

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and Chesterton



The Easter Garden at the church of St John Baptist
Photo taken by Pam Barnes

May 2022 £1

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 Vicar: Revd Alison Love

revalison@cirenparish.co.uk

Assistant Curate

Revd Dr Joe Mottram

joemottram@cirenparish.co.uk

Churchwardens

Aileen Anderson

aileenanderson@cirenparish.co.uk

Nigel Robbins

nigelrobbins@cirenparish.co.uk

Organist and Choirmaster

Hugo Kennard

hugo@cirenparish.co.uk

Children's Worker

Fiona Hawes

fiona@cirenparish.co.uk

Howard Gray (PCC Secretary)

howardgray@cirenparish.co.uk

Sarah Marshall and Emily Winstanley (Parish Administration)

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'

How did you prepare for Easter?

As I write to you we are at the beginning of Holy Week. For me probably the most important week of the Christian year as I prepare myself spiritually for my walk with Jesus, as he himself journeyed towards Good Friday.



Throughout my ministry, I have tried to ensure that during the course of Holy Week there is something spiritually on offer for everyone. This time of preparation and reflection builds into the climax of Easter Day as we declare 'His' resurrection.

Recently as I drove to Winstone I noticed the sides of the lanes as I turned off the main road, thousands upon thousands of cowslips, primroses, also the leaves on the trees unfurling as the spring warmth beckons in the new season. As I arrived at my friends smallholding, after re- acquainting myself with the Donkey that visited at Christmas, I walked through the flock of Shetland sheep where expectant mothers were about to drop their lambs. All of this and much more heralds the season of new beginnings, new births, and life flourishing all around me. How fortunate we are to be living in a place as beautiful as the Cotswolds where we experience through our senses 'new life' all around us.

How can we bring those sensory experiences into church?

Where do we see our church growing? How do we welcome new people in and give that sense of nurture and encouragement? Actually I think we do pretty well in the main. Of course there will always be areas where we can improve. This Palm Sunday, not only did we welcome the Lord in our Hosanna processions, but we welcomed Olga and her family from Ukraine, we welcomed a number of couples who had come to hear their wedding banns read and along with them their family members. It was good to welcome visitors, holiday makers just putting their toe in the door to see what was going on, and during the afternoon to see the number of visitors, indeed a growing number who are returning to spend time looking around the Parish Church, lighting candles and enjoying the ambient spirituality of a church that has literally opened wide its doors, to the community.

Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and whatever follows on... as we embrace these opportunities we all have the opportunity to play our part in our Christian witness to the world around us in which we live. If we are to be serious about our walk with Jesus, then we also need to be serious about how we prepare and nourish

ourselves on our own faith journey. We are reminded by our Bishops to keep the vision of John 10.10 at the forefront of our thinking and our doing.

“I have come that you may have life, and have it in all its fullness”

Life spells **leadership**, you and me taking an active role in promoting the fellowship of our gathered community. **Imagination** as we work out what we can do to attract, but not only attract sustain each other for this journey of faith? **Faith** is what it is all about, an awareness of, and a deepening of our beliefs as we try to understand what it is that Jesus is saying to each one of us as we are called to be his disciples. Yes we become his eyes his ears his hands his feet in this world. The world is our stage, well Cirencester is! How do we **engage** with it, and nurture others to share our vision? Therein lies the challenge.

Spring, Easter, New Life. Have life in all of its fullness. Through this season we glimpse something of what it means to be the Easter People.

My faith journey is so enriched through the liturgies of Holy Week. The journey I share with my fellow companions leads me into a deeper understanding of self and ultimately a closer relationship with God. For me the walk of faith is about nurturing those very relationships and seeing the life of Jesus in and through the people around me, who are His church. This is so invigorating and encourages new life in this old Vicar!

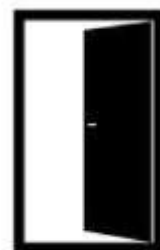
What did you do, to prepare for Easter?

Canon Graham



THE INNER CHAMBER

Jesus tells his followers, “When you pray, go into your inner chamber. There the Father will hear you in that secret place”. Jesus himself prayed every day, sometimes all night in the silence of a mountainside away from the bustle and noise of the villages and cities he passed through. Only there could he hear the whisper of the Father's Spirit in his heart. Every human being has a secret place deep inside them where they can receive and respond to beauty, truth and love around them, and also to the Spirit. It is secret because it is a space uniquely open only to the individual man, woman or child.



Jesus taught his friends how to clear the clutter out of that inner sanctum: “Consider the lilies of the field, watch the swallows and sparrows, treasure all babies.” He is telling them to become contemplatives so that the Father's Spirit can transform them by his presence within them.

That is the calling of every Christian man woman and child – to be transformed by the Spirit and start to become more like Jesus. Paul tells all his friends to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” When he tells us to “pray at all times” he doesn't mean we have to go round muttering bits of the prayer book. He means walk through the world seeing everything and everyone as a place where the Divine Presence is to be encountered. Artists must cultivate “the Seeing Eye”. Cezanne taught us how to see the natural world in a new way. Christians must cultivate the seeing heart. Parents should teach their children how to wonder, how to prepare their own “inner room” to be a place where they can meet the Wonderful: wonderful music, wonderful paintings, athletics, dance, even church services, even mathematics and biology – all are places where the Spirit can touch us in our inner chamber. We must show our children how to keep silent spaces inside them for the Spirit to begin his transformative work of love in them too. That means *everyone*.

Whit Sunday is a good moment to take this calling to heart. At Pentecost each of the twelve disciples was surrounded by a visible aura, a glowing radiance, the sign of the Jesus Spirit flowing into the “inner room” within them. Perhaps Jesus had chosen each of them after a long night opening his heart to his Abba Father just so that he could discern which of them had a potentially open heart, an “inner room” in which the Divine Love could dwell. At the Last Supper he had prayed that the Father would dwell *in* his friends, just as he was dwelling *in* the Father and the Father dwelling *in* him. So he too would dwell in his friends, and his love transforms them. St Paul tells us his first Christian converts were “filled with the Spirit”. They were transformed men and women. As the crowds watched them being executed they exclaimed, “See how these Christians love one another!”

How do we show “signs of the Spirit”, evidence of the presence of the Jesus Spirit in our inner room? By doing what Jesus did: healing the sick, feeding the starving, caring for the outcast and aliens, the “stranger in the land”, actively protesting injustice, and, if the worst comes to the worst, confronting those in power, whatever the cost. There is no cost-free way of opening our heart to the Jesus Spirit, although many church people have tried to avoid that uncomfortable truth. Many

church people have also tried to avoid the awkward reality of Jesus' own active engagement with the social issues of his own time and place. That commitment drew huge crowds of poor people to listen to him because they sensed that he was on their side as they suffered the abuses of their political and religious oppressors. The idea of “human rights” was away off in the mists of the future, but Jesus proclaimed the rights of universal Divine Love which hold at all times and in all places.

HGD



French Cricket

At the inspiring memorial service for Dave Collett I was asked to speak about his cricketing life as a leading bowler for the Cirencester town cricket team. I should have mentioned that Dave was responsible for me passing French ‘O’ level at a higher grade than I anticipated.



There was a spirited local cricket competition called the Oaksey Bowl. It was twenty overs a side and every match was played at Oaksey. It coincided with ‘O’ and ‘A’ level examinations. Realising this, I planned my revision accordingly, not wanting to miss a game for my club Rodmarton.

We were drawn to play Ampney Crucis, a challenging fixture, all the more so because Ampney turned up with Dave Collis in their ranks. Some of my Rodmarton colleagues were most apprehensive. They knew of Dave’s feats for Cirencester because in those days the Standard covered local sports thoroughly. Collis D. was constantly in the headlines.

Rodmarton won. Next morning was French ‘O’ level. I walked into the exam room in the Bingham Hall buoyed and buoyant. The previous evening I had scored good middle of the bat runs against the leading bowler in the area – not easy on the plantains and dandelions of Oaksey. Just turned sixteen I had enjoyed a cautious half pint of bitter in the Wheatsheaf across the road. Whatever challenge the French paper could present would be minimal by comparison to our cricket victory.

Many of my colleagues were tense from late night revising and visibly nervous. Not me! I concentrated, aided by a clear mind and the August results showed. I sailed through. It remains a strong cricketing memory and a subsequent academic one.

John Light

Jubilee Flower Festival



The Flower Guild are pleased to announce a flower festival ‘Colours of the Crown’ to celebrate HM the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Alongside arrangements capturing the jewel colours of the Coronation Crown we hope to display vestments; a wedding dress made in 1953 by one of Sir Norman Hartnell’s seamstresses and a display of photos of previous jubilees.

If you have some old photos to share please email to ceriharding@msn.com.

Anyone wearing a homemade crown to the festival will earn a chocolate!

The Festival will run from 2nd – 4th June.

Volunteers to help steward this event would be most welcome.

Ceri Harding

Dear fellow members,

I do hope you have enjoyed reading your spring issue of the MU magazine Connected. The content is inspiring. The articles range from examples of how the MU is making a practical and positive difference to families around the world to accounts of initiatives, some of which go back many years. These insights encourage us to go on raising funds locally that enable these projects to happen in these islands and far away too. We should be justifiably proud in the right sense of the word that as a Christian movement we can, and do, show compassion and concern for families regardless of their race or religion.

I confess I was taken down memory lane by several of the articles. On page 12 there is a very good article looking back to Message Home - the result of a member who saw a need and the felt the MU could help. As you will have read, the time came when organisations with much greater financial resources took up the challenge. As President at the time, it was my task to hand over Message Home. This happened in Liverpool Cathedral. We even had the iconic red telephone box alongside us. It was not a sad occasion for, as the article describes, we had as the Mothers' Union been ahead of the Church and society in general, in identifying a need and reaching out in Christian love and compassion.

On page 42 we read of the work of the MU in prisons up and down this land. I found it an enormous privilege to visit many prisons during my presidency. Without exception, the governors were so very grateful to the MU members for their support given to the visiting families. Our members were wonderful with the children, some very challenging. They kept them occupied while their parents were able to spend time together, thus hopefully helping with their relationships. The members also made the teas and coffees.

We are all looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. At our June meeting, following our speaker, we are hoping to have our own street party - long tables down the centre of the hall anyway. We are hoping that we could make an exhibition of our own royal memorabilia. More details will be given at the May meeting. We are grateful to Kathy (and Peter) for keeping us so well informed of dates and events. Hopefully we shall have some good sunny weather to help us celebrate the many forthcoming events.

With love,
Pat Harris

Dates of Meetings

4 May Branch meeting 2.30pm Church Hall, speaker Olga Gibbons, Diocesan Vice-president

25 May: Corporate Holy Communion

1 June: Branch Meeting 2.30pm Church Hall. Speaker the Rev Alison Love 'Vocation to the Priesthood'



Run the Rainbow for Longfield Community Hospice!



Prepare for a colour explosion at Longfield's 'Run the Rainbow' event.

Longfield Community Hospice is organising the perfect messy day out for all the family, with its 'Run the Rainbow' event taking place at Cotswold Airport on 17 July.

Be prepared for powdered paint, foam, music and even inflatables, as you run, walk or skip through the Run the Rainbow challenge. One thing's for sure, it's going to be colourful!

Featuring a 5K route suitable for the whole family, it's the perfect summer day out and a great opportunity to raise money for Longfield.

On the day of the event, all participants registering between 10.40am - 11.40am will receive a pair of sunglasses and a sachet of coloured paint. There will be a fun warm-up to music at 11.45am with everyone setting off on the course at midday.

This year Longfield aims to support more than 1200 patients with life-limiting illnesses, carers and family members, through both the Wellbeing Centre in Minchinhampton and through care in patients' homes.

Vicki Hayward, Community and Events Manager urges locals to sign up:

“We can only offer the free care we do thanks to the support of the local community. Please do sign up, come along and bring some friends too. Why not get a group together and raise sponsorship? You'll be making memories with lots of photo opportunities, and helping a good cause at the same time.”

To sign up for the event, visit longfield.org.uk/event/run-the-rainbow
Use early bird promo code NEWS20 for a 20% saving.

Registration is £20 for an adult (16 and over) or £15 for a child or sign up to raise sponsorship. The registration fee entitles you to participate in the fun 5K race, sunglasses, a pouch of powdered paint and a medal on finishing.

This event is kindly sponsored by Taylor Wimpey.

Jo Fairburn



Shine a Light

The Parish Church will be supporting the 'Shine a Light' campaign for World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day on May 17th by [lighting the church up blue](#). This is a national event organised by Nerve Tumours UK. More details of this condition and the charity supporting it can be found on their website at nervetumours.org.uk





Vienna in the early 1790s (detail from a watercolour engraving by Laurent Jumeau and Johann Ziegler)

CIRENCESTER C H O R A L SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 276649

Mozart *Requiem* Haydn *Nelson Mass*

Carleton Etherington
Conductor

Corelli Orchestra
(Director Warwick Cole)

Soloists from the
Royal Academy of Music:

Emilia Bertolini – *soprano*
Angharad Rowlands – *alto*
Samuel Kibble – *tenor*
Will Pate – *bass*

Saturday 7 May 7.30 pm
Cirencester Parish Church

(doors open at 6.45 pm)

Tickets: £15.00 (Student £6, Child £3) (unreserved seats) available from
early April at Cirencester Visitor Information Centre (01285 654180),
Choral Society members or www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk

The Kingdom of God

At the beginning of the Gospel according to Mark (1: 15), Jesus proclaims, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.’ The good news of the Kingdom is central to who Jesus is and what he does.



Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Many of those who heard Jesus preach about the Kingdom understood it in political terms. For years the Jewish people had suffered under foreign occupation, and for many the coming of the Chosen One, the Messiah, meant the liberation of the people and the land from foreign oppressors.

Quite rightly they thought the reign of God would include freedom and justice. Jesus’ disciples understood him to be the Messiah, the Christ. Right up until his arrest they, too, thought that he would be the one who would set the Jewish people free, who would redeem Israel (Luke 24: 21). And it was the accusation that he wanted to challenge Roman rule which led to Jesus’ crucifixion. Yet, when Jesus appeared before Pilate on a charge of claiming that he was the Son of God and a king of the Jews, he said, ‘My Kingdom is not from this world’ (John 18: 26). So what did Jesus mean by the Kingdom of God, and how might we who believe that Jesus is our Saviour understand it two thousand years later?

The Kingdom of heaven is like . . .

When Jesus tried to tell people about the Kingdom, he never described it directly or concretely. Instead he used stories and images which gave a sense of what the Kingdom is and how we enter into it. These parables all show that the values of the Kingdom are different from the ones which normally rule human lives. It is a place of reversals: where to enter we must become like little children; where the King rewards each person beyond their merit; and where to obtain the treasure we must be prepared to risk that which is most dear to us.

We are citizens of the Kingdom

The Kingdom takes us beyond the limits of human vision and yet is the answer to our deepest human longing for relationships which are based not on competition or status or number of possessions, but on the wealth we possess inside. It is the place where the Spirit of God, rather than our self-centred egos, rules our hearts. We are citizens of the Kingdom when we live according to Jesus’ values, when we know his presence in our hearts and see him both in our neighbours and in those this world despises. Those who will fully enter the Kingdom are those who feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, and visit those who are imprisoned, for in doing so we serve Christ himself, whether we recognize his presence or not (Matthew 25: 31). The Kingdom may not be of this world, but our citizenship of it profoundly affects the way we live in the here and now, and challenges us to change the world, like yeast in bread dough.

Christians believe that the Kingdom is the purpose of human life, and the goal of all creation. It means that the worth of any human life is not in what we have been but in what we shall be: people whose lives are marked by humility, self-sacrifice, forgiveness, vision, and, above all, by love. And although we have yet to enter the Kingdom fully, for those who believe, our life in it begins now.

Gospel Imprint is the fresh catholic voice in Anglicanism sharing free resources with all Christians who seek to learn, worship and witness to the generosity of the Kingdom of God.

A place for parents and young children
to socialise in Chesterton

Seedlings



@ St. Lawrence

Space to Play, Time for Chat

9:15 – 10:45am
St Lawrence Church Centre

Free
2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month

Dates for May

Daily

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	Parish Church
12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	Parish Church
5 – 6pm	Evening Prayer	Parish Church

Weekdays

10am – 12pm	The Parish Forum Open (except Wednesday)
-------------	--

1 May, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence Church
2 – 3pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity Church
2 – 3pm	Baptism	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence Church

2 May, Mon

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
---------------	-------------	---------------

3 May, Tue

10am – 12pm	The Parish Forum Open	
10:30 – 11:30am	Funeral Barbara Carver	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	Spend time with Benedict	Parish Church
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Parish Church

4 May, Wed

1:10 – 1:50pm	Organ Recital	Parish Church
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church

5 May, Thu

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
---------------	-------------	---------------

6 May, Fri

10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
-----------------	-------------	---------------

7 May, Sat

10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
7:30 – 9:30pm	Cirencester Choral Society Concert	Parish Church

8 May, Sun

8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence Church
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	Parish Church

9 May, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	Parish Church
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum

10 May, Tue

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity Church

11 May, Wed

10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church

12 May, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence Church
10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church

13 May, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
---------------	-------------	---------------

15 May, Sun

8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence Church
2 – 3pm	Baptism	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	PATRONAL FESTIVAL Choral Evensong	Parish Church
4 – 5pm	Restore @4	St Lawrence Church

16 May, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	Parish Church
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum
7:30 – 9pm	Quarter Peal	Parish Church

17 May, Tue

8:30am – 8am	Parish Church Lit for Shine a Light campaign for World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day (Day 1/2)	
10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity Church

18 May, Wed

8:30am – 8am	Parish Church Lit for Shine a Light campaign for World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day (Day 2/2)	
10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
7:30 – 9:30pm	Full PCC	The Parish Forum

19 May, Thu

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
---------------	-------------	---------------

20 May, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
---------------	-------------	---------------

21 May, Sat

10:45 – 11:45am	Guided Tour	Parish Church
-----------------	-------------	---------------

22 May, Sun

8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Parish Church
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence Church
12:30 – 1:30pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity Church
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	Parish Church

23 May, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	Parish Church
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	Parish Church
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum

24 May, Tue

10:45 – 11:45am Guided Tour

Parish Church

6:30 – 9pm Bell Ringing

Holy Trinity Church

25 May, Wed

10:30 – 11:15am Mothers Union Corporate Communion Parish Church

2:30 – 3:30pm Guided Tour

Parish Church

7 – 8pm Eucharist

Holy Trinity Church

26 May, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am Seedlings at St Lawrence

10:45 – 11:45am Guided Tour

Parish Church

2:30 – 3:30pm Guided Tour

Parish Church

27 May, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm Guided Tour

Parish Church

28 May, Sat**29 May, Sun**

8 – 9am Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel

Parish Church

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

Parish Church

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

Holy Trinity Church

10:30 – 11:30am Eucharist

St Lawrence Church

12:30 – 1:30pm Baptism

Parish Church

2 – 3pm Baptism

Holy Trinity Church

4 – 5pm Evening Prayer

Parish Church

30 May, Mon

9:30 – 11am Little Angels

Parish Church

2:30 – 3:30pm Guided Tour

Parish Church

5:30 – 6:30pm Vicars Open Office

The Parish Forum

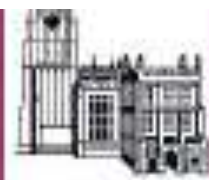
31 May, Tue

10:45 – 11:45am Guided Tour

Parish Church

6:30 – 9pm Bell Ringing

Holy Trinity Church



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
CDs

Gifts
Cards

Souvenirs
Bibles

Diaries
Calendars

Maps
Pictures

Icons
Prayer Books



Website: <http://www.cirenparish.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchshop>

Tel: 01285 659317