

Parish Life Magazine

**Parish of Cirencester with
Watermoor and Chesterton**



May 2023

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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

Parish Wardens

Aileen Anderson

aileenanderson@cirenparish.co.uk

Nigel Robbins

nigelrobbins@cirenparish.co.uk

Organist and Choirmaster

Hugo Kennard

hugo@cirenparish.co.uk

Electoral Roll Officer

Howard Gray

howardgray@cirenparish.co.uk

Sarah Marshall and Emily Winstanley (Parish Administration)

Email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Website: www.cirenparish.co.uk

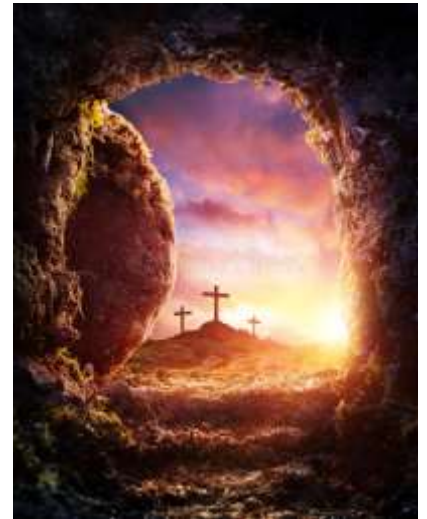
Parish Magazine articles (submitted by 16th day of previous month)

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Lead Article

Easter – Open 24/7

The short-hand slogan that guarantees the accessibility of some business or other is quite often accompanied by a small qualifying footnote like ‘except for Christmas and Easter Day’. Well churches are pretty well guaranteed to be open at Christmas and Easter, but questions remain about the rest of the year. There are plenty of practical answers of course. The church seeks to be available to meet pastoral and social needs. As much as possible doors are open for casual visitors, tourists and pilgrims.



There are all sorts of connections with schools, organisations and communities where the church is involved; there are many situations (like our own) where the very existence of a fine church building can act as a reminder of what the Christian message is all about. That all takes effort, planning, dedication and money, but I would offer a theological reason why the gospel (especially the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead) is relevant 365 days of the year – for this year and every year that has been or is to come.

A few weeks ago I preached on the Easter Day narrative where Jesus first met with his disciples in the upper room (John 20 v 19-31). I was struck by a question. Why did Jesus (as he made himself known to them) show the disciples his hands and his side? Straightforward identification perhaps, or a reminder of what had happened three days before and how different things were now. But John lays particular emphasis on the act – and you may remember how important it was for ‘doubting Thomas’ a week later.

I suppose I generally assume that, however we conceive of the transformed resurrection body of Jesus, then after the events in the garden and whatever happened in the now empty tomb, the wounds inflicted at the crucifixion would have been healed. Good Friday swept away by Easter Day. But I have now come to wonder if the importance of this story is its insistence on the link between the

Friday and Sunday. The effects of sin, injustice, betrayal and violence which Jesus took into himself at the crucifixion are disempowered but not abolished by an Easter faith. And we who celebrate the extraordinary hope of ‘Alleluia, Christ is risen’ in the Easter liturgy are compelled to realise this hope in the everyday events which follow it in the world of ordinary things.

After my sermon, one of the churchwardens remarked that most of the resurrection narratives take place not in Jerusalem – around the temple, at the centre of political power and influence but in Galilee (Mark 16 v7) the place where ordinary life happened for Jesus and his followers. They take place in the carpenter’s shop, the fishing boats, the shepherd’s croft, the tax office among work and family and daily life. It was there that the disciples had to first work out their faith and the reality of the continuing presence of Jesus.

And that is why, despite all that the institutional church does (and sometimes fails to do) resurrection faith is something to look for all the time, everywhere and for ever and ever. It is not just something for ‘high days’ like Christmas and Easter, but the ‘holy’ ones too – that means today and tomorrow and all the days after that as well.

Practically speaking, if an Easter faith is not just about life after death or hoping things turn out right in the end, it drives us to shape our lives by a constantly renewed contemplation of the body and blood of Christ bearing the sins of the world. This includes our own sins and everything else that has gone away in God’s creation as well. Our Alleluias are to be uttered in our social and political, economic and personal, environmental and global engagements just as clearly as when we are responding to our Alleluias in church.

The resurrection message does not make our sins or the sins of the world invisible but says that even their worst effects can be transformed. That is why the Easter faith is a life-long thing – and the church in its fullest dimension is never closed for business.

Canon Philip Thomas

Easter Flowers



A big thank you to all who contributed so generously towards the cost of the Easter flowers, and thank you too to everyone who continues to put donations in the little wooden flower fund collection box on the pillar in the Parish Church.

Pam Barnes, Flower Guild Treasurer.



A CELEBRATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

On July 1st there will be a Sung Eucharist at 12 noon in the PARISH CHURCH, when Canon James Harris will mark the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood (Jim was made Deacon in 1962). Jim is an Hon Canon of St Matthew's Cathedral, Antsiranana, Madagascar. The Rt Revd Oliver Simon, a former Bishop of the Diocese of Antsiranana, Northern Madagascar (2012 - 2015) will be the Preacher.

All will be very welcome at this service.

Pat Harris



Two stanzas for Easter by Dorothy Sayers

Hard it is, very hard
To travel up the hard and stony road
To Calvary, to redeem mankind: far better
To make but one resplendent miracle.
Lean through the cloud, lift the right hand of power
And with a sudden lightning smite the world perfect.

Yet this was not God's way, who had the power,
But set it by choosing the cross, the thorn,
The sorrowing wounds. Something there is perhaps,
That power destroys in passing, something supreme,
For whose great value in the eyes of God
That cross, that thorn, and those five wounds bear witness.



Submitted by *Canon Philip Thomas*

Muses in Mark (Mark 1:14-15)



After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. [15] “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark doesn't hang about. The swift flowing river powers along. In 14 verses Mark has dealt with the arrival of John the Baptist, his outfit, his proclamations, the response to his call and straight into the Baptism of Jesus, his temptations in the wilderness and starts to slow down as he comes to the meat of his gospel, that the kingdom of God is near, repent and believe.

There was a thirst for something to happen, God had been silent for 400 years and there is inbuilt in all of us a thirst for the divine. That thirst shows itself in the movement towards the waters of Baptism. Mark ignores John's challenge of “vipers”, he's more interested in getting to Jesus' challenge. Jesus had arrived as the foretaste of God's kingdom although that wasn't yet understood, but Jesus did proclaim it, and in fact, the kingdom of God is his main teaching theme before and after his resurrection. Entry, he declared, was simple. Repent and believe. Repentance involved a change of direction, and believing expected a new understanding of God, the world and humanity. That of itself would demand change and a new hope, a new vision and a new understanding – a new life. From now on Mark is going to show the new kingdom, its expectations and realities through his gospel.

It behoves us also to understand the kingdom of God and our place in it along with the new realities it brings. We shall be looking at the kingdom of God later in the year in our house-group if anyone is interested. Contact Jill Wilkinson for information.

As we see Mark taking us on, it's a rollercoaster of a ride with powerful challenges and discoveries.

It's not boring with Jesus, especially as we travel in Mark's swiftly flowing river!

Rev Paul.

Palm Sunday

What do Crocodile Dundee, an angry supermarket customer, and King Charles the Third have in common?



Well, they all came to the party we had at Holy Trinity on Palm Sunday, along with lots of children and their parents. The children helped Ally to lay the table ready, a notice held up saying 'Please knock', and we watched to see who would come.



First was Ian, Ally's long lost cousin from Australia suitably attired and with an inflatable crocodile under one arm. He was greeted with an enthusiastic bear hug!

Next was Jenny with endless bags of shopping, loudly complaining that Ally had pushed her out of the way in the supermarket. She was met with profuse apologies for her wrongdoing.

Lastly was Ray, a very convincing King Charles the Third, to whom everyone had to bow.

Ally held up Holman Hunt's picture 'The Light of the World' and explained how Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts, and waits to see how we will welcome him. Will we give him our love, will we say sorry for pushing him away, and will we bow before him and worship him?



These are questions for us all to think about and answer.

Jill Wilkinson



Restore @ 4 is at St Lawrence Church centre, Countess Lillas Road, Chesterton on the First and Third Sundays of each month at 4pm. It offers informal praise, prayer and bible study and a chance to recharge our spiritual batteries.

If you haven't yet found Restore @4 then please drop in at St Lawrence for a guaranteed warm and friendly welcome!.

He is Risen



The Parish Church was decorated beautifully by the Flower Guild for our Easter celebrations. There were many stunning floral arrangements throughout the church and also a beautiful Easter garden with an empty tomb by the high altar. The tomb was constructed by Rev'd Graham and the garden by Pam Barnes. The stone had been rolled away from the empty tomb showing the folded grave clothes which remained.



Inspired by the Big Help Out to consider volunteering?

Do you want to be part of a friendly team helping your local community?

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost of living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

Administration/triage assistants. You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment - identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

Volunteer Advisers. You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 24 May 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 7 June 2023 (10.30-12 noon) in Cirencester.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said:

“Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We’re seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We’ll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you.”

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at training@ca-scd.org.uk. You can also find further information on our website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk.



Cirencester Choral Society Concert

Cirencester Choral Society turns to the 19th Century Romantic period for their Spring Concert in the Parish Church on Saturday 20th May. The programme comprises masses by the Czech composer Anton Dvořák and the Parisian Charles Gounod.

Dvořák is today best known for his 1893 *New World* symphony. The organ-accompanied *Mass in D Major* pre-dates his American adventure and was composed in 1887 as a commission from the architect and patron Josef Hlávka for the inauguration of his new chapel at his summer residence, Lužany Castle. As one might expect of Dvořák, the work is melodic, richly harmonic and lyrical in form.

Charles Gounod's *Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile* was his first major work and first performed on St. Cecilia's day in 1855 in the cathedral of Saint-Eustache, Paris. Originally scored for large orchestra, requiring six harps in one movement (!), a more manageable version with organ accompaniment was later written. Although Gounod is noted for his operas, in particular *Faust*, his younger French contemporary *Saint-Saëns regarded the mass as one of Gounod's best works that would stand the test of time. Although Gounod is not widely performed today, he is recognised as having been an important influence on those who followed, including Fauré, Massenet, Bizet and Debussy.*

The chorus will be accompanied by organist Charles Matthews and joined by soloists from London's Royal Academy of Music. The concert will be conducted by the Society's Musical Director Carleton Etherington. Tickets £15 (Student £6, Child £3) are available from the Visitor Information Centre (Corinium Museum) (01285 654180) or Society members.

Ros Ivison

MOOD SWINGS

If you see me out and about after reading this column then please cheer me up. I am angry and understandably so.

Firstly – potholes. Yes, they are everywhere; the ones at the Watermoor Road end of the Avenue are a constant hazard.



Secondly – the weather. The cricket season has just started. The most attractive visitors of the season have just been due to visit Bristol: Glos CCC v Yorkshire – match abandoned without a ball being bowled. No cricket for the four days. Fortunately I stayed at home. Yes, it is cold, wet and miserable for all of us.

Thirdly – the theft at the Parish Church on Easter morning. How mean! Obviously the thieves wanted cash, breaking open the donations box. They probably got about £50. A despicable deed.

Fourthly – our local newspaper. It did not report this robbery. It is very hit and miss, with Fairford, Tetbury and Malmesbury being covered much better than Cirencester. I despair of the ‘Standard’. I used to contribute, especially to the sports pages. Local sport – athletics, golf, hockey, rugby, skittles, darts etc. were always covered. Seven pages with up to seventeen sports a week. I was proud to be part of it, but now am not wanted and ignored. Pushed out with no thanks! I have gone the way of local news.

My mood, you can see, has been vile and with good reason but this morning (16th April) at Holy Trinity there was an uplifting moment. A North American voice reading the second lesson. The reader received charming family support. Firstly, this struck me as Shelley’s definition of poetry. ‘A green island in a sea of misery’ but Revd Paul always end his services with the words ‘enjoy the Lord’. The memory has been with me since and my spirits lifted. Many thanks to all concerned.

In future difficult times, I shall seek out many ways to enjoy the Lord.

John Light

Surprised John didn’t mention Forest Green Rovers in his catalogue of doom!

Editor



From The Revd Canon Graham Morris
Vicar of Cirencester
Honorary Canon Bishop Aglionby Memorial
Cathedral Diocese of Tamale, Ghana



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April 2023

Volunteers needed at the Parish Church.

Do you enjoy meeting people, are you interested in the history of your Parish Church, would you consider becoming a volunteer to welcome visitors into your church?

Keeping the Parish Church open on a daily basis for pilgrims is quite a mammoth task. We rely mostly upon volunteers. Whilst there are vergers or a member the clergy on hand, the important task of welcoming people into the Parish Church as tourists and worshippers is vital. To do this we need an army of volunteers.

The task is to volunteer at one or more of the slots when we need help – maybe once or twice a month to suit you. If you could make a regular slot that helps us with planning things.

10 a.m. – Midday

Midday – 2 p.m.

2 p.m. – 4p.m.

On Bank Holidays the church becomes very busy, and it is on these occasions when we need extra volunteers to assist with keeping the building open safely. We are trying to build a team of people who will be willing to take a turn on Bank Holidays especially. There are ‘eight bank holidays’ in a normal year, if you were able to help at one or two this would be a great help.

The task would be to volunteer at one or more of the slots when we need help.

Bank Holiday 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

1p.m. – 3 p.m.

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Evening prayer is said every day at 5 p.m. It is always good to have visitors with us for this ancient office of the church. The vergers or clergy on duty will be responsible for locking the church.

If you are able to offer some help, it will mean the difference of us being able to remain open, rather than having to close.

Yours sincerely

Canon Graham Morris

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 Lilias Road,
Chesterton*



RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor

Deanery of Cirencester

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on Sunday 23rd April 2023

The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Miss Aileen Anderson

Mr Nigel Robbins

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod**

Mrs Claire Pearson

Mrs Margaret Dennis

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council**

Mr Peter Ewart

Mr Chris Woodhouse

Mr Michael Ralston

Mrs Claire Jones

Mrs Jill Wilkinson

Mr John Light

The Members of the Parochial Church Council for 2023/24

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Revd Canon Graham Morris

Vice Chair:

To be elected

Elected members (StJB)

Mrs Sue Webb

Mrs Samantha Crawley

Mr Ian Robertson

Mr Peter Ewart

Mr Christopher Woodhouse

Mr Michael Ralston

Elected members (HTW)

Mrs Fiona Hawes

Mrs Claire Jones

Mrs Jill Wilkinson

Elected Members (StL)

Mr David Turner

Mr John Light

Co-opted

Mr Phil Kerton

Advisory

Mr Charles Woodd

Hon Treasurer

Ex-Officio Members with Areas of particular responsibility

Revd Alison Love

(Assoc. Vicar)

Mr Nigel Robbins OBE

(Parishwarden StJB)

Miss Aileen Anderson

(Parishwarden StJB)

Mr Roger Hester

(Churchwarden HTW)

Mrs Margaret Austin

(Churchwarden StL)

Miss Penny Phillips

(Churchwarden StL)

Mrs Claire Pearson

(Deanery Synod rep)

Mrs Margaret Dennis

(Deanery Synod rep)

Dates for May 2023

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 May, Mon

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

2 May, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Funeral - Stuart Dyer	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Spend time with Benedict	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist

3 May, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

4 May, Thu

7am – 10pm	Polling Stations	St Lawrence and Parish Hall
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

5 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 7pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor

7 May, 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	Coronation Civic Service	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence Church
5 – 7pm Junior	Youth Group - 1st and 3rd Sundays	Parish Forum

9 May, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

10 May, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9pm	Congregational Committee	Holy Trinity

11 May, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

12 May, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 7pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor

13 May, Sat

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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14 May, 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 – 3pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

15 May, 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

16 May, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

17 May, Wed

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
7:30 – 9:30pm	Full PCC	St Lawrence

18 May, Thu

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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19 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 7pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor

20 May, Sat

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9:30pm	Cirencester Choral Society Concert	St John Baptist

21 May, 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
1 – 2pm	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

22 May, Mon

9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
3 – 4pm	Funeral - Mary Pym	Holy Trinity
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	The Parish Forum

23 May, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

24 May, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2 – 4:30pm	Coffee, Cake and Chat	Parish Hall, Watermoor
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

25 May, Thu

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

26 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 7pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor

28 May, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	United Service at Baptist Church	
2 – 3pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	ATIC Service	St John Baptist

29 May, Mon

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

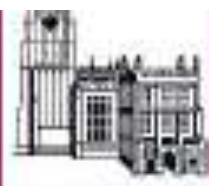
30 May, Tue

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

31 May, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity





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