

At the Family Fun Afternoon July 2025

Tidenham Parish Link Magazine Autumn 2025

Thank you to Emma and Eve for all Family and Youth work

Flower & Arts Festival 'All things bright & beautiful' June 2025

Thank you to Rosalind for all her Safeguarding work in our Parish

Thank you to Annabelle for all her Admin work in our Parish

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**Link Magazine**  
**The Parish of Tidenham**  
**Autumn 2025**

Inside this month...

...Parish up-date from Churchwarden  
**Brian Duerden**

... Parish News of all sorts!

**St Mary & St Peter  
Tidenham**
**Sunday: 9:00am**
**St Michael & All Angels  
Tidenham Chase**
**Sunday: 4.00pm/6.00pm**
**St Luke's  
Tutshill**
**Sunday: 11.00am**
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Tanya White



**Letter from the Editor**  
**Autumn Greetings to everyone**  
**and welcome to our Link magazine**

I hope that everyone is well.

**Inside this month:**

- **Churchwarden Brian Duerden gives us a Parish up-date** (pages 4-6)
  - **News from Sedbury Space** (pages 12-13)
- **PCC Highlights from our PCC secretary, including rise of Link annual subscription rate to £7 in 2026** (page 32)
- **Rev'd Brother Tom Clammer's last planned sermon in our parish** (pages 39-31)

**Parish Contact Website Address**

**Parish Website:** This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

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discover  
and enjoy  
our  
magazine,  
prize for  
mistake  
spotting!

Love from

**Tanya**



**PLEASE NOTE**

All copy for the **Winter Link**

(December 2025, January & February 2026)

must be with **Tanya by Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

Email: [tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)

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Revd Nicki  
Bullivant  
Associate Priest &  
Wellbeing Chaplain



Prof Brian Duerden  
CBE  
Churchwarden



Robin Riordan  
Churchwarden

## Autumn Greetings to all our parishioners

As we look towards recommencing all our regular activities after the summer break, I hope that all our congregations have had the opportunity for a much needed break and a re-charging of batteries. It was hard to believe as we reached the end of such an active spring and summer that we were now heading into a second year of vacancy as we continue to seek a new vicar.

It was disappointing not to attract interest in the opportunity to come to what we all regard as a beautiful part of the country to lead an active and enthusiastic congregation, but the wardens, PCC and supporting clergy are not downhearted as we look to review how we present ourselves through the parish profile.

With the help and support of Nicki, James and our "retired" clergy members, plus our army of volunteers, our parish ministry has been maintained, and in some areas enhanced over this period, as we are determined not to stand still or tread water while in vacancy. This does not mean that we do not regard it as the highest priority to seek a new incumbent and leader – and that last may be the key word! By saying how well we are keeping things going, we could, inadvertently, suggest that we are doing very nicely even without one whereas it is key to the development and progression of our ministry in the parish that we attract a new leader, with new ideas to take us forward into the next phase. Our profile should not suggest that we are complacent or even

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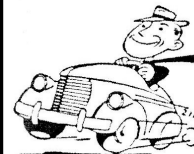
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self-satisfied with our activities when we are looking for someone with new vision and enthusiasm to address challenges – and we can provide plenty of challenges!

Nevertheless, we can justifiably be excited about many of the activities since the last edition of The Link. The Children, Youth and Families activities are extending well beyond our church buildings and services into the local schools and the Baby and Toddler groups at St Luke's and Sedbury, all shown in the excitement of the parish picnic day and fascinating exotic animal demonstration.

Then the summer breakfast club on Wednesdays in Sedbury has been a great success. Supported by our partners in the Sedbury Space and the Two Rivers Housing Association, significant numbers of breakfasts and lunch packs have been provided along with the associated social and community interactions and support for the families.

At St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham we were able to celebrate the opportunities provided by the reordering to present a Family Fun Day, a Gala Concert and Flower Festival week. The Friends group are now well in to the next phase of the site development with the purchase and renovation of what will be the Tony James Memorial Building to provide parish office and other facilities adjacent to the churchyard.

At St Michaels and All Angels, Tidenham Chase, a small but enthusiastic group are working on improving the physical state of the building, with effects that are well evident, and special services there such as Summer Praise have attracted increased numbers on Sunday afternoons and evenings.

We were sorry to lose Revd Canon Brother Tom Clammer from our regular team in June, for the obvious reason that he was required to provide much more input during the vacancy in his home parish. His last Sunday of services across all three churches was a lovely occasion (see pages 29-31).

The most exciting development this summer has come in the latter part with the appointment of a successor to Emma Durbin as our Children, Youth and Families Minister. Emma has done sterling work in the parish over the last several years. We were sorry to lose her but

recognised that it was time for her to retire from the rigours and demands of this work. We advertised the post in June-July and, following an interview in mid-July, we are delighted that Aimee Lowe has accepted our offer of the appointment and will be starting as our CYFM in September. Aimee is a lively and bubbly person committed to this branch of ministry in the Church, who will be a great asset in our parish. She has held a similar position in the past at Newnham and has also worked with Sportily, an organisation with strong links in our diocese that promotes Christian activity through sport and recreation. We look forward to welcoming her into our team in the next few weeks. We would also hope that this appointment might excite any potential new incumbent by showing our positive intent.

We now look forward to our autumn activities with thanks for all the support we are receiving from our parish congregations as wardens, PCC members and clergy.

**Brian**

**Professor Brian I. Duerden CBE; Churchwarden**



### Parish Life Group Meetings

- **Monday** 2-3.30pm Bible Study at Sedbury Space  
Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk)
- **Tuesday** 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies -  
[juliaparsons727@gmail.com](mailto:juliaparsons727@gmail.com)
- **Wednesday** 10.15am Food for Thought Life Group  
@ Café on the Hill
- **Wednesday** 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy  
[fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com)
- **Thursday** 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White at Rockymead  
[tanya.rockymead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)

Please do speak to someone in church if you are unsure about any of the above groups.

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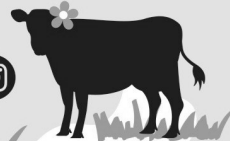
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## Bullet Point News

### ✚ Thinking about Baptism/Christening or a Wedding in church?

It has been lovely to have people getting in touch once again about getting their baby christened or perhaps having a wedding in church. Many congratulations if you're at this stage of life!

Please do get in touch with Revd Nicki Bullivant or one of the team.

For weddings visit <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

For baptisms/christenings visit <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/>

### ✚ Is God calling you?

All of us reflect on the purpose of our lives at some point. Part of this reflection can lead us to having a sense of being called to do something particular in or with our lives. May the Holy Spirit lead you to respond to what the Lord may require of you. Please do not hesitate to speak with someone at church about this. It is quite normal and remember, God can use any of us he chooses!

### ✚ Illness

We would like to remind parishioners (church and non-church folks) that they should not hesitate to contact us in the event of illness and hospitalisation. If nothing else, vital prayers can be offered for those in need.

### ✚ Churchyards

Our churchyards are very special spaces for remembering departed loved ones. Therefore out of respect for **all** mourners please remember that grave-areas **should conform** to the churchyard regulations. This allows for peaceful use and trouble-free maintenance throughout the churchyard. The Parochial Church Council kindly asks that no extraneous additions (stones, plastic flowers, ornaments and statuary, plants, trees, vases, kerb-edging, etc.) are placed in or around graves. **The planting of trees is a particular issue which may cause damage to other graves and prevent a grave space being reopened in the future.** Thank you.

### ✚ Legacy

We have been humbled and most grateful to have received legacy donations in the past. Perhaps we could all think about leaving a financial gift when we die which can help towards the costs of mission and ministry for the future, particularly at this challenging time.



After a  
summer  
off... Next  
Folk Club

St Luke's  
Church

Saturdays:

6<sup>th</sup> September 2025 &  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Then a Christmas Bring &  
Share Special

on

6<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm-8.30pm 2025

6 - 8.30pm

(doors open 5.30pm)

Coffee & Tea will be provided.

But please bring along any further Refreshments to share...

Contact Bill & Tanya White



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**St Michael**29<sup>th</sup> September is the feast day of St Michael.Michaelmas celebrates Archangel Michael,  
considered the greatest of all angels.He is particularly honoured for finally defeating the  
devil in the war in heaven .And this is how we see him in the east window at  
St Michael's Tidenham Chase –  
armed with his breast plate and shield sinking his  
lance in to the dragon (the devil) on Judgement Day.Another important job for St Michael is to convey our  
souls to heaven after death.In the window, behind St Michael sits Jesus waiting  
inside the gates of the new Jerusalem. Jesus has his hand raised to bless us.

The window was designed by Sidney Gambier-Parry in 1889.

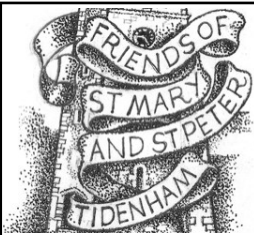
He is also the Church's architect.

In 1916 Sir Hubert Parry ,who was Gambier-Parrys half brother, was asked to  
write the music to William Blakes poem“And did those feet in ancient times” to raise the nation's morale hit by  
heavy losses in World War 1.

The resulting hymn “Jerusalem” remains popular and inspiring ever since.

St Michael is also the patron saint of Kviv, Ukraine.

If you should stand looking at the east window in Tidenham Chase church  
and look up you will now sadly see the sky through the deteriorating roof of  
the chancel.The church of St Michaels and All Angels at Tidenham Chase  
is in urgent need of repair.**Rules for Editing: Never use a big word when a  
diminutive one would suffice**



## Friends update

With the reordering of the North Aisle complete, less the heaters, the attention has now shifted to the new Parish Office. On the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 The Friends took ownership of the building next to the Lych Gate.

Initially we removed the concrete ramp, a requirement from the planners, and put in the new ramp in order to enable Tom Clammer to get to the church for his farewell service.



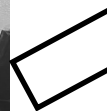
Next we took off the roof and found that there was extensive woodworm and so we have decided to replace the complete roof. When the weight was off the roof we removed the rear wall of the garage to open the space behind it.

The intention is to remove the second wall at the rear of picture so we will be left with the 3 outer walls and an opening at the front of the building which will eventually be a large glass window with an entrance door.

We will re-roof before the winter and we can then get on with fitting out the internal space. Removing these 2 inner walls will mean that we can slightly increase the size of the office.

The good news is that this project is fully funded by the Tony James legacy, which means that all current fundraising will go towards the heaters in the north aisle which we hope to have in situ for the winter months.

A recent structural survey having confirmed the roof is strong enough for diocese's choice of chandelier heaters.



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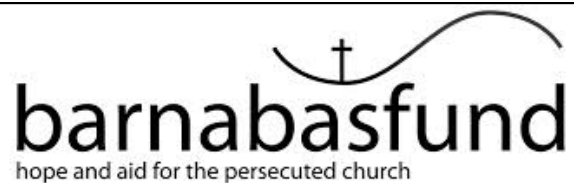
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**Christian News**  
Our Faith in Today's World

**Church minister abducted by Boko Haram rescued after two months**

Alphonsus Afina, a church minister in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno State, was rescued on 21 July by a security forces operation.

Alphonsus was released along with 10 women who had also been held hostage.

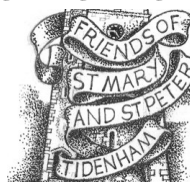
He had been kidnapped on his way to a humanitarian and peace building conference in Maiduguri almost two months earlier, when Boko Haram militants ambushed his convoy.



**Church bombing in western Syria prevented by authorities**

A planned attack on a church in Tartus, western Syria, was foiled by a successful counter-terrorism operation, according to the government in Damascus.

Syria's Interior Ministry announced on 6 August that two men had been arrested "en-route to carry out a terrorist operation".



**Friends of Tidenham Church**

**Flower & Art Festival**

**Charity no.**  
**1159658**

St Mary and St Peter's Church really was 'BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL' during the

festival! There were amazing floral displays reflecting the theme and we were delighted to share our wonderful space with the works of artists and photographers from the U3A. We look forward to future collaboration with these and other talented people within our community.

There are so many tasks involved in putting on the festival that an enormous thanks goes to EVERYONE who volunteered their time and effort to ensure the festival was a wonderful event.

There were many complimentary remarks about the displays from our 75 visitors, lots of whom, enjoyed a cuppa and chat as well.

On the Saturday evening there was a Cheese & Wine event greatly enjoyed by those attending who had the opportunity to look at the wonderful exhibits in a relaxed social atmosphere. Our thanks go to Andy and Heather Jones for their support with the cheese.

The money raised from the festival was just over £306 which is fantastic and will go towards the new heating for the North Aisle.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Friends of St Mary and St Peter's Church





11, King Alfred's Road,  
Sedbury  
NP16 7AG,  
e-mail:  
info@sedburyspace.org.uk

Sedbury Space is a Company Limited by  
Guarantee (no.10623834) and a Registered Charity (no. 1173511)

### SEDBURY SPACE MANAGER'S NEWS AUTUMN 2025



How are we already heading into the autumn nights? We have enjoyed a very HOT summer this year and have definitely spent a lot of time in the beautiful garden at the back of Sedbury space. We are so grateful to Chris our "head gardener" for all her work in the garden to make it and keep it looking beautiful.

### OUR REGULAR SESSIONS/CAFÉS CONTINUE TO STEADILY GROW AND BE WELL ATTENDED



**TUESDAY WEEKLY DROP-IN CAFÉ** remains extremely popular, and we have enjoyed much more than just chat and cuppa's. We recently held a mad hatters themed café session, and it's fair to say EVERYONE came with their hat on and we all had a great time with the winner of the best hat winning a prize. We have celebrated a lot of birthdays with song and cake, whilst raising funds with raffles and sales to ensure we can continue with the Sedbury Space Café's.

**THE COMMUNITY LUNCH** continues to provide a homecooked meal once a month, last Sunday we had homecooked chicken and leek pie with herby potatoes and a baked brownie with ice-cream, as always, every dish cooked and served with passion and love by our amazing volunteers!



Our **CANCER SUPPORT CAFÉ** continues to be of great help on both the lunchtime and evening monthly meetup.

Our **WELLBEING CHAPLAIN** Nicki has sadly not grown another set of legs yet and



Our Parish Quiet Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June was at Ty Mawr Convent. The setting of the convent is a beautiful, natural oasis of calm, the weather was glorious, and we were very blessed to have Fiona Gardiner leading us.

The focus for the day was on The Lord's Prayer and Fiona guided us into an in-depth look at the prayer given to us by Our Lord Jesus Christ and which is so familiar to us all, perhaps overly familiar, so that it was good to have Fiona lead us into a deeper knowledge and understanding of these words. She had organised this into three sessions, each one followed by a quiet time in which to absorb and reflect on what we had heard.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Fiona for the preparation, delivery, and resources she provided that helped us all to reflect on and gain a greater understanding of the beautiful words of the Lord's Prayer.

*Cate Phillips*

### Ty Mawr

Ty Mawr - a calming time from the usual toil,  
A beautiful place - to sit or stroll,  
And guided by Cate, a view to admire,  
A country garden in all it's attire.

For me though, the hills and trees are not the sea...  
As such are my childhood memories;  
Oh Lord, at this time, what would give.  
For the wild tumbling sea - to relive!

...And just as that moment passed from me,  
A gentle breeze flew down from the trees.  
Rippling through the grass in curling swathes.  
Lifting the grass like rolling sea waves,  
- and quietly brushed past me -  
Like a blue, turquoise sea!  
So "Thank You Lord" - for hearing me.

*Linda Wilson*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

**Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



### **Ty Mawr Quiet Day 2025:**

#### **Delving deeper into the Prayer that Jesus taught us.**

What single word jumps into your mind when The Lord's Prayer is mentioned?

Why not 'sit' with The Lord's Prayer somewhere that's comfortable and peaceful. Ask the Lord to sit alongside you and to teach you new things from this prayer he gave to his followers two thousand years ago.

Look again at it, this prayer we know so well. Spend some time thinking about the familiar words and phrases and perhaps allow them to strike you in new ways.

Take the opportunity to disassemble the prayer and look at the way it's built. Its order and structure can provide a pattern for our own prayers. You may find passages challenging or downright difficult. That's fine. This is not a prayer that's supposed to be bland and easy. Rather, it bursts with vibrant life that speaks to a very special relationship: the relationship between the Lord God and His people.

So yes, there may well be things here that dig into our minds, our emotions, our very souls. If we wrestle with the prayer we may find ourselves on our knees in heartfelt surrender. That's all part of the adventure!

My hope and my prayer is that you will meet with the Lord through this Prayer he gifted to us and gain a new insight and new relationship with the Prayer itself.

If you would like to have a full copy of my study notes from the Ty Mawr Quiet Day, please contact me on 01291 624868 or email me on [fiona.m.gardiner70@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner70@gmail.com) and I'll be happy to let you have a printed or an electronic copy.

*Fiona M Gardiner, Summer 2025*

continues to be busy, from bible studies, prayer group, chatroom, foodbank, and much, much more but she will always find time for those who need her and we are so very grateful to her.

**NEWER GROUPS** are continuing to establish themselves including a support group for **AUTISM/ ADHD** led by another valuable volunteer Dawn, who has both personal and professional experience.

Our next meet-up will be September/October.

We are facilitating **DIGITAL HUBS** with **DAISI** who are a charity providing valuable help with the new and sometimes scary digital world.

**GAMES CAFÉ:** we listened to what the community said, and we changed our active games to a board games Café where we have enjoyed some great games of scrabble and chess. We hope to widen the range of games we play as the colder days approach. A game of Cluedo or chess, with a marshmallow topped hot chocolate will definitely be "on the cards".

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING NEW DROP-IN SESSION.** The sessions have seen positive results from Two Rivers Housing, Local Police, and our Tidenham parish councilors. We are altering this to a monthly session where all 3 services are available on the same day....(this is a task in itself to join up diaries) so we will update our Facebook post with all the information so please like our page and stay updated.

**QUARTERLY QUIZ NIGHT with a Kibby's fish & chip supper** is still thriving, and we are very grateful to Sarah at Kibby's Bulwark for her hard work contributing to the evening... it's not easy to "catch" 30plus portions of fish and serve it hot. The manager themed her birthday to the quiz night and everyone joined in making it a really special birthday for her. These nights are so fun and at the end of the night the diaries come out ready for the next one.

**TRIAL POP UP CINEMA** We have set a date for our first pop up cinema with Mamma Mia being the chosen singalong movie.. we are hiring the village hall and we will have choc ices, popcorn and refreshments available with a prize raffle drawn after the film. Hopefully this will become a regular event if it all goes well on the day

The philosophy of the hub Manager and the team remains very much

**THERE IS NO I IN TEAM!!**

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Sedbury Space Community Hub is a **SAFE PLACE** for whatever help you need. If we don't know the answer we will find who does together and put you in touch.

Always with a listening **CONFIDENTIAL** ear and a cuppa.

Volunteers Are Always Needed So Please Get In Touch If You Would Like To Join Our Amazing Team





## Sedbury Space Snippet

From Lee Durbain

Summer is the time for our AGM and the big Movies at the cinema. This year I tried to connect the two. I thought I was being clever but I think I came across as corny.

In which case, job done.

I talked about how Sedbury Space is about serving the greater good, making a positive impact in people's lives.

How we continued to build on the Rock like foundations of Tuesday's one stop drop in cafe at the village hall or the Walkers group who use as a place to meet.

How some of the work done is Invisible due to its sensitive nature, supporting people in the community who face very difficult challenges.

How Sam our new manager has lots of Hot new ideas, a film event, a games cafe, summer uniform swap, etc.

Mostly that we need to be Stretchy to accommodate the ever changing needs of the community we serve.

About Four people got the film reference, perhaps you will two. If so Fantastic.

Lee

### **Found in other churches' notices:**



"The Rector will preach his  
farewell message after which  
the choir will sing  
"Break Forth into Joy"

**Tuesday**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**7.30pm**

Simon Maddison "The Roman Bridge between  
Tutshill and Chepstow"

Summer 2025 featured two very successful events.

Firstly, when we learnt all about the archaeological and other finds discovered as part of the changes made to the north aisle of the historic parish church at Tidenham, as well as the procedure required to ensure its completion to 2\* listed building and Diocesan requirements.

Thank-you to the Friends Of Tidenham Church team,  
especially the Gilchrist's for all their support.



We then also had a very successful trip to grade1 listed Woodchester Mansion near Stroud. The unfinished building, now run by a trust, gave us a unique insight into the complex and normally hidden Victorian construction techniques.

Our thanks to Liz McBride for organising the event.



### **Cheltenham PIONEER PRAYER UPDATE** **from Janice Hamilton**

We received a grant of £3.5K from the Diocese to hold a series of missional events at St Aidan's Garden over the coming year, starting with the Pentecost Party which went really well **ALLELUIA!** Once the holiday club is over we'll be preparing for the next event – St Aidan's Celebration on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August inspired by Celtic Spirituality. **Please pray** that this will again be a wonderful outreach event for the local community

**tidenham historical group**

Evening meetings from September to April are held monthly on the last Tuesday at 7.30 in Sedbury Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury NP16 7AQ.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact

Liz on 07804 744614,

Carol on 01291 623736/07712 574471

or e-mail [tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:tidenhamhistorygroup@gmail.com)

**Autumn 2025 & Spring 2026 Programme**

**Tuesday**  
**30<sup>th</sup> September**  
**7.30pm**

Mark Cummings: "Glorious Gloucestershire".

**Tuesday**  
**28<sup>th</sup> October**  
**7.30pm**

Dave Cheesley "The Golden Years of Severn Beach".

**Tuesday**  
**25th November**  
**7.30pm**

Tim Ryan "The Severn Princess and the Beachley-Aust Ferry Crossing."

**Tuesday**  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**7.30pm**

Members' social gathering and sharing of photos, research and memories.

**Tuesday**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**7.30pm**

Tony Conder "Gloucester and its Tall Ships, from home trade to Hollywood".

**Tuesday**  
**24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**7.30pm**

Richard Hoyle "H.M. Coastguard; Fifty years of service at Beachley"



**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL**

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music, and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798)

[www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)

**CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY 2025/2026**

CCS closed a memorable 2024/25 season at the end of June 2025 with a lovely "Summer Celebration" concert featuring a whole range of varied music followed by drinks and refreshments.

We now look ahead to our new season which will commence at the Chepstow School and Leisure Centre complex, commencing

**Wednesday September 3rd , 7.30pm**

**The Society will be joining with Monmouth Choral Society - at their invitation- for a truly memorable evening with a performance of Sir Edward Elgar's choral masterpiece *Dream of Gerontius* on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

*Future dates* – **Christmas Music from Chepstow CS, with Alison Wray (soprano) – SUNDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow --3.00pm**

**SATURDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> 2026**

**SPRING CONCERT WITH CCS ORCHESTRA,**

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow – "Venice to Vienna" ---music from Vivaldi, Albinoni, Mozart and Schubert! –and also with full vocal quartet who performed at St Mary's Tidenham Concert on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

A treat and date to put down in the 2026 diary!

As always, CCS, like all smaller choral societies, welcomes new members. Choral societies cannot survive without singers, and like all societies, we especially welcome tenors and basses!

Please contact Marjorie Duerden for further information – 01291 623310 ([bduerden@doctors.co.uk](mailto:bduerden@doctors.co.uk)) or access the CCS website (details above).

**THIS IS YOUR local Choral Society** – do come and join us!!

Marje Duerden



### Tanya's Link Autumn Prize Challenge

Early in my career, I was a librarian, so remembering this time I have set our Wordsearch. I hope that you can find the 29 words and then gather the remaining letters in order to find the answer to the puzzle.

Please send this to me: Tanya White, at Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tutshill, NP16 7BU,  
mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com  
to be in with a chance winning the prize!

ANTHOLOGY	DUE	PUBLISHER
BESTSELLER	FACT	QUIET
BOOKCASE	FICTION	RENEW
BORROW	FINE	SHELF
BROWSE	HARDBACK	SILENT
CATALOGUE	INFORMATION	STORYBOOK
DATE	LENDING	SUBJECT
DESK	LITERATURE	THESAURUS
DICTIONARY	LOANS	THRILLER
16	PAPERBACK	TITLE



### CHASE GARDENING CLUB

There are no afternoon meetings of the Club between May and September, the presumption being that members are fully occupied tending their own gardens, so not much to report.

The glorious Spring weather helped with the annual Plant Sale which was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. Grateful thanks to all who supported – growers, helpers and customers.

A full programme of speakers has been arranged for the 2025/26 season which will commence on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September with a talk by Pam Turner on "Alpines in the Garden".

Everyone is welcome.

Meetings are held at Chase School in Rosemary Lane on the third Friday of every month at 2.30pm.

For further information, please contact  
Bob Elliott on 01291 625659 or  
Bill Kerr on 01291 621100.



Bent over and obviously in pain,  
the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously  
through the sanctuary and into the pastor's office while  
the choir was practicing.

Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and  
moving with grace and speed.

"Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the  
pastor heal you by faith?"

"No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a  
cane that wasn't six inches too short!"





### Chase WI

Chase WI have had a wonderful summer, just like the weather this year. We had an interesting, informative talk by Roger Deeks, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Gloucestershire. Very few of our members had realised how many immigrants have been studying citizenship and actually becoming British citizens each year. He is thrilled with how many want to become British citizens and the efforts they put in to become one.

Our summer trip was to Tredegar house in Newport, one of our members daughter is in charge of the house for the National Trust and organised the trip for us. Our guide was extremely knowledgeable, telling us things we didn't know about the Morgan family and the history of the house together with a lovely tour. A number of our members had also been pupils when the house was a school and found the restoration carried out by the National Trust superbly done. We then had lunch together at the cafe which ended a lovely day out for us all.



Our July meeting was a summer picnic at the hall, food supplied by the members and was a wonderful spread, topped off with strawberries and Chase ice cream. A lot of chatter and laughter finished a lovely day together.

- ➡ We meet at Cafe on the Hill on the last Monday of the month at 10.30am for a good get together and everyone is welcome
- ➡ A number of members join the GFWI walks across the county each month
- ➡ We hold a Craft Class at Lancaut once a month on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 2pm, for anyone interested in learning something new.

Anyone who would like to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2.15pm at Chase Hall, Rosemary Lane would be very welcome.

**Tel 01291 621100 for further details.**



S	R	S	E	R	E	L	L	I	R	H	T	E	P
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In our Summer Wordsearch we were following the Scarecrow Trail, with some additional challenges with incomplete titles!

The answer that you were seeking was:

**"GANGSTER GRANNY"**

This time I had 5 correct entries, so thanks to everyone for all your work on this!

The winner this time often enters the competition, so well done to **Kathryn Payne of Tutshill** for winning this time!

# News from our Parish Schools



**Tutshill School**  
**01291 622593**



**Wyedean**

School and Sixth Form Centre  
Aspire together, achieve together  
adfecere pariter, perfecere pariter



**Wyedean School – 01291 636180**



DEAN CLOSE  
**ST JOHN'S**  
CHEPSTOW



**Offa's Mead**  
Academy  
To make our best better



**Dean Close St John's School**  
**01291 622045**

**Offa's Mead - 01291 622932**

*Following the school holidays, we will hear from our schools in our Winter Link Magazine*



## **A message from Emma Durbin**

*Thank you all, so very much for your  
friendship, support and loveliness  
over the past four years.*

*I couldn't have been in the role of CYFM without you.*

*Thank you also for your gifts and kind words.*

*I feel quite overwhelmed by your generosity.*

*Thank you all, lots of love, Emma x*

## **TUTSHILL W.I.**

Back in May our visiting speaker was Adele Owen, Director of GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers), who spoke most interestingly about the work of her organisation and how it has evolved to meet changing needs. In June, we tackled Mandala Art under the guidance of our own Debbie McCarty and, with concentration thick in the air (see the photos on our Facebook page), each managed to



produce a decorated pebble in the correct style. Then, a complete change in July with a speaker on the topic of Urban Self-Protection who, after a brief account of the history of the Women's SOEs during the Second World War, moved on to advice on how to recognise, respond to and control potentially dangerous situations. (Of course, the best course of action, if you are able, is to run!) In between all this, members managed to produce an entry for the Flower Festival in Tidenham church and a batch of cakes for the Great Oaks Hospice fete (thank you to Marion for organising).

No meeting in August, but we are looking forward to having a stall at the Tutshill Fest at the end of the month. The September meeting will be in the form of a visit to award-winning Wye Valley Flowers at St Briavel's, when we will also be



celebrating the WI's 110th Birthday – cake may possibly be involved! October will see us trying Nia Dance, which apparently offers Fitness for the Mind, Body & Soul, and November brings us round to our AGM. This year we have opted for a Bring & Share supper and are looking forward to entertainment from the inimitable Dalziel Ellis. We will end the year with a gift wrapping demonstration by Eve Cale of Gift wrapped by Eve, just

in time for Christmas.

We have an associated Craft Group who meet twice a month (usually at Café on the Hill), whose handiwork is often to be seen displayed on the bus shelter – at time of writing a rather splendid bottle cap tree – and there is also a monthly Book Club who meet in Chepstow. You do not have to be a WI member to attend either group.

If any of the above appeals to you, why not come along and see what you think of us? Our meetings are usually, though not always, on the third Monday of the month, 7.30pm in Tutshill Memorial Hall; but may take place elsewhere depending on the speaker/topic of the evening. If you would like to know more about our activities, take a look at our Facebook page, or contact our Secretary, Pat Cannon: [secretarytutshillwi@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytutshillwi@gmail.com) / 07795 424694.



## Is Fairtrade Fair?

**"Fairtrade as a certification is much more than merely an environmental certification, it is the only and best ethical and social certification that really ensures social and environmental, ethical and economic impact, and therefore human impact."**

***Enrique Calderon, Coffee Farmer, Coopeagri***

Fairtrade International:

We are an international movement working in partnership with 2 million farmers and workers, in more than 1,900 producer organisations, across 68 countries worldwide. We support small scale farmers and workers who are marginalised from trade in a variety of ways and carefully monitor the impact of Fairtrade on these communities.

As a certification scheme, the Fairtrade Standards, which demand minimum commitments and requirements such as on pricing, provide one of our primary and also most visible tools for empowering small farmer and worker organisations.

But beyond the standards and certification, the Fairtrade system also provides direct and indirect support to farmers and workers and their organisations to deepen social and environmental sustainability.

Fairtrade has a committed programme of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) that supports internal learning and improvement and helps build the evidence base for assessing the difference we make.

You can read more about Fairtrade, how it works and its impact on the website of the Fairtrade Foundation [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

We can all buy Fairtrade Produce in our local stores and make life fair for farmers like Enrique.

Chepstow Fairtrade Forum at our picnic by Chepstow riverbank on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025



## St Luke's Coffee Morning

**This will be held 10.00-12.00**

**We meet on the last Monday of each month except Bank Holiday Mondays.**



*Meeting on Monday, 29 September 2025*

*Meeting on Monday, 27 October 2025*

*Meeting on Monday, 24 November 2025*



*Welcome FREE coffee/tea, cake and biscuits*

*But to help us pay for Hire of the Church & support the Wellbeing Chaplain any donations are gratefully received*

**Contact Polly [paulinemorgan23@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemorgan23@gmail.com) or Revd Nicki [nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.**



It's been six months since we launched the **Restore Campaign** – a call on the UK government to take action against greedy lenders and reckless polluters. A rallying cry for Christians to join God's work to restore our broken world.

Greedy lenders have been taking advantage of developing countries for too long, burdening countries with unsustainable debt that means they can't invest in hospitals, roads and schools.

Meanwhile reckless polluters are driving the climate crisis with a 'profit before planet ethos.' They make billions while they burn fossil fuels that result in storms, floods and drought.

**.Share your prayers and hopes for a restored world**



## BELL RINGING



After an extended period without access to Tidenham bells over the winter, we have been very happy since 'normal service' was resumed in April. We enjoyed a splendid afternoon's ringing, led by Richard Heys, as part of the Friends

of Tidenham Church Funday in May. Several people expressed interest in perhaps learning to ring, but sadly this has not yet translated into action. Numbers at practices are often swelled by ringers from Alvington, Lydney, Mathern and elsewhere, but it would be great to have more home-grown members of our tower. Bell ringing is an enjoyable and satisfying hobby that exercises 'the little grey cells' (pace Hercule Poirot!) as well as being fun. It's for young people (10+) and adults of all ages (two of our stalwarts are 80+), for those of all faiths and none. And, contrary to popular misconception, you don't need to be musical, mathematical or strong (it's much more about technique than strength). Basic information can be found on [bellringing.org](http://bellringing.org) and [ccabr.org.uk](http://ccabr.org.uk), or you could come along to a practice session and see what you think. Our regular practice night is Tuesday, 7.30–9.00pm, at St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham – all ages and abilities welcome. Please check with Cate Phillips (01291 624260) if you are planning to come along, as it may be cancelled if there are too few ringers available. Sunday ringing is from 8.30am – visiting ringers always welcome.

### Fact Gatherings...



Autumn and Fall  
We typically think of 'fall' as the North American version of the word 'Autumn' but it was in fact in widespread usage in England until relatively recently. Originally a shortening of the phrase 'fall of the leaf', the phrase was common in England in the 17th century.

Ronnie has completed his initial training. He is waiting to be matched with a prospective Guide Dog Owner, but for now is enjoying life with his fosterers.

Honorary Chepstow pup Diffy is in training in Southampton.

Bertie has settled into his forever home and is enjoying having a canine companion.

Mason remains in the Chepstow area.

Diesel was not selected to be a Guide Dog Dad. Although he passed all the health tests there was another pup with even better scores so Diesel is now waiting for a training place so that he can become a Guide Dog.

*Bertie (left) and his new best friend. Is he suggesting mischief?*



Pups Hetta and Nate have joined us. We look forward to seeing them out and about in the coming months.

**Update from Miri Keen**

*Hetta is a Golden Retriever – German Shepherd cross*



After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father, "How many brides can the groom marry?"

"One," his father said. "Why do you ask?"

"Because the priest said he could marry sixteen," the boy said, puzzled.

"How'd you come up with that?" his father asked.

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."



*Diesel enjoying a day at the beach with his fosterer.*

### Guide Dog Puppies in our Parish

Our Guide Dog puppies learn all the time, even during the holidays! Their Puppy Raisers take them for day trips and over-night stays with family and friends. Some are lucky enough to enjoy a hotel stay, self-catering holiday or camping trip. All of these experiences are important in helping the pups to grow into calm, confident and adaptable dogs. However,

learning to stay behind while their humans go on holiday is also important for our puppies because as Guide Dogs in Training and as working Guide Dogs, they will need to be able to settle quickly and easily in different home environments. So, while Puppy Raisers enjoy a well-earned rest volunteer fosterers welcome pups into their home.

Many of our local fosterers are Puppy Raisers themselves and so they are able to use all the cues and routines that the pup knows and feels safe with, but in a new environment. For example, a town-based puppy might practice loose lead walking with the distraction of exciting country smells, or a pup who lives in a pet-free home might learn about living with a cat or a neighbouring dog who sniffs under the fence. At the end of their stay pups often go home like youngsters at the end of a residential: tired, with a bagful of dirty washing, but with new-found maturity and increased confidence.

### News from our pups

Rowan and his Guide Dog Owner have passed their final assessment and are enjoying working together in the Devizes area. Congratulations to everyone who played a part in enabling Rowan to fulfil his potential and become a Life Changer.

Rowan's Guide Dog Owner writes "Now that we have qualified I have my independence to go out whenever and wherever I want to ... Rowan is such a good boy and a very smart dog who loves playing and meeting people. I am sure we are going to have some great adventures together."



*Rowan in his official working harness.*



### The Parish Lunch ...

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Parish Lunch, 12.15pm

Woodcroft Centre

For info and lifts  
phone  
George or Beryl  
on 01291 625551

All is well at the Parish Lunch.

Numbers seem to have settled down at around 40 guests and helpers.

Now well into our 16<sup>th</sup> year, I thought a little look at cost and numbers, then (October) and now:

October 2009: Number attending 15 cost £12.00

October 2024: Number Attending 40 cost £130.50

After our Summer break we have our next lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and then continue on the First Thursday of each month until the end of 2025 and beyond.

New guests are most welcome but please contact Beryl or George for further information.  
01291 625551



Fact  
Gatherings...



The word Autumn entered English from the French 'automne' and didn't become common usage until the 18th century.





## Gone to the Dogs

This old saying is now seldom heard and means 'Ruined'

As we all would be if we selected the greyhound's I did on the recent Man Thing visit to the Greyhound Meeting at the Swindon Arena.

Only 4 Men made it this year:  
Alan, Rob, Peter and Me (George)

It was a damp evening though not raining. The track was wet in places, especially on the final bend. A most important tip noted by Peter! Entry was free as was the Race Program, and Curry and Chips available for a couple of pounds. And there was a Bar.

You may wish to know something about Greyhound Racing: There are up to 6 dogs in each race and races take place around an oval track (like human athletics).

The six starting lanes are numbered 1 to 6 and are colour coded.  
(are you still with me)

The Greyhounds are placed in their respective starting stalls and when Mr. Starter is happy the Hare is set running.

It is not a real animal but a model which having been set running, the starting gate opens and the dogs give chase.

They never catch the Hare but the winning Greyhound is allowed to rough it up a little after the race.

There is a Bookmaker on site and those who wish can make a small wager on each race.

One of the Men suggested we should liken the whole experience to Temptation:

Four Christian Men placing themselves in a potentially sinful environment and testing their willpower.



## News from Heather Johnstone Church Mission Society

**Location: Tanzania**

**What I do: Helping to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project**

News of something exciting and spectacular: The diocese recently commissioned us to cook at a special fundraiser they were holding in Bunda (about an hour away from Musoma) to raise funds to rebuild and massively extend St Peter's church. Great excitement – the official guest was to be the former president of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete. Our remit was specifically to cook for this extremely special guest and his entourage, and other senior government/church officials. We had to take all our cooking appliances, utensils, serving dishes, crockery and cutlery to Bunda – it was a massive undertaking.

Former presidents require as much security detail and paraphernalia as a sitting president, and consequently things became a lot more complicated and expensive. The government refused to allow the event to take place in the church as it wasn't big or safe enough, and the plan to cook for the guests at the diocesan girls' school was quickly dismissed. The whole event had to shift to the government teacher training college. We rose to the challenge and cooked a huge variety of different dishes for 130 guests – under the watchful eyes of three security personnel who monitored our every move – and delivered great food on time.

We feel so privileged to have been given the honour and huge responsibility of cooking for the former president of Tanzania and his fellow dignitaries. Some of the team got to meet the president face to face and were delighted to hear that he thought the food was excellent and very delicious. We have the JK stamp of approval.





## Family Fun Afternoon to celebrate the work of the volunteers and staff contributing to our CYF Ministry

A Family Fun afternoon and picnic was held at St Luke following the July family service.

It was a celebration of all the work undertaken by the volunteers and staff who contribute to our Children, Youth and Families Ministry.

It all started outside with picnics spread and sunshine streaming down. However, soon the sky darkened and the rain came. Everyone decamped to St Luke's awaiting the main attraction - exotic animals to hold and learn about.

The church was full to bursting with families of all ages in what was an open, inclusive, informative and very popular event with many new faces present.



Among the new faces were a snake, a lizard, a rare tortoise, an armadillo, a prairie dog and last, but not least a skunk!



All of whom had young and old queuing to say hello.

A great example of bringing the community into church and having fun along the way.

Blessings,  
Robin Riordan



Sadly we failed and managed to get a wager on the first race of the 12 scheduled.

I had a plan to follow dogs 3 and 5 in each race regardless of trap and previous form. Rob had an app. which had a bit of early AI, Alan took a liking to the lighter coloured dogs and Peter appeared to be looking at the Greyhounds temperaments and those needing to use the conveniences pre race.

I leave it to you decide whose strategy won on the night. I only know that the Bookmaker went home with smile on his face and a heavy swag bag.

Well that's it, we enjoyed a lovely night. Sadly it will be the last visit as Swindon is closing down and being replaced by 150 New Build Homes. Perhaps we should have each bought a House Brick.

George Healey



Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

In support of Gloucester Historic Churches Trust

This annual event invites people across Gloucestershire and North Bristol to visit churches by walking, cycling, horse-riding or using public transport to raise money.

Funds raised are split between the participant's chosen church and Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) which provides grants for vital repair and improvement work.

In 2024, Ride and Stride raised over £36,000, supporting projects such as roof repairs, fire door replacements and improved wheelchair access.

**If you'd like to get involved this year, whether by taking part in the Ride and Stride itself or by putting on an event at your church, further information can be found at**  
<https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part>.



### So who was Susan Pears ? In years to come, someone may ask you that question.

A possible answer goes like this...

Susan was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1946, the second daughter of a kind man from South Wales (Emlyn or Joe Davies) and his kind wife Edie. They lived in the north of London, in an area called Enfield Wash. Her older sister was very clever, and Susan sometimes disappointed her teachers by not being quite as academic as Ruth. She had two younger

brothers, Robert (known as Bobby or Bob) and David. It was a happy family.

Susan had many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins – some living nearby from her mother's side, and some in South Wales to visit on holiday from her father's side. She valued her continued contact with them and their families. At school she made good friends, some stayed in contact throughout her life. She attended Sunday School and eventually became a Sunday School teacher herself.

At Teacher Training College she made several lasting friends who in later years held an annual reunion. While there, she met her future husband, Colin, who was welcomed into her family. They were married in December 1968.

Her teaching career started in Tottenham as a Reception Teacher in a Primary School for 3 years. For 4 years she was a Housemother for the National Children's Home, looking after children who could not be in their own homes. During this time her only child, Jonathan, was born. She was delighted with him. After moving to Gloucestershire she ran a playgroup for 2 years, making good friends with neighbours.

Eventually settling in Sedbury, she quickly made many lasting friendships. For 20 years Sue was a teacher at Offa's Mead Primary School, mostly in charge of the Reception Class. She had a reputation of being kind, firm, and fair, teaching over 500 children the basics of how to survive and succeed in school, finally retiring in 2006. Her relationship with her employers was based on respect, but with a determination to raise issues that needed consideration. If anyone was going to put their head above the parapet, it would be Sue.

Susan worshipped in St. Luke's Church from July 1981 until she died in 2025, under the guidance of 4 vicars (Michael Gee, Brian Green, Royston Grosvenor and David Treharne). She was a member of the Wives' Club in the early days. For a few years she was Secretary to the PCC. She enjoyed being in a house-group.

Sue was always helping. She wrote letters for Amnesty International for many years. Also she helped to look after rescued animals and birds. She



**Events and training**  
More details for all these  
events at  
[gloucester.anglican.org/  
events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

### Readers and lay ministry licensing service 2025

Gloucester Cathedral,  
12 College Green,  
Gloucester, GL1 2LY,  
**13 September 2025**

All are invited to this special  
occasion which celebrates the  
calling and commitment of those  
stepping into lay ministry.

[https://gloucester.anglican.org/  
event/annual-readers-and-  
licensed-funeral-ministers-2025](https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/annual-readers-and-licensed-funeral-ministers-2025)

### NAFAS national show 2025

Gloucester Cathedral,  
12 College Green, Gloucester,  
GL1 2LY,

**18 to 20 September**

The National Association of  
Flower Arrangement Societies will be  
giving floral displays, tutorials, work-  
shops and speeches. [https://  
gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/  
nafas-national-show-2025](https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/nafas-national-show-2025)



### The Choral Pilgrimage 2025

Tewkesbury Abbey,  
Church Street, Tewkesbury,  
GL20 5RZ,

**13 September**

A programme of music spanning six  
centuries, blending medieval and  
contemporary works to inspire  
inner peace.

[https://thesixteen.com/  
event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2025-  
tewkesbury](https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2025-tewkesbury)

### A morning of Sustainable Church flowers

St Mary's Church  
Fairford, GL7 4AF

**19 September**

*Including flower arranging  
demonstrations. A talk about  
'Flowers on the Farm'  
ideas for harvest and winter and  
beverages.*

[https://  
gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-  
morning-of-sustainable-church-  
flowers](https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/a-morning-of-sustainable-church-flowers)

### Have your say

Visit Facebook

**f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**

Email Katherine

**kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk**

Visit website

**gloucester.anglican.org**



## Welcoming people into church this month

As schools reopen and daily routines restart after the summer months, September can be a time when people decide to explore new activities or connect with local community groups, including getting involved with church. It's a good time to think about welcome, particularly for new people in an area who might be looking for community and connection.

Robin Riordan, Churchwarden in Tidenham Parish, shares how the churches in Tidenham parish – St Luke's in Tutshill, St Mary and St Peter's in Tidenham, and St Michael and All Angels in Tidenham Chase – welcome people in and aim to make everyone feel included.

"Openness is at the heart of all three churches in the parish. We want anyone who comes in to feel like they are part of the church family. We are always happy to welcome new members and grow.

"We have a welcoming team, alongside sidespeople. There's always someone greeting people as they arrive, and others who continue the welcome inside. When new people come through the door, several people will say hello and chat with them. We try to create a space where everyone feels noticed and at ease.

"We have coffee on offer after some services, to give people a chance to meet and chat. We also run activities in the community that are non-faith based, like coffee mornings, baby and toddler groups, Pilates in the church building, and music evenings. These are ways people can get to know the church without needing to come to a service first.

"We have strong links with our local primary school; the schoolchildren sometimes do assemblies at the church. The families become familiar with us through combined activities like this.

"We make sure to be visible in the community through our website and Facebook page. Being approachable helps people feel comfortable reaching out or dropping in.

"Our goal is that when anyone walks through the doors, whether they come once or regularly, they feel welcome and part of something friendly and supportive."

supported many charities including ones concerned with conservation, nature, and people in need or distress.

In later years she befriended several older ladies, and helped several of them with various practical kindnesses. Her family life was happy – she was fiercely loyal when needed, and was well loved by all her relations. She gave great joy to her husband and son.

Sue loved her animals – several cats, 4 dogs, a guinea pig, a hamster, 2 terrapins, several fish and a magpie all received outstanding care, and the wild birds were fed as well.

Her garden was her pride and joy – she was proud of the way she looked after her tools. Susan enjoyed listening to music, playing her family's piano, going for walks with the dogs, reading, drawing, spending time with friends and family, cooking, jigsaws, Christmas preparations and decorations, and an open fire on very cold days.

In later life Sue was a Vegetarian, and that, coupled with a wheat intolerance, had made dining out and shopping for food a little difficult until the rest of the world caught up.

Her health was not always good. At various times she was diagnosed with Depression, Type 2 Diabetes, and eventually Acute Myeloid Leukaemia with Influenza that finally defeated her. She bore all these trials with fortitude. She accepted death as the inevitable outcome of her final illness and died at home on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with Colin and Jonathan holding her hands and comforting her.

Susan was kind, funny, pretty, caring, strong-willed, enthusiastic, loyal, a truly splendid example of a very special Christian lady.

God bless you.

**Colin Pears**



***A note from Tanya:  
Sorry to Colin & Jonathan as I made a  
mistake in our Summer Link Magazine,  
so I am repeating this important article  
with correction.***



## From the Registers Funerals & Burials

**Susan PEARS (78)**

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase  
followed by Service at St Luke, Tutshill

**Ann Patricia CHARD (77)**

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Service at St Luke's, Tutshill

Followed by burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

**Audry May ACTON (76)**

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Langstone Crematorium

**Ruben Gilbert SMITH**

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

Burial at St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase

**William John NURDEN (88)**

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Burial of Ashes at St Luke's, Tutshill

## Holy Matrimony



**Abbie ROGERS**

&

**Mark HAMILTON**

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

St Mary & St Peter's, Tidenham



*Further register entries will  
appear in Winter 2025/26 edition of the Link*



As part of a local churches CAP programme, we are co-running a money management course in September. Having gone through the training to become a tutor, it has helped me (Robin Riordan) to think differently about how I budget and is very useful to reduce the stress of managing your money in life.

If you are interested in attending :

Magor Baptist Church

11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

7-9pm

enquiries: [capmagorbaptistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:capmagorbaptistchurch@outlook.com)

To book your free place contact

075300 55440

or [capuk.org/trymoneycoaching](http://capuk.org/trymoneycoaching)





## Winter Fuel

Payment is a payment towards the cost of heating bills for people living in England and Wales. Households with someone between State Pension age and 79 will receive **£200**, and households with someone over 80 will receive **£300**.

### How are the Winter Fuel Payments changing in 2025?

In 2024, the Government announced cuts to the Winter Fuel Payment scheme, making it only payable to people receiving Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits.

However, on 9 June 2025, it was announced that the **Winter Fuel Payments for 2025 will be extended** to over three quarters of pensioners.

### 2025 Winter Fuel Payment eligibility changes

Eligibility is based on a person's age and place of residence during the qualifying week. **For winter 2025/26, the qualifying week will be 15 to 21 September 2025.**

A person needs to have **reached State Pension age** by the end of the qualifying week to be eligible, as well as **have an income of, or**

**below, £35,000 a year.**

For households not getting an income-related benefit like Pension Credit, they'll get a shared payment. For example, if both people in a couple are under 80 years old (but over State Pension age) and not on Pension Credit, they'll receive a payment of £100 each.

If you're eligible, you don't need to apply for the Winter Fuel Payment in 2025 – it'll be automatically paid to you.

Pensioners above the new £35,000 per year income threshold will have the full amount of the Winter Fuel Payment they received automatically collected via PAYE, or via their Self-Assessment return. Pensioners who want to opt out and not receive the payment at all, can do so.

### What is Pension Credit and how is it linked to Winter Fuel Payments?

**Pension Credit** is a means-tested benefit that provides extra support for pensioners on low incomes.

**Contact Rev Nicki Bullivant  
for more information**



**"Heavenly Father, during this vacancy, guard and grow the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield, as we serve you together in this period without a Priest in Charge.**

**Lord Jesus, we know you have plans for us and that these plans are good. We ask you now that You will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.**

**Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover**

**Your way for the future and see Your Kingdom grow.**

**All this we ask in the strength of the Holy Trinity. Amen."**

## A message from Tom and Emma Clammer

*We wanted to write and thank all of the congregations of Tidenham, St Briavel's and Hewelsfield so much for the kind words, messages, and gifts which we received over the past six weeks or so of our 'final' services in the parishes. Your generosity and kindness have been very touching, and we feel very enfolded in your prayers. As I hope we have made clear, we don't expect to be this to be the last time you see us, but as Tom has stepped back from*

*formal ministry in the parishes in order to support our home*

*parish here in Salisbury over the next little while, it is*

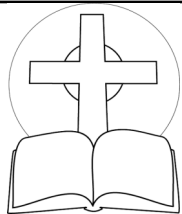
*wonderful to know that we do that with your love and prayers.*

*Please be assured of our love and prayers for you.*

*Tom and Emma.*

**Overleaf is Tom's 'last' sermon that he delivered to us at Tidenham**

**on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025**



### Luke 10:25-37

#### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

<sup>26</sup> He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' <sup>27</sup> He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' <sup>37</sup> He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'



### News from Jane Penny

#### Wellbeing walk

Following a successful 'pilot' these will now be held monthly. June's walk was around Lydney lake and finished in St Mary's church for refreshments.

3 families came who'd not been before, including a lady with her husband and son, both of whom find new people and crowds difficult. The 12 year old son is 'scared of dogs' but was happy to stroke Trigger during this time.

By the time we got to St Mary's for our refreshments the 3 boys were playing together and spent time creating with Lego whilst the adults chatted.



#### Lydney Community Day

What a wonderful day of building community... nearly 400 people connected with the churches together tent... receiving free water, balloon models, school uniforms, or just having a chat or prayer. Crafts were focused on community and we created a paper chain where each link represented someone who helps us in the community.

I'm excited as I was taught how to create a balloon flower and a sword.. Prior to this I could only make a dog!

#### A Community Brunch

A wonderful time of coming together to build community. This event was supported by Two Rivers Housing Association, Wyldwoods Arts and Churches together in Lydney. We had fun with water play and bubbles, created our own scented bath salts and much more. The morning finished with brunch for 60+ people.



## Highlights from PCC meetings in June & July 2025

### PCC members:

- thanked staff leaving at the end of August
  - > Emma Durbin for all her work over four years as Children, Youth and Families Missioner,
  - > Administration Assistant Annabelle Stephens
  - > Youth Co-ordinator Eve Mcleod,
- welcomed news that our church architect is updating his list of work required to carry out essential repairs to Chase church building – this will enable PCC to apply to Gloucester diocese for a faculty to carry out the work
- approved the ten charities to be supported this year
- welcomed the fact that Tidenham church is now open to the public from 09:00 to 17:00 on Sundays and Mondays, in accordance with the grant received from the National Churches Trust to part fund the changes in the north aisle
- approved Tidenham Friends' proposal to install chandelier overhead heaters in Tidenham north aisle this autumn, as they meet the conditions set out in the faculty we obtained from Gloucester diocese
- agreed to apply for a List B faculty for repairs to Tidenham church chancel ceiling
- agreed to increase the 2026 annual subscription rate for the Link Magazine to £7, as we had held the existing £6 rate for 3 years.
- thanked the organisers and everyone who participated in:
  - > the Summer Gala concert in Tidenham church on 14 June
  - > The Art and Flowers Festival from 20 – 23 June,
  - > the Summer Concert in Tutshill church on 4 July
- thanked John-Ross Henderson for his first aid training courses, held in Tutshill church this summer



Rules for Editing: . Proofread carefully to see if  
you any words out



Taken from Tom's sermon on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025

I reckon I've been worshipping in the churches of this parish for 30 years. And over that time I don't know how many thousand acts of worship I have attended, sermons I have heard, moments of great joy, great sadness, and just plain silliness I have been part of. I think of wonderful midnight masses in Tidenham, being driven out of Chase and worshipping outdoors because of bees, or wasps, or whatever they were. [And in the plain silly category, Janice forgetting to switch off her radio mic before taking her child to the bathroom, right here in Tutshill].

There have been some milestones along the way. Three incumbents: Brian, Royston and David. Three vacancies to navigate. National tragedies to negotiate, more local moments of grief and sadness. And then big International moments as well. I wonder how many of you were worshipping here at the millennium? Royston sensibly set the millennium service for midday on New Year's Day, I was 20, but I made it. Was anyone else there? Can anyone remember what the reading was? Well, as you might have guessed, because preachers are laughably predictable, it was the parable of the Good Samaritan.

When Churches Together, who put together the ecumenical liturgy to mark the turning of the age, needed to choose a Bible reading that would, in theory be read in every Christian community at the gate of a new millennium, they chose the reading on page 28. The story of mercy. Out of all the possible passages available, they chose this one. I wonder whether you would have chosen similarly?

It's a well-known parable of course, even though interestingly it's only in the gospel according to Luke. It's unique to his account. When I sat down to look at this text I read it in a translation that I don't often use, and I was fascinated by some of the things that struck me afresh. And, by the way, that's a useful tip if your Bible reading ever starts to grow dry, or even stops completely, which can happen to any of us. Just grab a different translation off-the-shelf. Read the Scripture in a different translation, and you will be amazed at how the text pops off the page in a new way. So I read this in the English Standard Version, and it's really interesting.



The parable of course is about mercy, as I've said. And it is about being a neighbour. This is deep ethical teaching of Christ. Some theologians, people like Augustine, layer on an allegorical reading as well, where the Samaritan is actually Jesus, and that's fun to play with, but I think at its heart this is about behaviour.

The lawyer wants to identify the least effort, the least cost, way of inheriting eternal life. He wants to do this cheaply. 'Who is my neighbour', he asks, because he wants to be able to exclude everyone who isn't his neighbour, so he only has to focus on loving that small subset of people. Churches occasionally fall into this trap. And he gets rather blown out of the water by Christ's response, which is to locate the neighbour as the one who is merciful. One of the interesting little variations of translation in the Bible translate that vital question of Christ as, 'which one of these three, do you suppose, *proved himself* a neighbour the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' Not just 'was a neighbour'. There's an activity in that phrase, *proved himself*. This is about living the life of Christ. Not just thinking it, or doing it in here for an hour once a week. This is about living out our baptism, every day.

One of the other interesting differences in translation was in verse 33. The Bible that the Church of England tends to use these days, the New Revised Standard Version, uses the word 'pity' of the Samaritan. 'When he saw the man, he was moved with pity.' But this other version uses the word 'compassion', which I think is a better word, because sadly in English the word 'pity' has attracted some slightly negative connotations. I asked a chum of mine who is a biblical scholar, and the Greek word in the original text ... they, can be just as readily translated 'compassion' as 'pity'. Both are accurate renderings of the original. But compassion is more helpful to us I think, because crucially it has that element in it of empathy. The derivation is literally, 'to suffer with'. I think you can pity someone without suffering with them. But it's jolly hard to have compassion without empathy. We are to recognise our neighbour as the person who sees us, sees who we really are, and is interested in being where we are. Is ready to come to meet us. And when we love our neighbour as ourselves, it is because we have begun to actually see the people around us, to identify their needs, and to recognise our common humanity. It's about coming alongside which is of course very Jesus, because that is what happens at Christmas. Our salvation is not



wrought by some far-off, distanced, absent deity, but by the God-man who, for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man... Who puts himself on the dusty road of our journey, that he may encounter us on our travels, and bind up our wounds. Who suffers for us, to carry us home.

There is a popular secular version of the Good Samaritan story that you sometimes hear - it was in the West Wing, if any of you watch that - which goes that this guy is walking down the road and falls into a hole. The hole has steep sides, and he can't climb out. A priest walks past, the guy shouts, 'help I'm stuck in this hole!' The priest writes out a prayer, throws it in the hole, and carries on. Then a doctor walks past, and the guy shouts out again, and the doctor writes out a prescription and throws it in the hole and carries on. Then his mate walks past, and he shouts out, 'hey Joe. Can you get me out of this hole?' And his friend jumps into the hole with him. The guy says, 'are you crazy! Now we're both stuck in this hole'. This friend says, 'ah yes, but I've been down here before, and I know the way out.' Compassion.

The Good Samaritan teaches us something about developing the heart of Christ, which ought to be the object of all Christians. To become like Christ. Christ, who tells us who our neighbour is, and what it means to be a community that takes that seriously... We are to 'lead lives worthy of the Lord', which amongst other things includes endurance, patience, fruitful good work... 'Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Which just adds a little extra poke, doesn't it. You go. This is not optional. This is baked in to becoming more like Christ. The Christian is merciful. The Christian is compassionate. The Christian expects his or her neighbour everywhere. In everyone. 25 years ago Churches Together wanted us to begin the new millennium with this parable. A quarter-century later, there is still just as much here for the people of Tidenham. Eyes up, friends. Don't stop looking. Don't stop noticing. Resist all temptation to draw the boundaries narrowly. No cheap grace here. Christ's way is costly, 'Which one of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? 'The one who showed him mercy'. Jesus said to him, 'you go, and do likewise.'