

Parish Life Magazine

Parish of Cirencester with
Watermoor and Chesterton



November 2022

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Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

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

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

Restore @ 4

*1st and 3rd
Sunday
of each month
4pm*

*A time of contemporary, refreshing worship, prayer,
bible study, a cup of tea and a chance to chat,
all relevant to today*

*St Lawrence Church Centre, Countess Lillas Road,
Chesterton*

Lead Article



Dear Friends,

November is a month of remembrance. On the 1st we celebrate All Saints, those heroes of the faith whose lives have encouraged others to holiness, in communion with the church on earth and in heaven. The following day we share in the commemoration of those we love who have died. The people who have encouraged us and guided us along the pilgrimage of faith. As I reflect upon those who have died, I think about the wonderful tribute King Charles gave shortly after his mother's death - 'As you begin your last journey, "May flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest"'. How fitting for our beloved Queen, so greatly loved and so sadly missed.

As we progress through the month, we are reminded once again on the 11th, of the horrors of war. Today, as war still rages through the world, particularly in Ukraine, we may not ignore the complex problems that the preservation of peace raises, both for politicians and Christians.

"Humankind", said T.S.Eliot, "Cannot bear too much reality, frequently, we shut out what we do not want to see. Darkness is not something we care to face, often the reason we fail when life's great tests come, is because we are not willing to look into the darkness. This is why remembrance is vital, this is the day when there is no hiding from the darkness of war.

A book by Rita Snowden tells how after a battle in world war 1, the French Red Cross found the body of a German Soldier. Out of his pocket fell a little bundle and a letter written in a woman's hand, he read it and this is what it said - "My Dear Heart, when the little ones have said their prayers, and have prayed for their dear Father and gone to bed, I sit and think about you my love. I think about all the happy days when we were betrothed and of our happy married life. Oh my Ludwig, beloved of my soul, why should people fight each other? I cannot think that God would wish it."

The story brought tears to my eyes the first time I read it and still does today. Why do people fight each other? I cannot think that God would wish it.

With my prayers,

Father Colin.

Dear Members and Friends



As St Teresa of Avila has said, Jesus has no hands and feet on earth but ours, and Mothers' Union has been commissioned to Look, Observe, and Act (MULOA). We look for ways to help people in need.

When Jesus left this earthly life and ascended to his father he sent the Holy Spirit to fill his disciples with power. This power is available to us still, in all our works, as we seek to make a difference in our world.

During November we have the United Nations 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25th November to 10th December) and Saturday 26th November is our Global Day of Action when we raise awareness of those who are victims of violence and abuse. We ask God to inspire us and to find solutions rather than ignore or minimise the problem of GBV. Guide us to challenge this behaviour in a safe way. We can all pray for gender justice and have faith that our prayers will make a difference. James 5, 16 says that when a believing person prays, great things happen, and we in MU are believing people.

A prayer for the month of November from our Prayer Diary:

With faith and resolve we set ourselves to combat gender injustice.

May God equip us with all we need to play our part in creating an equal society and pursue justice in the name of Christ. Amen

With love

Rosemary Roberts

DIARY DATES

November

Wednesday 2nd 2.30pm Parish Hall Watermoor
Speakers: Celia & Kenny talking about AA and AL-anon.
Bring & Buy

Thursday 24th 10.30am Holy Trinity Church Mothers' Union Corporate
Communion

Tuesday 25th 12 noon Gloucester Cathedral
Mid-day prayers for 16 days of Activism Against Gender
Violence

December

Friday 2nd 10am - 12 noon Parish Church Christmas Cake and Craft Stall

Wednesday 7th 2.30pm Parish Hall Watermoor, Christmas Theme with tea and
mince pies

Autumn Blues

This is not my favourite time of year. First all the clocks go back at least two weeks early. Dark evenings are upon us far too soon.



Then we have the unwanted, meaningless chicanery of Hallowe'en. With the unwelcome challenge of trick or treat. I find it frightening and threatening.

There has also been one specific act from within our own community. I refer to the theft of Town Crier John Lawrence's bike. John was coming home from work, popped into a Dyer Street shop for a couple of minutes, during which time his electronic bike was stolen. This crime was committed by someone who lives among us. At the time of writing John has not had his bike returned. This is undoubtedly a moment for prayer, especially for the thief, who is undoubtedly in need of redemption.

Since being taught English by Geoff Romans at the Grammar School, I have been a grammatic pedant, being increasingly irritated by the unnecessary use of the word 'of'. 'Off of' is ugly and inaccurate. Lemmings do not jump *off of* a cliff, they jump *off* it. Stratton is not a village outside 'of' Cirencester. The 'of' is not needed. Points West is a TV programme that is now a prolific offender e.g. 'outside of Bath, Bristol etc.'

Fortunately there is one unfailing antidote to my autumnal gloom. Penny and I jump into the car and head up Ermine Street. We turn left at Birdlip heading for Stroud. This takes us into the lanes around Painswick, Slad and my beloved Sheepscombe. Lunch may be at the Woolpack opposite the church where the evocative Harvest Festival service from *Cider with Rosie* occurred. If we get the day right the leaves of the 'lifting mansions of summer shade' planted by my Grandfather and Father will be turning golden. We return through Miserden and Sapperton. An unbeatable moment.

Just thinking about it cheers me up!

John Light

The cost of living crisis

Here at Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts we are seeing an increase in demand for our services as a result of the cost of living crisis.

Over the last three months we have seen a 92% increase in requests for charitable help from the same period last year, with people seeking help with food, fuel or hardship fund payments.

Whilst the Energy Price Guarantee announced on the 8th September comes as a huge relief to households, energy bills are still very high. In winter 2021, the energy price cap was set at £1,277 for typical use. The new Price Guarantee starting on 1 October for households on typical use will be £2,500 a year.

We are very concerned about how vulnerable residents will cope this autumn and winter when temperatures drop and they need to turn their heating on. Many of our clients have been unable to afford their essential costs during the summer months. We have already had clients on prepayment meters who do not have enough credit to run medical equipment that relies on electricity; clients who cannot afford to heat their water; parents who are skipping meals to feed their children and pensioners unable to afford their fuel bills. In our largely rural districts, many residents rely on oil for heating and hot water and we have been contacted by people who cannot afford the cost of the minimum order.

What to do if you are worrying about money

If you are worried about paying your bills there are a few simple things you can do:

1. Work out your budget. Find out exactly how much you have coming in, and what's going out, and think about where you may be able to make savings. There is a useful budgeting tool on the national Citizens Advice website (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>) to help you.
2. If you don't think you can pay your energy bills, contact your supplier. There are schemes to help customers but if you don't tell them you are struggling then they can't help you.
3. If you have debts, look at the guidance on debt on the national Citizens Advice website.

4. Check if you might be entitled to any benefits. If you have internet access you can use Turn2Us, Entitledto or Policy in Practice benefit calculators to check what you might get.
5. Make sure you have received any cost of living payments that you are entitled to. If you are in council tax Band A-D property you should have received a rebate on your council tax and if you are a pensioner, on benefits or disabled there are various payments that you should be receiving.

If you cannot access the internet please call us on our freephone number 0808 800 0510 to access advice.

If you are really struggling and don't have enough food to eat you can call the Trussell Trust Help through Hardship Helpline on **08082 082138**.

Please do ask for help – we understand that these are worrying times.

You can get advice by calling us on our freephone number (**0808 800 0510**) and email advice through our local website (<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>) under the Get Help section. We are also seeing clients by appointment in our Stroud and Cirencester offices and in the community at various venues across both districts – currently Dursley, Paganhill Community Hub, Stonehouse APT, Wotton under Edge and Moreton in Marsh and Tetbury.

We are also looking for new volunteers to train as admin assistants in both our Cirencester and Stroud offices – if you are interested please email info@ca-scd.org.uk. We also welcome donations to support our service – find out more on our website <https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>).

St Lawrence Harvest Festival - picture





14 September 2022
PRESS RELEASE



Can you stand the heat for
Longfield Hospice?

(Pic caption: Participants are challenged to walk 15ft over hot coals.)

Longfield Community Hospice is looking for brave daredevils to take part in its fundraising Fire Walk on Friday 9 December.

The challenge is scheduled to take place in the hospice's grounds in Minchinhampton, from 6-9 pm, where participants will walk 15ft over hot coals at 550 degrees Celsius.

The event will be supported by one of the UK's leading Fire Walk companies, UK Fire Walk. Fire walkers will receive training from Scott Bell, who is a two-time Guinness World Record holder for the 'Greatest Fire Walking Distance'.

Kirsty Owen-Hayward from Longfield's fundraising team explained:

"Please come along, face your fears and take on this amazing challenge for Longfield. We promise you'll be in safe hands!"

She added: "Not everyone can say they've walked on fire, and you'll be raising money for a worthwhile local cause, helping provide free care for patients across Gloucestershire and support for their families and carers too."

Registration is £30 per person and the hospice is asking fire walkers to raise £150 or more in sponsorship. Numbers are limited so people are advised to register soon to avoid disappointment.

For more information about the fire walk challenge, and to register, visit longfield.org.uk/event/fire-walk.

From a Meditation

Did God really say ? Gen 3:1

Genesis 1:3

Isaiah 43:4

Matthew 6: 14-15

Matthew 11: 1-8

John 13:34

GOD SAID

God said “let there be light”- And there was.

God said “I love you” - And he does.

God said “Love each other” - And we should.

God said “Forgive and I’ll forgive you” - That’s true.

A voice says “You are worthless” – It’s a lie.

A voice says “You’re a hopeless case” – It’s not God.

God said “Let there be light” – And there was.

God said “You are precious and honoured in my sight” – And we are.

J.R.M.



THIRD TIME LUCKY!

Coming Soon



An Evening of Fun!

21st January 2023 6.30 for 7pm

Watermoor Church Hall

A Belly Full of Laughs

*By popular demand the above show will now
Take place in January 2023.*

Tickets will be on sale at £5 each (£3.50 U/12)

From 1st December

Get your tickets early as we were sold out last time

A Social Committee Production




PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

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ATIC

All Together In Church

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Informal Eucharist and Activities
A chance for our busy families to worship together

4th Sunday of every month
4pm at The Parish Church

www.ciremparish.co.uk

HANDEL: Messiah

Cirencester Parish Church

Saturday 17th December 2022, 6pm



Coventry Cathedral Chorus
Orchestra Pro Anima
Rachel Mahon

Programme last year by 2021



ticketweb

£20 £25 £30

Senior discounts available

Tel: 0844 477 1000

www.coventrycathedralchorus.com

tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com

Brittany King
Mark Williams
Laurence Panter
Stuart Young



**ORCHESTRA
PRO ANIMA**

Strange but true?

The Poet Laureate

Poet laureate, title **first granted in England in the 17th century for poetic excellence**. Its holder is a salaried member of the British royal household, but the post has come to be free of specific poetic duties. In the United States, a similar position was created in 1936.

John Dryden became 1st Poet Laureate in 1668

However, further investigation shows that, back in the 17th Century the Royal family didn't have corgi dogs to look after and enjoy their company; but did have a number of lions who became close to the members of the family. John Dryden as, Poet Laureate, got to know the Royal family well and the lions too.

Out of all the lions, his favourite one was **Laurence**

Poet Laureate

Laurence was a lion
John Dryden was his mate
Overcome by hunger once
John became the first poet Laurie ate

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT

THE WILLSHIRE PIANO DUO

A SPLASH OF RED
CIRENCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

CIRENCESTER PARISH CHURCH
7.30 PM FRIDAY, NOV 11, 2022



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.CIRENCESTERMVC.CO.UK
AND AT
CIRENCESTER VISITOR CENTRE
AND BINGHAM HOUSE

TICKETS £10 - UNDER 16S FREE



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 November

Daily

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
12 – 1pm	Eucharist – Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
5 – 6pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

Weekdays

10am – 12pm	The Parish Forum Open (except Wednesday)	
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1 Nov, Tue

4 – 5pm	Spend time with Benedict	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist

2 Nov, Wed

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9pm	Congregational Committee	Holy Trinity

3 Nov, Thu

2:30 – 3:30pm	Funeral Mark Lindesay	St John Baptist
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6 Nov, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30–11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
2:30 – 3:30pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence
5 – 7pm	Junior Youth Group - 1st and 3rd Sundays	Parish Forum

7 Nov, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

8 Nov, Tue

1 – 2pm	Funeral - Wallace Risby at	Holy Trinity
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

9 Nov, Wed

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
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10 Nov, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am Seedlings

St Lawrence

11 Nov, Fri

3 – 6:30pm Peel half muffled for Armistice Day

Holy Trinity

13 Nov, Sun

8 – 9am Eucharist

Holy Trinity

8 – 9am Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel

St John Baptist

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

Holy Trinity

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

St John Baptist

10:30–11:30am Eucharist

St Lawrence

4 – 5pm Evening Prayer

St John Baptist

14 Nov, Mon

9:30 – 11am Little Angels

St John Baptist

5:30 – 6:30pm Vicars Open Office

Parish Forum

15 Nov, Tue

6:30 – 9pm Bell Ringing

Holy Trinity

16 Nov, Wed

9 – 9:30am Morning Prayer

St John Baptist

7 – 8pm Eucharist

Holy Trinity

18 Nov, Fri

9am – 5pm Organ Tuning

St John Baptist

19 Nov, Sat

7:30 – 9:30pm Cantores Concert - Gloucestershire Composers St John Baptist

20 Nov, Sun

8 – 9am Eucharist

Holy Trinity

8 – 9am Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel

St John Baptist

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

Holy Trinity

10 – 11:30am Eucharist

St John Baptist

10:30–11:30am Eucharist

St Lawrence

4 – 5pm Choral Evensong

St John Baptist

4 – 5pm Restore @4

St Lawrence

5 – 7pm Junior Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays

Parish Forum

21 Nov, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum
7:30 – 9pm	Quarter Peal	St John Baptist

22 Nov, Tue

6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
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23 Nov, Wed

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
7:30 – 9:30pm	Standing Committee	

24 Nov, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10 – 11:15am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	Holy Trinity

26 Nov, Sat

10am – 12pm	Children's Christmas Craft Morning Parish Hall, Watermoor	
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27 Nov, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
10 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30–11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
6 – 7pm	Advent Carol Service	St John Baptist

28 Nov, Mon

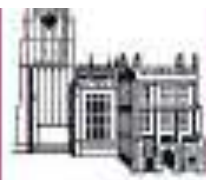
9:30 – 11am	Little Angels St John Baptist	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

29 Nov, Tue

7:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing AGM	Holy Trinity
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30 Nov, Wed

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
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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