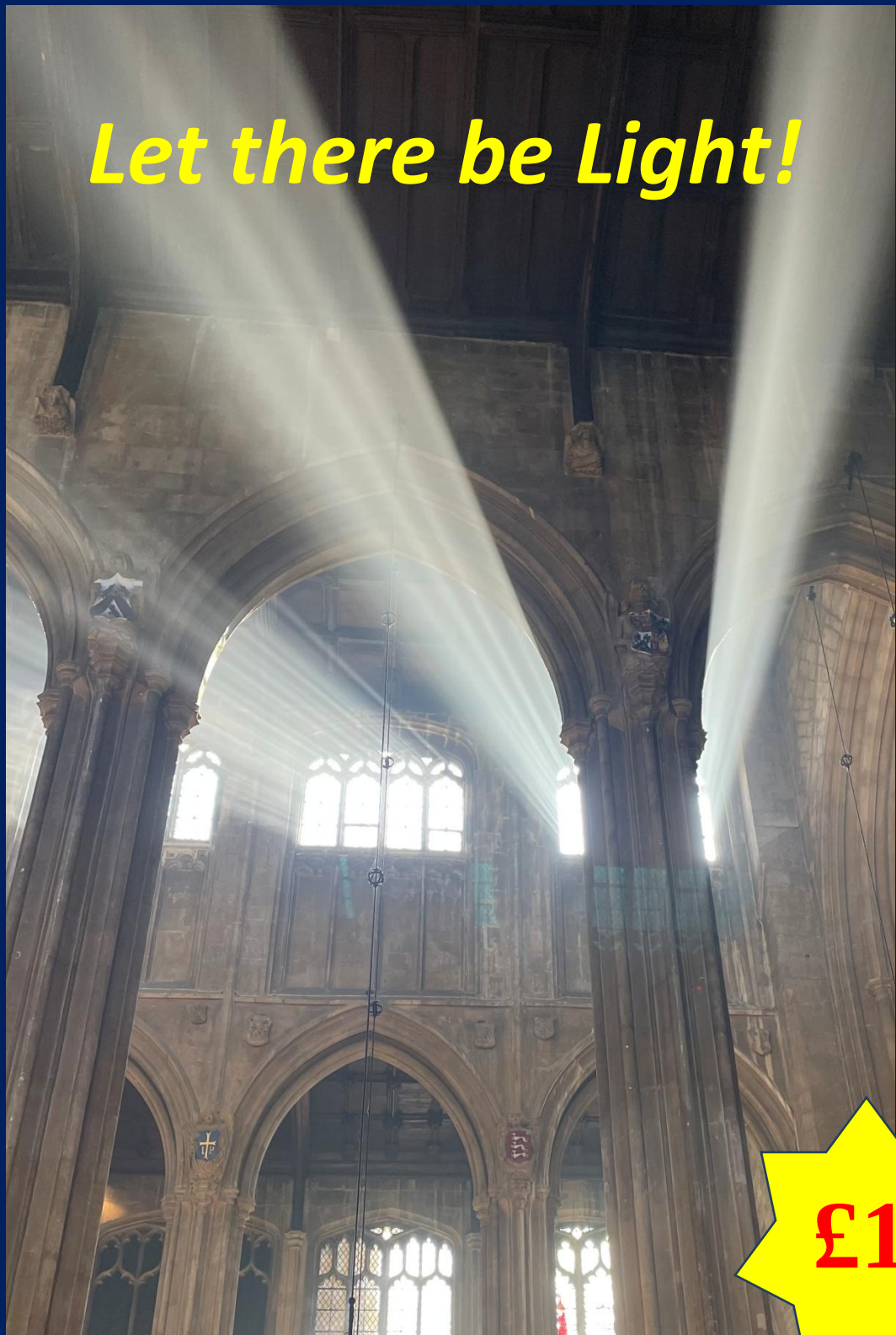


Parish Life Magazine

**Parish of Cirencester with
Watermoor and Chesterton**



Let there be Light!

£1

May 2025

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 Priest: Revd Luke Falvey

revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Wardens

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Nigel Robbins

nigelrobbins@cirenparish.co.uk

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Secretary to the PCC

Mark Dennis

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Electoral Roll Officer

Howard Gray

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Website

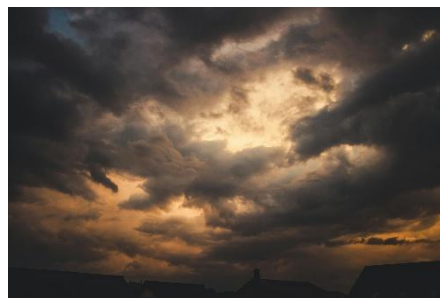
www.cirenparish.co.uk

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

cirparmag4@gmail.com

People of Hope

As I write this article the weather has turned from a few bright, sunny and warmer days to overcast grey skies and chillier temperatures. And the greyness reflects the darkness of our world at the present time. The President of the USA has introduced tariffs which has destabilised the world's economic system and brought about uncertainty with yo-yoing stock markets. The conflict in Ukraine is ongoing as are wars in many other places which slip out of the news headlines. The April hike in household bills is making itself felt in people's pockets and the rats are feasting on Birmingham's rubbish.



It's a very grey picture and yet as Christians we are people of hope. We have recently celebrated the greatest and highest of Christian festivals – Easter, and we take that celebration forward into May as we commemorate Christ's Ascension when he takes his place at God's right hand. God the Father and God the Son together in God's kingdom as we await God the Holy Spirit entering our world at Pentecost.

It is God's kingdom that is everlasting, not the kingdoms of this world, and that is our reassurance in dark times. That is what gives us confidence that, however overwhelming the problems of the world seem, God's kingdom values are what keep us rooted and focused.

So how do we do that? Our Christian journeys can also be both brighter and greyer from time to time – it's not a straightforward progression and so it can be helpful from time to time to try something different. Our organist, Thomas, in his article in this magazine, talks about moving on from the familiar and trying different music.

And for us on our Christian journey it can move us on if we are prepared to try and find new and different ways of keeping in touch with God to help us grow in relationship with him. Sunday worship is the core

means of doing that but there is so much more. The daily Eucharists at midday are a quieter, more intimate experience. Perhaps you might try Morning and Evening prayer – just 20 minutes of coming before God through biblical texts which have sustained previous generations. And then there are the saints. In May we shall be commemorating the following: Philip and James (1st), Matthias (14th) and on 31st the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. How about finding out what examples and encouragement these people can be to us through their lives and relationship with God?

The Lent Course in the Parish Church on the Stations of the Cross was well attended. I'm not sure what I will be letting myself in for in asking the following question but is there some other study course that you would find helpful and like to follow? If so, please let me know and we shall see what we can do. And if you have a question about some aspect of your faith, something perhaps that you've been thinking about for some time but not felt able to ask, come and speak to a member of the clergy team and let's explore some theology together.

One of the questions that was raised in the Lent course was what hope do we offer to those in despair? It is the Christian hope of Christ's light that can never be extinguished by darkness; the light of Easter that dispelled the darkness of death; the light of God's presence in our world and in our lives.

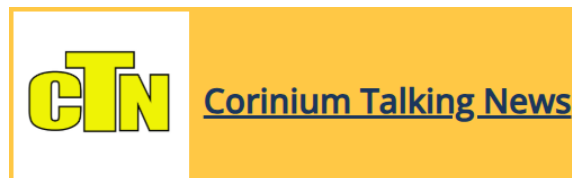
May we by God's grace and as we grow and develop in our relationship with him be encouraged and emboldened to be the bearers of his light to his world and ours in our troubled times.

Revd Karen



Let there be Light

The cover picture of the sun streaming into the Parish Church was taken by Pam Barnes



Corinium Talking News brings local news to the visually impaired and those with a disability who struggle to hold or read newspapers

Most of us take reading a newspaper or magazine for granted but for anyone who is registered as sight-impaired, blind or partially sighted, or who struggles to hold or read a newspaper due to a disability, staying connected with what is happening locally becomes more difficult. With the changes in local BBC radio, many of the local news features people have previously relied on are disappearing too.

For those people who are visually impaired or unable to hold a newspaper or book, the national network of charitable Talking News offer an invaluable service providing an outstanding source of local news and interesting magazine features for their registered listeners. For people living in Cirencester, Fairford and Lechlade or any of the villages in between, their nearest Talking News is Corinium Talking News which operates from Cirencester.

Volunteers put a weekly round-up of local news items together taken from the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard along with a monthly magazine featuring a number of items of interests. Recordings are sent out on CDs in a special envelope, delivered by free post under the Royal Mail's concession 'Articles for the Blind.' The recordings are also uploaded via the British Wireless for the Blind app for listeners to enjoy via Alexa or Google Smart Speakers.

The Corinium Talking News (CTN) was initially established in 1987 by Simon Griffiths who had previously been involved with the Marlow Talking News. Simon was keen to establish something similar when he relocated to Cirencester, and he pulled together a group of people to

initiate the scheme. By May 1988, the group of volunteers and newly appointed Trustees had gathered financial support from the Cirencester Round Table, the Bingham Trust, ITV's Telethon and an appeal on local radio. The money raised bought the initial equipment required and on 9th August the same year, CTN gained charitable status. The charity is entirely dependent on funding from donors, grants and fundraising events.

If you know someone who could benefit from registering as a listener for this entirely free service which provides listeners with hours of interesting entertainment, please do not hesitate to contact the Corinium Talking News. You can email them at mail@coriniumtalkingnews.org or call them on 01285 898594. They can also be contacted via websites www.coriniumtalkingnews.org or ctn.mytn.uk.

Corinium Talking News is also looking for a new team of Trustees to help build the charity into an organisation for the future. If you would like to apply for the role of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Administrator, please contact June Little, Chair of the Cotswold Listener in Cheltenham who is assisting with volunteer/Trustee recruitment. Contact her via email at june@cotswoldlistener.co.uk.

As more listeners come on board, there are opportunities for people to also get involved as volunteers. If you may be interested in volunteering as a newsreader, editor or fundraiser for Corinium Talking News, they would be delighted to hear from you. The task is not onerous and only requires a few hours each month. If you would like further information, please email them.

Many thanks,

Michelle Heather

Pink Elephant Marketing & PR

Mobile: 07885 580448



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course for the Bereaved

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or call: 01453 733706
longfield.org.uk

Longfield Community Hospice
Minchinhampton, GL5 2PQ
Registered Charity No. 298627



Mothering Sunday

The Parish Church service on Sunday 30th March celebrated Mothering Sunday with Canon Karen addressing the members of the Junior Church.

At the end of the service members of the Junior Church distributed posies of flowers to the congregation. There was a good turn-out of young members and the posies were much appreciated.





I'm thinking of renting on my own for the first time. It feels like there's so much to think about! What should I be looking out for?

Most properties available for rent are listed online or with lettings agents.

Renting directly from a landlord might be a bit cheaper before you move in, as they may ask for fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. But you'll have to deal with them directly if any issues arise during the tenancy.

Some landlords use a lettings agent to find their tenants and then manage the properties themselves. If an agent is managing the property then you'll deal with them rather than with the landlord directly, eg, if you need to get any repairs done.

Never pay any money before you've seen the property as this is a common tactic used by rental fraudsters. If you can, take someone with you when viewing properties for a second opinion.

If repairs are being done when you view a property, take photographs and send an email afterwards so you've got a record of the issues and that you were told they'd be sorted before you move in.

Things often happen very quickly when trying to find somewhere to rent. Ask the landlord or letting agent the following key questions to make sure properties you're considering are suitable:

- Is the tenancy for a self-contained property or are there are shared facilities?
- Is it a joint tenancy with other people?
- How much is the rent? Is it payable monthly or weekly?
- How long is the tenancy for?

- Are bills included in the rent?
- Are any appliances or furniture included?
- Is there a break clause allowing any fixed term to be ended early, if needed?
- Does the landlord need a guarantor?
- Is there a tenancy deposit, how much is it, and how will it be protected?

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks. A deposit can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy.

You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent.

Avoid 'subletting' - renting directly from an existing tenant, as they might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you, which could cause problems later on. If a tenant shows you the property on behalf of the landlord they should give you the landlord's contact details.

If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask.

If you run into problems, you can find information on our website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call us on 0808 800 5010.

Elizaeth Hall



Dear Members and Friends



For those of you who have read the weekly pew leaflet, you will have seen that Mothers' Union members were busy during Lent. Some dozen or so members & friends gathered in the Parish Hall Watermoor on Saturday March 29th to prepare posies for distribution to the congregations in Holy Trinity and The Parish Church on Mothering Sunday. St. Lawrence Church make their own.

During lent MU members prepared and served the Lent lunches held in the Parish Church. The money donated at these lunches has been donated to the Mothers Union National 'Gift of Peace' appeal, providing an opportunity to support and pray for parents all around the world who want a better future for their children.





We are grateful to all who supported us and I share with you our founder Mary Sumner's personal prayer:-

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

We meet at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall, Watermoor. All are welcome to attend our meetings, members or not. For further information speak to any MU member.

With love and prayers *Kathie Cottey*

Dates:-

Wednesday **May 7th** 2.30pm. Guest Speaker Eric Roberts-'78 years of Bell Ringing'

Wednesday **May 21st** 1030am. AGM & Diocesan Council, St Phillip & St James Church, Hucclecote

Thursday **May 22nd** 10.30am Corporate Communion, Parish Church

Thursday **May 22nd** 7.30pm. Chill & Chatter in the Vicarage.

Wednesday **June 4th** 2.30pm. Guest speaker Thomas Hawkes 'The modern life of an Organist'. Bring & buy stall.

Music to my Ears



We've just had Easter weekend, and we all know what that means: Classic FM have just released their 2025 Hall Of Fame.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this, this is when people from around the world will have voted for their top 3 pieces of classical music in order for the radio station to then create a list of the top 300 pieces.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that the winner was either Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* or Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No.2* (I am writing this on April 12th).

There's nothing wrong with these pieces, but I wouldn't say that they should be consistently taking the top spots every year. What about the Matthew Passions or Mahler symphonies of this world?

In this article, I'm going to share three pieces with you which, in my humble opinion, should be beating Rachmaninoff and RVW right out of the running.

1. *Tristan und Isolde* (first performed in 1865) - Richard Wagner

This opera was once thought to be unsingable, with 70 rehearsals in Vienna leading the cast and composer to give up!

T&S is a mammoth work consisting of three acts, telling the doomed love story (this is opera after all) of Tristan and Isolde. Partially based around one chord, now known as the 'Tristan Chord', the music is bold, exciting and pushes the boundaries of harmony.

Reactions were unfavourable at first, but it is now performed by opera companies around the world.

With the dramatic, almost intoxicating music and deep, affecting love story, this is a piece which leaves a lasting impression on all who watch and listen to it.

What to listen to: *Liebestod* - sung by Jessye Norman.

2. *Symphony No.1* (first performed in 1876) - Johannes Brahms

Over 20 years occurred between Brahms' first attempts at a symphony, and the eventual premiere of the finished work.

The reasons for this were twofold: the first reason was that Brahms was incredibly self-critical and would destroy works he wasn't happy with. The second reason was that he felt tremendous pressure as a composer to follow in the footsteps of Beethoven. Some people even called this symphony 'Beethoven's 10th'.

Made up of the traditional four movements, this symphony takes the listener on a journey of many emotions and musical landscapes and textures.

What to listen to: Movement IV (Adagio) - Herbert von Karajan and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

3. *Elijah* (first performed in 1846) - Felix Mendelssohn

Heavily influenced by Bach and Handel, Mendelssohn wrote a series of oratorios, *Elijah* being a particular highlight.

The oratorio follows the story of Elijah, from the resurrection of a dead youth, to his ascension to heaven in a fiery chariot. This piece has everything, from dramatic choruses, to more tender and prayerful arias.

Following the successful premiere in Birmingham, the piece has been frequently performed in England and around the world.

What to listen to: *Hilf deinem Volk, du Mann Gottes* - Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar-Neumann Ensemble.

Thomas Hawkes

Parish Church Tower opening dates 2025

All opening times 10am-4pm, unless specified below

Sat May 31st

Sat June 14th

Sat July 5th

Sat July 19th - 10am -12 noon

Sat Aug 16th

Sat Aug 30th

Sat Sept 20th - 10am -1.30pm



Musings in Mark (2025 May Mark 6:46 NIV)



After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

When the apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians (5:17) he encourages them to “pray continually”, suggesting that during our daily activities we are in constant communication with our Heavenly Father seeking his direction and will in all situations. Not the easiest thing to do, as we are more often trying of ourselves to deal with our various situations!

No doubt this was an inbuilt part of the life of Jesus - after all there was no sin in him to separate him from his father, and the Spirit would ensure the line was kept open!

Yet in our reading here, following the feeding of the 5,000 plus individuals, and before he heads to Bethsaida with his disciples, he needs time with his father. Not conversations in the middle of busy streets or ministry, but time both to bring himself and his emotions and needs to his father as well as time to listen - and possibly discuss - the coming hours and days. Time spent away from the hubbub. Mountains in scripture always suggest meeting with God, yet they were also places where there was a bit of quiet and where you could yell if you want to. After all Hebrews 5:7 recognises how Jesus prayed with “*loud cries*”.

Often in these quiet prayer times, our father reminds us of things we need to share, things we hadn’t even thought of, so that we can bring to him the depths of our lives and hearts. If your prayer life is a failure, don’t feel guilty and condemned - Jesus didn’t come to condemn us - rather be aware of how human relationships grow and develop through conversation, and decide whether you would like your relationship with your Heavenly Father to grow in the same way.

Be certain of one thing - the invitation to come and talk is always on offer.

Rev’d Paul

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All Help Welcome



The picture shows Graham's grandson Jack helping with clearing up after construction of the Easter Garden in the Parish Church on Easter Saturday.



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With a selection of favourites from
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**Parish Church of St John Baptist
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17th May, 1.30pm

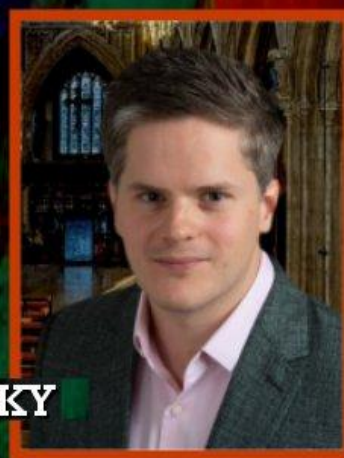
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MUSIC

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And finally...



What's in a name?

Susan Jones had prepared her Sunday school lesson with care. She would enact the story of Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus and explain that Zacchaeus was not a nice man who took money that wasn't his by right. The best part, she mused, would be explaining how, on meeting Jesus, he would repent and give to the poor four times what he had stolen. A good moral story.

The children sat grouped around her and she began. 'In the Bible,' she said, 'we hear about tax collectors. The Romans had taken over the country and the Jews had to pay them money in taxes. Local people were hired to collect these. Some were fair but others, like the man in our story today, took more money than they should and kept the extra coins for themselves.'

'That's bad, Miss,' Wayne, one of her charges decided, loudly.

'Yes,' Susan agreed, 'and the man in our story was called Zacchaeus.'

'And he was a bad man?' Wayne persisted.

'Well, he stole what wasn't his – so that was wrong. But if you listen carefully you will hear that it all ended well.'

But there was no stopping Wayne. 'My dad talks about Zacchaeus,' he stated firmly. 'He thinks he's a bad man. He lives in a big house in London. My dad says he takes our money.'

Susan hoped she could stop Wayne in mid-flow but once the boy had the bit between his teeth he was away. 'My Mum says Zacchaeus isn't so bad. She and Dad have a lot of arguments about him.'

Susan was lost. 'I'm sorry. Wayne,' she said, 'but I think we are talking about two different people. Who is this Zacchaeus your Dad knows.'

'He's the Prime Minister, Miss - Zacchaeus Tarmer.'

HG

Dates for May

Daily

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

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

5 – 6pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
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Weekdays

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

1 May, Thu

All day	Cirencester Art Society Spring Exhibition (until 5 May)	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

2 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
1 – 2pm	Funeral Ian Singh Holy Trinity	
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall

3 May, Sat

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9:30pm	Cirencester Choral Soc Spring Concert Rutter and Elgar	St John Baptist

4 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	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

5 May, Mon

9:45 – 10:45am	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5 – 5:30pm	Organ Vespers	St John Baptist

6 May, Tue

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

7 May, Wed

9 – 10am	Drop In	St Lawrence
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
1:10 – 1:50pm	Organ Recital	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

8 May, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5 – 6pm	Evensong for King Edward's Witley	St John Baptist

9 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall

10 May, Sat

3 – 4pm	Choir Smash - 3 Choirs Concert	St John Baptist
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11 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
12:30 – 1:30pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

12 May, Mon

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

13 May, Tue

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

14 May, Wed

9 – 10am	Drop In	St Lawrence
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2:30 – 3:30pm 7 – 8pm	Guided Tour Eucharist	St John Baptist Holy Trinity
15 May, Thu 10:30 – 11:30am 2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour Guided Tour	St John Baptist St John Baptist
16 May, Fri 10:30 – 11:30am 3 – 5pm	Guided Tour Cirencester Food Pantry	St John Baptist Parish Hall
17 May, Sat 1:30 – 2:30pm	Recital by Simply Singers	St John Baptist
18 May, Sun 8 – 9am 8 – 9am 10 – 11:30am 10 – 11:30am 10:30 – 11:30am 4 – 5pm 4 – 5pm	Eucharist Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel Eucharist Eucharist Eucharist Choral Evensong Restore @4	Holy Trinity St John Baptist Holy Trinity St John Baptist St Lawrence St John Baptist St Lawrence
19 May, Mon 9:45 – 11am 2:30 – 3:30pm 5:30 – 6:30pm 7:30 – 9pm	Little Angels Guided Tour Vicars Open Office Quarter Peal	St John Baptist St John Baptist Parish Forum St John Baptist
20 May, Tue 10:30 – 11:30am 2:30 – 3:30pm 6:30 – 9pm	Guided Tour Wedding Bell Ringing	St John Baptist St John Baptist Holy Trinity
21 May, Wed 9 – 10am 2:30 – 3:30pm 7 – 9pm 7 – 8pm	Drop In Guided Tour Full APCM Eucharist	St Lawrence St John Baptist Holy Trinity Holy Trinity
22 May, Thu 9:15 – 10:45am 10:30 – 11:30am	Seedlings Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	St Lawrence St John Baptist

23 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall

24 May, Sat

3 – 4pm	Wedding	St John Baptist
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25 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 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
11:30am – 4pm	Bell Peal	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Iona	

26 May, Mon

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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27 May, Tue

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

28 May, Wed

9 – 10am	Drop In	St Lawrence
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

29 May, Thu

2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
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30 May, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall

31 May, Sat

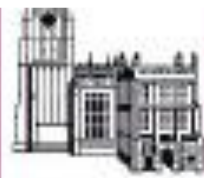
10am – 4pm	Tower Opening	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

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