hall. Speaker Revd. Canon Graham Morris, 'My Trip to Ghana'

Thursday May 14th Please note Change of time & venue, Diocesan Council & AGM 7pm St Philip & St James Church Centre, Huccelcote.

OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



When we went to do Open the Book recently the pianist was engaged elsewhere.

We asked the teacher if the children would sing something.

They immediately chose:

“Be bold, be strong for the Lord your God is with you” I am not afraid, not me, for I’m walking in faith and victory, I’m walking in faith and victory, for the Lord my God is with me”.

They do actions with this and the enthusiasm was tangible.

What a witness!

It was full of joy and hope - the message they and all our children need and I suspect many of us grown ups also!

The teacher was such a blessing also, so willing for this to happen even though no accompaniment.

Eve Trevorrow



The Soroptimist Club of Cirencester and District invites applications from local charities and individuals for small grants, to its charity The Dorothy Minnis Trust (registered charity number 281078)

Application forms and further information are available on the club website:

www.sigbi.org/cirencester/dorothy-minnis-trust

Applications can be made at any time however, the deadline for consideration at the next Trustee meeting is 5th July 2020

With thanks

Barbara Banks

SI Cirencester and District

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,



and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference



POSITIVE CLARITY SUPPORT GROUP

For sufferers of anxiety & stress

The group meets every
Fourth Wednesday of the month
7.00pm - 8.30pm

At

THE BOTHY,

ASHCROFT ROAD, CIRENCESTER

OPPOSITE THE METHODIST CHURCH

IN THE GREY BUILDING FAR LEFT HAND DOOR

The group is for those who suffer from anxiety, low esteem, stress, panic attacks and loss of confidence.

Facilitators Dulcie & Lisa provide
a safe and supportive space.

TESTIMONIAL

"attending the anxiety group has allowed me to accept, on the inside, I have anxiety, and I have found this has enabled me to have less anxiety! "

Mrs C

The Group is **FREE**
bring a friend



**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WELCOMING YOU
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

A Chaperone is available for the first visit,
please contact Dulcie for details.

Call or email Dulcie for more info

Tel: 07964290933 email: info@positiveclarity.co.uk

Church Shop



Open Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm

Why not take a look at our Parish Church Shop? There's more than you expect!

Books

Gifts

Souvenirs

Diaries

Maps

Icons

CDs

Cards

Bibles

Calendars

Pictures

Prayer Books

Website: cirenparish.co.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/churchshop

Tel: 01285 659317