



Mid-Wyedean Churches

serving Coleford, Clearwell,
Newland, Redbrook, Staunton
and surrounding communities

Sunday September 21st

14th Sunday after Trinity

BIBLE READINGS

Amos 8.4-7

Psalms 113

1 Timothy 2.1-7

Luke 16.1-13

PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

REFLECTIONS.....MARK BICK

I have struggled for years to understand this particular parable. The idea that the "master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly" sounds as if Jesus is encouraging us to be financially dishonest, which does not fit with the rest of the bible! I am reluctant to avoid or ignore the tricky bits in the bible, so have turned to "Luke for Everyone" by Tom Wright. He explains that Jews were forbidden from lending money at interest but sometimes got round this by lending things like oil or wheat. It is very possible that the master in the story was charging interest which the manager dropped, an action which it would be difficult for the master to condemn but which was great for the person who had taken the loan! Tom Wright goes on to explain that the story is a parable and the listeners in Jesus's time would have immediately understood the master to be God and the manager to be the people/nation of Israel. The manager (Israel) has failed and been unfaithful (a central

CONTINUED....

theme of the Old Testament). The Pharisees were trying to address this by making the regulations of the law ever tighter, adding extra bits to make sure; but this excluded huge numbers of people who were not able to be "perfect" in this kind of way. Jesus attacked this approach throughout the gospels, promoting instead, love and forgiveness; releasing people from debt, particularly those who were most vulnerable or despised. This is equally relevant today: the church is struggling, many people are struggling – what is needed is more forgiveness and love rather than increased burdens! The shrewd manager understood that people are more important than money and that it is the people at the bottom of the hierarchy rather than those at the top that need the help!

I recommend Tom Wright's very readable books – "Luke for Everyone" and similar titles for the other books of the New Testament.

<https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb/products/luke-for-everyone-book-tom-wright-9780281053001>

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

The Good Shepherd, Broadwell 10.30am
Parish Communion

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

No service at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell but you are welcome to support our other services below, or Coleford Baptist at 10.30am

All Saints, Staunton 9.30am
Communion

All Saints, Newland 10.30am
Communion

PRAYERS AND NOTICES

GIVE THANKS....

that an AI-assisted brain scanning tool used by the NHS has been shown to rapidly speed up stroke diagnosis, enabling more than half of patients to recover.

PRAY....

- for Sue, Andrew and family, Jackie, Monica, Dean and family, Elijah and family, Margaret Winter and family
- for all who care for and nurture under-5s and their families, particularly at Mustard Seeds.
- for fresh initiatives and energy in attracting and engaging with baptism families, that these first steps in faith may spark a joyful adventure with Jesus Christ.

Please let me know of any people or situations who need to added (or taken off!) the prayer requests above. Many Thanks.

John- midwyedeannews@gmail.com

Ken Winter died in hospital recently. Ken and his wife, Margaret were members of the congregation at Redbrook Church for many years, and very active in the village. Please remember Margaret in your prayers. There will be a funeral and life Celebration at Redbrook Church. Date to be confirmed.



Good Shepherd Fashion Show

Friday 3rd October 7.00pm

at Terri Chance Boutique, Lydney

In aid of the refurbishment of the main doors at The Good Shepherd Church, Broadwell

Tickets: £5 -Phone Betty on 01594 562680 or email office.midwyedean@gmail.com or Teri Chance, or on the door

RAFFLE PRIZES

Please could we have donations of raffle prizes for the **upcoming fashion show** and **Christmas craft fayre**. Donations can be left in the basket in the vestry at the Good Shepherd. Many thanks. Ann

A BLACKBIRD SANG

– a festival of words and music, St Mary's Church, Dymock 10- 12 October.

An upcoming weekend of music, poetry and worship inspired by the Dymock poets.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-blackbird-sang-a-festival-of-words-and-music/>

REGULAR EVENTS + MEETINGS



MUSTARD SEEDS

Stay & Play for 0-5 years old.

Tuesdays in term time, 9.45-11.30am at Coleford Baptist Church.

TOGETHER FOR PRAYER

Tuesdays 12.00- 1.00 at The Vicarage.

All Welcome

MEMORY CAFÉ- FOD DEMENTIA ACTION

2nd Tuesday of each Month 2.30-4.00pm

Coleford Baptist Church

To Confirm dates phone 01594 837769



CRAFT CLUB

Crafts in Good Company at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell, Thursdays, 2- 4 pm

No meeting on Thur 18th Sept

BROADWELL CHAT

Coffee and chat

Every 1st Thursday of the month 10.00-12.00 at The Good Shepherd Church, Broadwell. Children & pets welcome.

Next meeting Thursday 2nd October



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday for Friday Mark- May you always have a favourable wind !

...and for Olive on Tuesday- we made you a big cake.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday 8th November at The Good Shepherd

REDBROOK MUSIC NIGHT: DATES

Family friendly food and open mic. 5pm-7pm
Second Saturday

11th October
8th November
13th December

12-21st

September

heritage open days



Click this link for programme information - which includes all three of our Grade 1 listed buildings!
<https://www.forestofdeanheritageopendays.org.uk>

Any enquiries, contact Nicholette at the Parish Office on 07933 935534, or at office.midwyedean@gmail.com.

Newsletter Items should be emailed by Wed 12 Noon to John- midwyedeannews@gmail.com