

PRAYERS AND NOTICES

GIVE THANKS.....

FOR THE GIFT OF CARE AND COMPASSION

For all those working in the Health & care sector and for all those hardworking people in our Emergency services we give thanks, for your care and dedication.

PLEASE PRAY FOR.....

- World Council of Churches Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- The healing of old wounds remaining from struggles in the 20th century
- Those struggling with the cost of living crisis, debt or facing eviction
- Peaceful relations with Russia and among all the ethnic groups in these lands.
- Our essential services Police, Fire Ambulance and RNLI . All providing a service which at times must seem unappreciated by many.
- All those undergoing Surgery or medical procedures & investigations within our Parish and wider afield
- Our Parish as we continue to face dire financial issues (see MB Reflections above) Pray that we find a way to do all we need to do within the Parish

Regular Events & Meetings

CYGNETS 2 SWANS YOUTH DRAMA CREW

Every Sunday, Coleford Baptist Church, 2-4pm.

MUSTARD SEEDS

Stay & Play for 0-5 years old.

Every Tuesday in term time, 9-10:45am at Coleford Baptist Church. Story and song time, messy play, plenty of toys. Drinks & Snacks.

TOGETHER FOR PRAYER

The Vicarage, Tuesday 12 noon

LENT BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays 6:30-8pm at Bea's house.

Book: NT Wright, *Reflecting the Glory*.

CRAFT CLUB

Crafts in good company at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell, Thursdays, 2- 4 pm.

THE "CHOSEN"

Discussion group - Fridays at the Baptist Church
1pm Bring (and share) lunch,
1:30 watch the show followed
by discussion ending at 3pm.



GAMES NIGHT

Board Games with food.
Every Friday 5-7pm at
Coleford Baptist Church.
All Welcome

Happy Birthday for

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to **Joan Powells** this week. May God bless you on your birthday and throughout the year.

TOGETHER FOR PRAYER

The Vicarage, Tuesday 12 noon

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 16TH
NOVEMBER

Contact Nick at the Parish Office Tue, Wed & Thurs 8am-1pm on 07933 935534, or at office.midwyedean@gmail.com.



Mid-Wyedean Churches

Sunday March 17th 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

BIBLE READINGS

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Psalms 51.1-13 or Psalm 119.9-16

Hebrews 5.5-10

John 12.20-33

PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTIONS.....MARK BICK

John 12: v24

"unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"

Jeremiah 31 v33

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest".

This parish is facing a dire financial situation and there are problems of all sorts with our buildings, with work needed that we cannot afford. In our efforts to re-build living church communities there are significant signs of life, but also false starts and things that have collapsed.

Facing these realities, particularly in my current temporary role of churchwarden, my courage often falters.

I have been very involved in gardening and sowing seeds recently.

There is hard graft in preparing the ground, getting the conditions right for growth.

CONTINUED.....

Weeds (or plants in the wrong place), have to be removed and sometimes they seem endless.

We need then to sow seeds. If we leave them in the packet they might seem safe, but they will gradually lose the ability to grow. We need to take the risk of putting them in the soil where they may get eaten or rot, but, if we have got things right, some will burst into life.

These **passages from John's Gospel** and the **prophet Jeremiah** describe what we can learn from nature. We can see ourselves as seeds.

There is a process, as in nature, of letting go of the barriers, allowing them to die and seeking to know God in our hearts.

God is then able to write in our hearts his way (his law), as shown by Jesus in the gospels.

This is a relationship rooted in God's love for us and initiated by God, All we are asked to do is let in God's warmth and light, like the fruitful seed.

We can then experience new life, share that love, and create the conditions where the seed of God's love can come to life in other people's hearts as well.

SERVICES SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

In a change to normal pattern

GSB@ Coleford Baptist - 10.30am

All Saints' Staunton 4:00pm - Evening Prayer

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

All Saints Newland

Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday 10:30 at

HOLY WEEK + EASTER EVENTS

28TH MARCH MAUNDY THURSDAY 'LAST SUPPER' MEAL
6PM BAPTIST CHURCH

BOOKING REQUIRED (LINK [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3TY4NKZ](https://bit.ly/3TY4NKZ)) OR
CALL SARAH.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS ON THE DOOR £10/£5 CONCESSION

29TH MARCH GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS AND
WORSHIP

GATHER FOR A 10:15 START OUTSIDE ST MARGARET MARY,
10:30 WORSHIP AT THE CLOCKTOWER

30TH MARCH EASTER EVE 17:00 ST SAVIOUR REDBROOK
THIS ONE TBC

31ST MARCH EASTER SUNDAY EUCHARISTS 9:30 ALL SAINTS
STAUNTON, WITH EASTER EGG HUNT AND QUIZ

10:30 GOOD SHEPHERD

10:30 ALL SAINTS NEWLAND, WITH VILLAGE EASTER
EGG HUNT

10:30 ST PETER CLEARWELL

