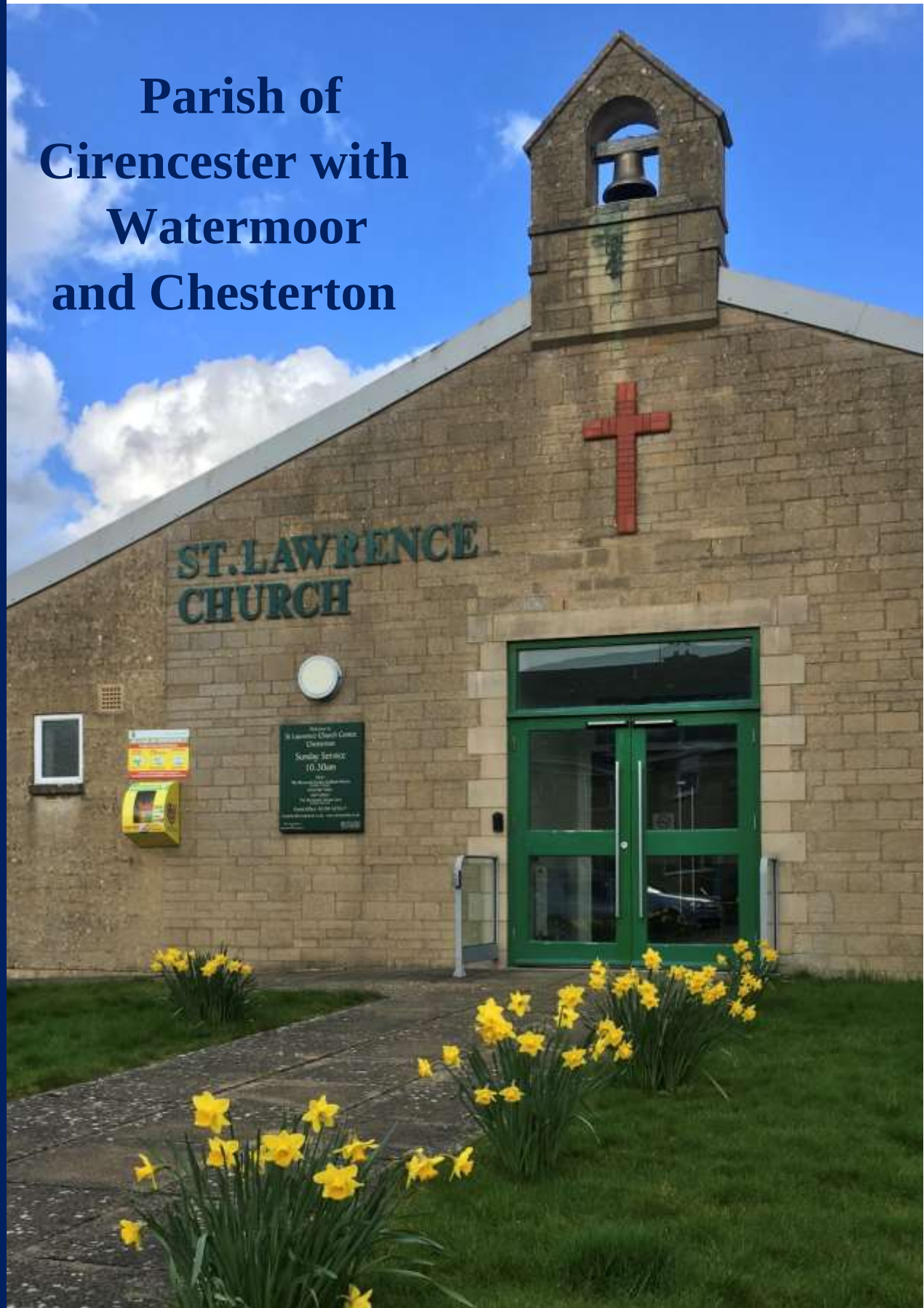


Parish Life Magazine

**Parish of
Cirencester with
Watermoor
and Chesterton**



March 2023

£1

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

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A Testimony

In 1977, Elvis Presley died, Star Wars opened in cinemas, Concord had its first commercial flight and the Queen had her silver jubilee, the locality of Cullompton in Devon celebrated, and our curate challenged my complaint regarding my lack of experiencing the reality of becoming a Christian.



“Have you actually given your life to Jesus to be his follower?” The answer was no. He’d spent weeks with me talking through the faith, introducing me to the truth compared to the strange views I had of the faith inherited from various family members. Being the product of a militant atheist and a lapsed Roman Catholic had a variety of intellectual consequences.

I’d become part of the church, already on the PCC and becoming a key player in the fellowship, and I was a rarity of the time, an adult male convert, but there was still a gap.

So that night, after Bryony had gone to bed, I sat on the sofa feeling rather embarrassed and said to ‘God’, “it all seems right, and so I do give myself to you for your service and all you have for me and my family, but I’m still not sure, so I give you 6 weeks to prove yourself!” Not the most humble approach to the living God, but he does want us to come to him more than we want to, and therefore puts up with our humanness and its foibles.

Let me tell you about the bright light, the blindness, the fall to the ground, the fasting and the kind individual who came to pray to enable the return of sight, but you’d get a better description in Acts 9 for that. It happened to the apostle Paul, but not to this one! In fact nothing happened and I went to bed.

But slowly a thirst developed for the scriptures and I found myself searching second hand bookshops for Christian biographies and bible commentaries. Slowly a developing reality of the presence of Jesus, an understanding of the Father and the Spirit, and finally a call to ordination came to me. I resisted, but eventually accepted and was Ordained in 1983 in Exeter Cathedral.

Why do I tell you all this? Well, it's good to hear people's testimonies, and good also to have a testimony to tell. How did you meet Jesus, and enter that glorious kingdom of God? How has that relationship developed and has it always been easy?

Secondly to note the grace of God who calls us to come humbly, yet accepts us in our pride, our weakness, unsure, testing, the God who is so gracious and slowly guides us into the way of truth and hope. God is far kinder than we are, yet never forget he is also a "consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). Have hope for all those for whom you pray.

And finally, as we go through Lent, a time of self-examination, it's good to remind ourselves of our priorities as Christians. We get caught up in the concerns of the world around us egged on by the anxiety generating media, worried about our finances, health etc, and yet Jesus reminds us that all this is expected and he warns us against getting caught up in these anxieties with both the parable of the sower, but also his own teaching in Matthew 6:33. *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Our focus is to be his kingdom and living our life in it, and he says he will sort out the rest. Are we living and walking through life as he calls us, being *"kind and compassionate, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you"*? (Ephesians 4:32). It all sounds rather easy, and it isn't, but it is the way he calls us to live, and so I commend it to you!

Rev Paul



Here comes Lent once again

Looking ahead I often have mixed feelings. I can't do much about global warming, but closer to home here comes Lent once again. Oh dear! One half of me is a bit gloomy. Past experience warns me that I am not very reliable when it comes to "Lenten Discipline". My New Year Resolutions usually fade in February. But they can become more lasting if they turn out to be not a burden but a surprise. So "giving up" something I enjoy (marmalade, chocolate, G & T) is hard graft until Easter releases me (I have usually slipped up on the way, incurring the inevitable guilty conscience).



But I have discovered that if I write out a prayer and stick it to my bathroom mirror it sets the tone for the whole day. It can include a reminder, a note to myself to do some small task as a gesture of love. If it begins to become routine I can add on a few extras from time to time: (Light a candle and sit still with it for (x) minutes. Get a Lent Book to keep you thinking). When Easter comes you may be surprised to find that you want carry on. Walking with Jesus becomes as natural as breathing. That is what his disciples found in the lanes and hills of Galilee and in the streets of Jerusalem. It was thrilling and life changing.

Perhaps it is worth pointing out that making rules for oneself is almost always bound to fail, just as Paul discovered when he tried to keep the whole of The Jewish Torah. He always felt guilty. But when he fell into the arms of the Risen Christ he found a spontaneous response rising up in his heart to live by the spring of love flowing up in his heart when he was touched by the Jesus Spirit.

A MIRROR PRAYER

Loving Lord, at this morning hour I lift my heart to you, my loving Lord, in wonder and gratitude. You have held me in your arms while I slept and now you enfold me and all those I love in your tender love. Walk with me through this day as a citizen of your Kingdom and an agent of your all enfolding love.

HGD

Lent Study Groups studying *Dust and Glory* by Emma Ineson

Wednesday Evenings at 7.00pm with

Canon Graham and Rev'd Alison

ZOOM joining details are:

Meeting ID: 752 630 6750

Passcode: 4-2020

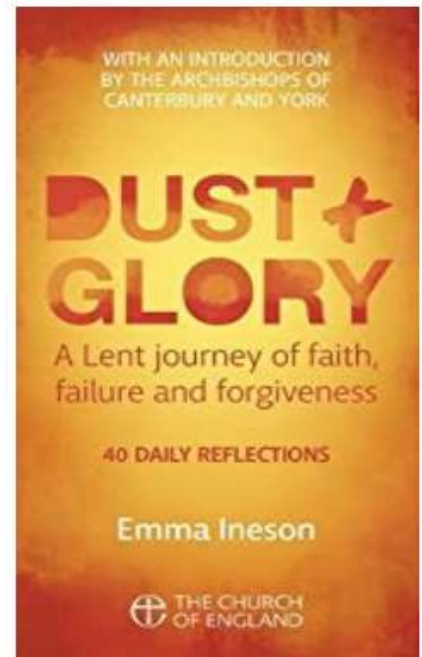
Thursday Afternoons at the Vicarage, 41 Rendcomb

Drive at 2.00pm with Canon Karen

2nd March, 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March

and 30th March

Dust and Glory booklets can be obtained via our Church Shop at £1.99 per copy. Please let Caroline or Lynn know if you would like a copy



Another Lent Study Group



Monday Evenings in Parish Forum at 7.30pm with Rev'd Paul Springate starting on Monday 27th February. This group **will not be using** the *Dust and Glory* booklet. The talks will be entitled *Walking the Walk*. Please contact Paul if you are interested in joining the group. (revpaul@cirenparish.co.uk)

Lent Lunches in the Parish Church

Wednesdays 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm in Lent starting on 1st March. Simple bread and cheese lunch followed by talk and opportunity for questions. Once again we are very grateful to the Cirencester Branch of the Mothers Union for preparing the lunches. Please donate generously. Speakers at this year's Lent Lunches:-



1 st March Kathy Folkstead - Hope Cirencester

8 th March Kim Whyhard - Salvation Army

15th March Iwan Lewis - Barn Theatre

22nd March Joan Leigh - member of the Parish Church Congregation

29th March Andrew Tubb - CEO Cirencester Town Council

Epiphany Carol Service



Members of the clergy and the three kings after the Epiphany Carol Service at the Parish Church on Sunday January 29th 2023

Churchyard Carbon Capture

During December 2022 and January 2023 the Friends of St John Baptist Churchyard were involved in an ecological survey by 'Caring for God's Acre' (CfGA), the national charity that promotes the conservation of heritage and ecology in burial grounds. CfGA, working with Dr Alan Radbourne at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, is seeking to assess the value of C of E churchyards as sites of carbon capture. Cirencester's Holy Trinity and St John Baptist were chosen to take part.



Those sites were to provide soil samples and vegetation data to help understand of how churchyard carbon capture compares to national survey data. Two members of the Friends, with additional help from another parishioner, collected soil

samples from both sites and undertook a tree survey, which included an estimate of percentage canopy cover for each site and detailed data on a representative sample of trees (including height, girth and age data). We will report the wider findings when they are published.

Both sites have some wonderful specimen trees, both natives and exotics. Holy Trinity has some magnificent *Wellingtonia*'s (giant redwoods), while St John Baptist boasts a magnificent copper beech, as well as a beautiful flowering cherry (*Prunus* 'Kanzan') - Hugh Johnson, renown wine expert but also a writer on gardening and trees, claimed that "*The flowering cherry is not so much a tree as an event*" and noted that this specific cheery is the most popular 'village cherry' grown in Britain (from the Japanese term *sato-sakura*). According to Johnson "*its many-petalled flowers, and above all their piercingly pink colour combine to make a fatal appeal*"! Make sure you visit the churchyard this spring!!! Over twenty of the trees are now labelled with their common name.

The Friends of St John Baptist run work parties throughout the year (Wednesdays 10.30-12.30). We try to achieve a balance between keeping the churchyard tidy and encouraging wildlife. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Colin Harrison (Chair 2023) on 07739944164 or John Tiffney on 01285 671888; or simply turn up on the day (bring gardening gloves if you have them!)



The photo shows John Tiffney collecting soil samples in the churchyard.

Peter Vujakovic
(Friends of St John Baptist Churchyard)



J S BACH
ST. JOHN PASSION

Parish Church of St John Baptist
Cirencester
Saturday 18th March 7pm

Stroud Choral Society with The Bristol Ensemble

Conductor: Simon Bell

Matthew Keighley *Evangelist*, Alan Fairs *Christus*, Nicholas Perfect *Pilate*

Hannah Grove *Soprano*, Ben Sawyer *Alto*, Tim Burton *Tenor*

Tickets £25, £20 and £5, with u18s free

Available on line from TicketSource.co.uk, "Shiny Goodness" Nailsworth,
Cirencester Council Offices, Cirencester Visitor Information Centre at The Corinium Museum,
or on the door .



Stroud Choral Society

www.stroudchoral.org



CANTORES

Nature and the Seasons Concerts



Cantores Chamber Choir directed by Simon Harper presents an eclectic programme of music and readings on the theme of Nature and the Seasons. The entirely *a cappella* programme is bookended by classic English part-songs. The programme will also feature a varied selection of music reflecting each season. Concerts take place as follows:

11 March 2023 at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade (7.30)

18 March 2023 at Church of St Peter & St Paul, Northleach (7.30)

Tickets are £15, available from their website cantores.net or by phone from Andrew on 07800 737078

Dear Fellow Members,

The admission of four new members into the Mothers' Union on January 15th in Holy Trinity Church was a joyous occasion. As always, Canon Graham was enthusiastic about the Worldwide Mothers' Union and the great contribution it makes in 84 countries, through its four million plus members. Its practical Christian concern for families evidenced through its projects and training programmes is making a real difference. Ian and Susie Hillier, Joanne Holden and Angela Stewart have joined to be in solidarity with all that the MU does through prayer and practical concern to make Christ's love known to his people in His world.

Following the formal business of the MU AGM in February, members had the opportunity to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the MU Branch here in Cirencester. An Anniversary cake was shared and fellowship enjoyed!

We are enormously grateful to Kathie Cottey and Peter too, for all that they have done for the Branch in recent times. Kathie accepted the challenge of being the named contact for our MU Branch a few years ago. For members not 'on line' they have delivered a monthly newsletter personally. I know how much all this effort has been appreciated, especially by our members no longer able to attend meetings. A huge thank you to them both.

The Soup Lunch on February 8th was enjoyed by those who came. The soups were delicious as always. The Raffle was a success too. There were so many prizes that John Lawrence spent almost as long calling out winners as the lunch had taken. Though numbers attending were slightly down, a goodly sum was raised for MU Projects.

We look forward to hearing Canon Graham sharing his experiences of his recent visit to Ghana, on March 1st at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to all MU meetings.

With love

Pat Harris

MU DATES FOR DAIRIES

March 1st Church Hall at 2.30pm. Canon Graham: 'Ghanaian Experience.'

March 3rd at 10.30am WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Friends meeting house, Thomas Street. Theme: 'I have heard about your faith.'

March 18th Parish Hall, Watermoor: 9.30am – 12 noon. Mothering Sunday.

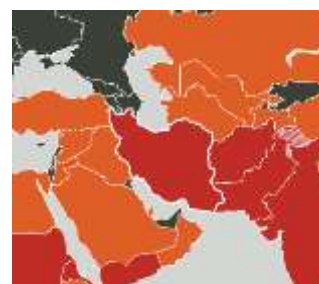
Posey Making

April 2nd. Palm Sunday. MU Cake Stall in the Church Hall, following the 10am Service.

Open Doors World Watch list 2023

Open Doors has published a list of the top ten countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. The list is as follows:

North Korea	Somalia	Yemen	Eritrea	Libya
Nigeria	Pakistan	Iran	Afghanistan	Sudan



For most of us going to church isn't a big risk. Owning a bible isn't a big risk. Even sharing the gospel with our friends, family and neighbours isn't a big risk. For millions of our brothers and sisters that isn't true in many countries. Being known as a Christian could mean risking family, home, livelihood, it could even mean a death sentence.

Around the world more than 360 million Christians face persecution and discrimination for their faith, but continue to courageously follow Jesus. They know that it is worth every risk and that God is with them,

Please pray for Christians in these ten countries where following Jesus comes at the greatest risk.

For more information go to OPENDOORSUK.ORG/WWL

On the second Monday of every month at 10.30a.m. at Holy Trinity church a small group of us meet together to pray for about an hour for our suffering church family across the world.

Do come and share in this when you can - you would be most welcome, and they would be most grateful!

Pam Barnes and Jill Wilkinson

A Personal View

What a triumph! Two thousand people in the churches on Christmas Eve. Canon Graham and his team succeeded in bringing Christmas to the Town and the Town into Church. There was a warm welcome for everyone. Christianity was at the top of the agenda in our beautiful churches and Town.



Now we can see even more of Canon Graham - in Hello Magazine! In a four page spread! There were several pictures in the magazine as it splendidly covered the baptism of Lawrence Llewellyn-Bowen's grandchildren.

I must, however, issue a warning before you rush to the relevant pages. Does not our esteemed Vicar look somewhat older? The evidence is there. Hair is greyer and he seems chubbier. I refrained from counting the chins.

We have a huge amount of talent in our Parish. The recent Fun Evening proved that. There were some presentation problems but they could not mask the talent on the show. My favourite was the splendidly performed 'Two Soups' sketch. The joke I supplied got the loudest laugh or was it a groan? You can decide. 'Why do they eat their potatoes whole in Swindon? Because they have no Devizes for Chippenham.'

Perhaps I was harsh on Canon Graham earlier. To balance matters I refer you to a quote in a current popular monthly magazine: 'probably the best Vicar.' I shall leave you to seek out who said it and where.

John Light


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

JUNIOR CHURCH OF CIRENCESTER PARISH CELEBRATES EASTER

Sunday 2nd April 10am – Palm Sunday - Holy Trinity
All Age for the Parish with procession alongside a real Donkey

Friday 7th April 10-12pm– Good Friday - Holy Trinity
Messy Church held at Watermoor Church Hall, join us for Easter craft, activities & fun! All welcome!

Sunday 9th April 10am – Easter Day
St John Baptist - All Age Family Service, Renewal of Baptism promises and Easter Egg Rolling
Holy Trinity - Easter Day Service with Easter Egg Hunt
Please wear your best Easter Bonnets!



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WATERMOOR.



From the
Archives

I. BEGINNINGS.

" I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eyelids to slumber : neither the temples of my head to take any rest : until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord : an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata : and found it in the wood ".

Tradition has it that it was while meditating on these words from Psalm 132 that the Reverend (later Canon) Powell, who was the Vicar of Cirencester from 1839 to 1869, found the solution to what he considered the inadequate accommodation for worship provided for the Church people of Cirencester. Contemporary records tell us that in 1841 the population of the Parish of Cirencester was 6,000, while the Parish Church held only 1,518, of which " 880 could be accommodated in inclosed pews, 188 in open benches in the passages and 450 school children in the distant gallery ". It was his intention to make it possible for at least a half of the total population of the parish to be ministered to, rather than just under a third, and the words of the psalm suggested to him that the wooded piece of land opposite to Watermoor House might be a suitable site for a Chapel of Ease in that part of the parish which was extending rapidly into what was called, even in those days, " the suburb of Watermoor." When this scheme was suggested, Henry George the 4th Earl Bathurst came forward with an offer of the site of an acre and a half which Canon Powell had in mind, and the grant of this land to the church was given with the glad consent of Mr. Joseph Randolph Mullings, who was the lessee of the land and the owner of Watermoor House, on condition that there should be no burials in the churchyard.

Public subscriptions were then invited and collecting books were issued to some of the leading Church folk. The inscription within the covers of these books makes fascinating reading : " You are requested to have this collecting book ready, and whenever an opportunity offers, to obtain contributions of any amount among your friends and generally. While donations even of a penny from any well disposed poor person will be most welcome, it is hoped that you will be careful in requesting a small contribution not to give the donor to understand that he can escape with a cheap offering that costs nothing. ' God loves a cheerful giver ', and it would be injurious to anyone to congratulate himself on saving or to give chiefly because you are importunate. The object is to show the privilege and the duty of giving to others and to possess yourself with a feeling that you are collecting in God's service for a pious purpose. ' Thy prayer is heard and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God ' (Acts x 31). " From these books we learn whence came the money necessary for the building of a church at Watermoor, and although it would be impossible to mention the names of all our benefactors in the past, yet mention should be made of

Miss Jane Master, who contributed £1,000 ; of R. B. Croome Esq., and Miss Croome, who gave a similar sum ; of the Hon. William Lennox Bathurst, later the fifth Earl, who gave £5,000 ; of an anonymous young man's last offering on his death-bed of 5/- . To these, and to so many more of whose generosity we shall have cause to make mention later, we owe a great debt of gratitude. In all £6,000 was raised, and of that £1,200 was invested in the purchase of a field (now termed the Paddock), to the west side of the site together with the buildings and cottage, the latter serving until 1899 as a residence for the priest-in-charge, and being known to this day as the Old Parsonage.

The foundations of the Church were laid up to the ground line by 1847 and on St. Mark's Day, the foundation stone was laid, it is thought by Canon Powell, although no verification of this has been possible. It is known however that he made the children of the Yellow and Blue Schools, who sang hymns at the ceremony, walk over the stone in turn to impress it upon their memories, and afterwards, gave them a tea-party. The foundations of the tower were laid with huge blocks of stone concreted together, because of the percolation of water, which was a continual source of annoyance to the workmen, and which had constantly to be pumped away. During the preparations of the site many male skeletons were found near the wall by the main entrance gate, probably, it is thought, the mortal remains of men killed in the civil wars ; there was also found nearby a block of stone which was thought to belong to a Roman villa.

The Church, which was designed by, and carried out under the supervision of Sir Gilbert Scott, and built by Mr. Bridges, a local builder of that time, is mainly early English in style, of the later or traditional period. The stone used for the outside of the fabric came from a quarry in the London Road, while the inside is of Bath stone. The roof timbers are of Bremen oak, darker in colour than one would expect, on account of the honey-dew from the lime trees under which they lay for a considerable time. The well in the Churchyard, about which many people are curious, appears to have been dug out for gravel, and left open to receive surface water from the roof.

The building of the Church, which cost about £5,000, took four years in all, but by the time of its consecration had neither spire nor a complete south aisle. The former, which cost £500, was added in 1852 at the sole expense of the Hon. William Lennox Bathurst ; while the latter, which reached only three-quarters of the building, was extended to its whole length in November 1860 at the cost of £900, which was raised by public subscriptions.

II. THE CONSECRATION.

By November 1851 the Church was ready for its consecration, and the Cirencester and Swindon Express (incorporated the following year with Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard) tells us that "early on the morning of that November day, the bells of the old church sent forth their joyful sound. The sun, for a November day, shone brightly and by 10.30 a.m. the new

building was full to overflowing". At 11 a.m. the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, Dr. Olivant, acting for the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Dr. Monk, who was ill, arrived with Earl Bathurst in his Lordship's carriage and was received at the north gate by the Surrogate, (acting for the Chancellor), the Registrar and about sixty clergy from the neighbourhood. The 24th Psalm was sung while a procession was made to the north-door where the petition was presented to the Bishop praying him to consecrate the new Church. After the usual form of consecration, Mattins was sung by Canon Powell, the music being led by choristers of Gloucester Cathedral aided by the boys of the Yellow and Blue Schools. The first lesson was read by the Revd. E. A. Daubney, vicar of Ampney Crucis, the second by the Revd. Henry Cripps, Vicar of Preston, and the sermon 'audibly and impressively delivered' by the Revd. H. Wyndham Beadon, Vicar of Latton. The alms at that first service amounted to £282, which amount was put towards paying back the £650 which had been lent for the completion of the work." The Cirencester and Swindon Express points out that "this fine amount shows sympathy and regard manifested for the zealous and indefatigable incumbent and must be a cheering and welcome close to many an anxious hour during the progress of this labour of love. We heartily congratulate our fellow parishioners on the completion of this structure, the architecture of which will be a great ornament to the Town, and situated as it is near a thickly populated neighbourhood, we trust may prove a blessing to unborn generations."

This was indeed a memorable day in the history of Cirencester, and it was made certain that no child should ever be allowed to forget it. Some 420 school children of the parish were regaled, we are told, with a plentiful supply of roast beef and plum puddings which had been made by the ladies of the town and which varied in size from two to twenty pounds. "A pleasing sight," Cirencester and Swindon Express tells us, "this real enjoyment of so many children. We were delighted with the ease with which their pastor, our respected incumbent, controlled their will. One moment all was repose for a blessing on the supplies which had been vouchsafed: the next witnessed such a burst of applause, such a thrill of pleasure, as only several hundred children can raise when showing themselves delighted with that which has been done by their elders for their special pleasure and satisfaction. After everyone had, in his own particular manner, enjoyed the good things set before him, the collected assembly, children, waiters, (the ladies of the town), and carvers, joined in expressing their loyal feelings to the Government under which we live—under which alone such days as this can be realised—by singing in a most effective manner the National Anthem."

Thus was the Church of the Holy Trinity born, and we, a hundred years later, look back to those days with humble gratitude praying that we may be worthy of all the hopes that our predecessors had in us for the maintenance of this Church, of which they were the founders.



Cirencester Supporter Group raises over £18,000 for Longfield Hospice



Elaine Harris and Chrissie Howse who run the Cirencester Supporter Group and the recent Charity Captain's Day at Oaksey Park Golf Club raised over £6,000 for Longfield.

A volunteer-led supporter group based in Cirencester raised over £18,000 for Longfield Community Hospice last year.

Headed up by Elaine Harris and Chrissie Howse, the group organises a calendar of fundraising activities each year, with all proceeds going to the Minchinhampton-based hospice.

In the last six months, events have included a Captains Charity Day at Oaksey Park Golf Club, a Christmas Craft Fayre at Egypt Mill in Nailsworth, and an Open Gardens event at Daglingworth House. The group also act as a key link in the community helping to establish relationships with other local organisations. Plans are currently underway for a Fish and Chip Quiz Night on March 11, which will be held at the Parish Hall, Watermoor at 7pm.

The group, which is currently made up of seven volunteers, is **keen to attract new members**.

Elaine explained: “I’ve been involved in the Supporter Group for several years now, and would thoroughly recommend it! We work hard but have good fun too, and it’s incredibly rewarding knowing that the money we raise helps such a worthwhile local charity. Do get in touch if you’d like to join us – you’ll be guaranteed a very warm welcome.”

Longfield is a community hospice and provides free care, 365 days a year, for adults across Gloucestershire living with a life-limiting illness. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, the hospice also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing services at its base in Minchinhampton.

Chrissie, who also volunteers in the hospice’s fundraising department and her local Longfield charity shop, added: “I’ve been volunteering for Longfield since 2009 and it’s become a big part of my life now! I enjoy every aspect of it, and have made life-long friends. I’m so pleased to be helping Longfield; it’s such a good cause and provides invaluable support to people in the local area.”

Louise Cook, Head of Fundraising and Marketing at Longfield, said:

“We’re so grateful to Elaine and Chrissie, and the other members of the Cirencester Supporter Group for their incredible work over the last few years. They raise a phenomenal amount of money for Longfield – we simply couldn’t provide free care to local people without this kind of fundraising.

Do get in touch if you’d like to join the Cirencester Supporter Group, or if you fancy starting a new supporter group in your local area. Remember every group is different and we will be with you every step of the way. We also have a range of volunteering opportunities at the hospice and in our charity shops – please get in touch if you’d like to find out more. We’d love to hear from you.”

For more information on the volunteering opportunities available, visit www.longfield.org.uk. To find out more about joining the Cirencester Supporter Group email fundraising@longfield.org.uk or telephone 01453 886868.

Jo Fairburn

Electoral voting and the new rule of needing ID

Please can I ask you to remind those in your parish who may not be aware of this.

Can you please ensure that those with pastoral care of congregations and those responsible for volunteers are aware of the item below in case they know of people who may need to apply for voter ID in order to retain their right to vote because they lack an accepted form of photo ID?

It may be helpful to be aware that applications opened on 6 January for a new form of free ID that can be used at elections. Ahead of a new voter ID requirement, the UK Government has opened the online portal for the ID – the Voter Authority Certificate – and local authorities will begin processing applications.

Applications can be submitted through the online portal: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. Paper application forms are also available from local authorities. Applicants must be registered to vote and will need to provide their date of birth, National Insurance number and a photograph with their application. Local elections are taking place across England on 4 May, and those intending to vote at a polling station will need to show photo ID to receive a ballot paper. The deadline to apply for a certificate before the May elections is **5pm on Tuesday 25 April**.

Voters who have an accepted form of ID do not need to apply for a certificate. Accepted forms of ID are:

- a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport;
- a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and
- some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photograph.

[Source: *Electoral Commission*]

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A note about the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting. 23rd April 11.30 a.m. in St John Baptist

We have a number of vacancies on the PCC...

St John Baptist we need to find four new members

Holy Trinity Watermoor we need to find four new members

St Lawrence we need one new member.

We WILL NEED someone to be our PCC Secretary, as Howard closes the lid on his laptop after many years of fantastic support.



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CANDIDATES FOR THE PCC NEED TO BE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL. Forms are available from Howard Gray our Electoral Roll Officer, Aileen Anderson in the Parish Church, Rev'd Alison Trinity and St Lawrence.

I urge all church members to consider playing their part in becoming a member of the PCC and involving themselves in one of the sub groups that meets to organise our parish life.

The sub groups are: – Finance, Personnel, Fabric, Environment and Health and Safety

We have a sub group that administers the halls i.e. Watermoor and St Lawrence and a separate management group for the Parish Forum. Canon Graham put out a plea for more people to give

of their time in assisting with the administration of the parish. So much of the workload lands on the desks of so few people. Please consider how you might be able to assist us in carrying out the work of the PCC.

Canon Graham and the Church wardens will be pleased to try and answer your questions.

From Canon Graham's bulletin (see www.cirenparish.co.uk)

Dates for Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week

Once again we are endeavouring to lay on a full programme for Holy Week so that there is something for everyone. Including in this will be the daily offices, providing the opportunity for some quite reflection at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day.

2nd April Palm-Sunday Normal pattern of services

3rd April Stations of the Cross Holy Trinity 6.30pm.

4th April Stations of the Cross Holy Trinity 6.30pm.

Reflective meditation 'spending time with Benedict' in the Parish Church 4 p.m.

Compline (sung) in the Parish Church 9 p.m.

5th April Stations of the Cross Holy Trinity 6.30pm.

Compline (said) in the Parish Church 9 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

The Liturgy of the Upper Room in the Parish Church and at Holy Trinity Watermoor. 7.30 p.m.

The Watch in the Lady Chapel at the Parish Church until 10p.m.

10 p.m. onwards in the Parish Church we are hoping to run an event for our young people right through the night! Watch this space!

Good Friday

Morning Prayer at 9a.m. in the Parish Church.

Ante Communion 9 a.m. in Holy Trinity Watermoor

10 a.m. Messy Church in Watermoor hall

Midday – 3 p.m. in the Parish Church

Midday – 2 p.m. led meditation in the Parish Church

3p.m. The Liturgy of the Cross in the Parish Church

EASTER DAY

Daybreak Service 5.30 a.m. at the Parish Church

Breakfast in the Parish Forum 6.30 p.m.

8a.m. Said Eucharist at Holy Trinity CW

8 a.m. Holy Communion BCP Parish Church

10 a.m. Eucharist at Holy Trinity Watermoor

10 a.m. Festival All Age Eucharist at the Parish Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Eucharist at St Lawrence

4 p.m. Solemn Evensong (choral)



Dates for March (Taken from the Parish Calendar)



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

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Weekdays

10am – 12pm	The Parish Forum Open (except Wednesday)
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1 Mar, Wed

12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lent Lunch - Kathy Folkstead - Hope Cirencester	
6:30 – 7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity
7 – 8:30pm	Dust and Glory Lent Discussion Group by Zoom	

2 Mar, Thu

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
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5 Mar, 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 Church
5 – 7pm Junior	Youth Group - 1st and 3rd Sundays	Parish Forum

6 Mar, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
11am – 12pm	Funeral - Kathleen Dyer	Holy Trinity
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum
7.30 – 9pm	Walking the Walk- Lent Group	The Parish Forum

7 Mar, Tue

12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Spend Time with Benedict	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist

8 Mar, Wed

12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lent Lunch - Kim Whyhard, Salvation Army	
6:30 – 7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity
7 – 8:30pm	Dust and Glory Lent Discussion Group by Zoom	

9 Mar, Thu

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence

12 Mar, 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

13 Mar, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
1 – 2pm	Funeral -June Lock	Holy Trinity
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum
7.30 – 9pm	Walking the Walk- Lent Group	The Parish Forum

14 Mar, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

15 Mar, Wed

12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lent Lunch -Iwan Lewis, Barn Theatre	
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity
7 – 8:30pm	Dust and Glory Lent Discussion Group by Zoom	

16 Mar, Thu

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

17 Mar, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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18 Mar, Sat

9:30am – 12pm	Mothers' Union Posy Making for Mothering Sunday	Parish Hall Watermoor
7pm – 9.30pm	Murder Mystery in aid of Macmillan	Parish Hall Watermoor
7 – 9pm	Stroud Choral Soc Choral Concert	St John Baptist

19 Mar, 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
12:30 – 1:30pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore @4	St Lawrence
5 – 7pm	Junior Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays -	Parish Forum

20 Mar, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum
7:30 – 9pm	Quarter Peal	St John Baptist
7.30 – 9pm	Walking the Walk- Lent Group	The Parish Forum

21 Mar, Tue

12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

22 Mar, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lent Lunch -Joan Leigh, PCH Congregation	
6:30 – 7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity
7 – 8:30pm	Dust and Glory Lent Discussion Group by Zoom	
7:30 – 9:30pm	Full PCC/Accounts	St Lawrence

23 Mar, Thu

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10 – 11:15am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	Holy Trinity
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

25 Mar, Sat

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9:45pm	FullTone Orchestra - Karl Jenkins Symphonic Adiemus	St John Baptist

26 Mar, 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	ATIC Service	St John Baptist
27 Mar, Mon		
9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum
7.30 – 9pm	Walking the Walk- Lent Group	The Parish Forum
28 Mar, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
29 Mar, Wed		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lent Lunch -Andrew Tubb, CEO Cirencester Town Council	
6:30 – 7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Holy Trinity
7 – 8:30pm	Dust and Glory Lent Discussion Group by Zoom	
30 Mar, Thu		
9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	From the Chancel Step	The Parish Forum

And finally.....

'A Journey towards Easter'

Jubilate Chamber Choir (one of Gloucestershire's leading choirs) are again delighted to present 'A Journey Towards Easter' at 7.30pm on Saturday 1 April.

The concert will be presented by Manny Masih, BBC Gloucestershire & BBC Wiltshire, conducted by Ian Higginson and accompanied by David Lloyd. The concert programmes will also incorporate some beautiful and appropriate pictures which are painted by some of the talented art scholars at St Edward's School Cheltenham.

The music will include excerpts from Bach's St John Passion, Handel's Messiah, plus other works suitable for Lent, Passiontide and Easter by Byrd, Durufle, Faure, Stainer, Tallis and many more.

Programme/tickets can be reserved through the choir website (address below) or available on the door.

Adults: £12.00 Students £9.00

Jubilate chamber choir website: www.jubilate.com

A place for parents and young children
to socialise in Chesterton

Seedlings



@ St. Lawrence

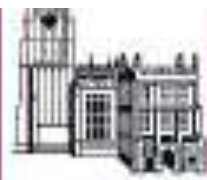
Space to Play, Time for Chat

9:15 – 10:45am

St Lawrence Church Centre

Free

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month



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