

**Parish of Cirencester with
Watermoor and Chesterton**



April 2024

£1

Parish Life Magazine

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

Useful contacts:

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The Vicar is very happy for you to contact him directly
for matters of concern pastorally or spiritually.

Parish Wardens

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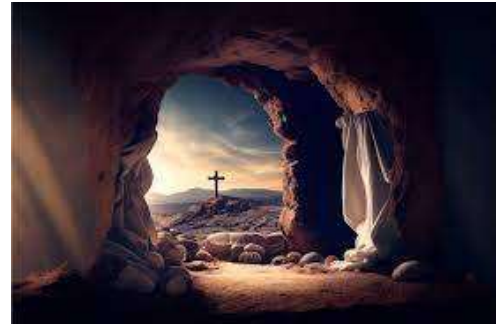
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Parish Magazine articles (submitted by 16th day of previous month)
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Dear friends,

Many of us felt caught unaware by the early Lent this year. Now, at the beginning of April, we are into the Easter season. Were you able to take time out to be with God? Were you able to keep any resolutions you may have made? I don't really want answers, just for you to feel the freedom to become more fully involved with Church life.



In the last few weeks, several of the Clergy team have had conversations with parishioners who seem unaware of the range of things that we offer. It may be that the timing of these events is not the best for you, or is there some other reason why you perhaps feel apprehensive over joining? We are all more than happy to talk to you about these events, so do come and have these conversations.

The opening of the Churches is one that we feel is appreciated by many regular worshippers, and those who like to just pop in occasionally. The daily offices are a great source of comfort to many. Morning and Evening Prayer are set at 9 am and 5 pm respectively on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We used to hold these daily but lack of leaders means it is not possible. Perhaps this is something you may like to consider. The Eucharist at noon is a straightforward regular service and numbers vary from day-to-day. It is always with a heavy heart, but sometimes it is necessary to cancel these.

Sunday mornings are more ingrained but many are unaware of the cycle of the afternoon services. In St John Baptist, the first and third Sundays are full Choral Evensong at 4 pm. The second Sunday is Evening Prayer with a homily. The fourth Sunday is either Iona worship or Taize, and when there is a fifth Sunday we have a Songs of Praise, ideal

for those who like a good sing. All are at 4 pm. Why not venture to Saint Lawrence for Restore @4 on the first and third Sundays when there is an alternative form of worship where testimonies may be given. This is a more reflective relaxed service.

We know the children are the future of the church and we have various meetings for them. For the younger ones with mums Little Angels on a Monday morning in St John Baptist is a time of prayers, singing, colouring and play with refreshments as well. On the second and fourth Thursdays Seedlings takes place at Saint Lawrence again, a time of activity and refreshment. The more traditional idea of Sunday school takes place during the morning services at St John Baptist where we have Sparklers whilst at Holy Trinity Watermoor, they have Trinity Kids. They all join together on Good Friday for activities and Halloween, or a Saturday near to the day.

I feel excited to write these all down like this as ways you may feel you would like to join in. However, I am not finished as to keeping the Church open; we need Church Watchers and people to man the bookstall. If you find having to meet with strangers difficult, perhaps some dusting or flower arranging may be more you, both golden opportunities to work and pray and meet with God in his place.

Let us carry the joy of the Easter season into the rest of the year by enabling the Church to be a place of prayer and openness, for all, especially the many visitors to this town. Don't feel shy, but talk to us or one the Churchwardens - you will be welcomed with open arms.

With love and blessings,

Rosemary



A Favourite Place

It always seemed to be raining and the daffodils were about ten days early. Would be get there?

I am referring, of course, to Eastleach. Now that Tintern Abbey and the Wye Valley are out of my decreasing range, this charming village is the most delightful of trips from Cirencester.



Of course, it is two villages, known as Eastleach Martin and Eastleach Turville, one each side of the river and each having a Parish Church. The river is spanned by a stone

clapper bridge. There is a charming pub that overlooks the undulating village banks and is worth a visit any time – but especially now. Daffodils abound! They are on the banks, in the gardens, on the path by the river and around the stone bridge.

They are best viewed on foot but a strategically parked car can be used and, of course, the rain avoided!

My favourite route is a joy. Head for Bibury, turn right as you leave the village and go through Coln St Aldwyns and Hatherop. Keep a close eye on the signposts!

You may wish to move on to Filkins and the Cotswold Woollen Mill (Not Mondays or Tuesdays). This is much more than the name suggests. At the rear end is a delightful café and the barn is an interesting museum. Woollen goodies can be purchased everywhere.

The Times' food critic thinks the best pub in England (The Bell) can be found in Langford which is just a mile further on. You will probably get lost but under no circumstances worry. Just be sure to come home via Lechlade and their Garden Centre.

John Light

LUNCH

Home-made soups, bread and cheese, fruit
& coffee

£4.50

PARISH HALL, WATERMOOR

Car Park from Trinity Road, GL7 1NE

Noon – 1.15pm

Wednesday 10th APRIL 2024



Funds raised will go to Mothers' Union projects

Philippians 4: 6 & 7 - Thanksgiving

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

Psalm
7:17

Lord, it is so dark in here
Such a darkness I've not known.
My heart and mind are gripped by fear
And I feel very much alone.

1 Thess.
5:18

Coll. 3:
15

Mocking voices whisper
That you have gone away,
And I cannot feel your presence,
So, are they true in what they say?

Psalm
107: 1

Psalm
100:4

But Lord, if you're listening,
I do thank you for your love
And for the many times you've blessed me
With 'grace gifts' from above.

*Thank You
Jesus.*

*Plenty more
of course!*

I thank you for the times
That you've been there for me,
Especially your death upon that cross,
And when you set this captive free.

And Lord, as I cry to you with thanks
From the situation that I'm in,
A tiny shaft of light appears,
And this prison grows less dim.

And whilst the voices of mockery
Do their best to undermine,
The light of your perfect peace arrives
And surrounds my heart and mind.

It's a peace that I don't understand,
But it's a peace that's very real,
And Lord, as I give you thanks for that,
The room grows lighter still. - *Thank you*

John Mockett



**Happy Easter from Cirencester
Mothers' Union full of the joy of
the Risen Christ!**



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Lent Lunches – the money raised will help support MU projects here and overseas. In case you wonder where the money is spent locally, Cirencester MU supports children whose families are unable to pay for school visits to ensure that no child misses out or is left feeling disadvantaged; also the cost of coaches for day trips for families supported by the Family Haven, Gloucester and the Churn Project, Cirencester. Often it is the first time many children have seen the sea! A great day out for lots of families struggling to make ends meet. Just a couple of examples of where the money is spent.

At our meeting on **Wednesday, April 3rd 2:30pm** in the Parish Hall, Watermoor, Karen Martin (daughter of Janet and Chris Bowler) will talk about her book dedicated to supporting a friend living with dementia. It promises to be inspirational as well as helpful to many of us in a similar situation. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall. Everyone welcome – you don't have to be a MU member to come along.

Wednesday, 10th April, 12 noon – 1:15pm is our famous **Soup Lunch**. Four home-made soups on offer, together with bread, cheese and fruit and all for just £4.50. Plus a Raffle! In the Parish Hall, Watermoor. Come along, bring friends and family to enjoy delicious soup and a chance to catch up with everyone. Everyone very welcome.

Corporate Communion is on **Thursday, 25th April at 10.30am** in the **Parish Church**. In this time of war and strife across the World it is even more important to pray for fractured and destroyed families particularly in Ukraine and Gaza and in other parts of our trouble world. Just a quiet 30 minutes of spiritual refreshment in a busy week.

For those in paid employment, unable to attend afternoon meetings, our **Evening MU meeting 'Chill and Chatter'** is also on **Thursday, 25th April at 7:30pm** at **The Vicarage, 41 Rendcomb Drive, Chesterton, Cirencester**. Everyone welcome.

New members to the Mothers' Union are always welcome to join this international Christian movement with prayer at its heart, supporting families both here and overseas. Please don't hesitate to speak with Canon Graham or any MU member for further information. We continue to be grateful for the dedication of Kathie Cottey our former Branch Contact, supported by husband Peter, who have 'retired' after nearly a decade of leadership and are delighted that Pauline Skinner, Fiona Hawes and Angela Morris have 'stepped up to the plate' to share the Branch Contact role taking Cirencester MU into the future with renewed enthusiasm. Thank you.

Pauline Farman

Musings in Mark



Mark 3:13-15 NIV

[13] Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. [14] He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach [15] and to have authority to drive out demons.

Perhaps we forget in celebrating and remembering the God who came to earth to save us, that Jesus was fully Man and experienced the same emotions, frustrations, and joys that we all do.

As we look at his prayerful trip up the mountain and his call to the twelve disciples, we can note that Simon Peter, whose story undergirds Mark's gospel, understood Jesus' needs better than the other gospel writers. They, perhaps like us, concentrate on his call to power and authority for ministry, but Peter records that the first thing Jesus required was fellowship. *"..that they might be with him.."* In fact we discover him teaching the disciples as they walked the many miles from Galilee to Sidon and across to the 10 towns. Lots of discussion, questions, and I would expect with a bunch of men, humour. But he also had 3 with whom he shared his most intimate moments, prayers for the sick away from the crowd, the mount of transfiguration and his final prayers at Gethsemane. Except for his quiet prayer times early in the morning or when he went deliberately away, they were there.

They weren't always effective, wise or supportive, but they were there. They were with him, and they were a fellowship together. As a man, he needed others "to be with him" and that, according to Peter, was his basic need.

If Jesus needed people to be with him, how much more so we ordinary mortals. In our present social climate, independence so often takes over, and it's a good question to ask, 'Do I have people to be with me?' The basic New Testament meaning of the word church, *'ekklesia'* means "the gathered ones". We are all gathered by Jesus, yes to worship and serve him, but also just to be together.

Paul Springate

**St John Baptist Church Cirencester
Concert
Bournemouth Male Voice Choir and
Minchinhampton Stuart Singers
Saturday 18 May 2024 7pm**



A performance not to miss, and raise funds for local charities.

Bournemouth Male Voice Choir (BMVC) is group of men, from all walks of life with a mutual love of music and a desire to perform songs to an outstanding level. They perform regularly throughout the year on behalf of charities, community groups and at private functions.

As well as singing beautiful sacred music the choir lets its hair down more than you might think! Their repertoire is wide ranging, breaking new ground for male voice choirs with concerts including music from Elgar to the Eurythmics, from Schubert to Snow Patrol, Poulenc to the Proclaimers or from Vaughan Williams to Robby Williams.

We are fortunate indeed as The Stuart Singers are also performing at this concert, based in Minchinhampton they have been performing for over 30 years and have also raised significant funds for charity. The Stuart Singers are a friendly and fun loving choir with singers from across Gloucestershire, they strive for high standards, and certainly achieve this.

In September 2019 BMVC visited us in Nailsworth. At the main concert of the tour, in St Georges Church, they were also joined by the Stuart Singers. The two choirs raised the roof, the concert was a huge success, the atmosphere electric and uplifting, The concert also raised considerable funds for charities.

This, 2024 Cirencester concert is certainly an event not to miss.

Don't miss the chance to hear these two wonderful choirs in an amazing setting. You will love every minute and leave feeling joyous and uplifted. Tickets will be on sale soon

Art Work

Jane Winstanley's craft group this month (March)

Stone and Ceiling Wax Art



Photo *Jane Winstanley*

A Charity Concert

CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

Chesterton Lane ★ Cirencester ★ GL7 1YE



Saturday April 20th 7:30pm

Doors
Open 7pm

Special Guests

Cirencester Male Voice Choir



with The
**CIRENCESTER
& STROUD**
goodafternoon
CHOIR

Tickets **£12**

TO ORDER TICKETS
Visit : gac.ticketlight.co.uk
or call 0844 8889991

With a retiring collection for The Church Project

Email: gac@grenvillemusic.co.uk | 01761 472468

www.goodafternoonchoir.org



Do you **LOVE** to **SING**?

You'll find details of all our
Good Afternoon Choirs on this website

| www.goodafternoonchoir.org |

... including of course

The **CIRENCESTER & STROUD** Good Afternoon Choir

who meet at

Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane,
Cirencester, GL7 1YE

Every **TUESDAY** from 2pm-4pm - with John Sandford



Great Music No Audition

Come along and meet us. There's no charge for your first visit!

| www.goodafternoonchoir.org |



For Pete's Sake

(*John 13:36ff*, *Mathew 26:69ff* and *John 21:15ff*) NIV

I've been and gone and blown it,
I have, I've really blown it,
He said I would, didn't think I could,
But I have, I've blown it.

All brave I was, proud I was,
I said, "I'll not let you down,"
"I'm your man, by you I'll stand,"
But I didn't, I blew it.

It was all going so smoothly,
'Till someone said, "Oi! you're one of his,"
I said, "You what? no I'm not!"
And then I thought, 'You've blown it.'

Then things got worse, not better,
This bloke said, "I saw you there!"
I said "Sorry mate, but it's your mistake."
Then a voice said, 'You've blown it.'

Just getting warm by the fire
When a girl said, "I know that face"
I swore and shouted, "Let it go!"

Then I heard this cockerel crow,
And a friend's look said, "You've blown it."

Then it all came back to me
With sudden harsh reality,
I screamed and wept and cried, "You fool!"
And banged my fists against the wall
And yelled, "Pete, you've blown it!"

But unseen by me in the eyes of that friend,
The look also said, "it's not the end
'cause Peter I have prayed for you,
And one day you will come through
Even though now you think you've blown it."

And on a day I could not then see,
This friend said, "Pete, do you love me?"
Three times he asked, thrice I replied,
"You know I do!" from the heart I cried,
He said "That's good, walk by my side,
And help others who think they've blown it."

John Mockett

Longfield Hospice Update



In case you didn't know, Longfield is a local hospice covering Gloucestershire with a range of free services. It has been supporting adults with a life limiting condition, their family and loved ones for over 35 years. If you think you could benefit from our help and care, why not visit longfield.org.uk to find out more?

Did you know Longfield is a charity and that 85% of our funding comes from donations? So, if you would like to get involved and help us be there for more people then why not organise your own fundraising event or take part in one of these two events coming up over the next few months? Contact the fundraising team to find out more on 01453 886868.

Walk for Longfield 2024 – Celebrate the summer solstice by walking 5k or 10k on Friday 21st June 5.30pm -9pm at Minchinhampton. Sign up at www.longfield.org.uk/walk-for-longfield

Run the Rainbow 2024 – enjoy our summer colourful favourite on Saturday 29th June 2024 at Frampton Court. Sign up at www.longfield.org.uk/run-the-rainbow

We are also looking for volunteers who can help across a range of roles from our shops to community activities to volunteering at the hospice. Want to know more? To find out Then phone or email volunteering@longfield.org.uk

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MEDIAEVAL BÆBES

Live in Cirencester



Friday 5th April 2024

Doors 7.30pm Concert 8pm

Parish Church of St John Baptist

5 Market Place

Cirencester

Gloucestershire

GL7 2NX

Tickets online at mediaevalbaebes.com/live

Dates for April

Daily

12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
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Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9 – 9:30am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist
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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 Apr, Mon

2 Apr, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
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3 Apr, Wed

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
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4 Apr, Thu

10:00am–12:00pm	Thursday Drop In	Parish Forum
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10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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5 Apr, Fri

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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4 – 6pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor
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, 8 – 10pm	Mediaeval Baebes Concert	St John Baptist
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6 Apr, Sat

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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7 Apr, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
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8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist
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10 – 11:30am	All Age Eucharist	St John Baptist
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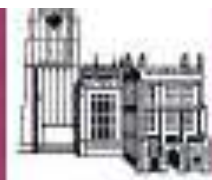
10 – 11:30am	Non-Eucharistic Family Service	Holy Trinity
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10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
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1 – 2pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity
2:30 – 3:30pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence
Church		
5 – 7pm	Junior Youth Group - 1st and 3rd Sundays	Parish Forum
8 Apr, 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	Parish Forum
9 Apr, Tue		
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
10 Apr, Wed		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 1pm	Mothers' Union Soup Lunch	Parish Hall, Watermoor
12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
11 Apr, Thu		
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10:00am–12:00pm	Thursday Drop In	Parish Forum
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 Apr, Fri		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 6pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor
13 Apr, Sat		
2 – 3pm	Thanksgiving - Tal Lambert-Moore	St John Baptist
14 Apr, 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 Apr, 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
16 Apr, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
1 – 3pm	Shut for essential maintenance	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
17 Apr, Wed		
12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
7:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
18 Apr, Thu		
10:00am–12:00pm	Thursday Drop In	Parish Forum
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
19 Apr, Fri		
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 6pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor
20 Apr, Sat		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6 – 9pm	Parish Beetle Drive & Fish and Chips	St Lawrence
21 Apr, 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
11:30am – 1pm	APCM	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 Apr, Mon		
9:30 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
23 Apr, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
24 Apr, Wed		
12 – 12:30pm	Eucharist Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
25 Apr, Thu		
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10:00am–12:00pm	Thursday Drop In	Parish Forum
10:30 – 11:30am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
26 Apr, Fri		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
4 – 6pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall, Watermoor
27 Apr, Sat		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5:45 – 7:15pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
28 Apr, 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 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
4 – 5pm	Iona/Taize Service	St John Baptist
29 Apr, 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	Parish Forum
30 Apr, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist



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
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Bibles

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

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