

Parish Life Magazine

**Parish of Cirencester with
Watermoor and Chesterton**



£1

February 2025

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

Useful contacts:

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

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Lead Article.

Dear Friends

‘What a wonderful performance’ a visitor to the town said to me as he stood in the church just before Christmas. He had heard the music as he walked past the porch, so looked in to see what it was all about. ‘You’d pay £100 to hear that in London’ he continued. Can you guess to which musical event he was referring? Read on!



A year ago I expressed the desire in this magazine that all that had happened during Christmas 2023 would be repeated, and my wish was granted. What a feast we enjoyed, starting with the Advent Carol Service, continuing into Christmas, the combined Sunday morning Eucharist at St Lawrence’s, Epiphany and Candlemass. Now, with preparations well in hand, we look towards Lent and Easter.

As the Wise Men in my crib set were recently returned to their box in the attic, I thanked God for all His blessings over the past year. How fortunate I have been to live in this lovely town for six decades, to have a loving family, kind friends and neighbours and above all to be able to worship God freely and comfortably in our beautiful church. What a contrast to the conditions and needs of millions of people we see on our television screens almost every day.

One of the never-to-be-forgotten experiences for me over Christmas, was the visit of Rev Moses from Ghana. What a joy it was to talk to him about his work, his family and his utter dependence on, and

gratitude to God for everything. Yet, in comparison to our lifestyle he had nothing. Twice I was in a group with him when we sang ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ so during his time with us he became familiar with the nine ladies dancing and the eleven pipers piping. He was also asked to sing the part of one of the kings in the carol ‘We Three Kings of Orient are...’ at the Town Crier’s Sing-Along. That reminds me to tell you that the visitor I mentioned at the start of this letter was referring to the wonderful performance provided by the vicar and the organist playing together on the grand piano as a warm-up to that very enjoyable event. We are indeed blessed with such talent.

As I write, I see snowdrops and daffodils starting to push their way out of the ground and up through the snow, which reminds me that the cycle of life continues, and it is almost time to get out the gardening clothes again! Bless you all.

Sylvia (a retired Reader.)

MU Report



At the January 2025 Mothers’ Union

Meeting, Canon Graham encouraged Members not to pack away Jesus and the Hope, Joy, Love and Light of the Incarnation, with the Christmas decorations into the darkness of the roof space or cupboard under the stairs but to ensure He shines in our lives long into the New Year.

The February meeting on Wednesday, 5th at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall is the AGM which is an opportunity to reflect on the work of the Branch during 2024 and look forward to building on it during the coming 12 months. Each meeting begins with a short Act of Worship emphasising that prayer is at the heart of everything we do. Following the business, Pauline Farman will entertain members with a small selection of her poems. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall – all proceeds going to MU projects here and overseas.

On Wednesday, 12th February 12 Noon to 1.15pm is one of our famous Soup Lunches in the Parish Hall – just £4.50 for a selection of four home-made soups; bread, cheese, pickles; fruit and tea or coffee. There will also be a Raffle, prizes for which are always very welcome. Please come along and bring friends. A lovely chance to meet friends old and new. There is also the opportunity to purchase Greetings cards and gifts. All proceeds to MU projects here and overseas.

Thursday, 27th there is MU Corporate Communion 10.30am in the Parish Church an ideal time for spiritual refreshment in a busy week. Everyone welcome.

All are very welcome to attend MU meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, 2.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Pauline Farman

Epiphany Service



The Epiphany service was a great success and despite the weather we attracted a large crowd for what was a very lovely evening service. The soloist, Mark, singing Three Kings from Persian Lands afar was superb.

Our photograph shows three ‘wise’ men from afar – well – England, Wales and Scotland anyway!!

Aileen Anderson

Thank you!

A great many thanks and congratulations to ALL at Holy Trinity, Watermoor.

Our Christmas services were a success with attendance rising for each service.

The Blue Christmas service, although new to the Parish, was, I understand, well received and appreciated by all who went - something to look forward again to this year.

None of this would have been possible had it not been for the help and support , often a bit last minute, of the congregation and our members of all the teams who took part. Lots of new people and it was nice to see some friendships rekindled.

There are too many teams of people to start naming individuals because someone will be missed and I don't want that to happen, we are all essential to the smooth running of our church, especially helped and encouraged by Rev Luke, [a breath of fresh air] .

Watermoor Warden, Roger.



We're planning a summer getaway to Greece and I'm worried we'll forget something important, which could ruin the holiday. What steps can we take to make sure we're fully protected and prepared if anything goes wrong?

Booking a holiday can be overwhelming, especially if it's been a while since you last went away. It's unlikely anything will go wrong, but we've prepared a simple checklist to make sure you can relax into your holiday knowing you're protected from the unexpected.

Check your passport is in date - especially for EU travel

Renewing your passport can take several weeks and isn't something to leave until the last minute. Check the validity of your passport for your trip on GOV.UK by finding out the entry requirements of the country you're travelling to.

If you're heading to Europe, bear in mind EU countries don't accept passports more than ten years old. This includes passports issued pre-Brexit, which may have longer expiry dates. Just remember, the golden rule for EU travel is: if your passport was issued over ten years ago, you'll need to get it renewed.

Know your rights if something goes wrong

If your flight's delayed long enough - usually two to four hours, depending on the journey - your airline must provide access to food and drink vouchers, phone calls and emails, and accommodation if you're delayed overnight. If it's cancelled, you're legally entitled to a full refund or replacement flight to help you get to your destination. You're also entitled to compensation if your airline delays, loses or damages your checked-in luggage.

Get travel insurance

Although it's an extra expense, travel insurance can cover many of the things already mentioned, like flight delays and lost luggage, but also things like a holiday cancellation and medical emergencies.

Citizens Advice recommends getting insurance as soon as you book a holiday to make sure you're covered right away - but always check first to see if an existing insurance policy, or your bank account, covers what you need for your holiday. There's no need to double up if you're already covered!

The chances are your holiday will be problem-free, but early planning and preparation can make all the difference. If you need advice on a consumer problem, head to the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

Musings in Mark

2025 Feb Mark 6:6-12 NIV



[6] Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. [7] Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. [8] These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff---no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. [9] Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. [10] Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. [11] And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” [12] They went out and preached that people should repent.

The disciples have been in the incredible place of being near to Jesus, watching his healings, listening to his teachings and generally being amazed and awed by what they experienced. But they were with Jesus, and so it was all marvellous and safe.

Then suddenly it becomes very unsafe and probably terrifying. He sent them out, in twos, for safety and encouragement, to do what he’d been doing. Mark only records the authority over the demonic, Luke however, the gospel writer “carefully investigating” (Lk 1:3) records that Jesus ... *gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, [2] and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.* ... so the brief was wider than Mark records.

In fact it covers the sorts of things Jesus was doing himself. The extra challenge was that they could take no resources and had to trust that the

Father would provide for them as he was providing for Jesus.

The end of Matthew's gospel shows that this responsibility has been passed on to us also, which should be both an excitement and challenge to us in our lives moving among broken people.

Mark notes the effectiveness of their ministry (v 12&13) and that they reported back to Jesus how it had all gone. (V30). The starting place for their incredible ministry following Pentecost.

God's love for the world hasn't changed, and his hope continues to be that his followers would continue his ministry and bring that love and healing to the broken.

Rev Paul

The Parish Electoral Roll

In 2025 we must completely revise the Electoral Roll for our Parish. This happens every six years. Those who decide to join are eligible to vote for PCC members and for representatives on the Deanery Synod. They are also able to stand for election themselves.

Because this roll is to be completely revised this year, those who have been on the old roll will **no longer be listed from March 31st**.

We have already begun to compile a new Electoral Roll – thank you to those who have already sent in their forms.

If you have not already submitted a new form and would like to continue to be on the Roll, then please pick a form up from the churches or see our website (www.cirenparish.co.uk) and return it via the churchwardens.

Howard Gray (Electoral Roll Officer)

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 12th FEBRUARY 2025



Funds raised will go to Mothers' Union projects

Social Event

Valentine's
Murder Mystery Evening
Sat. February 15th: 7.00pm at
St Lawrence Church Centre

★ "Village Fete" ★

Come and decide who murdered the Vicar's wife, found hidden
under the altar on the day of the Village Fete.

Refreshments and prizes! ★ Bring your own drink! ★

Tickets: £5

available from Aileen, Noelyn, Hilary and Marg



Introduction and Collaboration Opportunities with Roz Savage MP

Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds, is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please e-mail roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk. Or call her office on 01285 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.

Thank you in advance.

Poppy Fair,

Communications Officer for Dr Roz Savage MBE , MP

Festive Tea at Watermoor Hall Saturday 18th January 2025

About 40 people gathered in Watermoor Hall to enjoy a lovely afternoon tea, entertainment and fun. The food was planned and put together by Dawn Miller and the social committee, entertainment by the Trinity Singers with Bryony Springate on piano; also Thomas Hawkes played some music for everyone to enjoy during the afternoon - plus a table word search quiz and a raffle masterminded by Peter Cottey. We also had, to start the afternoon off, an interesting play based on the animals in the garden of Eden performed by two people from Trinity Singers.



Missing from the photos is a picture of a tray of lovely assorted sandwiches and bowls of crisps to accompany the cakes etc.

It was a lovely afternoon.

Caroline Mockett



Parish Festive Tea



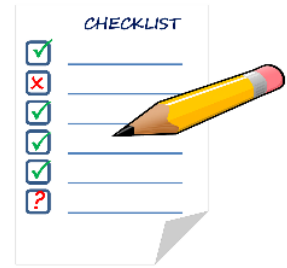


Pictures by Caroline Mockett



And Finally.....

THE WISH LIST



Ben retired in the July and was looking forward immensely to pursuing his hobbies and enjoying some tempting walks in the countryside. Unfortunately, his Scottish wife, Moira, had different ideas. When he shared his anticipated wish list for his retirement, she gave him a withering stare across the breakfast table.

‘You wish.....,’ she said in a voice full of meaning. ‘What about me?’

‘You dear?’ Ben asked, feeling an uncomfortable knot begin to form in his stomach.

‘Yes, I have a long wish list,’ Moira went on, ‘and you can help fulfil it.’ She paused expectantly and when Ben failed to respond, continued. ‘The first thing that I wish to do is to spend Christmas in Scotland, in Skye, where, as you know, I was born. There’s a hotel in Portree - the Skye Inn - which is renowned for its Christmases. We’ll stay for Hogmanay and maybe even Burns Night.’

‘But that's a month,’ Ben protested. ‘You’ll need a whole lot of baggage for all your clothes. I’ll never manage to carry at all.’

‘They have porters at the hotel,’ Moira pointed out, dismissing his justifiable concern. ‘Between then and now there are many things that need doing and you are going to organise it.’

Ben sighed. ‘Very well, dear.’ When Moira was in full flow, it was best to go with the tide.

‘Firstly, the tap drips in the bathroom, just leaving a stain. You must call a plumber.’

Ben made a mental note.

‘Then there's my car. The wiper blades are loose. Get onto the garage and ask someone to fix them. Better still, you could buy a set and change them yourself. And while we're on the subject of cars, I want you to have words with our neighbour. He keeps blocking mine in and I can't reverse out properly.’

‘Get wiper blades and have words with neighbour,’ Ben murmured to himself.

‘And while you have your toolbox out, you can nail down the floorboards on the landing. They creak every time you go to the loo in the night and it wakes me up.’

‘Very well, dear.’

‘Now,’ and here Moira glanced around the room, ‘my mother is coming to stay next week and there are things we must do before she comes. We need to repair those silk lampshades she gave us, which I put out of the way in the spare bedroom. She's bound to notice them. Oh, and hide those five lovely Dresden figurines I took from her flat.’

‘You stole her figurines?’

‘I didn't steal them - I liberated them.’ Moira's eyes flashed dangerously.

‘She steals things,’ Ben whispered under his breath.

‘And you need to buy some of those cheeses she likes and, for heaven's sake, set them out properly. Display them tastefully, not pile

them up as you usually do.'

'So what about my hobbies?' Ben ventured hesitantly.

'*Your* hobbies?' Moira repeated. 'You are going to take up swimming and lose some weight, and then you're going to take me ballroom dancing. You know how much I love 'Strictly.' When it's dry outside, you can sand and repaint the ends of the patio bench.'

'Patio bench ends. Anything else, dear?'

'You'll have to buy some new woollen gloves before we go to Portree. Your old ones are full of holes. Purple would be a nice colour.'

Later on Ben made a mental list of the dozen or so things to do before Christmas. As he prioritised them in reverse number order, he began to hum the tune of the '*Twelve Days of Christmas*:'

'12 - plumbers coming. 11 - wipers wiping. 10 - boards a-creaking, 9 - ballroom dancing. 8 - shades re-silking. 7 - going to swimming. 6 - cheese displaying. 5 - stolen things. 4 - having words, 3 - bench ends. 2 - purple gloves – and some portorage up in Portree.'

Howard Gray



Isle of Skye

February Dates

Daily

12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	St John Baptist
9:15 – 9:45am	Morning Prayer	St John Baptist

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

5 – 6pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
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Weekdays

10am – 12pm	The Parish Forum Open (except Wednesday)
10am – 12pm	Thursdays Drop In at The Parish Forum
9am – 10am	Wednesdays Drop In at St Lawrence

1 Feb, Sat

2 – 3pm	Jubilate Choir Recital	St John Baptist
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2 Feb, 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	All Age Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence

3 Feb, Mon

9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5 – 5:30pm	Organ Vespers	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

4 Feb, Tue

6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
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5 Feb, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
7 – 9pm	Lukas Hasler Organ Recital	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

7 Feb, Fri

3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
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8 Feb, Sat		
1:30 – 2:30pm	Thanksgiving - Don Pines -	St John Baptist
9 Feb, 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
10 Feb, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
2 – 4pm	Thanksgiving Service for Geoffrey Adams	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum
11 Feb, Tue		
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
12 Feb, Wed		
12 – 1pm	Mothers' Union Soup Lunch	Parish Hall
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
13 Feb, Thu		
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
14 Feb, Fri		
12 – 1pm	Eucharist - Catherine Chapel	
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
15 Feb, Sat		
7 – 9pm	Social C'ttee Valentines Murder Mystery	St Lawrence
16 Feb, 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

17 Feb, Mon

9:45 – 11am

Little Angels

St John Baptist

5:30 – 6:30pm

Vicars Open Office

Parish Forum

7:30 – 9pm

Quarter Peal

St John Baptist

18 Feb, Tue

6:30 – 9pm

Bell Ringing

Holy Trinity

19 Feb, Wed

7 – 8pm

Eucharist

Holy Trinity

7:30 – 9pm

Standing Committee

St Lawrence

21 Feb, Fri

3 – 5pm

Cirencester Food Pantry

Parish Hall

23 Feb, 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

Evening Worship

St John Baptist

24 Feb, Mon

9:45 – 11am

Little Angels

St John Baptist

5:30 – 6:30pm

Vicars Open Office

Parish Forum

25 Feb, Tue

6:30 – 9pm

Bell Ringing

Holy Trinity

26 Feb, Wed

7 – 8pm

Eucharist

Holy Trinity

7:30 – 9:30pm

The Croome Annual Lecture

St John Baptist

27 Feb, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am

Seedlings

St Lawrence

10:30 – 11:30am

Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

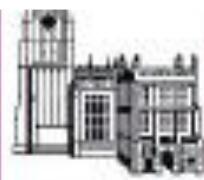
St John Baptist

28 Feb, Fri

3 – 5pm

Cirencester Food Pantry

Parish Hall



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