

Parish Life Magazine

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and Chesterton



£1

July/August 2026

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor and St Lawrence (Chesterton)

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

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The cover picture shows St Mary's Church at Old Town in the Isles of Scilly. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Previous Prime Minister Harold Wilson is buried in a simple grave in the churchyard. The Epilogue Service by candlelight is not to be missed!



A Summer Filled With Life



D'you remember the musical *Grease*? That unforgettable opening number about *summer living* always captures the feeling of a season full of energy and possibility:

Summer living, had me a blast, Summer living, happens so fast. So much happening all through our days, Parish life in so many ways. Busy days, drifting away, To oh-oh those summer days...

As we move into the summer months, I continue to be amazed by all that is happening in the life of our parish. Everywhere I look, there is energy, commitment, and a deep sense of God's presence at work among us.

We have so much to celebrate:

- **Organ Festival** with a rich programme of recitals
- **Summer weddings** filled with joy and hope
- **Baptisms** in abundance
- **End-of-term school leavers' services** marking important transitions
- **Concerts** to suit every taste
- **Opportunities for prayer and reflection** on our own inner journeys
- **Patronal festivals**, including Bishop Rachel's recent visit to St John Baptist and later in the year to Holy Trinity
- **Ordinations**, including Vicky Falvey's ordination to the priesthood on 27 June
- **My own 40th anniversary** as a deacon, also on 27 June
- **Archdeacon's Visitation** and the swearing-in of churchwardens on 5 July

And then, of course, August arrives, bringing with it a well-earned opportunity for rest and renewal.

As I listen to colleagues speak about their own contexts, I am reminded again how fortunate I am to serve here. The dedication of our team, and the willingness of so many to support the vibrant life of our three churches, is nothing short of fantastic. John 10.10 speaks of the fullness

of God's love, and I see that love overflowing around us every day.

Our LIFE vision— John 10.10 Leadership, Imagination, Faith, and Engagement—continues to shape our mission and inspire our work. Long may we see tremendous things being done in this community and in each of our congregations.

And then, the icing on the cake: **the arrival of the new loos at St John Baptist**. This long-awaited project is now fully underway. A recent meeting revealed just how much work has been happening behind the scenes. The new cupboard casements look fantastic, and I am genuinely excited. This is such an important part of our vision for the future of SJB.

With all of this unfolding, we are heading into a busy, joyful, and deeply encouraging summer season. May we continue to recognise God's abundance in every moment we share!

John 10.10 and Our Mission

At the heart of John 10.10 is Jesus' promise of **abundant life**—a life marked by God's presence, purpose, joy, and wholeness. It is not merely about physical well-being, but about deep spiritual flourishing that comes from living in relationship with Him.

This is where mission and outreach come alive for me, and I hope for you?

Every act of welcome, compassion, hospitality, and service becomes a way of saying: **“There is more life available to you than you may have imagined.”**

Mission is about **creating spaces where life can flourish**. Everything from concerts to baptisms, from loos at SJB to school leavers' services, becomes part of mission when it helps people encounter God's generosity and hospitality.

Abundant life is not just personal—it is communal. Mission invites people into a community shaped by love, prayer, worship, and service. It invites people into a story bigger than themselves.

John 10.10 reminds us that Jesus' mission is to bring life in all its fullness. Our mission and outreach flow from that same heartbeat. Whenever we welcome, serve, listen, celebrate, or support others, we are helping people taste something of the abundant life God longs to give. Mission is simply the Church making God's overflowing love visible.

That's what I see happening here in this parish, and I am deeply grateful to all of you for your loving support and commitment.

Summer loving, had me a blast, Summer loving, happens so fast. So much happening all through our days, Parish life in so many ways. Busy days, drifting away, To oh-oh those summer days...

God bless you all, and may your summer be filled with happiness and space for you and your loved ones.

Canon Graham.

Reverend Canon Graham Morris



Letters to the Churches of Today.

If St Paul were able to travel forward in time, what would he be writing to the churches of today. Here are some possible imaginary thoughts.....

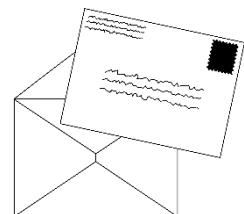
#G

A Letter to the Church of Power

Grace to you, and humility the kind that kneels even when it could command.

I know your works. I know how effective you are, how influential your voice has become, how many doors open when you speak.

You are strong. You are consulted. You are quoted. You are invited to the table. And people say, "See how much they have achieved."



But I have this against you:
you have forgotten the shape of the cross.

You speak of impact more than faithfulness. You count success
where the Teacher counted obedience. You bless your access
without asking what it has cost you.

Once, you followed a crucified Messiah. Now you are tempted by
thrones.

You say, "If we have power, we can do good."
But power rarely settles for service alone.
It asks to be preserved. It asks to be justified.
It asks to be worshipped.

You have learned to speak the language of rulers and civic dignitaries
more fluently than the language of prophets.
You are careful not to offend those who benefit you. You call
compromise "strategy" and silence "prudence."

Hear this:
the Kingdom of God does not need your dominance. It advances
through weakness, truth-telling, and love that cannot be controlled.

The Teacher you claim to follow washed feet when he could have
issued orders. He refused crowns offered too early.
He chose suffering over control.

Return, therefore, to the lower place. Examine what you are unwilling
to risk losing. Ask whose voices are absent from your councils. Ask who
pays the price for your influence.

If you must choose between access and integrity, choose integrity.
If you must choose between being heard and being faithful,
choose faithfulness.

For what does it profit the Church to gain the world's power
and forget its soul?

Grace be with you..... come down from the high places.

Holy Trinity Church Watermoor 175 Anniversary

Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor was consecrated on the 6th November 1851. It was designed by Sir George Gilbert-Scott, at the request of Canon William F Powell, the Vicar of Cirencester (1839-1869). Sir George is well known for his construction of many buildings throughout the world including the Cathedral in Christchurch New Zealand.



I have written a poem about the Holy Trinity Church Watermoor (HTW) but before printing it here I feel it necessary to bring the reader a little more up to date on the background to the construction of the Church, a treasure of which we are all very proud.

GEORGE GILBERT SCOTT 1811 - 1878

Born at the Parsonage at Gawcott Bucks, Died South Kensington and is buried in Westminster Abbey - Awarded Royal Gold Medal 1859

Famous Buildings, Albert Memorial, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, St Pancras Railway Station, St Mary Cathedral Edinburgh and The Cathedral in Christchurch New Zealand.

Married - Caroline Oldrid of Boston in 1838. Two of his sons were George Gilbert Scott and John Oldrid Scott and Grandson Giles Gilbert Scott were also prominent Architects. He was also related to the Architect. His youngest Grandson was Botanist Dunkinfield Henry Scott.

Projects:-

Many Workhouses, Houses, Rectories, Parsonages, Seamen's Houses, Workers Houses, Cottages, Almshouses, Lanhydrock House Nr Bodmin, Kelham Hall Notts, Many Alterations and Additions.

Hartland Abbey - 56 Churches and many Restorations.
The Cathedral Christchurch NZ,

He worked using Gothic Tradition with modernism. Making what might have been functionally designed buildings into popular landmarks.

Holy Trinity Watermoor - Designed by Sir George Gilbert-Scott in 1851 with Canon William Powell (Vicar of Cirencester).

In 1841 Cirencester's population was 6000 - Parish Church could only Minister to 1518 (880 in enclosed pews, 188 in open benches and 450 children in the distant gallery).

As a devotee of the Tractarian movement in Oxford he found a suitable solution. With Sir George Gilbert-Scott they planned a Church along neo-Gothic style which was popular in those days. His intention to make it possible for at least half the population. Therefore the church was erected as a Chapel of Ease and located in a wooded piece of land opposite Watermoor House.

In those days the Watermoor boundary was drawn at the Mill Cross Roads on Lewis lane. Thus it was the first church built on the outskirts of the town where, in 1851, there were very few houses.

When the scheme was suggested it was Henry George , the 4th Earl Bathurst who offered 1.5 acres. The grant of the land was given by Mr Joseph Randolph Mullins. One stipulation was that there must be no burials there. This was probably due to the high water table in this area. The Church was built North to South (actually more North East to South-West)

Public subscriptions were then invited and "Collecting books" were issued to some of the leading church folk - Quote - £6000 was raised of which £1200 was used for the construction of the Parsonage!

The foundation was laid in 1847 on St Marks Day by Canon William Powell though this has not been verified. Children of the Yellow & Blue School walked over the stones and later had a tea party. (Incidentally this was re-enacted in Nov 2001 for the 150th Anniversary.)

During construction skeletons were found probably from the Civil Wars. The Church was built by Mr Bridger - a local builder.

The outside stone from a quarry in London Road (Blue Quarry Road perhaps?) Bath stone was used for the inside and Bremen oak for the roof timbers. There was a well outside (still there) which was used for water extraction - the pump is still there.

The church took 4 years to build and cost about £5000 and on completion still lacked a spire (donated by Lord Bathurst 1852) and the South side cost £900 and was built in 1860.

During the construction one man was killed in an accident on the scaffolding.

The Reredos and stone were carved by Mr Geflowski (Polish) who went on to become famous for the Reredos at All Souls College Oxford and the Reredos at St John's Parish Church here in Cirencester. There is a letter in the church records showing that he made the carvings (about 1000 in all) for a mere £56!

Each pier and capital in the nave is different, for instance, we are told that at the time of the building there lived at Watermoor House an Admiral Talbot who had a pew on the North side of the nave. The sculptor, in carving the nearest capital, introduced in the foliage a carving of Noah's Ark, an illusion to the Admirals nautical profession. The carving is on the East side of the nearest capital to the pulpit and depicts a dove being released. On the west side of the same pillar is another ark, showing the dove returning. The dove is often used to represent the Holy Spirit descending to Earth and ascending onto heaven.

Watermoor House was built in 1835 by the famous Savanna architect William Jay, for Joseph Randolph Mullins (MP for Cirencester 1848 - 1859) and it was let to the Admiral in 1850.

Messrs J Taylor & Co of Loughborough installed the bells piecemeal over several years. The fine iron gates were constructed in 1984, much later the working design and ironwork was carried out by Mr Michael Roberts an art ironworker of Miserden.

The actual consecration took place on Nov 6th 1851, by the Lord Bishop of Llandaff. At 11am he arrived in the carriage of Earl Bathurst and they were received by the Registrar and about 60 clergy from the neighbourhood. Matins were sung by Canon Powell and choristers of Gloucestershire Cathedral aided by the boys of the yellow and blue schools.

Many local vicars (Ampney Crucis, Preston and Latton villages), took part in the service of Consecration.

Over 420 children were regaled with a plentiful supply of Roast beef and Plum Pudding in the Kings Head and later the Churchwardens and other dignitaries were dined there too.

Thus the Church was born.

CHURCH LAYOUT AND ADDITIONS

Just as a ship is launched before it is complete, so was HTW in 1851. No spire nor a complete south aisle. Not a bell for the first 35 years only a gong

Hon. William Lennox Bathurst bore the expense of the spire after hearing "This man began to build and was not able to finish."

South side completed in 1860 and heating was also installed. In 1887 the church was lit by gas and heated by hot air from around the brickwork of an underground furnace, complaints were made of the smell of sulphur in the church. To combat this a tunnel was opened up in the ceiling at the back of the church through to the tower where they erected a huge open galvanised cylinder. This contained a great gas burner that sucked contaminated but heated air from the church into the bell chamber outside. Many repairs and alterations have been made in the last 160 years.

Soon after 1860 a proper Central Heating system was installed with boilers and radiators. It still uses the air ducts under the floor.

1879 main reredos built for £500, was unveiled on Trinity Sunday 1881. Designed by Sir George Gilbert-Scott and built by Geflowski. Built in white stone with Derbyshire marble columns, it was coloured at the 100th Anniversary. This Reredos was his first carving and he later became famous as the sculptor of the fantastic reredos at All Souls College Chapel in Oxford.

The Pulpit was designed by Scott, The pulpit was designed with open steps by Sir George Gilbert-Scott. After World War two, when greater use was made of visiting and retired Clergy (including retired bishops) the steps were considered dangerous, so, using generous donations by the South Cerney Angling Club, in memory of George Hester (server and sidesman), together with a large donation by Mr Billy Hall (a chorister in memory of his wife, an oak and wrought iron handrail, designed by Mr Christopher Bishop (architect), and made by J Hall Blacksmith of Quern's Lane, Cirencester, was installed by Mr Joe Barnard.

Aumbry 1890

The Lectern, was given by in 1887 by Mr & Mrs Fowler in memory of her daughters. The Pulpit was built by funds collected from Cirencester Ladies School

The Font, (given by Mrs Sandys), had a heavy brass lid and counterweight, and regrettably this cover and counterweight fell in 1940's damaging the font and the Derbyshire pillars (now visible).

The Watermoor Church Hall was added in 1971-72 when The Mission Room was demolished for the by-pass.

The Garden of Remembrance was established in mid 1970's and is still used to this day.

WINDOWS - Total of 16. Full details of all the windows and who presented them are in the booklet which records each one (1 to 16). (*The 150 Anniversary of HTW Watermoor written by Tony Clack. ISBN 1 8726656 29 2*) Each Window is numbered from 1 to 16.

SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND TIMING

The Church was completed in 1851 but the bells were not installed until 1886.

Clock weight etc. took 2.5 days per winding (*verger climbed the steps) Later electrified. Face of clock re-gilded by Eric Griffin and Don Harris.

HTW Spire stands out clearly as a landmark for miles around, 150ft tall paid for by Hon William Lennox. It has a lightning conductor, it was struck by lightning a few years ago and the repairs are still evident. While the scaffolding was in place a vandal gained access to the spire, and having taken off the hour hand was seen waving it about at the top of the church. A new hour hand was manufactured. The minute hand was set slightly off its datum and though the clock correctly strikes the hour, the minute hand shows two minutes to the hour.

THE ORGAN

There was no organ initially, singing was led sometimes without accompaniment and sometimes with the aid of the boy instrumentalists of the Powell's School in Gloucester St. They took turns with the adult choristers of the Parish Church.

In 1863 a Harmonium was provided and in 1867 the first organ was built at a cost of £250.

MISSION ROOM built in 1893

Built in 1893 - 94 Workers from the adjacent Midland Railway used it, many of whom were itinerant. The line ran from Andoversford to Swindon Old Town Station. Quite often men would use the rooms for meetings, refreshments and as a reading room for talks and lectures.

Other uses of the Mission Room were by the Cubs, Scouts and Guides and Church Social functions, weddings, receptions, birthday parties and whist drives. The Hall could accommodate 70 people. It was demolished to allow construction of the Bristol Road.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Around the Church are 14 silvered aluminium 'Stations of the Cross'. These were given in 1986 by a Mr Medd, a regular member of the congregation, in memory of Helen Stokes. She laboriously walked with the aid of calipers on her legs for most of her life and was a housekeeper to Mr Medd for whom she was also a nanny. Each plaque is numbered. Each number represents a 'stop' by Jesus on the way to the Cross. Each number has a different picture and each is mentioned in the small service called "Stations of the Cross" held weekly here during Lent. A short litany from the scriptures is read at each station.

I have left a Book of records in the belfry in a box for use in the 200th Anniversary. There are some CD's and much data on the extent taken to record the 150th Anniversary of the Church and these are in a box in the Belfry clearly marked to be opened only for the 200th Anniversary. The contents are a true copy of this Booklet which is available for only £3.00 and records much of the personnel and equipment and history of the Church (on sale in HTW and StJB).

Lists of Priests-in-charge/Senior Curates, Assistants, Vicars and a list of all members of the church as at 1st August 2001 are in the booklet pages 24 and 25.

The Church celebrates its 175th Anniversary of its Consecration on 6th November 2026 and the following poem is in the words of the Church which is a real spirit that exists here.

One Hundred and Seventy Five Years
by
Tony Clack

I've stood in this field for a very long time,
A Century and three quarters to be right,
I've watched you all come, and I'll see you all go,
I'm here like a bright shining light.

My beautiful spire stands out for a mile,
It points to the sky with no fear,
And my bells ring out loud to one and the crowd,
It's my Birthday! And I'm glad I'm still here.

From Gladstone to Baldwin, Churchill and Attlee,
McMillan ad Thatcher and Blair,
Queen Victoria, King George, Eliz'beth and Charles,
I know of them all from up here.

I've seen scooters and planes, buses and trains,
I've seen Concorde fly over aloof,
But one of the sights that I'll never forget,
Was the fire that threatened my roof.

World wars they have come, deep snow and hot sun,
The seasons they all pass too soon,
The Battle of Britain, the Falklands and all,
There was even a man on the moon.

From Hoola Hoops, to loop the loops,
The Derby, The National and the Games,
The motor car, the National Health,
And heroes too many to name.

The Standard, The Echo, that Advert and all,
I've seen them all grow and enthrall,
To Baptisms, Weddings and sadly the Deaths,
All part of my service to all.

Church Helpers may come and Church Helpers may go,
Senior Curates both shortish and tall
There's Paul Youde and Don Harris, Peter Cottey, Malcolm Jones,
And Uncle John Lawrence and all, and Uncle John Lawrence and all!

There's TV and Radio, and a dodgy PA,
We have all never heard of the like,
Yet my nave is still lit, please come and do sit,
And Vicar Luke he'll be there on his bike!

175 is quite a good age
An age when most buildings are done,
And if I'm any judge, then your children can wage,
that I'll be here in 2051!

TV and Radio, Computers and Tape,
We all never heard of the like,
Yet my nave is still lit, Senior Curates a hit,
Though he does tend to fall off his bike!

Big Vic comes on down, in his bright flowing gown
And regales us with news in my nave,
He keeps all three churches in really good purchase,
Such a wonderful Leader and brave.

I've stood in this field, in my service to God,
I'll be here for many years more,
It's my Birthday! I'm famous, come visit me soon,
Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor.

Written and updated by Tony Clack
1st June 2026





Mothers' **UNION**

Diocese of
Gloucester

MARY SUMNER DAY

150TH ANNIVERSARY

PICNIC

Saturday 8th August
12:30-3pm (approx finish)
short service at 2:30

St. Joseph's Church Hall
Oldends Lane
Stonehouse
GL10 2DG

Tea, coffee and squash will be provided and hopefully
cake! **Please bring your own lunch to enjoy.**

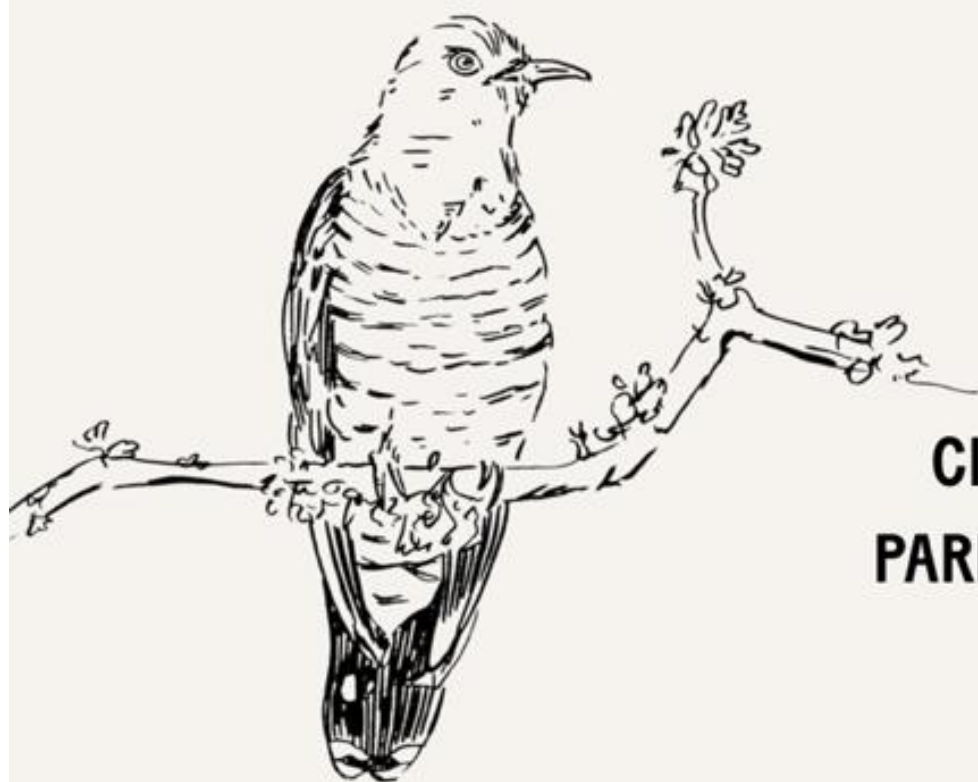
Please bring camping chairs just in case the weather is
nice enough for us to sit outside! There is a large hall
should it rain.



150 YEARS OF
Mothers' **UNION**
Join us, Join in

A SUMMER'S EVENING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

HOSTED BY DAME FIONA REYNOLDS WITH CONCERT PIANIST
CLARE HAMMOND, THE ORIEL SINGERS & JONATHAN
DIMBLEBY READING FROM THE DYMOCK POETS



7:30-9PM
FRI 17 JULY
CIRENCESTER
PARISH CHURCH
£35

**A CONCERT OF MUSIC & POETRY IN
AID OF THE HIGH SHERIFF'S FUND**

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LETTERS FROM
THE GLOBAL SOUTH



A project by
ZERO HOUR 

4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY
ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER

PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION

LETTERS *from the* GLOBAL SOUTH

FREE ENTRY

ALL WELCOME

Letters and artwork from **children on the frontline** of the climate and nature crisis — their stories, their world and **what we can do to help.**



4-7 JULY | 10AM – 4PM DAILY | ST JOHN BAPTIST, CIRENCESTER



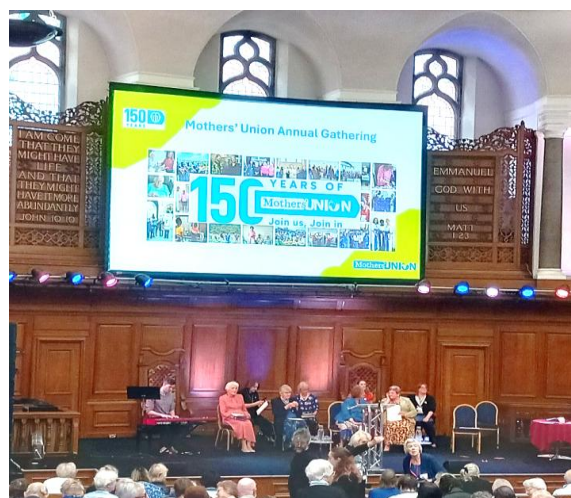
Members and Friends,



As Rosemary mentioned in last months MU letter, Mothers' Union is celebrating it's 150th anniversary this year. On June 10th many members from Gloucester Diocese joined with 1600 MU members from across the world in St Paul's Cathedral for a service of Thanksgiving. A Testimony was given by Kathleen Snow, our World Wide President and the sermon was given by the Archbishop of

Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally. The Provincial Banners were paraded from the Cathedral at the end of the service. It was an uplifting and memorable service.

The next day, a smaller group from the Diocese joined with some 700 members from across the world for the annual gathering in the Emanuel Centre. It was a more informal occasion, and we were welcomed by our WWP Kathleen Snow. We enjoyed listening to 6 former WWP, including our very own Pat Harris via a video recording. It was fun to listen to their Leadership Reflections- 'Moments that moved us'. Each of



them had to be reminded that they needed to keep to their allotted 5-minute slot!

Mid-day prayers at 12.15pm was followed by 'Show Casing our Present', including talks on Domestic Violence and Away from it All Holidays (AFIA) in Ely.

After lunch, during which we were able to visit the 150th Exhibition in Mary Sumner House, the theme of 'Show casing our Present' continued with talks about Prison Volunteering in the Diocese of Blackburn, Leeds and Chester. Hospitals & Homelessness in the Diocese of Southwark and Coventry. These were followed by a talk from Sarah Newnham Director of Global programmes entitled 'Global MU'.

This was then followed by 'Shining a Light on the Future' and included speakers on Safeguarding, Working Together-MU in partnership, with the Clewer Initiative, regarding modern day slavery, and with the Girls Brigade. 3 young members spoke passionately about the difficulties facing young girls today, from perfect images to on-line abuse. Finally, Atim Abrams, part of the MU membership team challenged us all to grow the MU for the future.

Kathleen Snow our WWP brought the proceedings to an end with a presentation to our CEO Bev Julian, who is retiring after 11 years in post.

The gathering closed with prayers led by Canon Jen McWhirter.

All in all, a very memorable two days.

If you would like more information on Mothers' Union, please talk to any member.

With love and prayers
Kathie Cottey



Dates in July:-

Wednesday 1st. 2.30pm Closing service in Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor led by Rev. Rosemary Franklin and Sylvia Harker followed by a bring and share tea in the parish Hall. All welcome

Thursday 2nd. 10 'til 3pm. Diocesan Quiet Day at Harnhill

Thursday 23rd. Noon. Corporate Communion, Parish Church

Thursday 23rd. 7.30pm Chill & Chatter at the Vicarage

Dates in August:-

Wednesday 5th. 2.30pm Parish Hall Watermoor, an informal afternoon of tea & chat. All welcome

Saturday 8th. 12.30pm until 3pm. Mary Sumner Day Picnic. St Josephs Church Hall, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, GL10 2DG. Bring your own picnic and camping chair. Tea/coffee etc. provided. MU Raffle to be drawn.

Thursday 27th. Noon Corporate Communion, Parish Church.

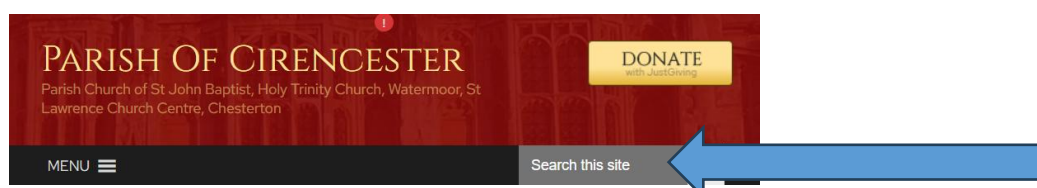
Date in September:-

Wednesday 2nd 2.30pm, Parish Hall, Watermoor. Speaker from The Severn Freewheelers, there will also be a bring & buy sale. All welcome.



Parish website: cirenparish.co.uk

Sometimes it is difficult to find your way around the parish website, especially if using a tablet or phone since the menu appears as three horizontal lines. BUT there is now a search facility there to help everyone find information about topics.



St Lawrence

Saint Lawrence's feast day is 10th of August, the date he died aged 32 in AD 258. He was one of the seven deacons of the city of Rome who were martyred under the order of emperor Valerian. He was born in the region of Aragon, Spain, and met the future Pope Sixtus II in Zaragoza and they travelled together to Rome. Sixtus appointed Lawrence as archdeacon of Rome. He held a position of great trust which included care of the treasury and the distribution of alms to the poor. In August 258. Emperor Valerian issued an edict that all bishops, priests and deacons should



immediately be put to death. Lawrence was ordered to turn over the riches of the church. He asked for three days to gather the wealth during which time he distributed as much of the church's property as possible to the poor. On the third day he presented the city's crippled, poor and suffering people to the prefect saying "Here are the treasures of the church - you see the church is truly far richer than your emperor". Tradition has it that the prefect was so angry that he ordered a great gridiron to be prepared with hot coals beneath it and had Lawrence placed on it. Thus Lawrence is often shown holding a gridiron and he is patron saint of people who work with open fires such as cooks and bakers and those to whom fire means harm such as firefighters, librarians and archivists. He is also patron saint of comedians as according to tradition, whilst being burnt to death on the gridiron he joked to the executioners, "I'm cooked on that side, now turn me over and eat".

Pam Barnes (Edited from Wikipedia)

Highlights from the Parochial Church Council (PCC)



The PCC last met on the 20th of May 2026, which was our first full meeting after the annual meetings. Our next Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for the 17th of June 2026, which falls after the submission of this article.

Some highlights of recent PCC business include:

At St John Baptist, drone photographs have been taken to support eventual Planning and Faculty applications for a solar panel installation. Assessments have been made of the repairs required to fully address occasional leakage into the vestry roof, and a plan of action to address this is being developed. Additionally, assessments of the requirements for refurbishing the North Wall continue, and some modifications have been made to improve the power supply to the alarm system.

The St John Baptist Project to install 7 toilets, a server, and storage cupboards is progressing slower than originally anticipated. Contractors have faced a number of issues, including supply chain delays, a very restrictive critical path for the work, and the challenges of working around an occupied building. While this is frustrating, our architects – who supervise the work on a day-to-day basis – report that they are in close contact with the contractor and are not seeing a lack of effort.

We are confident that the many obstacles to this exciting project are being and will be overcome.

We are most grateful to The Winstone Trust, the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, the Julia Rausing Trust and The Friends of Cirencester Parish Church for approving financial grants for our St John Baptist Project. Approval of other grants and the submission of additional applications are currently pending.

At St Lawrence Church Centre, quotations are being sought to complete some of the phased maintenance identified in the Quinquennial Survey, including urgent repairs. Some of the specific tasks include replacing the kitchen door to a fire-rated specification, undertaking other work on doors and doorways, and completing roof work requiring scaffolding.

Canon Graham has recently taken over as Chair of the Personnel Committee. The committee is working on several priority projects, including updating our Employee Handbook and reviewing – and possibly streamlining – its Terms of Reference. Additionally, with the growing use of the Parish Church for commercial events, which will be further enabled by the St John Baptist Project, the Personnel Committee will discuss the potential need for an Events Manager. The overall objective of these commercial events is, of course, to reduce or eliminate our annual financial deficit. These events will also support community outreach and further Canon Graham's dream and vision of our mission reaching beyond the walls of our buildings.

On the subject of finances, it is anticipated that the Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ending 2025 will be reviewed and approved by the PCC shortly. Once approved, they will be published on the website, and hard copies will be made available for inspection. A Special Parochial Church Meeting will then be convened to consider the report and financial statements.

At its May 2026 meeting, the PCC agreed to dissolve the Halls Committee, with informal working groups to be used instead to manage the halls. The main rationale for our decision was that the people managing the buildings should be those involved in their day-to-day use (e.g., the extended team, congregation, and churchwardens/assistant churchwardens).

Additionally, decisions or updates requiring PCC attention can be

referred to the appropriate committee – such as Fabric, Finance, Personnel, or the Standing Committee – or the full PCC as required.

The PCC was very pleased to note that the Friends of the Cirencester Parish Church (FOPC) event, ‘An Evening with Anne Boleyn’ on Friday, 15 May 2026, featuring a talk by Dr Owen Emmerson, curator from Hever Castle, was a success. Our FOPC representative, Samantha Burt, reported that as a result of the talk, the Friends gained 18 new members – a really great additional outcome for the event. Samantha added that the Friends currently have more than 170 individual members, including annual subscribers, generous donors, Life Members, and Church Associates.

They also welcome corporate members, such as local businesses who choose to support their work, and are always keen to grow their membership.

Our Churches Together in Cirencester (CTIC) representative, Ian Robertson, reported that the CTIC AGM will be taking place at Cirencester Baptist Church at 7:30 pm, Thursday 16 th of July 2026.

Finally, as mentioned above, the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust approved a small grant for our St John Baptist Project. They are an independent non-profit organisation raising funds and providing grants to help over 620 historic churches, chapels, and meeting houses in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, and North Bristol. They hold an annual sponsored Ride+Stride event to raise funds: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part>. This year, the event

will be held on Saturday, 12 September 2026, and the PCC will be reviewing how we can support this important effort. In Ride+Stride, cyclists, walkers, and horse riders raise sponsorship money by visiting churches and chapels on any route of their choice. Canon Graham and John Lawrence participated and raised funds a few years back. If you are interested in taking part, please put the date in your

diary, and we will provide more details as the plan develops.

As a reminder, for further details about PCC business, please visit our website. In particular, minutes of PCC meetings are available there but are password protected. Parishioners on the Electoral Roll may obtain the password from a Churchwarden or the Parish Office. Others are welcome to request a specific copy by contacting me at PCCsecretary@cirenparish.co.uk .

Mark Dennis, Secretary



Leading Midday (11.45 a.m.) Prayers in the Parish Church

At a recent team meeting, we discussed the importance of keeping the midday prayers. Our conversation was wide ranging and very helpful. As Vicar, I want to express my unequivocal support for our clergy and volunteers who take on this responsibility.



The midday prayers form an essential part of our daily liturgical offering. They anchor us in the monastic tradition of pausing in the middle of the day for prayer. From Monday to Saturday, these prayers remain a constant in our busy lives.

Please help us to maintain this important daily rhythm of what we offer to parishioners and visitors. If you know of a potential volunteer, please speak to Sylvia Harker on 01285 653425. Training will be given.

Thank you.

With best wishes *Graham* (Reverend Canon Graham Morris)

Cobalt Medical Charity



Thanks to generous support from both the Xtreme Colour Run and Highnam Open Gardens, funds raised this year will go towards purchasing equipment that will benefit patients at Cobalt.

Upcoming Events

20th September – Line Dancing at Dunkertons Cider, Cheltenham, 6.30pm

Adult tickets: £10

An enjoyable evening of line dancing open to all abilities, from complete beginners to experienced dancers. Friendly instructors will guide guests through the dances in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Music, food and cider will be available to purchase during the evening from Dunkertons.

21st December – Christmas at Cobalt, Cheltenham College Chapel, 6.30pm

Tickets: £10

Celebrate the festive season in the beautiful surroundings of Cheltenham College Chapel. Guests will be welcomed by live reindeer on arrival before enjoying an evening of seasonal music, Christmas readings and performances from the Churchdown Male Vocal Choir. The event will be hosted by BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Nicky Price and will also include a charity raffle with a range of prizes.

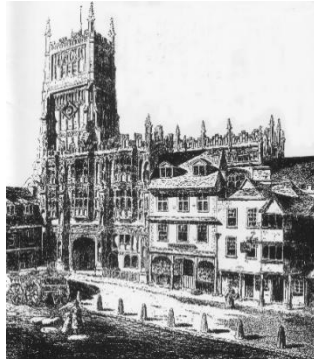
These events help raise valuable funds for Cobalt and provide important support for patients and services within the local community.

Find out book or to book go

to <https://www.cobalthealth.co.uk/fundraising/supporter-events/>

Call 01242535922 or email fundraising@cobalthealth.co.uk

TOURS OF CIRENCESTER PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN BAPTIST



July 2026

There will be guided tours of the Church at the times listed below

Thursday 2nd July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Monday 6th July at 2.30pm

Tuesday 7th July at 10.30am

Wednesday 8th July at 10.30am

Thursday 9th July at 10.30am

Tuesday 14th July at 10.30am

Wednesday 15th July at 10.30am

Thursday 16th July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Friday 17th July at 10.30pm

Monday 20th July at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 21st July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Wednesday 22nd July at 10.30am

Thursday 23rd July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Saturday 25th July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

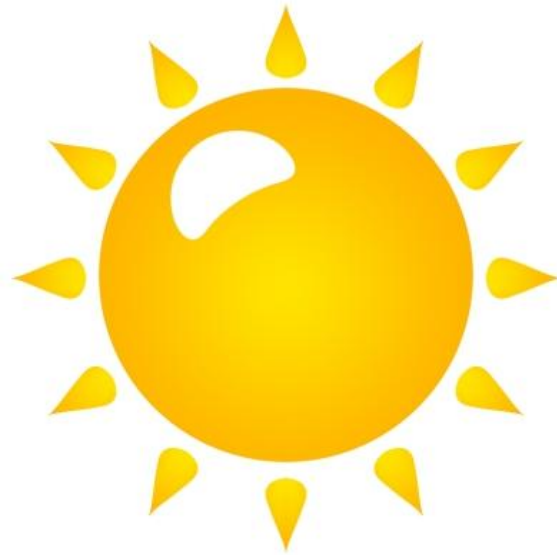
Tuesday 28th July at 10.30am

Wednesday 29th July at 2.30pm

Thursday 30th July at 10.30am & 2.30pm

**There is no charge for the tour but a voluntary donation would be
appreciated towards the upkeep of the Church**

Tourist Groups by arrangement Tel: 01285 659317



HEAT

A golden giant rules the sky,
With brassy, blazing, piercing eye.
The breathless air begins to bake,
And leaves no room for winds to wake.
The pavement shimmers, tired and white,
And bleeds its warmth into the night.
The shaded lawns are crisp and brown,
As heavy weather wears us down.
A desperate plea for drops of rain,
Against the heavy, stagnant pain.
We seek the dusk, so cool and slow,
When blazing summer lets us go.

AI

And finally...

Get them checked



Mavis Jones was a keen walker and had been all her life. She and her husband, Ken, had been part of the Aberystwyth Ramblers Group for most of their lives. They had met on a seven-mile trek through the Brecon Beacons and had never looked back since.

That was until Mavis developed Plantar Fasciitis and the pain in her foot was excruciating. ‘Postman’s heel, they call it,’ she announced to Ken one morning.

‘Sorry, dear. I missed that.’ Ken was in need of new hearing aids. He kept promising to get them checked but somehow never got round to it.

‘I need some soft insoles for my shoes,’ Mavis went on. ‘Can you order me some when you are next online.’

‘What do you need, dear?’ Ken was trying to keep up.

‘Insoles,’ Mavis repeated, ‘for my heels. They protect them. They have a kind of jelly coating on one side. I think Scholl make them. I never know how to pronounce that. Is it Skoll, or Shole? Let’s call it Shole.’

‘I’ll do my best,’ Ken said, slightly baffled by Mavis’ order.

But Mavis wasn’t confident Ken had heard her properly. She’d order them herself but found the computer unfathomable. ‘Scholl,’ she said loudly, ‘Insoles with jelly heels.’

‘Got it, dear,’ Ken said in a slightly miffed tone. ‘No need to shout.’

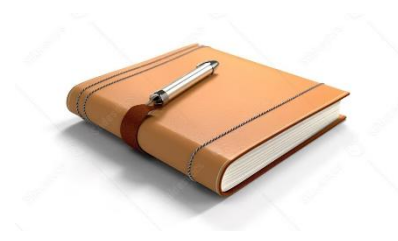
The following day Mavis was surprised to see a van pull up outside and a man wearing a brown coat with blue and white apron walked down their drive, carrying a very large box. He rang the bell. Mavis waited, hoping Ken would answer but when he didn’t appear, she sighed and hobbled to the front door herself.

‘Yes?’ she enquired.

‘Fishmonger,’ the visitor announced, cheerfully. ‘You ordered a shoal of sole and jellied eels.’

HG

Dates for July and August



Weekdays

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

Saturdays

10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
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Monday, Wednesday & Friday

5 – 5:30pm	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 Tuesday & Wednesday)	
10am – 12pm	Thursdays Drop In at The Parish Forum	

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Jul 30 – Aug 21	Organ Festival	St John Baptist
Aug 15 – Aug 31	Ciren Art Society Summer Exhibition	St John Baptist

1 Jul, Wed

10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
1:10 – 1:50pm	Organ Recital	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity

2 Jul, Thu

10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

3 Jul, Fri

10:30 – 11:30am	Wedding	St John Baptist
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

4 Jul, Sat

10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
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5 Jul, Sun

8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist

10 – 11:30am	All Age Eucharist	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	Non-Eucharist Family Service	Holy Trinity
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
12 – 1pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence

6 Jul, Mon

9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Funeral Sarah Crook	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5 – 5:30pm	Organ Vespers	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

7 Jul, Tue

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

8 Jul, Wed

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

9 Jul, Thu

9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist

10 Jul, Fri

3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

11 Jul, Sat

10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
2 – 3pm	Wedding	St John Baptist
5 – 6:30pm	Quarter Peal Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity

12 Jul, 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	Service of the Word	St Lawrence
1 – 2pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity
4 – 5pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist

13 Jul, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum
14 Jul, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
15 Jul, Wed		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 9pm	Full PCC	St Lawrence
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
16 Jul, Thu		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
17 Jul, Fri		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2 – 2:45pm	Robin Hood Youth Orchestra Concert	St John Baptist
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	A Celebration of Gloucestershire in Music and Words	St John Baptist
18 Jul, Sat		
10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
1:30 – 2:30pm	Wedding	St John Baptist
19 Jul, 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
1:30 – 2:30pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore @4	St Lawrence
20 Jul, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

7:30 – 9pm	Quarter Peal	St John Baptist
21 Jul, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
3:30 – 4:30pm	Thanksgiving	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
22 Jul, Wed		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
23 Jul, Thu		
9:15 – 10:45am	Seedlings	St Lawrence
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
12 – 1pm	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
24 Jul, Fri		
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
25 Jul, Sat		
10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2 – 3pm	Baptism	Holy Trinity
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
26 Jul, 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
12 – 1pm	Baptism	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Evening Worship	St John Baptist
27 Jul, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum

28 Jul, Tue		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
29 Jul, Wed		
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
30 Jul, Thu		
10:30 – 11:30am	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
2:30 – 3:30pm	Guided Tour	St John Baptist
31 Jul, Fri		
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Organ Festival - Stefan Donner (Vienna) -	St John Baptist
1 Aug, Sat		
10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Organ Festival Chorus Concert	St John Baptist
2 Aug, Sun		
8 – 9am	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
8 – 9am	Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	All Age Eucharist	St John Baptist
10 – 11:30am	Non-Eucharist Family Service	Holy Trinity
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
4 – 5pm	Choral Evensong	St John Baptist
4 – 5pm	Restore@4	St Lawrence
3 Aug, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
5 – 6pm	Juniper Choir Evensong	St John Baptist
5:30 – 6:30pm	Vicars Open Office	Parish Forum
4 Aug, Tue		
5 – 6pm	Juniper Choir Evensong	St John Baptist
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	St John Baptist
5 Aug, Wed		
10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist	St Lawrence
1:10 – 1:50pm	Organ Recital	St John Baptist
5 – 6pm	Juniper Choir Evensong	St John Baptist

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
6 Aug, Thu		
5 – 6pm	Juniper Choir Evensong	St John Baptist
7 Aug, Fri		
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Organ Festival - John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral)	St John Baptist
8 Aug, Sat		
10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
5 – 6pm	Juniper Choir Evensong	St John Baptist
9 Aug, 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	Organ Festival Eucharist	St John Baptist
10:30 – 11:30am	Service of the Word	St Lawrence
4 – 5pm	Evensong	St John Baptist
10 Aug, Mon		
9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
11 Aug, Tue		
6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
12 Aug, Wed		
7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
14 Aug, Fri		
3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Organ Festival - Thomas Hawkes (Cirencester)	St John Baptist
15 Aug, Sat		
10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
7 – 8pm	Lumos Candlelight Experience	St John Baptist
9 – 10pm	Lumos Candlelight Experience	St John Baptist

16 Aug, 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 Aug, Mon

9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Quarter Peal	St John Baptist

18 Aug, Tue

6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
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19 Aug, Wed

7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
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20 Aug, Thu

1 – 2pm	Wedding	St John Baptist
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21 Aug, Fri

3 – 5pm	Cirencester Food Pantry	Parish Hall
5 – 5:30pm	Evening Prayer	St John Baptist
7:30 – 9pm	Organ Festival - Matthias Maierhofer (Freiburger Münster)	St John Baptist

22 Aug, Sat

10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
12:30 – 1:30pm	Wedding	Holy Trinity

23 Aug, 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 Worship	St John Baptist

24 Aug, Mon

9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist
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25 Aug, Tue 6:30 – 9pm	Bell Ringing	Holy Trinity
26 Aug, Wed 7 – 8pm	Eucharist	Holy Trinity
27 Aug, Thu 9:15 – 10:45am 12 – 1pm	Seedlings Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	St Lawrence St John Baptist
28 Aug, Fri 3 – 5pm 5 – 5:30pm	Cirencester Food Pantry Evening Prayer	Parish Hall St John Baptist
29 Aug, Sat 10 – 10:30am	Said Eucharist - Catherine Chapel,	St John Baptist
30 Aug, Sun 8 – 9am 8 – 9am 10 – 11:30am 10 – 11:30am 10:30 – 11:30am	Eucharist Holy Communion BCP - Lady Chapel Eucharist Eucharist Eucharist	Holy Trinity St John Baptist Holy Trinity St John Baptist St Lawrence
31 Aug, Mon 9:45 – 11am	Little Angels	St John Baptist

Dates extracted from Parish Calendar 17/06/2026



The cover picture shows St Mary's Church at Old Town in the Isles of Scilly. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Previous Prime Minister Harold Wilson is buried in a simple grave in the churchyard. The Epilogue Service by candlelight is not to be missed!

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*

Organ Recitals At St John Baptist

Wednesdays at 1.10pm 2025 - 26



Wednesday 1st October

David Price (Portsmouth Cathedral)

Wednesday 5th November

Andrew Parnell (Ely Cathedral)

Wednesday 3rd December

John Wright (Cheltenham)

Wednesday 7th January

James Henderson (Sherborne Abbey)

Wednesday 4th February

Timothy Selman (Lincoln Cathedral)

Wednesday 4th March

Stephen King (Brentwood Cathedral)

Wednesday 1st April

Pavlos Triantaris (Letchworth)

Wednesday 6th May

Johannes Opfermann (Freiburg)

Wednesday 3rd June

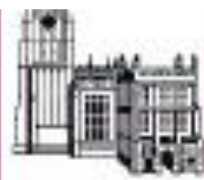
Barney Silverstone (London)

Wednesday 1st July

Mark Brafield (Guildford)

Wednesday 5th August

Charles Wooler (Concert Organist)



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>

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