

Parish Life Magazine

**Parish of Cirencester
with
Watermoor and St Lawrence**



October 2020
On-line only

Cover Photo

The cover photo shows our vicar Canon Graham Morris and Verger John Lawrence before their sponsored cycle ride for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust.

Graham confirms that they did not wear their robes on the sponsored ride! Graham has written a short article about the ride inside the magazine.

Lockdown

Also in this magazine is an article by Pam Barnes describing how she took on a new challenge during lockdown to make scrubs and masks for the NHS and public.

If you did anything new or interesting during lockdown please send an article for publication in future magazines. The email address is cirpamag4@gmail.com

Thanks

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The Journey to Ordination

A calling rarely starts at the point a person enters the formal process. I was raised as an Anglican in a Christian family with both my parents and many of my extended family heavily involved in church life, so this was part of being a member of a congregation to me. Serving God through the compassionate service of others has been a key ideal my whole life.



When I left home and went to the University of Leeds to study Physics and Astronomy, I quickly got involved in the Ecumenical Chaplaincy: leading café worship; organising prayer labyrinths; running the sound desk and a faith in film discussion group. I stayed in Leeds to do a PhD in Astrophysics, and during my first year met Kirsty, who was studying Art, and is the daughter, sister, and niece of Methodist ministers. A scientist and an artist, yet both of us connecting with the Almighty by exploring the beauty of creation.

I then had research jobs in Astronomy at the University of Exeter, Leiden University in the Netherlands, and the Max Plank Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg, Germany. Kirsty trained as a secondary Art Teacher in Devon and completed her NQT year, then worked at the International School of the Hague and the Heidelberg International School. During our time in the Netherlands we worshipped at the Anglican church of St. John & St. Philip in The Hague, where Kirsty and I became involved in prayer ministry and were asked to join the music group for the informal evening service. I gradually took on alternating with other members of the music group in planning and leading music for the services, and was then asked to stand to become a member of the Church Council.

It was during a PCC meeting that I felt a call to more formal leadership. I did some leading and preaching, but the arrival of our first son, Arthur in 2014, followed by a move to Germany in 2015 slowed the process, so I didn't begin formally exploring vocations until we were worshipping at the English Church, Heidelberg. Along with Kirsty and others, I gradually discerned that the Holy Spirit might be nudging me towards ordained ministry. This eventually led to us moving back to

the UK in 2018 to train at Cranmer Hall in Durham, where our second son, Dougie, was born in 2019.

My experience of the Church of England had been varied in terms of tradition and setting, and this was further broadened through placements in three different parishes in County Durham, alongside my formational and academic classes. I have still barely scratched the surface of all that I need to learn and grow into, so I'm also immensely thankful that we get to see God at work through walking alongside Canon Graham and the people of Cirencester.

As I reflect in preparation for my ordination in Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 19th September, I'm so grateful to the opportunities I've been given to explore various ministries in the places we've worshipped, and to everyone who has helped, supported, sacrificed, welcomed, and guided me along the way. I am particularly mindful of way that Kirsty has given up her job as we followed this calling, but also expectant that God will reveal new and amazing things as we continue to walk the Emmaus road together.

Joe Mottram

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Church Shop Open

The Church shop is now open during church opening times which are Mondays to Saturdays 10 – 12 noon and Sundays 2.30 – 4pm.

The shop has had to change slightly to allow for social distancing, but all the gifts and cards are still available to you on display. We would like customers to pay by contactless card payment if possible but we will take cash if needed.

We are able to supply churches again with candles and wafers etc and they can e-mail their orders to churchshop@cirenparish.co.uk as can anyone who would like us to order books etc for them.

We are only back at work part time so may not pick up your e-mail or messages on the day you send them but we will reply as soon as possible.

We are pleased to be open again and look forward to seeing you visit the shop.

Caroline & Bron



Available from the Church Shop



A hymn written on the atonement; it can be sung to the tune
of *Before the throne of God above*.

Great God of justice, mercy, peace
who rules the world in matchless grace,
how could it be your sovereign will
that evil men should take and nail
your son upon a cross of wood;
shatter his body, drain his blood;
release a terrorist instead;
happy to see your Jesus dead?

Is this the way you punish sin?
Condemn to death earth's greatest man?
Leave him, rejected with the poor,
naked, unloved, alone, unsure?
Forsaken by his Father God
to die in darkness like a dog?
Surely our sins were multiplied,
as yet another good man died.

Or was it you we killed that day?
Your blood we coldly poured away?
Slaying in hate, like Cain of old,
our brother sent to love and hold;
Holding the world in terror's thrall
by bomb and bullet, loveless law,
condemning millions to your fate,
seeking to strangle love with spite.

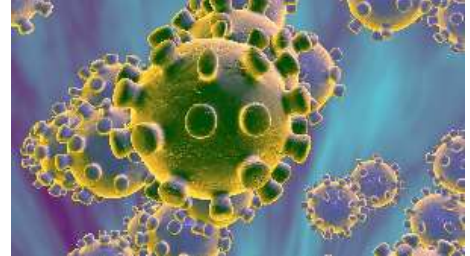
Was it not nails but love that tore
open your body, like a door
through which, by faith, we see your way
to turn earth's hells to heavenly day?
Renouncing violence, hate and war;
to walk more humbly, finding power
in patience, kindness, loving care;
till justice makes this sad world fair.

Bob Gardiner

Change

Who would have thought only a year ago,
That the world would be visited
by a virus - a "corona" no less,
And that lives
Would be changed completely.

This virus was deadly,
Many thousands died
In many countries including ours.
Lock-down was brought in
And we were greatly limited
In our daily lives.



No meetings with friends or family
Unless we masked our faces
Also in the shops and church
And outside was “social distancing”
Two metres must be left between each one,
No gatherings or parties, no concerts,
No travelling to visit friends
Cafes and hotels were closed,
And so were many shops
Unless they sold us food or medicines.

All because this virus,
A deadly foe unstoppable,
It spread with great rapidity
Throughout this realm,
And nothing yet devised
Could halt its deadly spread.
Scientists worked overtime
To seek for a new vaccine
To stop it in its tracks,
But this proved hard to do.
This modern “plague”, behaved like those of old
Bringing disease widespread, and death to many.
No one knew if it would leave us,

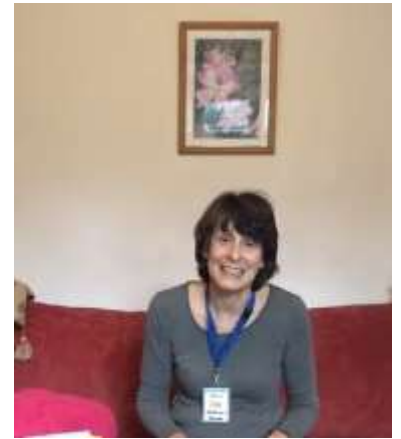
Or whether life might one day return to “normal”.
All we could do was pray to God to show us mercy,
And remove this dread disease away from us.
O Lord, help all those who suffer, and bring healing to those
Who need it day by day.

TMD

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Children’s Work during the Coronavirus

Very sadly Children’s Work in church came to a standstill in its usual form with the outbreak of Coronavirus and subsequent lockdown. Time for `out of the box` thinking! The news was full of people taking to the internet for meetings and to deliver exercise classes etc, and the vicar was talking about doing online services. So I thought “I can do that“, and I decided to deliver Junior Church (Sunday School) to my families in the form of a Word document sent by email each week together with an introductory video to go with it. My husband Ray kindly videoed me and sometimes our dog Copper joined in too!



Initially this was just for Holy Trinity Watermoor where I am the Children’s Worker, and it was well received by them. It was then decided to put these sessions onto our website www.cirenparish.co.uk in the Children and Youth section, and also onto our Facebook page (my thanks to Howard Gray and Hugo Kennard), to reach a wider audience.

Watermoor Primary School also started sending my sessions out to their children as part of their home schooling, and Powell’s Primary School put a link to the sessions through our website.

I have kept in touch with Holy Trinity families throughout by email. I have also made Birthday videos to send to the children who have missed out from our tradition at Holy Trinity of holding a candle and being sung to by the congregation together with anyone else who is celebrating a Birthday that month.

Over the last few weeks of the school summer holidays I have changed my sessions to do something a little bit different. With the families (again online) I have been exploring the many things that take place in church, as I realised that a lot of the children will only have experienced the Sunday morning service.

We have looked at, discussed and tried out some hopefully fun and interesting activities on the following: church buildings, stained glass windows, crosses, bells and bell-ringing, flower arranging, brass cleaning, the organ, the music group, the choir, prayers, reading from the Bible, christenings, weddings and funerals. My last holiday session looks at Children and Spirituality.

I have had some positive feedback from the families, and some lovely photos of their children doing some of the activities, which have been put onto our Picture Gallery on the website. One family also made a Lego video of a Bible story and another family sang and used their musical instruments to perform a modern religious song, both of which we put on our website with their permission.

Although I have really enjoyed doing it all, it bears no comparison to having the families in church in person, and I miss them all very much. I hope and pray that it may be possible soon to invite them to return.

Fiona Hawes (Children's Worker Holy Trinity Watermoor)

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For those of a
certain age!

Horatio the Short-sighted Hedgehog



Horatio the short sighted hedgehog
Refused to wear glasses at all,
He said "I can see what's in front of me,"
And promptly walked into a wall!
Horatio was proud and was stubborn,
He said "I'll stand on my own four feet,
And I don't need you to tell me what to do,"
Then he fell down this hole in the street!





I remember the day when Horatio
Went to visit friend Harold for tea,
His friend said “old chap let me take your cap
And go through and watch some T.V.”

Horatio sat watching the telly,
And saw a programme quite new to him,
The picture was blurred, the story absurd,
And then his friend Harold walked in,
“Ah! Harold,” said Horatio,

“This programme is one I’ve not seen,
His friend’s eyes opened wide
He said I’m not surprised,
You’re watching the washing machine!”



Then there was the day when Horatio
Went shopping and took a short cut,
On his way to the pet shop, he went through the veg. shop
And came nose to nose with a brown coconut.

Horatio thought this was a hedgehog,
A lady one to his delight,

He said, “excuse me my dear,
Could you see your way clear
To come to the pictures tonight?”

Silence fell over the veg. shop,
Then the people laughed ‘till they cried.

Horatio, greatly embarrassed,
Quickly found somewhere to hide.

And that was the way of Horatio
That loveable hedgehoggy chap,
He chose to ignore what other folk saw
And fell over this thing and that.

Until the day when Horatio went
To cross the busy main road,
He’d not seen the lorry in such a great hurry



Bearing it's enormous load,
Too late, Horatio looked up,
Then he cried "someone help me please!"
Horatio gasped, the lorry sped past;
It had missed him by the skin of his teeth.
Horatio was very much shaken
He said, "what a fool I've been,
I must have been out of my mind
To walk round half blind
When all along I could have seen."



Horatio now wears his glasses
and his world's suddenly become clear
He can tell people from trees,
The birds from the bees,
He can see things far and things near.
And what can we learn from Horatio?
Well I think it's sufficient to say,
On our own, we are lost,
But if Jesus we trust,
He's promised to show us the way.



J.R.M.

Horatio the Hedgehog

**For those of a
certain age!**

Horatio and I have known each other for many years.

I first met this delightful hedgehog when I, with my wife and family, visited the Widecombe Fair, Widecombe-in the Moor, in Devon.

We wandered around enjoying all the fun and delight of this annual event and came across a stall selling all sorts of pictures, books, games and toys; and at the side of the stall we were aware of a most unusual hedgehog staring intently at us.

I said "hello, and what is your name?"

He puffed his chest out and said ‘my name is Horatio Romulus Hedgehog, H.R.H for short! And what is your name may I ask?’ Very surprised and a little shocked I replied, “my name is Dumbles.”

‘Well Dumbles, have you decided to take me home with you, rather than staring at me and leaving me on this stall?’

“Oh! well, yes, I mean no, I mean let me see, ..hmm; I need to have a conversation with the family.”

‘Well, be aware, the stall is closing in 30 minutes, just saying that’s all!’

15minutes later:

“Horatio, I’ve had a talk with the family and they say, as I do, we would love to take you home with us.”

‘Oh! How kind, that’s wonderful, thank you; there is a charge by the way, you need to talk with the stall holder.’

“Yes of course, delighted you are going to be part of the family;

HOW MUCH?!!!.....”

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Horatio first wrote some stories in another church magazine called ***Living Stones***, when we were living in Devon. Having come out of a very long hibernation, Horatio who now lives in Gloucestershire, gave a big, big yawn and said he would like to say something in another church magazine called ***Parish Life***. He’s had a word with one of the editors who said, “give it a go!” From the November issue of the magazine and in order for you to get to know Horatio a bit more, he would like to look back at some of his contributions to the ***Living Stones*** magazine, headed ‘***Horatio’s Spot***’ from Devon days, and later on, if all goes well, chat about his time in Gloucestershire.

Also included in this issue is a back story of Horatio which some may have seen or heard before. It is *his* story but one that may speak to us on our journey. I hope you enjoy his wanderings.

Many thanks

Dumbles



Available from the Church Shop



Available from the Church Shop





Mothers' Union Cirencester

Greetings again from your local Mothers' Union Branch.

We have certainly been learning new skills in order to keep our work going lately – as have you all I'm sure.

We had fun zooming our first **Committee Meeting** in a long time – and it was good to get back into planning and looking forward in our thoughts. We are so thankful to all those who have been keeping things ticking over for us these past few months – helping out this Techno-Dinosaur in particular.

The Parish team has been wonderful in keeping our services and important meet ups online and available to so many – THANK YOU!

We have decided not to open Wednesday meetings in the hall until at least the New Year. If any of you are able and do have small group meet ups outdoors etc do let us know how others are getting on.

We will however be trying to do some ZOOM events online – and hope that as many of you as possible might be able to join in the fun of learning how to do this..... do shout if you need a hand to get set up.

If you do not have access to this technology – I will be trying to keep you informed through this letter for the time being.

We welcome anyone who would like to join in – so do let someone know if you would like your email included for contacts. Our first online ZOOM meeting will be on Wednesday 7th October at 2.30pm.

We will be having an online **Quiz hosted by Peter and Kathie** and we look forward to some fun and games!!

Our **WAVE OF PRAYER Service** connecting us to the World Ministry was held on Friday 4th September via ZOOM. Thank you to those present and to Pauline for leading it – and to those who prayed along at home. It was a lovely time of prayer and rededication for the Branch.

Our Members are making, knitting, sewing MANY Christmas Decorations for a **Bumper Christmas Craft Stall !**

We hope to raise a bumper amount too this year as it is sorely needed worldwide.

DO support us in any way possible – we hope to see you at the stall in the Parish in December. All ideas welcome.

With much Love, Prayers and Thoughts for you all Always,

Shellaine Foggin
Cirencester MU

SOME THOUGHTS instead of our September Meeting.

Coming out of our Wave of Prayer Service – I was reminded that we are an amazing group of individual volunteers and prayer warriors who all work towards one common goal regardless of our personal life experiences and situations.

It is a good time to reflect on your part in this amazing web of good work – a web of support for families and many others across the world and right here in our town. Each of you has their own special gift and small part to play in this massive movement – so thank you to each of you for your dedication and commitment.

We visited **THE THIRD OBJECTIVE of the Mother's Union....**

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide fellowship united in prayer, worship and service. We remind ourselves of the diversity of God's creation, and the very different needs of everyone within the world. Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful in prayer, worship and service:

Holy Spirit of unity and power, we thank you for our fellowship with one another as members of the Mothers' Union in one Church across the world.

Teach us how to pray and serve you, and how to encourage one another. Lead us to see the opportunities which you have prepared for us to serve each other.

Amen.

THE PERSONAL PRAYER OF MARY SUMNER.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

She started a movement of which we are all a current part today.....

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Let's all rededicate ourselves to this cause..... Bringing HOPE, so sorely needed, to this world and everyone we meet.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Father, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and to follow Christ, to face the future with him, seeking his special purpose for our lives. Send us out now to work and witness freely, gratefully and full of hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the honour and glory of your name. Amen

Shellaine Foggin

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year the APCM will be 'Zoomed' from the Parish Church at 4pm on 21st October. It will commence with the Vestry Meeting (election of Wardens) and be followed by the APCM. All details of how to log on to the on-line meeting will be posted on the website www.cirenparish.co.uk

Update on the Poppy Curtain

The Poppy Curtain initiated by Eileen Chapman and her many helpers in 2017 continues to attract international attention. During the final weeks of finishing stitching the poppies on to the curtain in 2018 we were still being approached by the many interested visitors to the Parish Church.



One visitor, Anni Kropf, a German lady connected to a trade association spoke to me quite late one afternoon when I was on my own in the church with great passion. She was full of admiration and wonder at so many poppies and such a community effort. She told me of her business in textiles, and asked if she could purchase some poppies to incorporate into a project they were undertaking to make a floral picture. I was happy to give her about 20 poppies or so to take away. She asked for an address to write her appreciation and I gave her that of the Parish Office. She did indeed write the most heartfelt letter to me asking me to pass on her heartfelt thanks and admiration to all the knitters and stitching helpers for the peace work that she felt we were undertaking in commemorating all those who lost their lives in WW1 and WW11.

The Cirencester poppies in the meantime were incorporated into a 10,000 flower carpet to be displayed in Nuremburg on the occasion of the Textile Association Federal Conference. One thing led to another and I was contacted by Eleonore Beckers, the editor of their textile journal, who had obtained my email from Annie and she asked me for some photos of the curtain and more information about how it was made. This she incorporated into a full page article in their recent publication, a substantial looking magazine called *Textil Gestaltung*. We are on page 60. She has generously sent a copy to me.

The touching connection for Eileen Chapman and myself, is that this came about through a personal contact and is printed in a German publication lauding and respecting our act of remembrance to the many who lost their lives. Lest we forget.

Deirdre Waddell

What did you do during the lockdown?

A few weeks into the lockdown I watched an article on the news describing retired people getting out their old sewing machines to make scrubs for use by hospital and care home workers.

Because of the overwhelming number of patients in hospitals due to the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a great shortage of personal protective equipment and so people were cutting up old sheets to make scrubs and laundry bags. There were even reports of people sewing through the night to help out.

I wondered if I could help and got the details of “Cirencester and Cheltenham Scrubbers” from a friend.

Soon after contacting the local organiser, she gave me a pattern for “large scrubs” and old sheets and duvet covers came flooding in from friends and neighbours.



The scrubs were picked up from our house and delivered to whichever local hospital or care home needed them. They were much appreciated and surprisingly even the flowery patterned sets were in great demand. Here are some of the staff at Apperley House wearing their scrubs.

Just as I was really getting a bit bored with making the scrubs, and Alan was tired of hoovering up the little pieces of sheets and thread, we had the good news that the demand for scrubs was now over, but could we turn our hands to making some washable face masks. When the demand for these was filled, some masks were given out in Cirencester marketplace, and donations were given to local charities. If you still need a washable face mask you will find some on sale in the church shop.

Pam Barnes



Ride and Stride

A sponsored ride for Gloucestershire Historic Churches



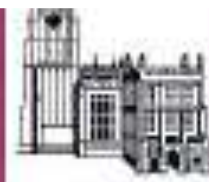
John Lawrence the Verger at St John Baptist Cirencester and myself, supported by church member Maggie Chew took part in the Ride and Stride on Saturday 12th September. We covered 38 Miles taking in 15 churches in the beautiful Cotswold countryside. We hope to have raised about £1000 through sponsorship.

We started at St John Baptist Cirencester and finished at Holy Trinity Watermoor, taking in churches at:-

Coate, Tarlton, Rodmarton, Kemble,
South Cerne, Cerney Wick, Down Ampney,
Meysey Hampton, Paulton, Ampney St Peter,
Ampney St Mary, Preston and Siddington.

Rev Graham





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